

Principal Scientific Adviser to GoI and British High Commissioner unveil the book She Is - Women in STEAM

Delhi (KCN): The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Prof. Ajay Sood, and the British High Commissioner Mr.

and determination, this book talks about the personal and professional struggles of women who did not have it easy but who for sure are role models for every girl who aspires to work in one of these disciplines. Read more about the shortlisting of the 75 women in STEAM here. This book, supported by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, FICCI FLO, and the British High Com-



mission of India, is not only in written form but also has videos of all the achievers which can be accessed through a QR code.

"Over years of our work in the corporate and development sector we have witnessed the patriarchy displayed in the form of all-male panels or 'manels' on a variety of subjects,

making decisions that affect women directly and indirectly, blatantly CONTINUED ON: P-7



Old Station Bazaar pandal to replicate Varanasi Ganga Ghat

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Old Station Bazaar Durga Puja Samiti is all geared up to make the celebrations grand and also unique, as they have



Congress blows bugle for party president battle; Issues notification for polls

New Delhi(KCN): The Congress' central election authority on Thursday issued a notification for the AICC president polls, setting



the ball rolling for electing the successor to the longest-serving party chief Sonia Gandhi. In the notification issued, Chairman of the Central Election Authority Madhusudan Mistry, under the power vested in him by provision of Article XVIII of the Constitution of the Indian National Congress, announced the election of the president of the party to be held as per the given schedule. According to the notification, the process for filing nominations for the election will be held from September 24 to 30. The date of scrutiny of the nomination papers would be on October 1, while the last date of withdrawal of nominations would be October 8. The election, if there is more than one candidate, will take place on October 17. The counting of votes and the declaration of

planned to incur the expenses of the stay of the visitors arriving from different districts of the State.

"We will soon share the mail ID of the samiti and people from other districts interested to witness the Puja at Old CONTINUED ON: P-7

results would be on October 19. "Now therefore, I hereby call upon the delegates of the Congress Party to elect the

President of Indian National Congress in accordance with the provision made under Article XVIII," Mistry said in the notification.

The nomination form will be available at the AICC Office, 24 Akbar Road, New Delhi, according to the notification.

The race for the Congress president's post hotted up on Wednesday with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot giving a clear indication that he could enter the poll fray and Shashi Tharoor meeting the party's poll panel chief to enquire about the nomination formalities.

After over two decades, the Congress is set to see a contest for the post of party chief. The upcoming polls would certainly be historic as the new president would replace Sonia Gandhi, the longest-serving party president who has been at the helm since 1998, barring the two years between 2017 and 2019 when Rahul Gandhi took over. The party last saw a contest for the post in November 2000. Jitendra Prasada had lost to Sonia Gandhi in 2000 and prior to that Sitaram Kesri had defeated Sharad Pawar and Rajesh Pilot in 1997.

One-man, one-post commitment expected to be maintained: Rahul Gandhi

KOCHI(KCN): With the Congress presidential polls round the corner, party leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said decisions, including that of one-man, one-post, taken at the chintan shivir at Udaipur in Rajasthan earlier this year are expected to be followed.

Responding to queries during a press conference held between the first and second leg of the day's Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi said the Congress president was not just an organisational position, it is an ideologi-

cal post and a belief system.

"What we decided at Udaipur, we expect that commitment to



be maintained," Gandhi said on being asked whether he would stand by the Udaipur chintan shivir decision on one-man, one-post. Gandhi, also the MP from Wayanad, said he would advise who-

soever becomes the president of the party that they should remember that the post represents a set of

ideas, a belief system and a vision of India. Another piece of advice he had for the contestants in the party's presidential polls was that "you are taking a historic position. A position that defines and has

defined a particular view of India."

On the nation-wide raids on the offices and other premises of the Popular Front of India (PFI), Gandhi said that "all forms of communalism regardless where they come from should be combated."

"There should be zero tolerance towards communalism and it should be combated," he added.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot arrived in Kerala amidst speculation as to who all would be contesting the party's presidential polls.

Over 800 appointments in FARD

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The State government on Wednesday gave appointment to 804 persons in Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department. Of the newly appointees, 146 are veterinary officers, 588 are live stock inspectors, 67 are junior fisheries technical assistants and



needs. Addressing the newly appointed officials from the State secretariat through virtual mode, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said fishery and animal husbandry are two essential branches of agriculture providing employment to a large section of the rural population of the State.

Nepal, India begin joint commission meeting on water resources

KATHMANDU(KCN): Top officials of India and Nepal on Wednesday began a three-day



meeting to discuss the issues related to the long-awaited Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project and other bilateral issues related to water resources.

The three-day meeting of the Secretary-level Joint Commission on Water Resources (JCWR) will discuss various water resources related issues between the two neighbouring countries, according to official sources. The 9th JCWR meeting will discuss the issues related to the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project and other bilateral issues related to water resources, according to sources at the Ministry of Energy and Water resources.

The first two days of the meeting of the Joint-

secretary level Joint Steering Committee (JSC) will discuss the various aspects of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project.

The meeting on the third day will endorse the agendas approved by the JSC meetings, according to the ministry sources.

The bilateral meeting will look for a way forward for the construction of the proposed project, the high dam of Sapta Koshi and irrigation in Dodhara-Chandani, among others, according to Madhu Prasad Bhetuwal, the spokesperson at the ministry.

Last week, the foreign secretary of Nepal Bharat Raj Paudyal visited New Delhi to hold talks with his Indian counterpart Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

During his visit from September 13 to 14, the foreign secretaries of both countries reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral cooperation between India and Nepal, such as trade, transit, connectivity, infrastructure, power sector, irrigation and inundation, agriculture, investment, development cooperation, health sector cooperation, culture, and people-to-people relations.

Maharatna Tag for REC Fishery turns growth engine

New Delhi(KCN): Ministry of Finance. Incorporated in 1969, REC has been accorded with the status of a 'Maharatna' Cent-



ral Public Sector Enterprise, thus giving REC greater operational and financial autonomy. An order to this effect was issued yesterday by the Department of Public Enterprises, under the

Financing and Development across India. The grant of 'Maharatna' status of REC will impart enhanced powers to the company's Board while taking financial deci-

sions. The Board of a 'Maharatna' CPSE can make equity investments to undertake financial joint ventures and wholly-owned subsidiaries and undertake mergers and acquisitions in India and abroad, subject to a ceiling of 15% of the Net Worth of the concerned CPSE, limited to ₹5,000 crores in one project. The Board can also structure and implement schemes relating to personnel and Human Resource Management and Training. With this, REC can also enter into technology Joint Ventures or other strategic alliances among others.

Vivek Kumar Dewangan, CMD, REC said that REC achieved this feat owing to its adaptability, resilience, and consistent performance even during the global covid-19 pandemic. "In FY22, REC made its highest ever net profit of ₹10,046 crores and reached a net worth of ₹50,986 crores, owing

to its cost-effective resource management and strong financial policies. REC has played a key role in the success of the flagship schemes of the Government of India such as DDUGJY and SAUBHAGYA and has contributed towards achieving village and household electrification in the country. REC is currently playing the role of nodal agency for Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), for revamping the distribution sector to alleviate the financial & operational issues. We thank all of our stakeholders who have placed their trust in the company, and especially our employees who have offered their unwavering support for over five decades of our operations. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Power whose guidance and support have been key in making this accomplishment possible", Shri Dewangan said.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has said that the fisheries and livestock sector is the engine of growth for rural areas of the State. Mr.Patnaik while addressing new recruits in the Fisheries and Animal Resource

farmers more comfortable, increase their income and put a smile on their faces," CM said. CM Mr.Patnaik said that is why the fisheries and livestock development sector has been identified by the state government as an engine of growth

initiatives, the Chief Minister said that by maintaining complete transparency, working in team spirit and application of scientific knowledge, real change can be ensured at the grass root level and pave the way for fisheries and live-

production in the state has increased three times, meat production six times, eggs three times and fish production four times and hoped that this new appointment would bring happiness and change in the lives of farmers



Development Department at an orientation function the said that the state is an agriculturally dominant state and more than 70 percent of people in its rural areas are engaged in various agricultural activities. V K Pandian, Secretary to CM graced the occasion.

"Most of them supplement their income through animal husbandry and fisheries. The state government is making continuous efforts to make the life of these

for farmers, women self-help groups and entrepreneurs, he said.

The Chief Minister said that the fisheries and livestock sector has a special role to play in meeting the protein calorie requirements of the people in rural areas, providing nutrition and above all food security.

"Therefore, the officers of this department should realize how important their responsibilities are," he said.

Emphasizing on 5T

stock development. He hoped that the newly appointed employees would maintain integrity and work with dedication.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of Fisheries and Animal Resource Development Ranendra Pratap Swain said that due to the visionary leadership of the Chief Minister, livestock production has increased in the State today.

He said that in the last 20 years, milk

engaged in animal husbandry and fish production in the state.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra said that the Chief Minister has attached importance to the recruitment program in the state. He said that thousands of youth are being recruited every month by various departments in the state and more economic growth is happening in rural areas due to development in related sectors.

Team Excise Seize Silver Bricks

Cuttack(KCN): While Top Cop Ashish Kumar Singh, Commissioner of Excise has been hyperactive in enforcement activities, Team Excise Odisha is calling shots in spearheading enforcement and raids across the State.

A Team of Excise officials on Thursday seized 47 silver bricks weighing over 100 KG, silver ornaments packed in 19 packets and Rs 14 lakh in cash from a car near Tangi toll gate in Cuttack district. The Team Excise Odisha have seized the valuables during a regular check up to detect smuggling of ganja from Odisha. The Excise Officials said they intercepted the vehicle acting on information that contraband ganja is being smuggled in the car but during the search of the vehicle, they found the silver bricks, ornaments, some documents and cash kept in several secret chambers of the vehicle. The silver bricks were packed in paper and stored inside a secret chamber in the back seat of the vehicle. Officials suspected that the car was designed to smuggle gold and silver and used for smuggling earlier also.

Sources said officials are trying to know whether there are any gold bricks in it. The Excise officials also detained two persons including the driver of the vehicle and interrogated them.

The accused said the vehicle was on its way from Aska to Kharagpur. Earlier, he had transported 50 kg silver ornaments and bricks to West Bengal.

The GST and Income tax officials have been informed and they would try to find out the root of the trade, the Excise officials informed.

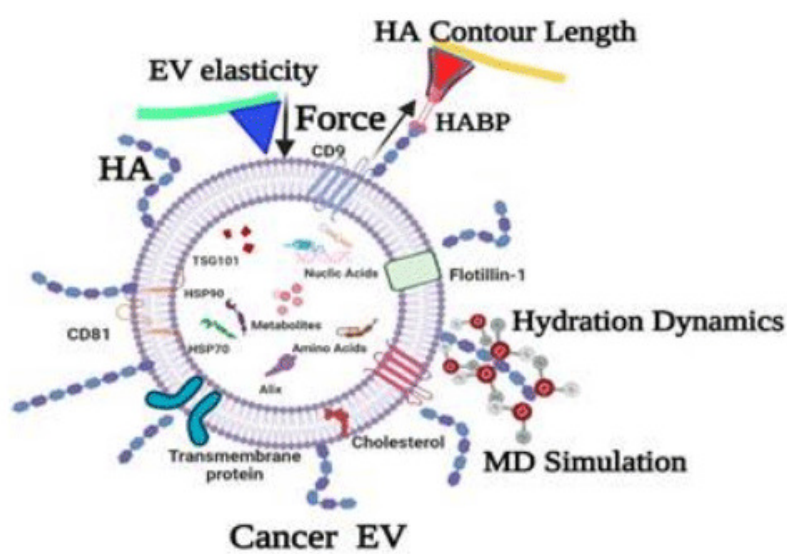
"We are investigating the case. If the ornaments and silver bricks were being transported illegally, heavy tax and penalty will be imposed," said a GST officer.

Notably, Excise Commissioner Ashish Kumar Singh had instructed all Superintendents of Excise & EI EB Units to strengthen & enhance the enforcement measures and conduct frequent raids against the illegal manufacturing, distributing and sale of illegal liquor and NDPS items in the State in this festive season. So, frequent raids are being conducted at various locations throughout the State.

Cancer Detect Made Easy

New Delhi(KCN): Detection of the cancer microenvironment may soon become much easier with the help of a new molecular bio-

fragmented by hyaluronidases (Hyals) and reactive oxygen species in pathological conditions.



Dr. Tatini Rakshit laboratory, supported by Inspire faculty grant of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), at Shiv Nadar Institute of Eminence, Delhi, in collaboration with S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata and IIT Bhilai, Chhatisgarh has unravelled the

contour lengths of HA on a single cancer cell-derived EV surface.

Their study showed that a single cancer cell-derived EV is coated with very short chain HA molecules (contour length less than 500 nanometers) using single molecule techniques and elucidated that these short-chain HA-coated EVs are significantly more elastic than the normal cell-derived EVs. This intrinsic elasticity of HA-coated EVs in cancer helps them to withstand multiple external forces during extracellular transportation, uptake, excretion by cells, adhesion to cell surfaces, etc. The study has been published very recently in the Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters. These findings affect how sugar-coated pouches increase the risk of cancer progression

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State favors millet snacks

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In an aim to promote nutrition-rich millets, Dr.Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Principal Secretary Agriculture and Farmer's Empowerment has requested all Government Departments to include the millet-based snacks in the official meetings and conferences.

For this purpose, Dr.Padhee has written a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary and Secretary of All the Departments.

Under the guidance of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment is implementing the flagship initiative, the Odisha Millets Mission



(OMM) in 19 districts of the State. Millets are small seeded cereals which are climate resilient and powerhouse of nutrition OMM aims to improve livelihoods of vulnerable rainfed farmers by reviving millets in farms and plates Odisha Millets Mission has been recognized nationally and globally as one of the best models for promotion of mil-

let, he said.

The Government of India has also asked States to adopt the Odisha model for promotion of millets. Besides, 2023 has been declared as the International Year of Millets (IYOM) by the United Nations, he pointed out.

The Principal Secretary further stated that the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment took several initiatives for celebration and revalorization of consumption of millets in the run up to IYOM 2023.

One of the key interventions under OMM is promotion of value addition enterprises through Women SHGs under Mission Shakti, he stated.

As part of the collaboration, he said, Millet Shakti outlets are being established in different parts of the State including one outlet in Krushi Bhavan anchored by Maa Shaktimayee WSHG, which has recently recognized as best WSHG millet value addition initiative by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Government of India. Stating his Department has already started serving millet based snacks in all meetings at Krushi Bhavan, Padhee requested the administrative head of different Departments to consider inclusion of nutrition-rich millet snacks in their official meetings. The Departments can add millet-based products like cookies, mixture, sticks, khurma, nimki, sev, pitha, chatua. Etc, which are extremely tasty a found wide acceptance amongst the consumers

"It would also be a great economic opportunity for the Mission Shakti WSHGs, trained under OMM, to supply the millet-based snacks to various Departments. This will also help in spreading awareness on millets and provide livelihood support to a host of people in the value chain," he added.

In case of any queries, the Departments can contact the Odisha Millets Mission team, who would be very happy to provide necessary coordination and support.

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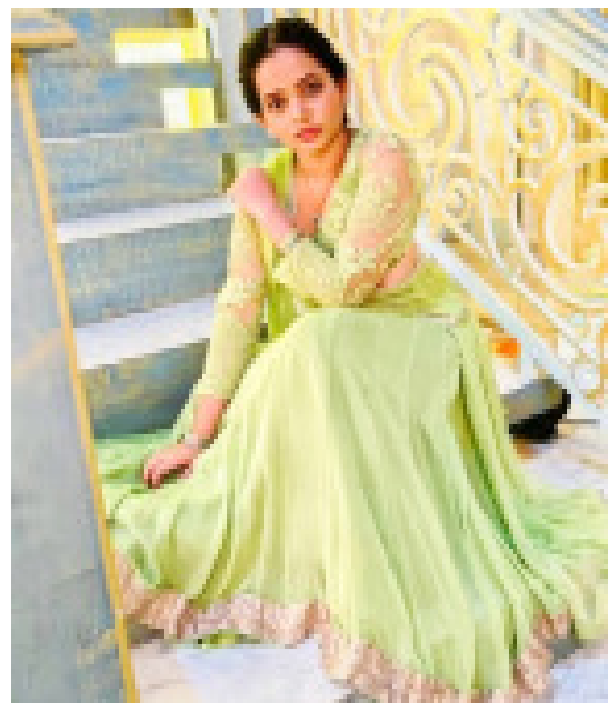
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Now a days the heroines have nothing much in the film, except to flaunt their glamour: Aarushi Sharma

The multi-faceted talented actress “Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi” and Her performance is being widely appreciated and her role as Muskaan is being



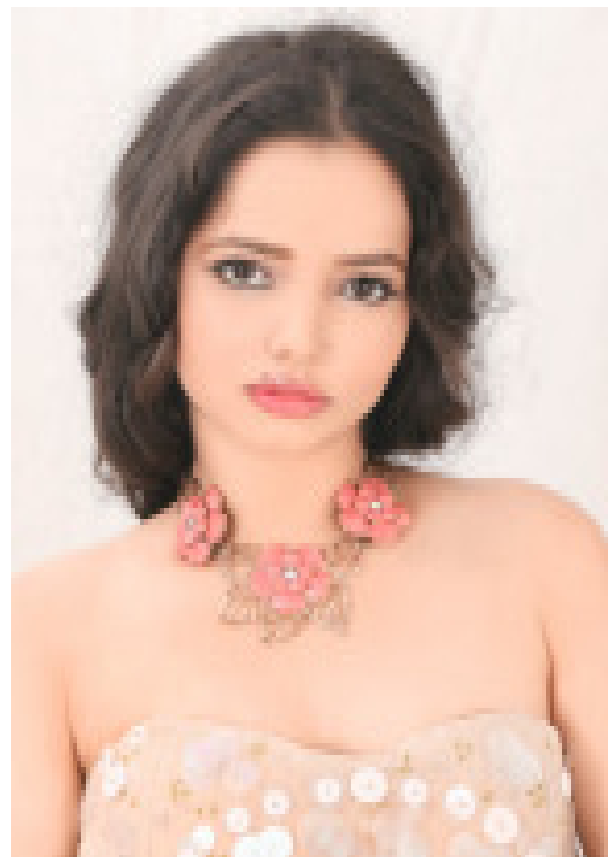
Aarushi Sharma “Muskaan” is now who has left an impression performing in the



ciated and her role as Muskaan is being



Mishra start soon. That way (Deepshikha) and I was highly ben-



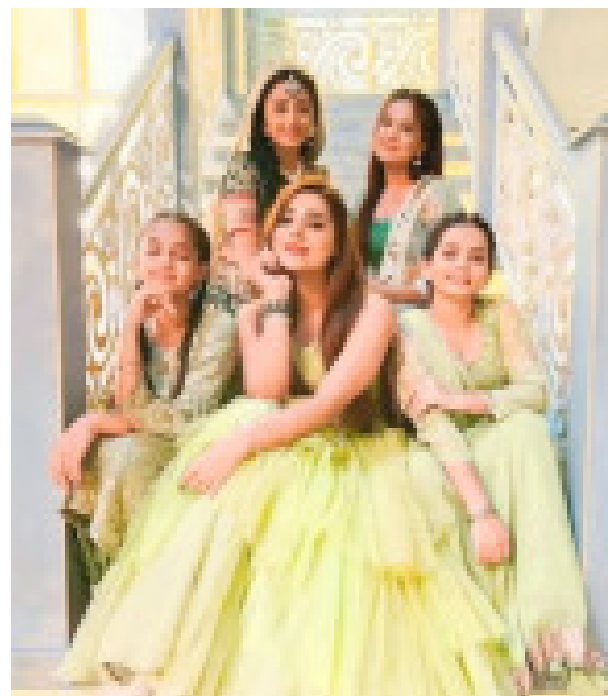
delible impression of her acting on TV serial “Ranju Ki



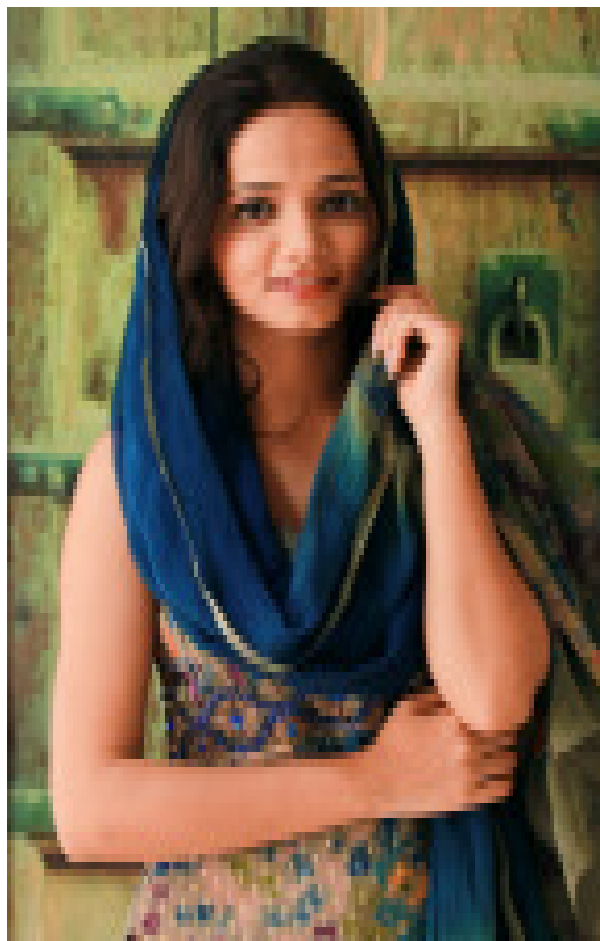
highly acclaimed by the viewers. third daughter. My mother brings us



harasses our family. Till now my role was that of an innocent and bubbly girl. But henceforth my role will be different and the viewers will be taken aback by my new role. The viewers will certainly like the new twist in the story. About her film ventures Aarushi says “I had signed a film in the South. However the project could not start early due



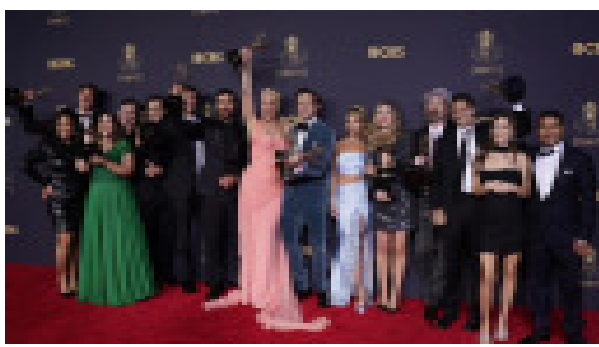
viewers' mind with her TV serials like telecast now a days on “Dangal TV”.



About her role in “Ranju Ki up- we four sisters. My father deserts

'Emmys So White': Netizens call out award show for 'fake diversity'

Los Angeles: The 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards concluded on a disappointing note on Monday. While setting a record for diversity, with 49 black or indigenous people of colour (BIPOC) nominated across all categories, all major acting trophies went to white actors at the Emmys 2021. According to Variety, as solid contenders included Billy Porter and Mj Rodriguez and Kenan Thompson and Bowen Yang ('Saturday Night Live') -- has undoubtedly failed to meet the expectations of people. Calling out the event, a netizen tweeted, "Not a single Black actor won tonight. Not a single Asian actor won tonight. Not a single Latino actor won tonight." Another one wrote, "#Emmys do this every year: Nominate a diverse selection of our faves, only to give them to the same white actors and/or stories. Middle-aged white folks in conflict or British period pieces will win over nuanced, multi-dimensional plots involving characters of colour." #EmmysSoWhite has been trending all over Twitter since morning. "Black host, Black announcer hell even Black music. We do winning everything but win. #Emm-ysSoWhite," a social media user wrote while condemning Emmys 2021. "Lovecraft country won nothing tonight and 98% of the winners were white despite the amount of black talent around #EmmysSoWhite," a netizen tweeted. This time Black performers had a strong showing at the event. But all efforts went in vain when nominees of colour failed to win most categories.



(‘Pose’), the late Michael K. Williams ('Lovecraft Country') but in the end, all ended up empty-handed. The 2021 ceremony

Women fail to get due recognition as farmers

When the founding fathers of the Indian republic sat down to write the Constitution, the feature that they gave utmost importance was equality. It was the cornerstone on which the Constitution stands. They wanted to each individual to enjoy equality in opportunity as well as treatment. But even 75 years after independence, successive governments failed to make good this constitutional pledge to several sections of people.

Women are one of the sections who are facing the unjust treatment. Equality still eludes them in every sphere of their lives — be it at home or workplace. The more the women's field of operations goes farther from the limelight, the more the magnitude of bias increases. Rural India — especially agriculture — is prime example of such inequality between men and women.

Women's contribution is the key to three-quarters of farm-related operations. If one travels to the hinterland, one could invariably spot many women — wearing a shirt and a trouser over their traditional attire — engaged

in farming operations. But the patriarchal structures that run deep in the society make equality a distant dream for them.

The disparity is more pronounced in wages. While a woman gets Rs 200-250, a man gets Rs 400 to 500 per day for their work in agriculture.

According to land owners, who are most often men, defend the wage differential, and claim that men get more wages because of the kind of work that they do. There is a strong notion among the people that men take up "hard work" that women can't perform and therefore women's work is quite easy.

While men tile land and spray pesticides, women engage in farm operations by bending their bodies hundreds of times while picking cotton, mirchi, among others, planting paddy, cutting crops, and weeding and sowing seeds. All the farm activities that women perform require a unique skill. "We do not get equal treatment. Though we work on par with our male counterparts in agriculture, we observed that men face mental pressure as far farming is concerned, unlike women," said Gunnamma Gunjala, 35, of Thantholi village of Adilabad Rural Mandal.

While stating that women feel safe and

secure when they are with their men,

PILLALAMARRISRINIVAS

Maddikuntla Sujatha of Thantholi insisted that they are not weak and they could fight for their rights, whenever it was required. "We can even question our men. But we always try to be within our limits," she said.

Despite the work that women undertake require unique skills, women won't get wages equal to that of their male counterparts in agriculture operations.

Narayana Maddikuntla, considered a big farmer of Adilabad, acknowledged this gap in wages.

He, however, attributes discrimina-

tion towards women in wages because of they are considered to be the weaker gender, especially when it comes to working for longer hours, undertaking labour-intensive work, and lifting heavy objects.

While acknowledging that the work done by the women is more important in agriculture and admitting that agricultural activity will not move an inch without the involvement of the women, he dismissed the need to question the status quo.

"This was the tradition that was handed down from our forefathers," Narayana said. Things may change; he said if the women foray into areas which are traditionally regarded as male bastions. According to 'The Fifty years of Oxfam in India' document under the title of Right to Gender Equality notes that 'millions of women in India are not only poor but they are also oppressed. It further notes that "Individually and collectively, women gain confidence from their improved economic position and take on issues of domestic violence, alcoholism, dowry harassment, equal wages, and harassment by the police or forest department personnel."

Women farm workers come from the

SC, ST, and BC communities. According to the 68th Round of the National Sample Survey, as many as 64.1 per cent of SC and ST women were engaged as workers in agriculture in 2011-12 in India.

The women also are left away from farming operations during the menstruation period.

Going by the names of schemes, the government appears to have ignored the contribution of women agriculturists. The slogans — 'Rythu Bidda', 'Rythe Raju', 'Vyavasayanni Panduga Cheddham and Rythunu Rajunu Cheddham' — often declare the men to

which could result in the loss of their property.

Citing the impending marriage of their grandchildren, they put off transferring the property to the woman, making her lose out on the government's welfare schemes.

MEDIA AND ITS ROLE:

B. Kondal Reddy of an agricultural NGO Rythu Swarajya Vedika said the mainstream media plays a key role in creating a perception among the people about the farmers. It generally depicts a farmer as a man with headgear carrying a plough on his shoulder. While reporting on farmer suicides, he said the media typical report only about male farmers.

He urged the media to use words and symbols that show both male and female 'farmers' while writing about or discussing the farmer issues.

DESIGNING MORE INCLUSIVE TOOLS AND POLICIES:

The government should take steps to design agriculture tools that are suitable for women farmers, said S. Ashalatha of 'Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch' (MAKAAM).

"The agricultural tools should be lighter in weight and easy to handle to encourage more women to engage in operations like tilling and spraying pesticides. So far, the tools have been developed keeping men in mind," she explained. Ashalatha further urged the government to relook at the policies and change the criteria to be recognised as farmers to reflect women's role and include them as beneficiaries of the government policies.

She underscored the need for effective on-ground implementation 'gender budget' so that women get their due share of recognition, avail the benefit of welfare schemes and also enjoy self-respect.

Once their husbands pass away, Ashalatha said women are denied loans and deferred payments for seeds, fertilisers, and pesticides, assuming that women may not be able to repay loans on time.

She also claimed that women were worst affected by the government's land acquisition for development projects as the onus of repaying loans often fell on them. The increasing "feminisation" of agriculture on account of the migration of men further exacerbated their condition as they were side-lined from decision-making in corporate-driven agriculture.



be the key part of the schemes.

MGNREGS AND ITS ROLE:

The central government-sponsored MGNREGS or the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme turned out to be a ray of hope as it pays wages equally to men and women. According to social activist Chakradhar Buddha, the MGNREG scheme is a testimony to what governments can achieve as far as gender equality wages, working conditions, and the nature of work are concerned. He noted that the MNREGS has played a pivotal role with regard to women's participation in rural jobs.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND ITS FALLOUT:

The women's ownership of agricultural land increased after the distribution of three-acre land under the Dalit Basti scheme by the Y.S Rajasekhara Reddy government in 2004. Apart from this, men have transferred pieces of big land holdings to the women's names to cash in on the government's welfare schemes.

The situation, however, continues to remain dismal, especially for those who have lost their husbands. In most cases, the in-laws refuse to transfer the property to their daughter-in-law as they fear that she may remarry

Putin orders partial Russian mobilisation for Ukraine, threatens enemies

KYIV: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday announced a partial mobilization in Russia as the war in Ukraine reaches nearly seven months and Moscow loses ground on the battlefield. Putin also warned the West that "it's not a bluff" that Russia would use all the means at its disposal to protect its territory. The total number of reservists drafted in the partial mobilization is 300,000, officials said. The Russian leader's televised address to the nation comes a day after Russian-controlled regions in eastern and southern Ukraine announced plans to hold votes on becoming integral parts of Russia. The Kremlin-backed efforts to swallow up four regions could set the stage for Moscow to escalate the war following Ukrainian successes. Putin accused the West in engaging in "nuclear blackmail" and noted "statements of some high-ranking representa-

tives of the leading NATO states about the possibility of using nuclear weapons against Russia." "To those who allow themselves such statements regarding Russia, I want to remind you that our country also has various means of destruction, and for separate components and more modern than those of NATO countries and when the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, to protect Russia and our people, we will certainly use all the means at our disposal," Putin said. He added: "It's not a bluff." Putin said he has signed a decree on the partial mobilization, which is due to start on Wednesday. "We are talking about partial mobilization, that is, only citizens who are currently in the reserve will be subject to conscription, and above all, those who served in the armed forces have a certain military specialty and relevant experi-

ence," Putin said. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said in a televised interview Wednesday that

mobilize was "fully adequate to the threats we face, namely to protect our homeland, its sovereignty and territorial integ-

Four Russian-controlled regions announced plans Tuesday to start voting this week to become integral parts of Rus-

In his nightly address Zelenskyy said there were lots of questions surrounding the announcements but stressed

K h e r s o n , Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions are all but certain to go Moscow's way. But they were quickly dismissed as illegitimate by Western leaders who are backing Kyiv with military and other support that has helped its forces seize momentum on battlefields in the east and south.

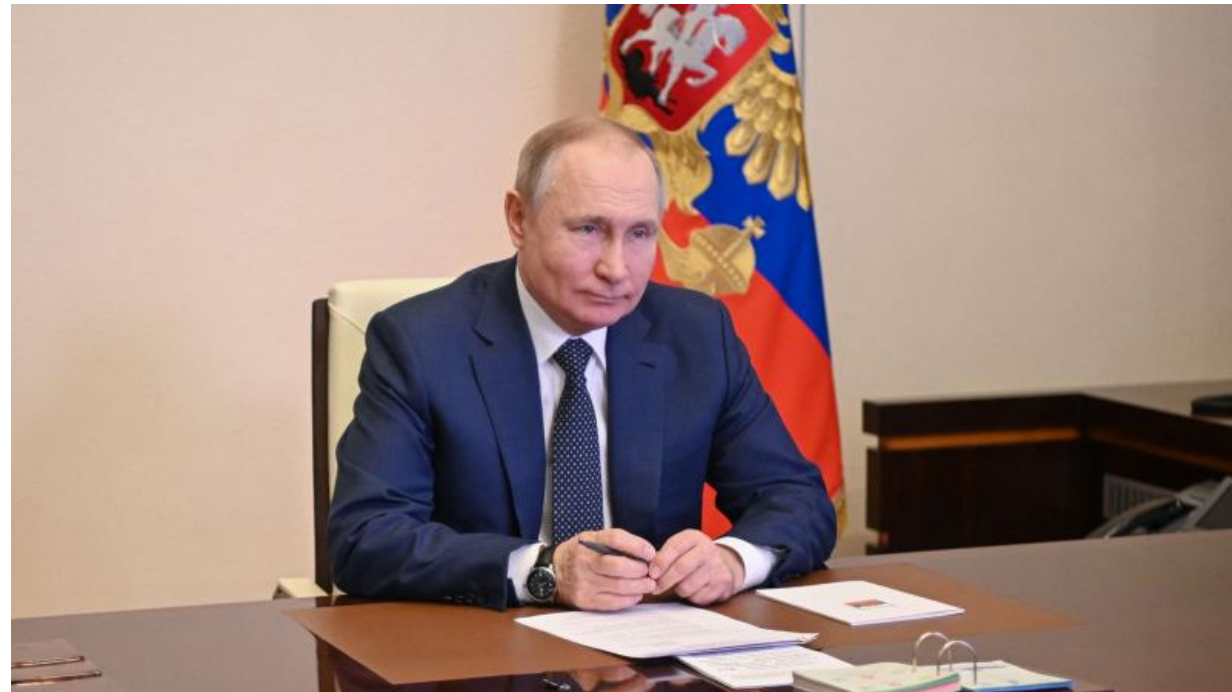
"I thank all friends and partners of Ukraine for today's mass principled firm condemnation of Russia's attempts to stage new sham referenda," Zelenskyy said. In another signal that Russia is digging in for a protracted and possibly ramped-up conflict, the Kremlin-controlled lower of house of parliament voted Tuesday to toughen laws against desertion, surrender and looting by Russian troops. Lawmakers also voted to introduce possible 10-year prison terms for soldiers refusing to fight.

If approved, as expected, by the upper house and then signed by Putin, the

legislation would strengthen commanders' hands against failing morale reported among soldiers.

In the Russian-occupied city of Enerhodar, shelling continued around Europe's largest nuclear power plant. Ukrainian energy operator Energoatom said Russian shelling again damaged infrastructure at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and briefly forced workers to start two diesel generators for emergency power to the cooling pumps for one of the reactors.

Such pumps are essential for avoiding a meltdown at a nuclear facility even though all six of the plant's reactors have been shut down. Energoatom said the generators were later switched off as main power was restored. The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has been a focus for concern for months because of fears that shelling could lead to a radiation leak. Russia and Ukraine blame each other for the shelling.



Shoigu assured that conscripts and students will not be mobilized, only those with relevant combat and service experience will.

The referendums, which have been expected to take place since the first months of the war, will start Friday in the Luhansk, Kherson and partly Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions. Putin said the decision to partially mo-

bilize was "fully adequate to the threats we face, namely to protect our homeland, its sovereignty and territorial integ-

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Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri case: Court admits plea for carbon-dating of 'Shivling'

VARANASI(KCN): The Varanasi district court on Thursday admitted a plea for carbon-dating of a "Shivling" claimed to have been found inside the Gyanvapi mosque complex here and asked the mosque management to file its objections by the next date of hearing. Judge A K Vishesh fixed September 29 as the next date of hearing in the matter involving the Gyanvapi mosque-Shringar Gauri dispute. The court resumed hearing in the matter on Thursday, after rejecting a plea questioning

"wazookhana" -- a small reservoir used by Muslims to perform ritual ablutions before offering namaz -- on the mosque premises. The mosque management had, however, said it was part of the fountain system of the "wazookhana".

A total of 15 people had submitted applications in the court to become parties to the dispute. The judge said the applications of only eight people, who were present before the court, will be considered, Singh said. Five women have filed the petition, seeking

permission to worship the idols of the Hindu deities claimed to be located on an outer wall of the mosque on a daily basis.

The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee has said the mosque is a Waqf property. It had earlier questioned the maintainability of the plea.

The committee looks

after the affairs of the mosque. The mosque is located next to the iconic Kashi Vishwanath temple and the case revived claims that the mosque was built on a portion of the Hindu structure demolished on the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

The Supreme Court had directed the district court to first decide on the maintainability of the case filed by the five Hindu women, seeking permission to offer daily prayers before the idols of Shringar Gauri.

The mosque committee had approached the apex court, arguing that their plea was not maintainable as the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 mandated that the character of such places should remain as it was at the time of independence. The 1991 law made an exemption only for the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute.



the maintainability of the petition on September 12.

The petition seeks the court's permission for worshipping the idols of the Hindu deities located on an outer wall of the mosque on a daily basis.

Appearing on behalf of the plaintiff women, advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain placed the demand for carbon-dating of the "Shivling" before the court. The judge allowed the plea and fixed September 29 as the next date of hearing in the matter, district government advocate Rana Sanjeev Singh said.

The court did not entertain the Muslim side's plea for fixing the next hearing eight weeks after the last date of hearing in the matter on September 12, he added.

The Hindu side had earlier claimed that the "Shivling" was found close to the

BJP national chief Nadda to kick-start poll campaign on Odisha visit

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): BJP national president JP Nadda is set to kick-start campaign for the 2024 general elections during his two-day visit to the State beginning September 29. Though the itinerary of Nadda is not finalised, as per the discussions held by BJP national general secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam with senior functionaries of the party here on Monday, the BJP president will address a rally of party workers at Janata Maidan on the first day of his visit.

"Presidents of panchayat, mandal and booth committees will attend the meeting. It is expected that over 20,000 party workers will attend the rally to be addressed by Nadda," sources in the party said. After the meeting, Nadda will head to Puri and stay for the night in

the holy town. The next day he will visit the Srimandir before returning to Bhubaneswar.

As per his tentative schedule, Nadda

of the BJP in 2019. Two of his proposed tours to Odisha were cancelled at the last moment due to his other pressing en-

Nadda will sound the poll bugle from Janata Maidan, a senior party leader said.

Ahead of Nadda's visit, leader of Op-



will have a series of meeting with party leaders. His first meeting will be with the core committee of the party followed by separate meetings with state office bearers, MLAs and MPs. He is likely to attend some party events in Puri and Cuttack but nothing has been finalised, a party functionary said.

This will be the first visit of Nadda after taking over as national president

g a g e m e n t s . Gautam, who came here on a day's visit on Monday, took stock of the preparations and discussed about the two-day schedule of Nadda in the State. A final schedule of the visit will be prepared within a couple of days, sources added.

The BJP workers meeting here on September 29 will be the beginning of the party's march to Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

position in the Assembly, Jayanarayan Mishra had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Monday and discussed various political and organisational issues.

Nadda is stated to have advised Mishra to strengthen the party at the grassroots level and to intensify the public outreach programme before the next election.

Dharmendra Pradhan writes to Mamata over land allocation for JNV in South 24 Parganas-I, Malda

NEW DELHI: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan wrote to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday seeking her intervention to ensure the state allocates land for permanent campuses of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in South 24 Parganas-I and Malda.

Pradhan noted the land allotment issue for the two JNVs remains unresolved since



2007-08 and 2016 respectively.

With the state administration last year withdrawing

the temporary site on which the JNV South 24

Parganas-I was functioning since 2007-08, the students had to be shifted to nearby JNVs and new admissions were put on hold, he said. JNV-Malda which was sanctioned in November 2016 is still non-functional for want of suitable land for the construction of a permanent campus and temporary accommo-

modation. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are government-run Class 6-12 chain of residential schools. They admit students based on an entrance examination. "The prerequisites for the opening of a JNV are the provision of about 30 acres of suitable land, free of cost,

along with adequate temporary rent-free accommodation, sufficient enough to accommodate approximately 240 students, to be provided by the concerned State Government to run the Vidyalaya for a period of 3 to 4 years," Pradhan said in the letter.

"JNV, South 24 Parganas was sanctioned in the year 2007 and made functional during the academic year 2007-08 from a temporary site provided by the district administration," Pradhan said, adding the administration had assured to transfer land in favour of NVS for construction of the permanent building. "However, the transfer of the offered land is still awaited and

the temporary site has also been withdrawn during February 2021. As a result, the students studying in the JNV, South 24 Parganas-I had to be shifted to the nearby JNVs and further admissions to the Vidyalaya have also been put on hold," he said. The minister requested the West Bengal CM to look into the matter personally and issue necessary instructions to the officers concerned to expedite the identification and transfer of suitable land and temporary accommodation. "So that these vidyalayas can be made functional at the earliest in the larger interest of the education of the rural children of these two districts," the minister said.

State asks VLT installation

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In an aim to enhance security of women and children while traveling in buses and other public transport vehicles, the State Government has made installation of vehicle location tracking (VLT) devices mandatory for specified vehicles used in public transport from 1 January, 2023. Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary Commerce & Transport has issued a notification in this regard.

quirement at the time of registration.



As per the notification, the specified vehicles registered on or after 1 January, 2023 will have to comply with the re-

Similarly, the specified vehicles registered on or before 31 December, 2022, will have to comply with the requirement by March, 2023. The Transport Commissioner will issue detailed guidelines and process for fitment of VLT de-

vice and panic button, said Principal Secretary Mr.Sethi. Passenger buses, mini-buses, school buses and cabs/taxis will compulsorily be equipped with the VLT gadgets for the safety of women travelers. Women in distress can press the emergency buttons near their seats and expect quick response from the police, sources said. A monitoring cell would receive the SOS soon after a victim presses the emergency button and immediately alert the police about the location of the vehicle. The Ministry of Road Transport and

Highways earlier had mandated vehicle location tracking (VLT) devices and emergency buttons be fitted in all public service vehicles with effect from 1 April, 2018. Later, the Centre has empowered the States to do so through notification. The Centre has been providing financial assistance from Nirbhaya fund to states to install vehicle location tracking (VLT) devices and emergency buttons in the public transport vehicles. The Centre and State have shared 60% and 40% of the project cost, respectively, the source said.

Sambalpur Civil Society forum thanks CM for fund allocation to VISSUT

Sambalpur (KCN): The representatives of Sambalpur Civil

tion in 1956 was never given such a big grant by any gov-

give a fillip to the overall development in the institution."

people as well. In the press meet, the other forum mem-



Society Forum on Thursday thanked Chief Minister Naveen Pattanaik and expressed their gratitude in a press conference for sanctioning Rs 2000 crore for the transformation of VISSUT. The institution, since its incep-

ernments. The credit must go to Naveen Pattanaik for this allocation, "said the civil society forum of Sambalpur. "The allocation of 2000 core and 100 acre land to VISSUT is in tune with emphasis made by CM Naveen ji. This will

Dr. Raseswari Panigrahi, Ex MLA and member of forum added. The Forum also urged the CM to grant this type of fund for VIMSSAR which will be a significant step towards the health sector of western Odisha

bers Prof Sankar Prasad Pati, Aravind Mahapatra, Dr. Ramaballaha Mishra, Bhabani Hota, Ex MP, Premraj Dubey, Raghunath Mishra, Adikanda Sahu, Dr. Shyam sunder Dhar, Dr. Minaketan Pathi were present.



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Rupee tanks 90 paise to close at all-time low of 80.86 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee plunged 90 paise to close at an all-time low of 80.86 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday after the US Federal Reserve's interest rate hike and its

tra-day low of 80.95 against the American currency. It finally ended at 80.86, down 90 paise over its previous close of 79.96. The US Fed hiked interest rates by 75 ba-

US Dollar extended gains against its major crosses after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced partial military mobilisation. "An aggressive Fed Chair Jerome Powell

outperformance among the regional currencies," Parmar said, adding that spot USD-INR now has resistance in the area of 81.25 to 81.40 while the previous top 80.12 would act



hawkish stance weighed on investor sentiments. Forex traders said the US Fed's rate hike and escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine sapped risk appetite. Moreover, the strength of the American currency in the overseas market, a muted trend in domestic equities, risk-off mood and firm crude oil prices weighed on the rupee.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 80.27, then fell further to an all-time in-

crease of 3-3.25 per cent. It was the third straight 75 basis points hike. Fed Chair Jerome Powell reiterated the central bank's commitment to taming inflation. Focus will be on Bank of Japan (BoJ) and Bank of England (BoE) monetary policies next, forex traders said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, advanced 0.38 per cent to 110.06.

Besides the hawkish US Fed stance, the

and Russian President Vladimir Putin's escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine turned on the green light for King Dollar against most currencies," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Rupee along with other Asian peers tumbled to a record low.

"We believe the current downtrend in the rupee may continue for a while even after strong domestic fundamentals. The local currency will react to a stronger greenback but there could be

as support. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 0.36 per cent to USD 90.15 per barrel.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 337.06 points or 0.57 per cent to end at 59,119.72, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 88.55 points or 0.5 per cent to 17,629.80.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market on Wednesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 461.04 crore, as per exchange data.

Tatas evaluating options to consolidate AirAsia India, Vistara under Air India

MUMBAI: The Tata Group has started an exercise to evaluate options to consolidate AirAsia India

its Director of Operations, R.S. Sandhu, sources familiar with the development said.

tween Air India and Vistara and how to achieve the merger," a source said.

The team has been

to Tata Sons seeking comments remained unanswered. Tata Group took back control of Air India and its low-cost international arm, Air India Express from the government in January this year.

Besides, it holds a majority 83.67 per cent stake in domestic budget carrier AirAsia India, which started flying in June 2014, while the remaining 16.33 per cent is with the Malaysian airlines group AirAsia.

The group is looking to acquire the remaining stake in AirAsia India from AirAsia Group.

In Vistara, Tata Sons' holding stands at 51 per cent and the rest 49 per cent is with Singapore Airlines. The full service carrier had started services from January 2015.



and Vistara under Air India to bring operational synergies among the three airlines under its umbrella, sources said.

Air India, which the group had taken control of in January after winning the bid to acquire the national carrier for Rs 18,000 crore in October last year, has set up a team under

The team will evaluate synergies in operations between Air India Express and AirAsia India as well as between Air India and Vistara, they said.

"Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson has set up this team, which will look into synergy between Air India Express and AirAsia India and also be-

asked to submit its plan within one year, the source added.

It is understood that the plan is to achieve consolidation of AirAsia India into Air India Express over a one year period, while also targeting to bring all of the group's airlines businesses under the Air India umbrella by 2024.

An e-mailed query

ADB lowers India's FY23 growth to 7%

Chennai: The Asian Development Bank on Wednesday lowered its growth forecast for India for 2022-23 to 7 per

cent. Headline inflation has continued to breach the monetary policy target of 2-6 per cent on food

policy. This was accompanied by an increase in the policy rate by 140 basis points over 4 months to contain inflationary expecta-

pects in FY23. Imports grew by 47.9 per cent in the first 4 months of 2022, outpacing exports, up by 18.5 per cent. Rising



cent from 7.2 per cent estimated earlier, as inflation is expected to adversely impact domestic consumption while sluggish global demand and elevated oil prices are likely to be a drag on exports. ADB also lowered India's growth estimate for FY24 to 7.2 per cent from 7.8 per cent.

The economy grew strongly in the quarter ending March, 21 2022. But the forecasts for GDP growth for both FY23 and FY24 are revised down from earlier projections in April due to global economic headwinds. Inflation has turned out to be more persistent than expected, and led to a sharp tightening in monetary

price increases and pressures from rising global oil and commodity prices following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. ADB expects inflation in India to be higher than earlier forecast, averaging 6.7 per cent in FY23 and moderating to 5.8 per cent in FY24 as demand pressures from strengthening economic activity are tamped down by easing supply bottlenecks.

Given the elevated inflation rate, rising global financial pressures due to monetary tightening in the US, and heightened global uncertainty, the RBI terminated its accommodative monetary policy stance in May.

tions. The slowdown in global growth and high oil prices will hurt India's export pros-

pects in FY23. Imports grew by 47.9 per cent in the first 4 months of 2022, outpacing exports, up by 18.5 per cent. Rising

Principal Scientific Adviser to GoI and British High Commissioner unveil the book She Is - Women in STEAM

Continued from page-1

ignoring the contributions and voices of women. And whilst we work with women, men, and other genders, in creating a gender-equal world, we decided to bring forth stories of women achievers. This book seeks to make women in the fields of STEAM more visible, celebrate their significant contributions, and acknowledge their journeys which are often fraught with challenges that are gendered. The contribution of women to India's independence, and subsequent success and progress, has often been underplayed and underestimated. We wish to correct that," said the authors, ElsaMarie D'silva and Supreet K Singh.

"The Honorable President of India, at IIT Delhi's Diamond Jubilee celebration this year, noted that the contribution of India's young women is going to be most critical in making India Atmanirbhar. It is on these lines that the government, through its various policies, is providing renewed impetus to the mainstreaming, and institutionalizing of equity and inclusion within the STI ecosystem. One of these is the 5th Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy. We all need to reflect on how this policy can be adequately implemented by our institutes so that the young girls and women in science find more equitable opportunities and welcoming spaces to perform," said Prof. Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, during the unveiling. He congratulated the efforts of the British High Commission and Red Dot Foundation for bringing out the She Is book with stories of women from diverse disciplines working across the country.

"Providing opportunities for everyone, including women and young girls, makes every country stronger and wiser. That is why the British Government has supported over 300 young Indian female scientists and innovators in STEM to reach their potential. But there's a long way to go, and I hope the examples in this book will inspire the next generation of women leaders, and that's why we are partnering with the Indian Government and the Red Dot Foundation on this work." Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India. "Equality for women is progress for all. The ability of women to access, benefit from, develop, and influence these sectors is immense. Our collaborative endeavor has two goals, one is to celebrate and create role models and the other is to harness the potential of this sector to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth of the nation" said Jayanti Dalmia, President, FLO.

The publisher, Beyond Black, is a social enterprise working on using art, books, poetry, films, and events to promote diversity and inclusivity.

Old Station Bazaar pandal to replicate Varanasi Ganga Ghat

Continued from page-1

Station Bazaar can inform us. At least five rooms each in about 10 hotels of the area will be booked for them," said samiti's president, Ganesh Prasad Sahoo.

Also, this year their pandal gate will be a replica of Varanasi's Ganga Ghat, having a width and height of 130 ft and 35 ft respectively. In an attempt to make the ghat's representation distinct, the width of the gate has been increased by about 50 ft than its usual size in the previous years.

The samiti's members said earlier the pandal's gate height and width used to be 90 ft and 80 ft respectively. "But this year the gate's design is in the line of Varanasi's Ganga Ghat and we want the visitors to have a clear view of the entire structure for which the width has been increased," Sahoo said.

The height of the silver medha will be 17 ft height and the idol 12 ft tall. The idol will be decorated with a gold crown weighing about 750 gram. The samiti members said that the medha and other silver ornaments will weigh about 2.10 quintal.

The visitors can also have a glimpses of the stories of Vikram and Betal through a number of statues installed inside the Puja pandal. Apart from that melody has been planned between Saptami and Dashami.

Old Station Bazaar Durga Puja Samiti has made adequate arrangements like wheelchairs for senior citizens and differently-abled persons, who will be visiting the pandal during the five-day festival.

As many as 250 volunteers will be deployed near the pandal to ensure the festival passes off smoothly. Moreover, at least 50 CCTV cameras will also be installed to keep a vigil on the anti-social elements.

India eager to give befitting farewell to retiring Jhulan at Lord's: Harmanpreet

CANTERBURY: The series already in the pocket, India women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur wants to give a befitting farewell to veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami by winning the "special" final ODI against England at the iconic Lord's on Saturday. Goswami, 39, is set to bid adieu to the game after a glorious two decade-long career at the end of the ongoing tour of England, and Harmanpreet feels a series sweep would be the perfect gift to the fast bowler.

"The Lord's game is very special for us because it's Jhulan's retirement and we wanted to enjoy that game without any pressure and I'm really happy that we were able to win today and now we can just have fun in that game," the India

skipper said after trouncing hosts England by 88 runs to win a series on their soil after 23 years.

ment for all of us and we definitely want to win that game," Harmanpreet said.

"She's someone who has taught us a lot," said Harmanpreet, who made her ODI debut

are also learning from her. They are learning how she bowls and getting that rhythm from

tional unbeaten 143 off 111 balls on Wednesday night, said with the series already sealed, In-

that game as a winning side and today (Wednesday) also we were looking at that only because we don't want to carry any extra pressure on ourselves going to Lord's," she said.

The third ODI will be the first time both the sides will play at Lord's since their meeting at the 2017 World Cup final, which England won by nine runs. Harmanpreet, who took over as full-time captain after veteran Mithali Raj retired earlier this year, said she enjoys the leadership role.

"Was a crucial win today (Wednesday) as everybody stepped up. I always enjoy leadership as I'm always in the game and it feels good. When I was batting, during the first 50 runs, it

wasn't all that easy." England stand-in skipper Amy Jones said the ongoing series against India was a good learning experience for their young bowlers.

"Every loss is tough and they got away from us at the end with the bat. Harman batted extremely well. We didn't get close enough, didn't get partnerships. She is very tough to bowl to, and for our young talents, this is a good learning," she said.

"Wherever we bowled, she was finding the boundary. With lot of the senior ones missing, it's about giving opportunities to the youngsters and Lord's is one more step in that direction. Lot to play for as there are points to play for still."



The last time the Indian women won an ODI series in England was in 1999 when they triumphed 2-1.

"It's very important (to win) because that will be her last game. It will be a very emotional mo-

"Moreover, after winning the series now we just want to have fun because I know it's the last game for her."

The skipper said Goswami has been a true inspiration for all the players, including herself.

at the 2009 World Cup under Goswami's leadership.

"When I debuted she was a leader and I learned a lot from her and now our young bowlers, like Renuka (Singh) and Meghna Singh, they

her. She's been a great inspiration for all of us and we've learned a lot from her."

Harmanpreet, who scored a sensa-

dia will play freely at Lord's.

"When you win the first game, the second game is always important and we always try to finish

Federer teams up with Nadal at Laver Cup for farewell match

LONDON: Roger Federer will team up with long-time rival

Wimbledon quarter-finals, has been struggling with a

pered by John McEnroe, include Taylor Fritz, Felix

the biggest trophies in the sport.

"For us as well to go



Rafael Nadal for the final match of his glittering career, Laver Cup organisers announced on Thursday.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion will play doubles with the Spaniard, who has won 22 majors, at the O2 arena in London on Friday.

Federer, whose most recent competitive match was a loss to Hubert Hurkacz in last year's

knee problem and will not play singles in London.

The Laver Cup is a team competition that pits Team Europe against Team World.

The six-strong European team, captained by Bjorn Borg, also includes 21-time major winner Novak Djokovic and three-time major winner Andy Murray.

Their opponents, Team World, skip-

Auger-Aliassime and Diego Schwartzman.

Federer, 41, announced last week he intended to retire after the three-day Laver Cup.

He said on Wednesday that finishing his career by teaming up with Nadal would be his dream scenario.

Federer said he and Nadal, 36, had always maintained respect for each other even as they vied for

through a career that we both have had and to come out on the other side and being able to have a nice relationship I think is maybe a great message as well to not just tennis but sports and maybe even beyond," he said.

Italian Matteo Berrettini, the first alternate for Europe, will take Federer's place over the weekend.



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