

'Nuakhai Juhar' echoes across western Odisha

SAMBALPUR/BHAWANIPATNA/SUNDARGARH(KCN): Nuakhai was celebrated with pomp and fervour on Thursday in the western Odisha regions. In Sambalpur, the year's first harvested crop was offered to goddess Samaleswari at the stipulated lagna (auspicious moment) between 10.56 am and 11.10 am. While the goddess was decorated with new saree and ornaments, the priests performed the rituals as per tradition.

On the day, thousands of devotees thronged the temple to offer prayers to the goddess. While in 2020, due to Covid restrictions, people were prohibited from visiting Samaleswari Temple, in 2021 devotees got to visit the temple only within a fixed time slot of four hours in the afternoon. Sources said, locals were filled with enthusiasm as all the rituals of Nuakhai were performed in the usual manner. People residing near Samalei Mandir gathered around the temple during the lagna and witnessed the rituals. Meanwhile devotees kept pouring into the temple till evening.

On the other hand, people also observed Nuakhai bhetghat in their respective homes. For many who could not come home due to the pandemic in the last two years, it was an unforgettable get-together with family members. The Nuakhai rituals were also performed on the same lagna in Bargarh district. In Kalahandi too the festival was celebrated with much enthusiasm in phases. In the first phase, the festival was celebrated in Patharla and Bahadur padar villages on August 28. The villagers celebrated the festival on the first day of Bhadrab Shukla after offering newly harvested rice to the local tribal deity, Dharani. As per folklore, the tribals from the area had assisted Naga dynasty king in the war against Ganga rulers and in return asked the king to allow them to offer new rice to the deity.

In the second phase, the festival was celebrated at Junagarh, Dharamgarh, Kalampur, Golamunda, Narla and Karlamunda blocks on

the day. Devotees thronged Lankeswari temple in Junagarh, Bhandargaria in Dharamgarh and Budharaja in Ampani. In Salepali village under Karlamunda block, the festival is celebrated in a different manner.

In the village, all people irrespective of their socio-economic status partake 'nabanna' after offering the same at the temple. Around



1,200 people consumed 'nabanna' together in a show of unity and solidarity. Similarly, in Palsapada village in Narla, 226 members of a family partook 'nabanna' together.

In the third phase, the festival will be celebrated in the khalsa and zamindari areas as per age-old tradition on September 5.

The people of Sundargarh district celebrated the day with traditional gaiety. While the non-tribal devotees offered bhog made of fresh grains at the Samaleswari temple, the royal family of the erstwhile princely state of Gangpur led by Samarendra Sekhar Deo, observed the auspicious festival after paying their obeisance to the presiding deity Samaleswari at the palace temple.

However, the agrarian tribal community of the sub-division observed the festival in a different way. Tribal women, decked in festive attire, made plates and bowls from leaves collected from nearby forests.

This was followed by making offerings of fresh harvests to their ancestors after which the communities indulged in feasting amid music and dance.

Panposh and Bonai sub-divisions too participated in the celebrations. At Rourkela, entrepreneur Prakash Panigrahi and his wife Padmini led others to offer obeisance at the Samalei temple in the Hanuman Vatika Complex as part of the celebrations.

Consult State to clear hurdles, Odisha Governor tells CPSEs

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): With Central government institutions and Central Public Sec-

and E-Coal Blocks, Stage II forest clearance and execution of mining lease deed of Utkal E-Coal and possession of 42 acres of railway siding at Kerejang apart from rehabilitation and resettlement for the two coal blocks.

The NTPC authorities had drawn attention to the hurdles in mine void filling for clearance of corridors of the pipeline at Angul, land acquisition of



tor Enterprises (CPSEs) facing hurdles in executing their projects in Odisha, Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal has asked the departments to resolve issues amicably at the earliest.

After a one-to-one meeting with the chiefs of the Central institutions and CPSEs held recently, the Governor besides alerting the departmental heads has advised the organisations to take up the issues with the State government after intimation to his Secretariat for further intervention if required. Sources said CMDs of Nalco and MCL, Regional Executive Director of NTPC, Executive Director of IOCL, Director of Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) and General Manager of East Coast Railway (ECOR) had briefed the Governor about the administrative issues that have been affecting the progress of works on the field.

Highlighting the coordination issues, Nalco apprised that the company was awaiting acquisition of 51.88 acres of land for Utkal D

109 acres in Masunilata village, frequent local disturbances at ash dyke and mine void that require the intervention of local authorities and up-gradation of ESI Hospital facility for labourers.

ECOR officials informed us that there were about 15 railway projects under construction in the State. The land acquisition for the projects continues to be a major concern as out of 19709.36 acres of land, 8168.678 acres of land are under the process of acquisition and pending for forest clearance.

While the closure of 21 level crossing gates after the commissioning of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) is pending with district administrations, 38 ROBs are under finalisation with the State government. On the extension of the existing runway at Bhubaneswar airport, the BPIA authorities sought early acquisition of an additional 64 acres of land, which is pending with the General Administration department.

UN team misled by Russia at Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant: Ukraine

Ukraine (KCN): Amid reports of heavy fighting near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant site, Ukraine has accused Russia of "lies, manipulation and distortion" of the real state of affairs before the visiting IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) mission.

The director general of IAEA Rafael Mariano Grossi announced that IAEA will continue to have its presence in Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant site.

However, Ukraine, according to reports, claimed that the vast majority of "media from around the world" who came to the station yesterday are Russian propagandists. Buses with

Ukrainian and foreign journalists who tried to get to the Zaporizhzhia NPP

representatives were not supposed to see. In other words, some of the armed Russian

mission: The IAEA mission must state that the presence of the military, the presence



together with the IAEA mission through the territory of Ukraine were not allowed by the rioters at the checkpoint. The Russians did not allow the mission to the crisis center of the power plant, where Russian military personnel are currently stationed, whom the IAEA rep-

resentatives were simply "hidden" at the nuclear plant. Energoatom, the Ukrainian operator of the power plant republished on its Telegram channel some overnight quotes from Ukraine's energy minister, German Galushchenko. He told Ukrainian televi-

of weapons at the station, is a real threat to nuclear safety. This is obvious. This mission is unique because there are no analogues in the history of the IAEA at all. Missions took place at objects that were controlled by states. But there was no such mission for

CONTINUED ON: P-7

India, UAE sign MoU to set up cultural forum to strengthen ties between two countries

NEW DELHI(KCN): India, UAE together are going to set up a cultural forum - Emirati India Cultural Council-which will strengthen ties between the two countries and create opportunities for cultural cooperation. This will be facilitated by the International Cooperation of UAE and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

"I look forward to the continued advancement of our cultural relations, including through the UAE's initiatives, such as the 'Zayed Gandhi Digital Museum', which honours the

values of the Founding Father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, as well as celebrating the 150th anniversary of Mahatma

Gandhi's birth," said UAE's Foreign Minister, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan adding that the two nations have shared values and customs and bonds of friendship that have grown stronger in the last five decades.

This was a part of the two MoUs signed between the two countries during the 14th India UAE Joint Commission Meeting that was co-chaired by External

CONTINUED ON: P-7



Big team of Mahila Biju Janata Dal announced



BHUBANESWAR(KCN): As part of the ongoing organisational restructuring of the party, Chief Minister and party president Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday appointed a big team of State office-bearers and district presidents of the Biju Mahila Janata Dal (BMJD).

As many as 393 office-bearers including 40 presidents for 33 organisational districts

were appointed, with former minister Snehangini Chhuria remaining the president of the BMJD. She will be assisted by a team of 23 advisors including Minister of State for Handlooms, Rita Sahu, Minister of State for WCD Basanti Hembram, six women MPs Pramila Bisoi, Rajashree Mallick, Manjulata Mandal, Sarmistha Sethi, Chandrani Murmu and Mamata Mohanta.

Largest cape size vessel with highest parcel load arrives at Sagar Anchorage

Kolkata(KCN): The historical milestone was achieved at its zenith on Thursday (September, 2022) when 'M V Mineral Yangfan', cape vessel with an LOA of 299.92 mtrs. and a beam length of 50 mtrs on account of M/s Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) arrived at Sagar Anchorage to discharge 70,300

(14) cape vessels, which were handled in 2021-22. Cape vessel 'M V Mineral Yangfan' LOA 299.92m, beam 50 mtrs. and a draft of 9.3m is registered at Portugal. The load port of the vessel was New Port, USA and the last port of call was Dhamra. Railway Division of Haldia is working in tandem with Marine Division

Kolkata, SAIL has agreed to bring two (02) cape vessels per month and has a plan to mobilize cargo throughput of 1.5 MMT per annum at anchorages. Calling of such a Cape Vessel 'M V Mineral Yangfan' at Sagar Anchorage at 9.3 metre draft is a laudable landmark in the history of SMP, Kolkata despite its

for being the first Cape vessel at Sagar, but also for carrying 70,300 MT of cargo which otherwise would have been carried in 2-3 separate vessels. Appreciating this significant achievement Shri Kumar further stated that despite SMP, Kolkata being the only riverine major port in the country, SMP,



MT of Coking Coal by Floating Cranes. This is the largest dry bulker to arrive at anchorage with the highest ever parcel load. Incidentally, 'M V Mineral Yangfan' is the 18th cape vessel in the current fiscal, while only four (04) cape vessels were handled till August in the last fiscal out of a total of fourteen

for quick evacuation of cargo from the port and this is making HDC, the most preferred port of call which is 80 Miles away from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP, Kolkata) and 25 Miles away from Haldia Dock Complex (HDC). After a long persuasion from the management of SMP

natural constraint being saddled with the responsibility of maintaining such one of the longest and most unpredictable navigational channels in the world said Vinit Kumar, Chairman, SMP, Kolkata. Shri Vinit Kumar, Chairman, SMP, Kolkata stated that the arrival of 'M V Mineral Yangfan' is significant, not only

Kolkata has been consistently maintaining its pivotal position in Indian Major Ports for the last 152 years. Shri Kumar also stated that with the active co-operation of port users, especially SAIL and whole hearted efforts of all employees SMP, Kolkata will be able to attain many other remarkable records.

Tribal Youth on Digital Mode

Bhubaneswar: In order to improve Digital Literacy among the rural youth in general and tribal youth in particular, MeitY launched several flagship programs and Odisha has been benefitted through it. In fact, the Tribal Youth in Odisha have been greatly benefitted by 'PradhanMantriGramin Digital SakshartaAbhiyan' (PMGDISHA), officials say. PMGDISHA was launched to usher in digital literacy in Rural India with a target to cover 6 crore rural households (one person per household) across the country.

The Flagship Program of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has benefitted all the States including the State of Odisha. Under the Scheme, so far, a total of In the State of

Odisha, a total of 5,49,049 Scheduled Tribe candidates have been enrolled and 4,43,561 candidates have been trained, out of which 3,17,867 candidates have been duly certified.

At least 55,82,720 Scheduled Tribe candidates have been enrolled and 47,04,973 candidates have been trained, out of which 33,82,044 candidates have been duly certified across the country under PMGDISHA.

National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has conducted a survey on Household Social Consumption: Education as part of the 75th round of National Sample Survey (NSS) from July 2017 to June 2018.

Ganpati Festival concluded in Delhi's Vikaspuri

New Delhi(KCN): The 22nd Annual Sri Ganesh Festival concluded in West Delhi's Vikaspuri in a sombre note. The

fare. Hosted by Sri Ganesh Puja Committee Odia Samaj, the ceremony witnessed congregation of distinguished

The entire atmosphere got reverberated with spiritual fervour amidst the chanting of hymns by the priest and playing

due to corona disruptions, lots of enthusiasm and excitement are being observed among the members and volunteers of Odia Samaj. The distinguished guests graced during the afternoon and evening sessions of the Mega Event include former Deputy Chief of Army Chandiprasad Mohanty, Senior Bureaucrat Dr. Debendra Majhi and Chairman of World Odisha Society Kishore Dwibedi.

The Festival witnessed a memorable and mesmerising cultural extravaganza presented by the talented artistes of Delhi and Odisha. Celebrated Star

CPI staged agitation against centre policies

Barbil(KCN):The Communist Party of India staged a picketing agitation in Barbil of Keonjhar district. All senior leader Maheswar Rout, Kapil Mohanty, MD Bahujama and many other party workers here on Friday condemning the ruling Bharatiya

for levying Goods and Services Tax on essential commodities, including rice and for the steep hike in the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas. They demanded the Centre to withdraw GST levied on essential commodities besides reducing the prices of



Janata Party government at the Centre for pursuing "anti-people" policies. The cadre led by the party's senior leader Maheswar Rout came in a procession and march in and around Barbil city and reached Tehsil office and staged the agitation. The protesting party members condemned the BJP government

fuel and cooking gas. They also demanded the Centre to withdraw the Electricity Amendment Bill, besides seeking steps to control inflation. They too demanded minimum wages of Rs28000/- They handed over a memorandum to honourable President through Barbil Tehsildar.

Exerted slurry of PTCL damaged the agricultural land



Barbil (KCN): It has come to notice that about more than four acres of agricultural land near Champua Basti under Barbil tehsil of Keonjhar district destroyed due to spread of contaminated water

exerted from PTCL company slurry pipe damage., it was found that after breaking the wall of PTCL company, the slurry water spread all over the agricultural land. While interacting with the villagers, some

villagers alleged that they used to face several inconveniences due to the arbitrary and irresponsible actions of the PTCL company.. The residents of the area have raised the issue before the

company officials, but they ignored. While asking for crop compensation, the company officials threatened them said another resident of the area. However, the affected people have approached Tehsildar, Barbil to intervene.



idol of Lord of Lords was immersed in the sacred water of River Jamuna at Wazirpur ghat on Thursday. Earlier the long awaited celebration commenced with much pomp, splendour and fan-

Odia and Non Odia community leaders of National Capital Region. Around 1.30 p.m. in the afternoon the idol installation and traditional religious rituals were performed in a pious and solemn manner.

of drums by the devotees. At about 2.30 p.m. pushpanjali was offered at the feet of God of Wisdom. Since the Ganesh Puja is being celebrated offline after a gap of two years

Singer Prabhupada

evening was soul

ordinated the cul-

cial Activist Pritam Nayak, Tennis Wizard Dillip Mohanty, Chief of Jiban Jyoti Hospital Dr. Vinayak Prasad, Member of Rohini Jagannath Temple Sarat Sharma, Chairman of Mohanty Hospital Dr. R.R. Mohanty, Fame Singer Santosh Rout, Noted Musical Instrumentalist Subodh Padhi, Former corporator Sarita Jindal and Sunil Jindal. The entire Festival was smoothly organised, seamlessly managed and successfully concluded by the skillful supervision of Host Ganesh Puja Committee Odia Samaj's Founder Couple, President Bimal Bhal and his wife Member Pushpanjali Barik.



Mohanty enthralled the audiences by his several scintillating musical numbers. Thousands of viewers were moved by Shri Mohanty's spellbinding recitals of several popular Odia and non odia songs. The other attraction of the

soothing singing by Biswajita Panigrahi. The talented child artists of Kalakalp cultural Organisation stole the show by their spectacular dance performances. Ace anchor Ipsa Pratibimbata Sadangi presented and co-

tural programmes with grace and perfection. Eminent personalities present include President of Kalinga Bharati Foundation Engineer Akshay Samal, Sanjay Dass, Young entrepreneur Sumant Biswal, So-

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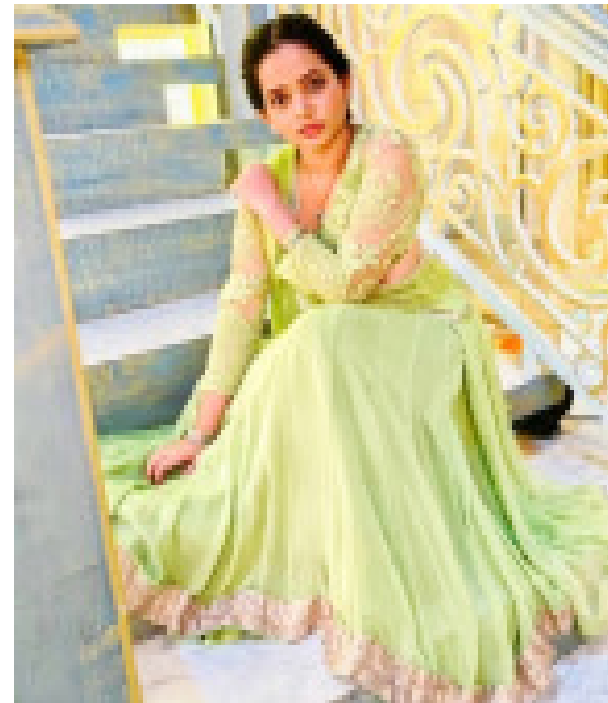
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Now a days the heroines have nothing much in the film, except to flaunt their glamour: Aarushi Sharma

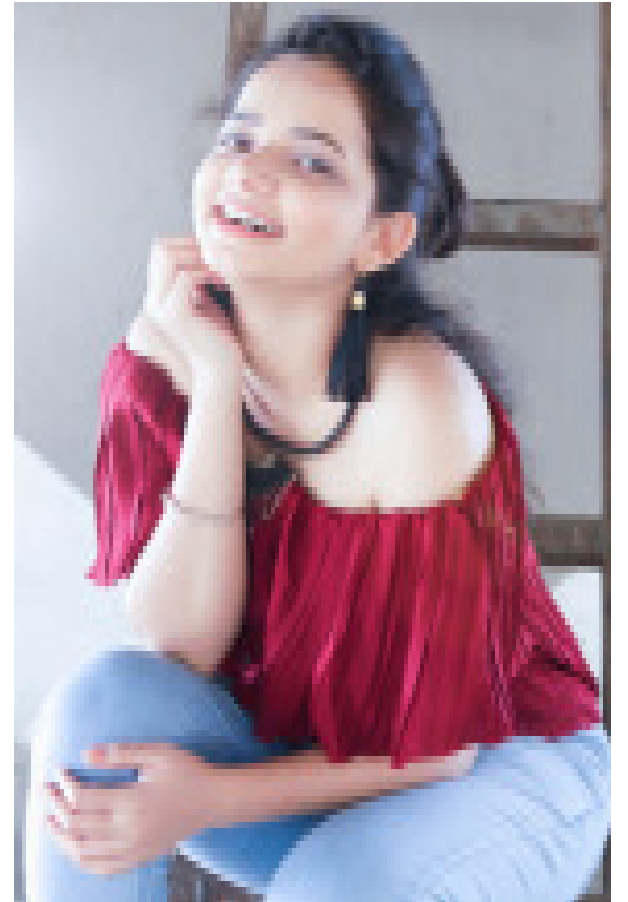
The multi-faceted talented actress “Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi” and Her performance is being widely appreciated and her role as Muskaan is being



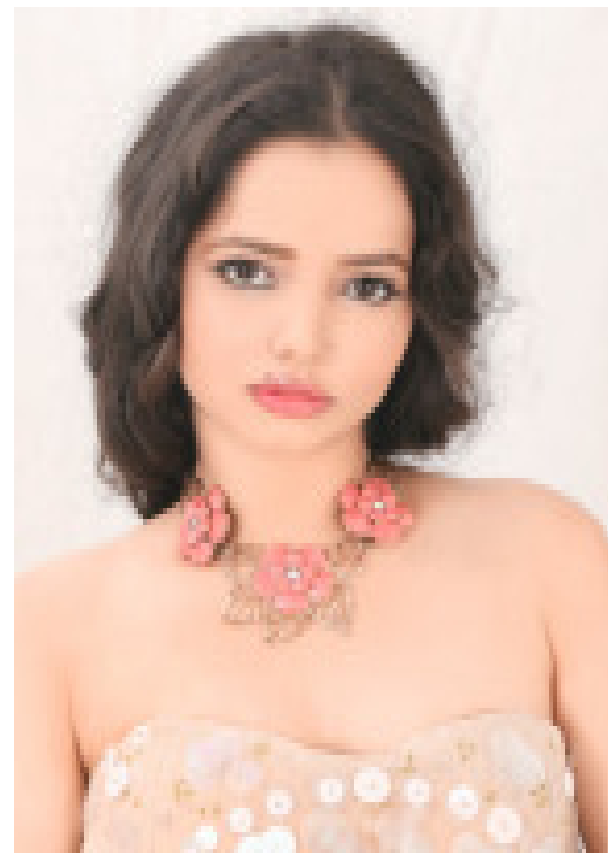
Aarushi Sharma “Muskaan” is now who has left an impression of her acting on TV serial “Ranju Ki Betiyaan” being



ciated and her role as Muskaan is being



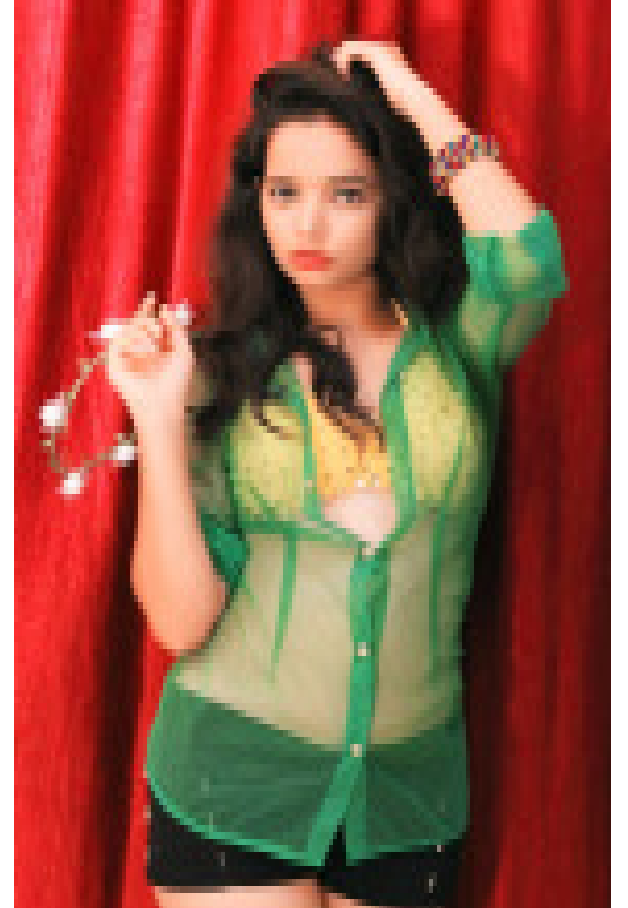
Mishra start soon. That way (Deepshikha) and I was highly ben-



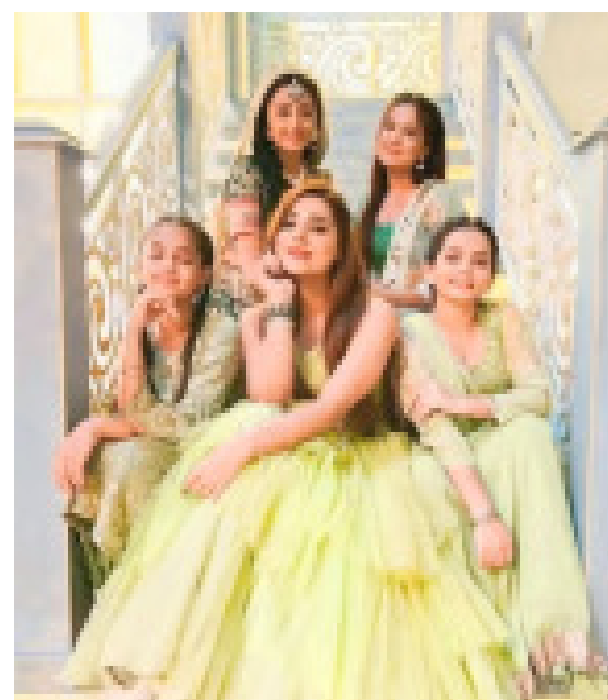
delible impression of her acting on TV serial “Ranju Ki



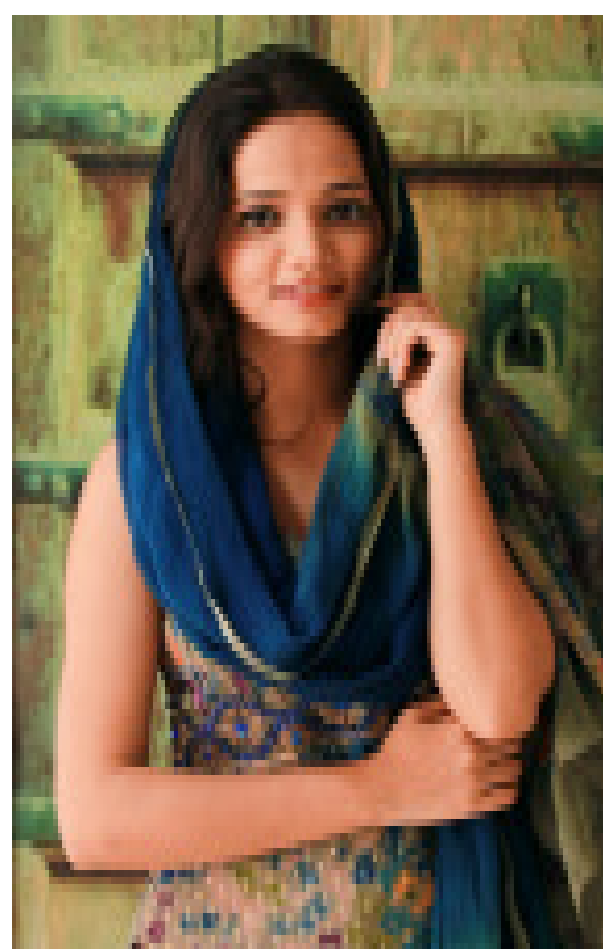
highly acclaimed by the viewers. third daughter. My mother brings us



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



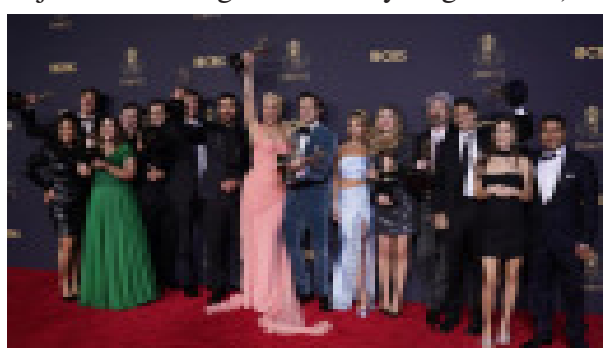
About her role in “Ranju Ki

'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, actors that were seen

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 ac-

tors 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

An one man effort in creating an oasis

Prof Ashutosh Biswas an acclaimed poet and an academic from Manbazar, Purulia (West Bengal, ????) has established a large organic kitchen garden close to his residence. This

izer or pesticides are used except kitchen compost. Irrigation is done to support the rich diversity of herbs,

Saikat Kumar Basu

cessfully established as a Pollinator Sanctuary for pollinator insects like bees and other insects. A com-

ecological habitat and a Center of environmental education and awareness. His silent work and humble efforts are helping students and local enthusiasts to learn about our local



outstanding garden is rich in biodiversity with local plants of Purulia district and include vegetables, ornamentals, spice and medicinal herbs, fruit and shade trees representing over 50 plant families. No synthetic fertil-

shrubs and trees. The garden has transformed into a natural habitat with pollinator insects, local birds, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals using it for their nesting, breeding and foraging needs. The garden has suc-

plete holistic ecosystem has been developed by this one man army. Prof Biswas, an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Bengali of Manbhum College at Manbazar Purulia has transformed the garden into an

plants and their role in creating an environment.

378 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, West Bengal India

Letter to Editor

Online gaming is a series issue!

Many people are shocked given how quickly online gaming is gaining popularity here. Even if it is illegal to gamble in India, it is not against the law to do so online. As a result, players are utilising the convenience of real money gambling sites like Teen Patti, Rummy, snooker, Cricketing & Ludo etc. Due to the platforms' compatibility with mobile devices, a higher number of gamblers play these games on their cellphones. Indian online gamblers are particularly interested in traditional card games, but they also enjoy fast-paced, graphically appealing games in smartphones. The majority of players prefer live dealer game styles, which assist to replicate a true casino experience. States in India, including Telangana, Orissa, and Andhra Pradesh, have outlawed gambling games due to concerns about addiction and mental health. The bans in some other states, like Kerala and Karnataka, have been overturned by courts. The Supreme Court of India is still hearing some petitions pertaining to the matter from many years. While many experts have debated the benefits and drawbacks of online gambling, the problem gambling issue cannot be disregarded. If the sector keeps expanding without stringent guidelines and attention to gambling addiction, it can cause young India more serious issues.

Yours,

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

The vicious practice of ragging has not only become rampant in our educational institutions but also acquired hideous proportions costing the sanity of the institutions and life of some of the students. Even today, students from the rural areas have a lingering fear when they go to cities for higher studies. To dispel such fears, colleges should prominently display a banner saying their campus is free from ragging. Those who indulge in ragging look for temporary pleasure but end up destroying many lives. Students alone can put an end to it. Anti-ragging steps should be strictly enforced. Parents and teachers are equally responsible for eliminating the virus. Service organizations and NGOs should too launch awareness campaigns against the menace in educational institutions. The cantankerous behaviour of some students in colleges is often the offshoot of indiscipline in the schools in which they studied, and uncaring families. Instead of attempting to classify the acts of ragging as "soft" and "hard," we should employ the guidelines of the committee in letter and spirit. If faculty members communicate more informally with them, a healthy academic environment can be created.



Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Ragging and abetting the crime on the college campus will remove the lurking fear in the minds of freshmen, especially those who opt to stay in hostels. The authorities should not stop with just making rules but take effective steps to implement the same and highlight the ill-effects of ragging through the visual media. The move will implant fear and discipline in the minds of senior students who indulge in ragging. Even today, students from the rural areas have a lingering fear when they go to cities for higher studies. To dispel such fears, colleges should prominently display a banner saying their campus is free from ragging. Those who indulge in ragging look for temporary pleasure but end up destroying many lives. Students alone can put an end to it. Anti-ragging steps should be strictly enforced. Parents and teachers are equally responsible for eliminating the virus. Service organizations and NGOs should too launch awareness campaigns against the menace in educational institutions. There was not much awareness in those days and ragging in the past was one way of familiarizing freshers with senior students. But now, the increased incidents of ragging have exposed the errors in our education

system which may be successful in churning out academically brilliant students, but has failed to inculcate proper values in them. The cantankerous behaviour of some students in colleges is often the offshoot of indiscipline in the schools in which they studied, and uncaring families. Instead of attempting to classify the acts of ragging as "soft" and "hard," we should employ the guidelines of the committee in letter and spirit. If faculty members communicate more informally with them, a healthy academic environment can be created. It is also noticed that those who indulge in ragging do not plan in advance. On most of the occasions, things go out of control. The guilty should not only be expelled but also barred from admission to any other college. Looking to the increase in ragging incidents, active involvement of media and the civil society is essential in tackling the problem of ragging. The mindset of the student has changed and now we need to focus in on enforcing stringent measures like rustication of a student, withholding of scholarship, debarring a student from appearing in any test. If possible students who involve in ragging must be put in jail instead of just being suspended or expelled. An example needs to be set.

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

Revenue officials gift land worth Rs 2,500 cr to realty firm

Hyderabad: Telangana state revenue officials have gifted land worth Rs 2,500 crore near Jubilee Hills in the city to a private individual, who is allegedly a benami of a top realty firm, according to information obtained by Deccan Chronicle.

was kept under wraps, the recent income-tax raids on city-based realty firms brought to fore the land deals that were concluded with the nexus of state government officials. The realty firm is said to have been so confident of a favourable order from the gov-

in the cases of Sakkubai Layout in Manikonda and vacant land adjacent to the IKEA showroom in Raidurg. Senior revenue officials gave up decades-old claim of ownership of the government, which had been clearly mentioned in the revenue records

been rejected from the 1950s onwards by different authorities including the previous heads of the revenue department. "The parties also approached the courts but till date there is no order confirming that the land belonged to them and directing the government to



The revenue officials declared 54 acres of 'kancha sarkari' (government) land in Survey No. 63 of Guttalabegumpet village as private patta land a few days ago and removed the prohibitory order issued under Section 22A of the Registration Act, 1908, thereby facilitating registration on the property. Though the largesse

ernment that it formed a layout on paper and sold plots, through agreement of sale, at Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh per square yard even before the prohibitory orders were lifted. Inquiries by Deccan Chronicle revealed that the modus operandi of the government losing rights over its land was the same as was adopted

and that too with no specific directions from the judiciary to give away the land to private parties. In the case of the Rs 2,500 crore worth Jubilee Hills land, sources said the private parties claimed that 54 acres belonged to one Khaja Kareemullah Khan who got the land from the Nizam. Their claims had

declare it as private land and remove the prohibitory orders," sources said. With the 54 acres being located adjacent to MCR HRD institute in Jubilee Hills, the posh locality in the capital city, several big wigs paid huge advances to the realty firm and bought plots in the prospective layout. The firm also promised an international class township.

Seer accused of sexually abusing minor girls arrested in Karnataka

CHITRADURGA (KARNATAKA): Chief pontiff of Murugha Math Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru was arrested for alleged sexual abuse of high school girls and sent to judicial custody for 14 days, police said.

Earlier on Thursday, the anticipatory bail plea moved by the seer was adjourned to September 2 by a local court here.

The Mysuru city police had filed an FIR against the seer under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and certain sections of the Indian Penal Code for the alleged sexual abuse.

The FIR was registered against five people, including the warden of the monastery's hostel, based on the complaint by an officer of the District Child Protection Unit. Police questioned the warden on Thursday. Two girls had approached a non-governmental organisation in Mysuru and narrated the alleged abuse, following which it approached the authorities and the case was registered by the police. The case was subsequently shifted to Chitradurga, as it was the place of occurrence of the alleged crime.

The seer was booked under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act as well, as one of the victims belongs to the SC community.

The seer had earlier claimed the allegations against him were part of a long-drawn conspiracy and that he was law-abiding and would cooperate in the probe.

There have been protests demanding the seer's arrest.

The police have made elaborate security arrangements in Chitradurga in the wake of the arrest.



He was taken into custody by the police following an interrogation, sources said soon after the arrest on Thursday, adding that due procedures were followed later in the night.

The pontiff of one of the most prominent and influential Lingayat seminaries in the state was then questioned at an undisclosed location by Deputy Superintendent of Police Anil Kumar, the investigation officer in the case.

He was later taken to the district hospital for a medical checkup, and subsequently, produced before the first additional district and sessions judge at her residence.

The judge remanded the seer to 14 days' judicial custody, following which he was sent to the district prison, Chitradurga Superintendent Of Police Parasuram said.

Two cancelled Lufthansa flights leave 700 passengers stranded in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Chaos reigned at IGI airport's Terminal-3 on Friday after Lufthansa airline

The passengers, visibly distraught and mostly in their early twenties, sat down at the airport with their

are students, senior citizens and so many people stranded here in Indira Gandhi Airport, Terminal 3.

and Munich for Friday, with single flights also being cancelled as early as today, Thursday, Sep-



cancelled two of its flights due to a pilots' strike stranding hundreds of passengers.

Around 700 passengers on Friday were stranded at the IGI airport's Terminal-3, police said.

According to police, more than 100 people, relatives and family members of the stranded passengers, gathered outside the airport and demanded refunds or alternate arrangements. Among the stranded people, many were students whose classes are starting soon.

luggage and shouted "We want Justice. Passengers have alleged that no help has been provided by the airport authorities."

"We have been given no food, no accommodation and no flight rebooking. We are stranded here. Our classes are starting next week. We need to go back urgently," said one passenger.

Several of them also took to social media, urging for help from the government.

"A l l @lufthansafights cancelled Sir, please help us..We

We are stuck here. Staff has vanished," a passenger tweeted. A senior police officer said that on Friday at 12.15 am they got the information that a crowd had gathered on the main road in front of departure gate number 1, Terminal 3 IGI Airport.

Lufthansa had on Thursday said the strike announced by the pilots' union Vereinigung Cockpit (VC) will have a massive impact on flight operations on Friday. "Lufthansa has to cancel 800 flights at its hubs in Frankfurt

tember 1. "An estimated 1,30,000 passengers will be affected, in view of the upcoming weekend, the end of the holidays in some parts of Europe.

"Lufthansa is working with joint forces to return its flight operations to a normal status as quickly as possible. Nevertheless, the effects of the strike may still lead to individual flight cancellations or delays this Saturday and Sunday," it had said in a statement.

KCR to meet Mamata Banerjee, take fight to BJP-ruled states

Hyderabad: After meeting Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday, K. Chandrashekar Rao plans to visit more states to forge an opposition coalition of local parties to take on the BJP in the general elections of 2024.

The CM is getting ready to visit West Bengal to meet Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and extend Rs 10 lakh financial aid to each of the families of the two soldiers who died in Galwan Valley. After his visit to West Bengal, he will visit poll-bound BJP-ruled states Gujarat, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh, where he will meet with leaders of farmers' unions and other organisations and showcase the "Telangana model" of welfare programmes.

He may also explore options to field or support independent candidates in the Assembly elections to demand implementation of these schemes in the respective states. Asked if supporting independents would not affect Opposition partners, sources said the CM wanted to consult and convince non-BJP parties to support farmers leaders in two or three seats where they are strong.

Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh are due in November and Gujarat in December and in Karnataka in May next. Rao wants to undertake political activities in these states with a slogan of achieving "BJP mukt Bharat."

The CM's visit to Bihar on Wednesday, according to TRS leaders, was a "huge success" and attracted "unusual national attention." They were upbeat over Nitish Kumar and Bihar deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav heaping praises on Rao for his welfare schemes and development programmes.

Speaking to media here on Thursday, TRS MLCs Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, D. Rajeshwar Rao and K. Janardhan Reddy said that with Rao's entry into national politics, the political landscape would witness a paradigm shift.

"The support for KCR is growing across all the states. KCR's visit to various states for the past few months is garnering a lot of attention from all the sections. People in various states are gradually coming to know the good governance offered by KCR with his innovative development programmes and welfare schemes. The demand for implementing Telangana government's schemes is growing across India," claimed Rajeshwar Reddy.

He stated that the CM's tours to the states would continue in the coming days, adding that efforts are being made to launch a Farmers' United Front at the national level to take up farmers' cause and implement the "Telangana model" for the welfare of farmers.

He recalled the resolution passed by farmers' leaders of 25 states recently at a meeting held at Pragathi Bhavan urging Rao to lead the national farmers' movement demanding implementation of the "Telangana model" across the country.

On Wednesday Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav praised Chandrashekar Rao for visiting Bihar to extend financial assistance to kin of soldiers martyred in Galwan valley and 12 Bihar workers who died in fire accident in Hyderabad. "The Telangana government arranged special trains to transport the people of Bihar during the Covid-19 lockdown period. It proves CM KCR's generosity," Nitish Kumar said. Rao undertook a nine-hour visit to Bihar.

Stating that the role of Rao in the formation of Telangana state and its development was commendable, Nitish Kumar said, "KCR will go down in history as the one and only leader who fought for a separate Telangana, achieved a separate state and placed the Telangana as a leading state in the country." Tejashwi Yadav lauded the welfare schemes and development programmes being implemented in Telangana.



School Nutrition Gardens now in More than 4 lakh Schools across India

Kolkata (KCN): More than 4 lakh schools in India are now equipped with Nutrition Gardens. The school children themselves are planting saplings or sowing seeds of nutritional vegetables inside the school campus so as to make their midday meal delicious and healthy. The children are taking special interests in this work, which seems to give them some mental relaxations after hardcore studies. This has been encouraged by the Centre as well to give special impetus to Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) Scheme, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Classes Bal Vatika & I-VIII of Government and Government-Aided Schools. The scheme covers about 12 crore children in the age group of 5-11 years, comprising 22.6 lakh children from Bal Vatika, 7.2 crore children from primary and 4.6 crore children from upper primary, studying in 11.20 lakh schools across the country. The objectives of the PM POSHAN are to address two of the pressing problems for the majority of children in India, viz. hunger and education by improving the nutritional status of children studying in classes Bal Vatika & I - VIII in Government and Government-aided schools, encouraging poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to

attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities, providing nutritional support to children of elementary stage in drought-affected areas during summer vacation and during disaster times. Every year, the Central Government spent more than Rs 20,000 crore (\$ 2.5 billion) under the Scheme including food subsidy of about Rs 9,500 crore. According to Government reports, 31 lakh MT food grains have been allocated under the Scheme for 2022-23. Under PM POSHAN, hot cooked meals are provided to all eligible children on all school days, containing 450 calories and 12 gms protein for primary and 700 calories and 20 gms protein for upper primary class children. Besides, Community participation has been strengthened in the scheme in the form of 'Tithi Bhojan'. Under Tithi Bhojan, community volunteers provide meals/additional food items etc. On birthdays, anniversaries, days of National importance etc. This apart, States and UTs have been encouraged to enhance the involvement of Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) in implementation of the scheme. States and UTs have been encouraged to use millets in the preparation of hot cooked meals under PM POSHAN.

Teachers Day celebration at BSF Meghalaya frontier

Kolkata (KCN): The Border Security Force (BSF) has initiated a series of events from

State. The aim behind holding such a programme



July which will continue till December 2022 to mark the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence. Celebrating the true spirit of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" in the run up to Teachers' Day, the BSF Meghalaya Frontier has formed teams at Frontier, Sector and Unit level and visited 65 schools in border areas as well as in hinterland.

During the events, documentaries on BSF were shown to the children, they were encouraged and educated about the recruitment process for various posts in BSF, benefits, pay-scale and other facilities. Pamphlets on recruitment process for the rank of Constable, Assistant Sub-Inspector, and Sub-inspector & Assistant commandant were also distributed to the students to create awareness among them. Inspirational lectures against drugs and social abuses were also delivered by BSF Officers and Jawans. Weapon exhibitions were also held at various schools throughout the

was to encourage the young minds and infuse values of patriotism, national integration in them and encourage them to contribute towards the overall development of one nation and border areas. The programme expects to enhance patriotic fervour, national integra-



tion and mainstreaming of the future generation to align them as responsible and productive citizens.

Shri Inderjit Singh Rana, IG BSF Meghalaya Frontier congratulated the teachers' fraternity and emphasised that they are the guiding light for the youths who will tomorrow become the pillars of the Nation.

Probe on Kamala Dishonor

Cuttack: While the Members of the Paraja Tribal community in Odisha have called for action against a social worker who allegedly forced its icon, Padma Sri Awardee Kamala Pujari, to dance inside a hospital in Cuttack before she was discharged, SCB Medical College & Hospital Authorities have instituted an Inquiry Panel to probe the serious matter. Professor and Head of Department of Medicine Prof. Jayanta Panda will

Harish Muduli, President of 'Paraja Samaja', said its members will hit the streets if the State Government fails to take action against the social worker. Shrimati Pujari, who was awarded the Padma Sri in 2019 for promoting organic farming and preserving over 100 varieties of indigenous seeds of different crops including paddy, was admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack with kidney problems.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had wished her speedy recovery. The incident occurred prior to her discharge from the hospital on Monday.

The hospital authorities said Shrimati Pujari was admitted to a special cabin and not in the ICU.

"The woman who allegedly made her dance used to visit her at the special cabin," said Dr Abinash Rout, the Registrar (administration) of the hospital. Shrimati Pujari's attendant Rajeeb Hial said she does not know Ms. Behera, who had also clicked several selfies with the Padma Sri awardee.

Ms. Behera, on her part, claimed she had no bad intention behind the act, and just wanted to "shun Shrimati Pujari's laziness".

Shrimati Pujari belongs to the Paraja community, a major Scheduled Tribe of Odisha, which comprise around 4 per cent of the state's tribal population. Odisha has several Tribal Communities and 11 districts are home to these people.

head the Probe Panel.

Prof. Panda said the Probe Panel will summon the social activist and others who were treating the Lady. The incident came to light after a video, in which the elderly woman was seen dancing in the ICU of a government hospital, went viral. The social worker, Mamata Behera, was also seen dancing with her. "I never wanted to dance but was forced to do it. I repeatedly denied, but she (Ms. Behera) did not listen. I was sick and got tired," Shrimati Pujari told television channels in Koraput district from where she hails.

IIT Kharagpur Launches the Young Innovators Program 2022

Kolkata (KCN): For nurturing and developing the young minds with a passion for Science and Innovation, Indian Insti-

tion building and service towards the community at large. This programme was introduced by IIT Kharagpur to identify

on the path of Atmanirbhar Bharat. I invite everyone to participate in this programme to promote the spirit of cre-

VIII - X. Each team can have either two or three students from the same school and will be judged on the basis of ideation, re-

tute of Technology Kharagpur launches the Young Innovators Program (YIP) 2022 on Monday (September 5, 2022), the Teachers' Day. It is a forum that promotes inquisitive minds that addresses the challenges of the world with technological convergence and scientific inventions.

IIT KGP has a rich legacy of producing global icons and world leaders who made valuable contributions to mankind on the grounds of na-

and motivate the students all over the world towards creative aptitude and research acumen. Prof. Amit Patra, the Deputy Director, IIT Kharagpur stated, "India is the country of the youth where constant inventions from the remotest places, has the capability to address the challenges that the society faces today. The youth of this country are the inheritors of the Aspirational India who will take this country way forward

ation, innovation and inclusion. Students will also get the opportunity to interact with distinguished professors and experience the first, largest, and most dynamic campus of IIT Kharagpur."

YIP 2022 helps to promote a culture of innovation among students in science and technology at a very early stage of their academic journey. The competition aims to recognise the creative ability of school students studying in classes

search, feasibility, cost of construction, portability, authentication and originality. Round 1 consists of an online submission of a detailed report (max. 10 pages) explaining the working of their Model/Idea on the chosen theme. Results for Round 1 will be released on IIT Kharagpur website. The registrations for Round 1 will start from September 5, 2022. For more details the interested people will have open the link below:

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

The Indian economy took the ribbon with a 13.5% growth in Q1, FY23. The latest numbers are in line with consensus estimates of 13-15%, but sorely missed the RBI's forecast of 16.2%. It means, the subsequent quarters have to make up for the under-delivery and ensure that FY23 GDP growth cracks at 7.2%. Just two years ago around this time, industrial output contracted by an unspeakable 24% pushing the economy into despair. The National Statistics Office's provisional estimates released Wednesday showed real GDP at Rs 37 lakh crore in Q1, FY23, yet again firming up hopes of 2022 being a year of repair, even as 2021's anticipated Great Reset scarcely materialized.

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

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

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

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

For Ukrainian high jumper, world championship silver feels like gold

EUGENE: The second-place finish at world championships was beside the point for Ukraine's best high jumper, Yaroslava Mahuchikh.

"For me, it's gold," she said Tuesday night, as she looked down at her newly won prize, one nobody would have been right to expect four months ago after she took a three-day car trip to flee her hometown and get away from the bombing.

Mahuchikh left shortly after her country came under siege by the Russian military. The war grinds on. Though thousands of civilians and soldiers are dying, Mahuchikh felt it was her duty to keep doing what she does best, if for no other reason than to give people back home something to be happy about. And, she said, to show Ukraine is strong.

"We will fight for our independence and for our territory," she said. "And of course, finally, we will win." She came into the biggest high jump contest of the year as a favourite, in part because the three-time defending champion, Maria Lasitskenskaya, is from Russia and not allowed to compete in major events due to the war. The Ukrainian finished behind the surprising Eleanor Patterson of Australia, who had one fewer miss than Mahuchikh at 2.02 meters (6 feet, 7 1/2 inches), which made the difference between first and second.

Still, this was a night to celebrate for Ukraine, and for Mahuchikh, who said she felt the warmth from the stands, where the yellow-and-blue Ukraine flags dotted a few seats and fans cheered for her before every jump. "Now, everything is for our Ukrainian people, and everything you do, you want to show the good results," she said.

The silver medal goes alongside the gold she won at the world indoor championships in March. That came shortly after she escaped her hometown of Dnipro, which had come under attack by Russia and, she said, is under siege today.

She is one of 22 Ukrainian athletes in Eugene this week for the championships, all of whom have been training far from home -- some in Portugal, others in Spain, still others in Poland and Mahuchikh most recently in California after stops in Serbia, Germany and Turkey.

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

While growth in consumption, investments and government spending was in line with expectations, trade, particularly, exports surprised with a 14% growth in Q1, notwithstanding the anticipated blow due to geopolitical headwinds, high commodity prices and rupee depreciation. The April-June quarter bore the brunt of geopolitical disturbances due to the war and as supply chains were disrupted and commodity prices spiked. The Indian crude basket soared to \$118 a barrel in early June and averaged \$109.50 a barrel for the entire quarter. Still, exports managed to pack a wallop in Q1.

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

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

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

Her teammate, Iryna Gerashchenko, finished fourth -- also a spectacular result given her plight after bombs started falling near her home in Kyiv. After sheltering in her parents' basement for about a week, she left without spikes and trained for a time in tennis shoes.

"Things are a bit better, but at the same time, the war is going on," said Gerashchenko, whose jump of 2 meters (6 feet, 6 3/4) was a personal best. "It's very hard to live the life before, the previous life. But I'm very happy that my parents are safe." Mahuchikh's medal gives Ukraine two at the half-way point of worlds.

A night earlier, Andriy Protsenko won bronze in the men's high jump. His victory comes months after he was trapped for nearly six weeks in his hometown of Kherson, which is near the Crimean peninsula and under Russian occupation.

"It made me realize that anything is possible," said Ukrainian hurdler Anna Ryzhykova, who finished second in her preliminary heat shortly before Mahuchikh took to the field. "He trained one month in an occupied city where he was risking his life. It's amazing." World Athletics president Sebastian Coe was on hand. His federation was one of the first to banish Russians from these major events, a decision made, he said, because there was no fairness in allowing in athletes from an aggressor nation while those from the country under attack were living such fragile existences.

"Some of them are living at their training camps and can't get home, some are wondering where loved ones are," Coe said. "Their houses have been destroyed. It's inconceivable. I don't think any of us have that within our framework of reference."

Mahuchikh said her mom, sister and niece are safe in Germany. Her dad and grandfather remain in Dnipro, where she said they can sometimes hear artillery firing.

There is no timeline for when she might get back to her home country to show off the silver medal.

"I wish I could come back home to our airport, to speak to our journalists, and with our relatives," she said. "But I can't do it now. The Russians have taken that opportunity from me."



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

NEW DELHI: India's economy grew by 13.5 per cent in the April-June period this fiscal -- the fastest in the last four quarters -- on account of better performance by the agriculture and services sectors, official data showed on Wednesday.

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

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

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

The real GDP in absolute terms stood at Rs 27.03 lakh crore in the April-June quarter in 2020. It had contracted by 23.8 per cent in the first quarter of 2020-21 on account of lockdown restrictions to curb the spread of coronavirus.

As per the data, Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by 12.7 per cent to Rs 34.41 lakh crore in April-June this year. The GVA growth in the farm sector is 4.5 per cent in the first quarter compared to 2.2 per cent a year ago. However, the GVA growth in the manufacturing sector decelerated sharply to

4.8 per cent during the quarter from 49 per cent during the year-ago period. GVA growth in mining is 6.5 per cent in the quarter compared to 18 per cent. The GVA in the construction sector also decelerated to 16.8 per cent in the quarter from 71.3 per cent.

The electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services segment grew by 14.7 per cent in the quarter compared to 13.8 per cent a year ago.

GVA growth in the services sector -- trade, hotel, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting -- was 25.7 per cent during the first quarter against 34.3 per cent.

Financial, real estate and professional services grew by 9.2 per cent in the first quarter over 2.3 per cent earlier. Public administration, defence and other services posted 26.3 per cent growth against 6.2 per cent in the first quarter of last fiscal.

The NSO stated that the Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in Q1 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 64.95 lakh crore against Rs 51.27 lakh crore in Q1 2021-22, showing a growth of 26.7 per cent compared to 32.4 per cent a year ago.

India, UAE sign MoU to set up cultural forum to strengthen ties between two countries

Continued from page-1

Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar and Sheikh Abdullah. India's foreign secretary, Vinay Kwatra was a part of the delegation too.

High food, petrol prices can trigger protests in Pakistan: IMF

The second MoU was signed between the Wildlife Institute of India and the International Fund for Houbara Conservation for the conservation of the Great Indian Bustard and the Lesser Florican. Both leaders also spoke about promoting start-ups and entrepreneurship across different fields like fintech, edutech, health tech, agritech, logistics and supply chains. They also spoke about the possibility of linking instant payment platforms in their respective countries through the United Payment Interface (UPI) of India.

Meanwhile, India and UAE who signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) earlier this year are working towards realising the target of achieving \$100 billion worth of bilateral trade in the next five years. The next meeting of the High-Level Task Force between the two nations will be held in India shortly.

UN team misled by Russia at Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant: Ukraine

Continued from page-1
mat as it is now.

Recommendations and reports of the IAEA should be sent to Ukraine and Energoatom. And we must implement these recommendations, and eliminate the consequences of the barbaric actions of the occupiers. But for that we need to have access to the station. It should be returned under the control of Ukraine.

Energoatom said Russian officials "are making every effort to prevent the International Atomic Energy Agency mission from getting to know the real state of affairs" at the Russian-held power plant.

The Guardian, quoting a nuclear plant employee, said the Russians led Grossi and the inspectors along their route, showed them 'arrival maps' and brought local collaborators to them with statements from 'indifferent citizens' about the need to stop the shelling. It was a circus."

Rupee rises 47 paise to close at 79.44 against US dollar

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

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.92 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 79.44 and a low of 79.92 against the American currency during the session. It finally ended at 79.44 against the US dollar, up 47 paise from its previous close of 79.91.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Jadeja out of Asia Cup with knee injury, Axar replaces him in squad

DUBAI: India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja was on Friday

tidy figures with the ball, conceding only 15 runs from his

"His replacement, Axar Patel was earlier named as one of

November. India are scheduled to play their first Su-



ruled out of the remainder of the Asia Cup due to a knee injury and Axar Patel will replace him in the squad. Jadeja had made a significant contribution with the bat in India's five-wicket win over Pakistan, making crucial 35 runs off 29 balls on August 28. The Saurashtra all-rounder did not get to bat against Hong Kong but returned

four overs with a wicket. "The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Axar Patel as the replacement for Ravindra Jadeja in the ongoing Asia Cup," the BCCI said in a statement. "Ravindra Jadeja has sustained a right knee injury and is ruled out of the tournament. He is currently under the supervision of the BCCI medical team.

the standbys in the squad and will join the team in Dubai soon." Axar comes into the tournament, having recently played the ODIs in Zimbabwe. He was also part of the squad on tours of West Indies and England. The team management would hope for a quick recovery of Jadeja ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia in October-

per 4 game in Asia Cup on Sunday. Squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Arshdeep Singh and Avesh Khan.

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

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

Playing in front of thousands of empty blue seats in an arena quite silent at the start, although growing louder later, Venus bowed out in the first round of the U.S. Open for the second consecutive appearance, losing 6-1, 7-6 (5) to Alison Van Uytvanck. "She means so much to female tennis. Tennis, in general," Van Uytvanck said. "She's a legend." This was the 23rd trip to Flushing Meadows for Venus, who made it to the final in 1997 as a teen then won the trophy in 2000 and 2001, and her record 91st time participating in a major tournament.

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

At night, Emma Raducanu became only the third defending U.S. Open champion to lose in the first round, eliminated by Alizé Cornet 6-3, 6-3. And yet another past champ bowed out in straight sets when Naomi Osaka, who won two of her four Grand Slam titles in New York, was eliminated by Australian Open runner-up Danielle Collins 7-6 (5), 6-3 in a match that ended after midnight. Osaka, a former No. 1, also lost in the first round of the French Open this year and has slid to 44th in the rankings. She had been 3-0 head-to-head against Collins, but this fun-to-watch, hard-hitting matchup went the other way.

"When you lose to somebody three times," said the 19th-seeded Collins, who has struggled with injuries this season, "you have nothing to lose, so I tried to go for it and hope for the best." Raducanu, who was 18 and ranked 150th when she won the title as a qualifier a year ago, was bothered by hand blisters — she took a medical timeout for treatment after the first set — and was outplayed by Cornet, a 32-year-old from France who also upset No. 1 Iga Swiatek at Wimbledon. "Obviously really disappointing. Really sad to leave here. It's probably my favorite tournament. But also,

I mean, in a way, (I'm) happy, because it's a clean slate," Raducanu said. "I'm going to drop down the rankings. (Will) climb my way back up."

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

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

"It was definitely the longest time I have been away from tennis and been without a racket in my hand. So it was a completely new experience for me, getting a racket back in my hand and trying to acclimate as quick as possible to be ready for the U.S. Open, which was not easy," she said. "Definitely playing lots of great points, but in the end, it's just rust. There is nothing you can do about that except for, you know, not be rusty at some point."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The decision was taken after FIFA received confirmation that the mandate of the committee of administrators that was set up to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee had been terminated and that the AIFF administration had regained full control of the AIFF's daily affairs.

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

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

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

AIFF acting general secretary Sunando Dhar welcomed the move and thanked FIFA, AFC and Thakur for their roles in lifting the ban.

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

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

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

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

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

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




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