

Liz Truss defeats Rishi Sunak to become UK's third woman PM

LONDON(KCN): Foreign secretary Liz Truss has defeated Indian-origin former chancellor Rishi Sunak in Conservative Party lead-



the Conservative Party were allowed to vote. Truss beat rival Rishi Sunak, the government's former Treasury chief, by promising to increase defence spending and cut taxes, while refusing to say how she would address the cost-of-living crisis.

Liz Truss, right, and Rishi Sunak on stage after a Conservative leadership election hustings at Wembley Arena in London on Wednesday. (Photo | AP)

Truss received 81,326 votes to Sunak's



60,399.

Queen Elizabeth II is scheduled to formally name Truss as Britain's prime minister on Tuesday. The ceremony will take place at the queen's Balmoral estate CONTINUED ON: P-7

ership race to become new British Prime Minister, the party announced on Monday, ending weeks of high political drama. Sir Graham Brady - chair of the 1922 Committee of backbench Tory MPs and returning officer of the leadership election, declared 47-year-old Truss as the winner of the contest for the top job at 10 Downing Street. She is the third female Prime Minister in Britain, after Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May.

Truss's selection was announced on Monday in London after a leadership election in which only the 180,000 dues-paying members of

Nitish Kumar meets Rahul Gandhi in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Bihar Chief minister Nitish Kumar on Monday met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi here and the two leaders are learnt to have discussed the current political

ernment with the RJD, Congress and outside support of the Left.

Kumar arrived in the national capital Monday and is likely to meet several Opposition leaders including the NCP's Sarad Pawar, the AAP's Arvind Kejriwal and JDS supremo H D Kumaraswamy during his visit. He is also likely to meet Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh

Yadav and leaders from the Left parties. Kumar is making attempts to bring all opposition parties together as a united force against the BJP for the 2024 Lok Sabha election.



situation in the country and ways to ensure Opposition unity.

This is the first meeting between the two leaders since Kumar walked out of the NDA in Bihar and formed a Mahagathbandhan gov-

PM eVidya Benefits Odisha

Odisha is one of the major beneficiary of PM eVidya Program launched to organize Digital Education in the country.

While School Transformation is a big agenda of the Odisha Government, the Union Government is also extending support to the schools in transitioning to Digital Medium of Education.

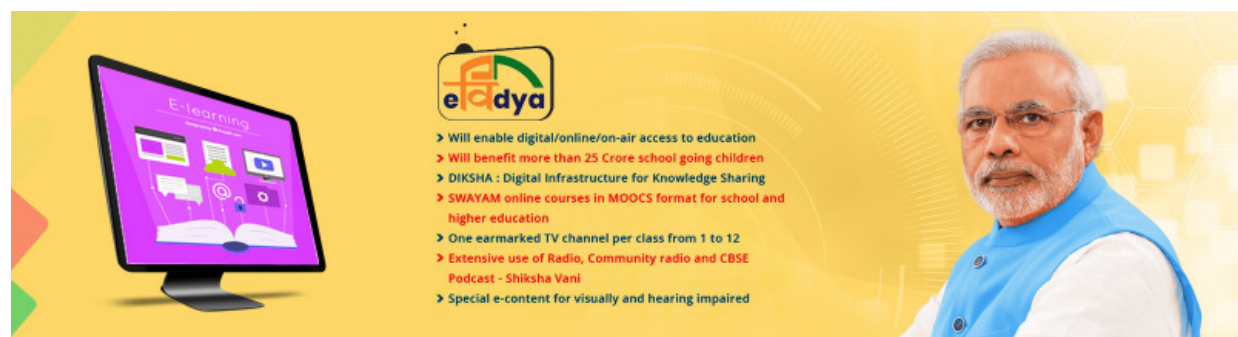
Education being in Concurrent List of the Constitution and majority of the Educational Institutions are under the domain of the State Government, however Union Government is sanctioning ICT Laboratories, Smart Class

more sanctions of ICT Labs and Tabs than the neighboring States, officials say.

So far Smart Class Room is concerned, Odisha has got sanction for 145, while Andhra Pradesh got 107, however Telengana, 812, Jharkhand, 1768, West Bengal got none.

A Comprehensive initiative is taken up by Government of India in the Department of School Education & Literacy called PM eVidya.

To facilitate Online Learning by all students PM e Vidya has been initiated as part of AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, which unifies



Rooms and Tablets for the Teacher Resource Package.

Odisha has been able to get more tabs for their Teacher Resource Package than the neighboring States.

Odisha has received 96,718 Tabs, while Andhra Pradesh got only 70,075, Telengana, 34,257, Chhattisgarh got 43,658, Jharkhand has been able to manage 28,945 Tabs.

Similarly so far ICT Laboratories are concerned, Odisha has been sanctioned 8317, West Bengal 3961, Jharkhand, 3589, Telengana 4975, and Chhattisgarh got on 1989 ICT Labs sanctioned.

So far Odisha is concerned, it is receiving

all efforts related to digital, online and on-air education to enable multimodal access to education, officials say.

While DIKSHYA is the nation's digital infrastructure providing quality e-content for school education Swayam Prabha TV per class from 1 to 12 is made available.

Sikshya Vani, through which extensive use of Radio, Community Radio, CBSE Podcast is made available for the students, officials say. Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and sign in language on NIOS and You Tube is made available for digital learning.

Fundstack 2.0 boosts startup

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb Monday urged young minds of the State to come forward and take entrepreneurship seriously.

Attending Startup Odisha's 'Fundstack 2.0' which is a Startup-investor connect programme, Mr.Deb emphasized on institu-



tionalizing the culture of entrepreneurship in young minds and plugging gaps in the ecosystem.

He also solicited suggestions from the invited panel of investors which shall help Startup Odisha to further develop the ecosystem of the State.

Executive Chairman Omkar Rai said that

Fundstack is not just a platform that facilitates investment for Startups but also a forum for capacity building and investment readiness which enables the participating Startups to raise funds from private investors who in turn lead the Startups on the trajectory of growth and scaling businesses.



MSME Principal Secretary Ranjana Chopra talked about the progressive & investor friendly Startup Ecosystem in Odisha and remarked that through Fundstack 2.0 the State shall gear up the Startup Community to be ready for the Make in Odisha Conclave which plans to bring investors across the globe into Odisha. CONTINUED ON: P-7

Military reserves, civil defense worry Taiwan as China looms

TAIPEI(KCN): Chris Chen, a former captain in Taiwan's military, spent a lot of time waiting during his weeklong training for reservists in June. Waiting for assembly, waiting for lunch, waiting for training, he said.

The course, part of Taiwan's efforts to deter a Chinese invasion, was jam-packed with 200 reservists to one instructor. "It just became all listening, there was very little time to actually carry out the instructions," Chen said.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has underscored the importance of mobilizing civilians when under attack, as Ukraine's reserve forces

helped fend off the invaders. Nearly halfway around the world, it has highlighted Taiwan's weaknesses on that front, chiefly in two areas: its reserves and civilian defense force.



While an invasion doesn't appear imminent, China's recent large-scale military exercises in response to a visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan have made the government in Taipei more aware

than ever of the hard power behind Beijing's rhetoric about bringing the self-ruled island under its control.

Experts said that civilian defense and reserve forces have an important CONTINUED ON: P-7

Mega show for Naveen

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is organising a mega political show to congratulate and welcome back Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who is scheduled to land here tomorrow morning.

The Chief Minister is returning to Odisha after receiving the prestigious Life Time

A ground behind Capital Hospital in Unit-VI, a ground near Chilika Development Authority in Palashpalli area has been designated for parking of vehicles coming from Khordha whereas an area between Sishu Bhawan Chowk to Capital Hospital earmarked for vehicles coming Puri side.



Achievement Award from Capital Foundation in recognition of his distinctive and outstanding leadership qualities.

BJD leaders and workers across the State are arriving in the city to congratulate the Chief Minister for getting the award.

Estimating a crowd of nearly 60,000 at the airport, the Commissionerate Police has made elaborate arrangements for the grand show as well as ensuring that citizens are not inconvenienced.

Speaking to media persons here, Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Singh said that route lining arrangements have been made for all routes through which people will come and policemen will be deployed at all important chowks to direct the vehicles and traffic.

Designated parking places have been identified and earmarked for buses and other vehicles for people coming from different districts, he said.

Arrangements have been made for smooth flow of the traffic after the event and also smooth passage of the people who are going to catch flights, the DCP said.

"We have also asked all airlines to ask their passengers tomorrow to try to arrive at the airport a minimum of three hours before since there will be heavy crowding," Mr.Singh said.

He said that security arrangements have been tightened so that there is no lapse since a lot of people will be coming from villages.

During the programme 8 ADCPs, 16 ACP rank officers, around 25 inspectors, traffic ACP, traffic staff, 90 sub inspector and ASI combined, and 30 platoon forces will be deployed for the programme, which will last for around one hour, he informed.

Barricades have been put in different places while traffic diversion plans have also been worked out, he added.

Sharp rise in scarp business, police need to alert

Barbil(KCN): With for steel-making



iron ore prices hovering, steel-makers are looking for alternative inputs facilities. Perhaps, this is one reason for rising demand for iron scrap occurring.

Scrap business gets more lucrative and some mafias are in a race to grab more scraps from different sources. There are few places under Barbil police station under police scanner said some locals. Interestingly, Joda Barbil mining zone, the storehouse of iron ore, has become a hunting ground for scrap dealers. With many sick crusher units up for sale. Motor garage, damaged vehicles and many other similar product generating enough scrap, dealers from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and central India have started thronging into this area. Some too remarks, It is an organised racket, where many people from different segments are involved in a big way. Besides looking into their roles, it is too alleged that many scrap dealers are operating their business without valid license. All scrap dealer need a Collector's Licence as well as the Waste Carrier's Licence issued by the Environment Agency primarily. In addition they need to have site license, motor salvage operator etc. However licences are varied on the basis of scarp. The rise in scarp business in the area would stand as headache for police. Though Barbil police has r e m a r k a b l e achievement in preventing illegal scarp business in the past and alertness in the present scenario would be helpful to nab illegal scarp business, said one intellectual.

SEs to head divisions

Bhubaneswar(KCN): For the first time Superintendent Engineers will be heading Minor Irrigation Divisions instead of Executive Engineers. Department of Water Resources has restruct-

sources Department. While earlier State Cabinet approved the proposal, now restructure notification has been brought out on 3 September. The total number of

neer (Level-II and Level-I) are merged and re-designated as Superintending Engineer in the Pay Level-14. A new post of Additional Chief Engineer is

Bhubaneswar, Berhampur and Sambalpur. One post of Engineer-in-Chief is created to function as head of the Organization in Pay Level-17.



ured Minor Irrigation Cadre and according to the restructured system, now onwards Superintendent Engineers will head all 30 Field Minor Irrigation Divisions. Keeping in view of the increasing workload, the stagnation in promotion and the resultant erosion in productivity in various Engineering Departments, the Government restructured the Minor Irrigation Cadre under Odisha Engineering Service (OES) in respect of Water Re-

sanctioned posts of Engineering Service Cadre in respect of Minor Irrigation wing of this Department of Water Resources (DoWR) has remained as 246 as before. The existing post of Deputy Executive Engineer are abolished and merged with Assistant Executive Engineer as both carries same Pay Level-12. The existing DEEs will retain their present pay and seniority in the graduation list. The Existing posts of Superintending Engi-

created in the pay Level-16 between Superintending Engineer and Chief Engineer of the Minor Irrigation to head at the circle level. The Assistant Executive Engineers are to function as Sub-division Head and the Superintending Engineers are to function as Division Head. Circles are to be headed by Additional Chief Engineers. The Chief Engineers will remain as the Head of the Department as before. Three Chief Engineer posts are created one each at

All the posts now upgraded under restructuring are to be filled up strictly on the basis of seniority and suitability with exclusion of persons considered unsuitable as in the case of promotion. The total number of sanctioned posts of Engineering Services in respect of Minor irrigation Wing of this Department has been proposed to remain at 246 as before. Entry level post for degree engineers has been kept as Assistant Executive Engineer in Pay level-12 of ORSP-2017 as prevailing.

The Heritage College Kolkata organizes its induction and orientation programme Connexions 2022

KOKLATA (KCN): On 31st August 2022, The Heritage College Kolkata organized its induction and orientation program - ConneXions 2022 which was graced by CA Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, Former Chairman, ICAI, Eastern India Regional Council and currently the Central Council Member, ICAI, Delhi as the Chief Guest followed by Mr. Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director- East and North-East, British Council as the Guest of Honour. During the inaugural address, CA Ranjeet K. Agarwal stressed on the three factors - purpose, passion, and perseverance that are currently required for students in higher education. Citing as an example from the findings of research conducted by Boston Consulting which says that out of 6 hours of the study done by the students, only 1 hour is productive and the remaining 5 hours are wasted, he emphasized on the multitasking habits of the students which are currently prevalent among them.

Mr. Debanjan Chakrabarti stressed on the three values- curiosity, compassion, and collaboration that are necessary for the students in their career growth. "You need to embrace the complexities of the outside world after completing your graduation," said Mr. Chakrabarti during his inaugural address. The session was also addressed by Prof. Amitava Ghose, Teacher-in-Charge, The Heritage College, Prof. Debashis Mazumdar, HOD, Department of Economics, The Heritage College, Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology and Shri Pradip Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata. 'Alumni members of The Heritage College are pursuing higher studies in various universities and institutions across the world. Within a short span of time, we have created our presence among the top institutions in the Country,' said Shri P.K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

Introduction to 'Azadi Quest' by PIB Kolkata: Series of Online Educational Games Based on India's Freedom Struggle

Kolkata(KCN): On the occasion of the ongoing nation-wide *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* celebrations, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt of India recently launched two unique mobile games *AZADI QUEST: MATCH 3 PUZZLE* and *AZADI QUEST: HEROES OF BHARAT*.

The games will be introduced to the city media on Wednesday (September 7, 2022) by Press Information Bureau, Kolkata. 'Azadi Quest', the series of online educational mobile games conforms to the Union Government's efforts to acknowledge the contributions of our freedom fighters and unsung heroes in attaining indepen-

dence. It may be recalled that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated while interacting with the participants of the Toycathon 2021 on June 24, 2021, "Many milestones, stories of our freedom fighters, their valour and leadership can be created into gaming concepts. There is a need to create interesting and interactive games that 'engage, entertain and educate'." The introduction of the series of these mobile games will conform to the Union Government's efforts to acknowledge the contributions of our freedom fighters and unsung heroes in attaining independence. The information in these apps in English and Hindi has been curated by the Publi-

cations Division and Indian Council of Historical Research and will be an easily accessible treasure-love of authentic information on our freedom struggle. The first two games in the series 'Azadi Quest' tell the story of India's freedom struggle, highlighting key milestones and heroes, interwoven with fun game play. These online educational mobile games have been developed in collaboration with Zynga India. Azadi Quest: Match 3 Puzzle, is a simple and easy to play casual game presenting the players with the colourful journey of India's independence from 1857 to 1947. As players progress through the game play, spread across 495 levels

they can collect 75 trivia cards, each showcasing key moments in history, compete on leaderboards, and share in-game rewards and progress on social media. On the other hand, Azadi Quest: Heroes of Bharat is designed as a quiz game to test the knowledge of the players about the heroes of India's independence through 750 questions spread across 75 levels and also tell them about the lesser known heroes through 75 'Azadi Veer' cards which may be shared across social media platforms. The games will also provide the players with exciting rewards every month including a certificate to those who complete the Azadi Quest.

A Bankura Primary Teacher gets National Teacher Award from West Bengal

Kolkata (KCN): A Primary teacher from Joypur, Bankura has received the National Teacher Award this year from West Bengal, the only teacher from the State among the 46 in the entire country to get this prestigious award. Shri Buddhadev Dutta, the Primary teacher from Joypur Primary School, Bankura in West Bengal created a wonder utilising his creative mind to innovate pedagogical methods that gets the students interested and involved, in the rural setting of his school

pedagogical method implemented in foreign countries, is followed by this 'dedicated and innovative guru' in West Bengal. Creating a reading club he also tried to get the students a habit of reading. Coming from vulnerable conditions geographically, he ensured that his students are equipped with lifesaving skills. His efforts during COVID pandemic where he created e-content and innovative online material to help students continue their learning and attending to the learning gaps as they return to physical school demonstrates his love to students and sincerity as a teacher. He promises to break the path and create innovative ways to make his students shine in future.



Soundarya Institute of Management and Science celebrated its 12th Graduation Day

Bengaluru (KCN): Member of Legislative assembly, Ms. Atishi Singh and Vice chancellor of Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University, Prof. Neharika Vohra bestowed the occasion of 12th Graduation day of Soundarya Institute of Management and Science. Soundarya Institute of Management and Science celebrated its 12th Graduation Day on 03/09/2022 with great enthusiasm. The occasion was bestowed by Ms. Atishi Singh, Member of Legislative Assembly, Delhi, as a chief guest for the occasion. Prof. Neharika Vohra, Vice Chancellor of Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University, embraced the occasion as the Guest of Honour who professed on sensible utilization of technology is the need of the hour. The Chairman of Soundarya Educational Trust Soundarya P Manjappa was the president of the graduation day ceremony and appealed the students to work for the nation and betterment of everyone so that India becomes one of the most powerful nations in the world. Managing Director Mrs. Sunitha

P Manjappa, CEO Keerthankumar, Managing Trustee Dr. Prathiksha Keerthankumar, Principal of Soundarya Institute of Management and Science-Dr. Suresh C Hegadi, Principal of Soundarya College of Law-Dr. Mahesh, Academic Advisor Dr. Senthil Kumaran and Chairman of MANTHAN-2022 Mr. Abhishek shared the dais. About 400 graduating students witnessed the occasion with great enthusiasm. On the same occasion, the students who achieved high performance at the national level and got ranks in various departments were felicitated and felicitated. The University Rank holders, Sports achievers and toppers in various cultural and co-curricular achievers were felicitated by the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour. RamKumar, BSc 1st Rank, Kavya R, BCA 1st Rank, Arthi Patel, BBA 9th Rank, Bharath Kumar C.H, BCom Gold Medal in Sanskrit, Shashikanth P. Angadi Sports. The event successfully came to an end by graduation ceremony and speeches by the special achievers.



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Signing 'Indian 2' has been a step up in my career, says Kajal Aggarwal



CHENNAI (KCN): Actress Kajal Aggarwal, who teams up with actor-filmmaker Kamal Haasan for the first time in the upcoming Tamil film "Indian 2", says signing the project has been a step up in

her over a decade-long career. Last seen on screen in Telugu film "Kavacham", Kajal has already begun prepping for her role in "Indian 2". "I'm really thrilled to be part of

the project. I'm quite excited about my role and the skills I will get to learn on the job. I see signing 'Indian 2' as a step up in my career," Kajal told IANS along the sidelines of the launch of beverage

brand 7Up's new campaign, 7Up Ponneram. Ponneram translates to golden times in English. Kajal said her career's golden times started when she signed S.S. Rajamouli's "Magadheera". "My golden times started when I signed 'Magadheera'. I have seen many ups and downs in my profession but it was only after I did 'Magadheera' did my career catapult to the next league. It earned me a lot of recognition which I enjoy

even today," she said. Talking about what excited her most about the association with 7Up, Kajal said: "It's a brand a lot of us can easily identify and relate with. I like the fact that it's a very clear beverage. It's also a drink that lets you take a step back and chill. I treat success or failure by taking a step back and I believe it gives you a lot of clarity." On the career front, Kajal is keenly looking forward to the release of "Paris Paris", the Tamil re-

make of Kangana Ranaut's "Queen". "Paris Paris" will be Kajal's first release of 2019. "When I was offered the 'Queen' remake, I saw it as a story that can be explored in many languages. It's a simple story of a simple girl that I could connect with on many levels. I'm sure there are a lot of girls across different parts of Tamil Nadu who will relate to this story and I'd be glad if this film empowers them," she added.

From 2.0 to Raazi, top 10 Indian movies based on worldwide gross

2018 has been an eventful year for Indian cinema. From Sanju to Sarkar, the industry faced a row of controversies. Yet some movies shined amid the storm.

1. 2.0: According to IMDb, here's the list of ten movies that performed well in the box office last year. It won't be an exaggeration to call 2.0 as India's 'Superhero' movie. True to that, Kollywood and Bollywood superheroes Rajinikanth and Akshay Kumar played the lead roles in the movie. The movie has so far earned over Rs 700 crore worldwide already and is still running successfully in theatres. Directed by Shankar, who's known to make magnificent movies, 2.0 comes with a social message for people on why one should reduce the use of mobile phones. Also, it is the first Tamil film to enter the 700 crore club. If you haven't watched the film yet, book your tickets right away!
2. Sanju: Sanjay Dutt's biopic 'Sanju' minted Rs 340 crore at the box office and was declared as 'double blockbuster' film. The movie showed the different phases of the controversial actor Sanjay Dutt, which really didn't go well with some organisations. RSS openly criticised the movie in their mouthpiece 'Panchjanya.' However, the movie became a huge hit in no time. It's definitely Ranbir Kapoor's best work ever. The movie was a comeback for both the reel and real Sanjus.
3. Padmaavat: Initially scheduled to be released in 2017, the movie was caught in a row of controversies and finally got released early this year in January. Set in medieval Rajasthan, the story revolves around the life of Queen Padmavathi, which drew the flak from right-wing groups. Unlike the claims by the religious fanatics, the movie actually portrayed queen Padmavati in the best light. However, the film's team was asked to remove a few scenes from the movie

- before its release. Despite the fuss, the movie became a blockbuster at the box office, earning Rs 293 crore.
4. Race 3: 'Our business is our business, none of your business' line from the movie took the internet by storm and hundreds of memes were made on it. Based on relationship and royalties, this is the first film in the series that Salman Khan was a part of. Race 3 was critically panned and failed to do the expected business. But inspite of being a flop, it managed to mint Rs 166 crore in the box office.
5. Sarkar: Sarkar's plot is about a successful businessman from the USA coming to India to cast his vote on election day. To his shock, he finds out that his vote has already been cast by someone else. So he decides to take up a political battle against the miscreants and how he survives the race makes the rest of the story. Directed by AR Murugadoss, the movie got into a huge row and was criticised by the ruling Tamil Nadu government for allegedly misrepresenting AIADMK's late leader J Jayalalithaa and the government freebie schemes.. A few scenes were deleted from the movie too. The matter was later settled in Madras HC. It was much hyped that actor Vijay may begin his political career after this movie. Sarkar was well received by the Tamil audience and it made Rs 151 crore in the box office.
6. Baaghi 2: This Tiger Shroff-Disha Patani starrer failed to impress audience due to its poor storyline line. Despite that, the movie minted Rs 161 crore in the box office and became a blockbuster. The story is about an army man trying to save his ex-lover's kidnapped daughter. The Baaghi series will have a third part 'Baaghi 3', which will be out on March 6, 2020.
7. Thugs of Hindostan:

- The film set in the 18th century earned Rs 130 crore in the box office against the 275 crore budget ending up a huge disaster at the box office despite having strong star cast including Aamir Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, Katrina Kaif. The film received hilarious reactions on social media as well. Later, Aamir Khan apologised for failing to entertain people. Even Katrina Kaif, Fatima Sana Shaikh expressed their disappointment.
8. Badhaai Ho: Badhaai Ho is nothing but fun! Made at a 30 crore budget, the movie became a mega-blockbuster, minting Rs 136 crore in the box office. This unconventional story is about a 25-year-old man facing embarrassment in society as his mother gets pregnant. Watching this movie will hurt your belly from laughing but it leaves you with a thought to ponder.
9. Rangasthalam: With the right mix of content for a commercial flick, Rangasthalam made it big in the box office by collecting Rs 151 crore. The story is about how a young man with hearing impairment and his brother decide to dethrone their village's president who's been ruling the village for 30 years.
10. Raazi: An adaptation of Harinder Sikka's 'Calling Sehmat' novel, Raazi is based on the true story of an Indian spy, who gets married into a Pakistani family of military officials to spy on Pakistan during the Indo-Pak war of 1971. It's easily Alia Bhatt's career best. The movie minted Rs 121 crore in the box office against the budget of Rs 30 crore. It's been a great year for Indian cinema which took us on a journey of emotions, from laughter to tears, sometimes of joy. Though a lot of films didn't make it to this list, good films silently made it into the hearts of the audience.

Essay competition in four languages on "Mahatma Gandhiji" by social organization, "Gandhi Vichar Manch", first prize Rs 11,000



Mumbai (KCN): In the memory of late Shri Manmohan Gupta, the founder of social organization "Gandhi Vichar Manch" and social worker, an essay competition has been organized by 'Gandhi Vichar Manch' on any topic

on Mahatma Gandhi. In which any Indian can participate by writing an essay in any one of

of Rs. 2,501/- and 10 consolation prizes of Rs. 1000/- along with trophy and certificate has well as minimum 700 words and maximum 3000 words. In which any student, any woman or man,



the following languages: Hindi, English, Gujarati or Marathi and submit it by 25 September 2022 by courier or post at Gandhi Vichar Manch, Shri Mumbai - 92. For more details you can contact at gvm7848@gmail.com. For which first prize of Rs. 11,000/-, second prize of Rs. 5,001/-, third prize

been kept. The reward will be announced on October 2, 2022, on the occasion of 'Gandhi Jayanti'. The essay should be original and unpublished as children, youth, litterateur, journalist, story writer, novelist, etc., all countrymen can participate. The decision of the social organization will be the final decision.

Bank of India (BOI) marching ahead with vision and commitment

Bank of India, one of India's largest banks, is a household name across the country. The Bank has been undertaking a number of steps in the journey towards digitising banking services and operations. In its 116-year long journey, BOI has seen through many challenges to have a Pan-India network today and also having significant overseas presence. Bank of India has zoomed forward along the path to progress at an accelerated pace over the years.

BOI is celebrating its 117th Foundation day. The Bank continues to grow ahead of industry. One of the clear trends of BOI to have emerged out of the pandemic is move towards digital. Digital payments and mobile banking, in particular, have seen a huge acceleration during the year. The Bank's

strategy is to serve most of its customers through digital or digital assist mode. Only those customers need to come to the branches who cannot meet their banking needs through digital mode. A successful execution of a digital enabled Bank will go a long way in ensuring that BOI remains competitive in the marketplace.

Bank of India, true to its size, is a significant contributor to the Indian economy and is playing an inclusive role with sizeable lending to retail, agriculture and MSME sectors. It is also playing a key role in financing corporates, infrastructure, NBFC, HFC's, Metal and other core sectors. Bank has always kept its customers' needs ahead of business goals. As a large bank, BOI is playing a larger role for the nation, both in credit deepening and financial inclusion.

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

BOI has been taking various initiatives to strengthen internal systems and procedures so as to enhance customer convenience and boost competitive edge of the bank. The internet banking and mobile banking services and functionalities are enriched with additional features for better customer experience. A rich history and noteworthy achievements encompass Bank of India's success saga.

Bank of India has always been steadfast in its intent to serve the unbanked areas of the country. Its efforts to adopt technology into the banking system are also noteworthy. The very concept of nationalisation of banks was to enable financial inclusion through expansion of branches in rural and unbanked centres. BOI continues to have a commanding presence in the nation's corporate-industrial realm. It is observed that amongst all banks BOI remains one of

the front runners in the commitment and implementation of Financial inclusion initiatives. BOI has also taken big strides in digital lending as well. Digital banking has ensured that customers have access to banking services from the comfort of their home. The Bank is well aware of the risks associated with the digital channels and accordingly taken necessary security steps to provide secure technology platforms, keeping the malicious programs at bay. There is no doubt that with the vision and commitment, BOI continues to play a significant role in the economy. It is today stronger, bigger, more vibrant and confident bank. Going forward, digital and digitisation will be a major focus area and growth driver for the Bank. Several structural changes were introduced in Bank of India to strengthen the recovery mechanism and to strengthen the credit mechanism.

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

Probabilities of 3rd world war

The last world war immediately came to an end after dropping the atom bomb in

Hiroshima & Nagasaki two thickly populated cities in Japan. No one knew how powerful an atomic blast could be before the bombs exploded. It is difficult to give a clear idea of the devastating effects of the blast. The two cities which were throbbing with life before the bombs exploded, were suddenly in a terrible grip of very awful sights soon after the explosion. Millions of people died in an instant. Giant budding were hurled at traffic spread into the air. Even those who did not die immediately after blast, suffered from serious diseases and dislocation of limbs. They could not live for more than six

Open Letter to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

Dear honorable chief minister Sri Patnaik, 5T Department is a great initiative to implement projects timely, efficiently, and transparently, some of the projects are worthy of applause. However, it is being realized that many of the projects, such as medical colleges across Odisha, especially in Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Sundergarh, Talcher, etc have taken more time than required to implement such a project. The time taken is almost twice or more than the time frame promised by the honorable chief minister. Except in sponsoring Sports and Hockey stadiums, the progress on the ground level is slow in building health, education, railway, and road infrastructure, though some of them have been achieved in a way: better late than never. There are central and state Govt. projects like the rail factory at Narla, airports, which waited for land acquisition for over 5 years. In addition, most of the smaller projects for which honorable chief minister himself either announced and/or laid the foundation have also not been implemented on time, examples include the opening of Postgraduate courses in Agriculture College Bhawanipatna in 2019, establishing Government ITI in Dharamgarh, Indravati temple, and museum, etc. Even recruitment of assistant and associate professors in newly opened Universities such as Kalahandi University and Rajendra University has not taken place on time. It comes to my mind that the 220 KV line from Balangir to Kesinga took 10 years, a project that could be achieved maximum in a year or two. If the procedural and administrative delay is such, what is the use of 5T? In the end, people suffered power outages and low voltages for more than a decade despite being a power surplus and coal-rich state. This could have been avoided if there were no procedural and administrative delays. Though through 5T new bigger projects are being announced with lots of enthusiasm, what about existing projects that are NOT being implemented on time? In short, people and the state of Odisha are losing the benefits of this period. Instead of looking at it in a way better late than never, I urge you to kindly look into this to drive 5T reviewing all existing projects, make reports, and accountable those officials for the delay, so that people do not lose the benefits for this period.

Thank you and best regards

Prof. Dr. Digambara Patra, Professor & Chairperson,
Department of Chemistry, American University of
Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon

Pratap Chandra Sahu

months. A great scientist who made the atom bomb, horribly shocked after seeing the extent of damage caused by explosion the bombs. He said, "at last the physicists have known what is sin?"

Only one country i.e. U.S.A had known secrets of making the atom bomb immediately after the 2nd world war. Today many countries have produced not only atom bomb but hydrogen and nitrogen bombs as well. U.S.A and U.S.S.R, and China the three super powers of the world are now in possession of such sophisticated weapons that they would destroy the whole world within a few seconds. Besides many other countries are also in possession of highly sophisticated scientific weapons which if used can cause very horrible consequences.

Inter continental ballistic missiles have been set near the enemy country by U.S.A, U.S.S.R and China. The ghost of 3rd world war is frightening the inhabitants of worldwide now. Apprehensions of 3rd world war can't be ruled out. Things were better a few years ago. The China and Russia has increased the fears of 3rd world war by producing and supplying the poisoned weapons aid to Pakistan as result of which India has been forced to spend the substantial amount of item resources in keeping herself prepared to meet any emerge at situation arising out of a conflict with Pakistan and China. Now you know Russia and China both are in attacking mood to their neighbour countries with out any reason. Only to create disturbances. Now the conflicts arose in between China and America. On the whole the world situation is steadily moving towards a confrontation in between three super powers. In the meanwhile the relation in between countries have deteriorated. Armed conflicts have taken place often in between different countries of the world. The tendency of solving the mis-understanding between the countries regarding the armed conflict is increasing day by day. Hence great scientists have already warned the heads of the countries of the world, in the event of 3rd world war (probability) human civilization will be completely destroyed. Most of the human beings will die as a result of nuclear blasts and those who survive will suffer serious ailment. They may be experiencing the agony of death for a prolonged period in their life.

The few survivors of 3rd world war will be no better than the caveman of the earliest times of history. There will be no scientific knowledge left for them to use for their benefits. There will be no hospitals to admit, no roads to walk, no institutions on the above nothing else to avail. Human beings will start to buildup a civilization again which may take thousands of years. But it is too difficult reach peak point of progress. After the probability of 3rd world war will taught with bows and arrows. We are at the moment on the brink of precipice our wisdom can only save up from following down into the precipice, god only knows whether men will be able to cope with situation which awaits him in near future.

It is not until superior powers sit together in open mind and decide to stop production of such nuclear weapons in their own country and exhort their influence upon other countries to stop such production. So that we can be relieved of the anxiety of the devastating effect of the next (3rd) world war. The money which is now spent producing such poisoned weapons might be diverted to the utilisation of mankind. So all the people are in the place of hope and promise instead of misery and destruction.

Nabarangapur

An unique initiative to sensitize public about nature

An exclusive art Exhibition on Bird and Nature, entitled "Golok Dhadda" (Circular Puzzle) was organized between 10-12th August, 2022 by Artist's Canvas at the prestigious Ramkrishna Mission Art Gallery, Kolkata. This unique exhibition highlighted upon the education and awareness of the public towards nature, ecosystem and a wide spectrum of bird biodiversity across the planet. Indeed it was a platform where science and arts fused to give a total new perspective to our understanding of arts and culture in one hand and the environment on the other.

One of the participating artist Ms Soma Bhowmik, a familiar name in the arts circle and who was felicitated at this suggested "...it is indeed a great opportunity for us as artists to connect to the public for such an unique exhibition where we are focusing exclusively on our ecosystem and avian members across the planet. I am proud to be a part of this not only for showcasing my artwork; but, observe and learn from the work of other exceptional artists and how they connecting with nature from their perspectives about understanding of nature. It is important to create a regular bridge with the audience to help them understand and appreciate the rich planet with share with other living beings." Indeed the gallery exhibition received a sweeping attention from the audience a significant chunk being School, college and university students who represent our next generation and must be sensitized about our fragile environment to become responsible citizens in the future.

The spectacular diversity of artworks exhibited captured rich diversity of ecosystems from both India and abroad. The images represented freshwater and marine ecosystems, deserts and vast plains, valleys, mountains, tropics, sub tropics, temperate and polar habitats with use of different colours. Birds such as eagle, hawks, kites, owls, vultures, crows, ravens, falcons, bulbuls, sparrow, parakeets, macaw, cuckoos, pigeon, dove, mynah, kingfishers, common iora, blue peafowls, ducks, geese, cranes, storks, jungle fowls, pelicans, hornbills, toucans, finches, bar-

Saikat Kumar Basu

rets, tree pies, crow pheasant,

jungle babbler, tailor birds, orioles and woodpeckers were the eye catchers. Mammals captured commonly on ecosystem based nature themed images include tigers, lions, leopards, cheetahs, wild cat, leopard cat, fishing cat, deers and antelopes, rabbits avid hares, squirrels, elephants, bats, wild ass, snakes, marine and freshwater fishes, crocodiles and turtles. Spectacular pictures of flowers from various biomes were eye catchers. Furthermore, several art exhibited pollinators like the bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, wasps, hornets and ants. The exhibition primarily captured our rich global, regional and local ecosystems, and the spectacular biodiversity of forests, birds and other species.

Why is such an exhibition important from perspectives other than promotion of art and culture? It is because of the dissemination of education and awareness among the public about nature and biodiversity. It is most important for us to realize under the current global circumstances that environmental sensitivity is a serious international issue. It is not always possible for scientists, researchers, academic, conservators, foresters, ecologists to always cater to the public through conventional approach such as interviews, lectures, articles and demonstrations. But a picture shares a 1000 words in its own form.

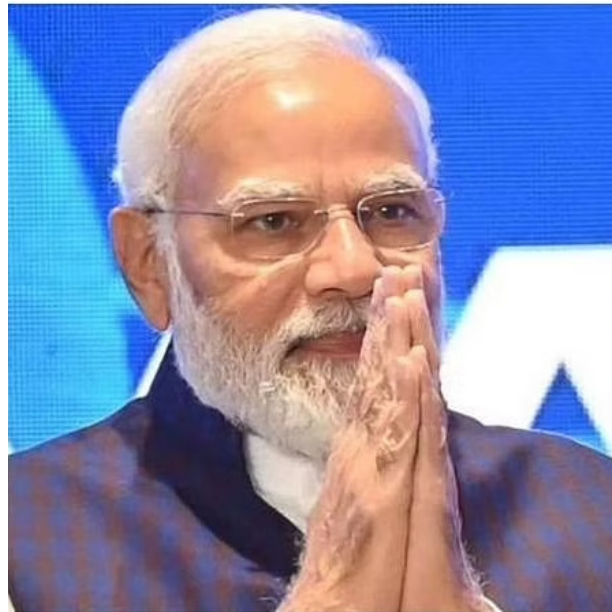
Thus it is important that we realize that arts and crafts could be an effective way of communicating about both science and environmental issues, forest, wildlife and biodiversity conservation, and in exploring various rich ecosystems of our planets. I extend my heartiest congratulations to the organizers and RK Mission Gallery for hosting such an outstanding art exhibition dedicated to nature, ecosystem and avian biodiversity and in creating positive impacts on the public. It is a platform where arts and nature has fused to design an entirely new perspective and narrative helping people to realize the beauty of our planet in which we live and to appreciate the species that we co-inhabit with.

378 Prince Anwar Shah Road,
Kolkata, West Bengal India

PM Modi congratulates Liz Truss as she wins British PM race

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss for getting elected

Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss rose to the Conservative ranks to end up as finalists for the contest for the post of UK Prime Minister.



as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

In the congratulatory message, PM Modi said under her leadership, the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership will be further strengthened.

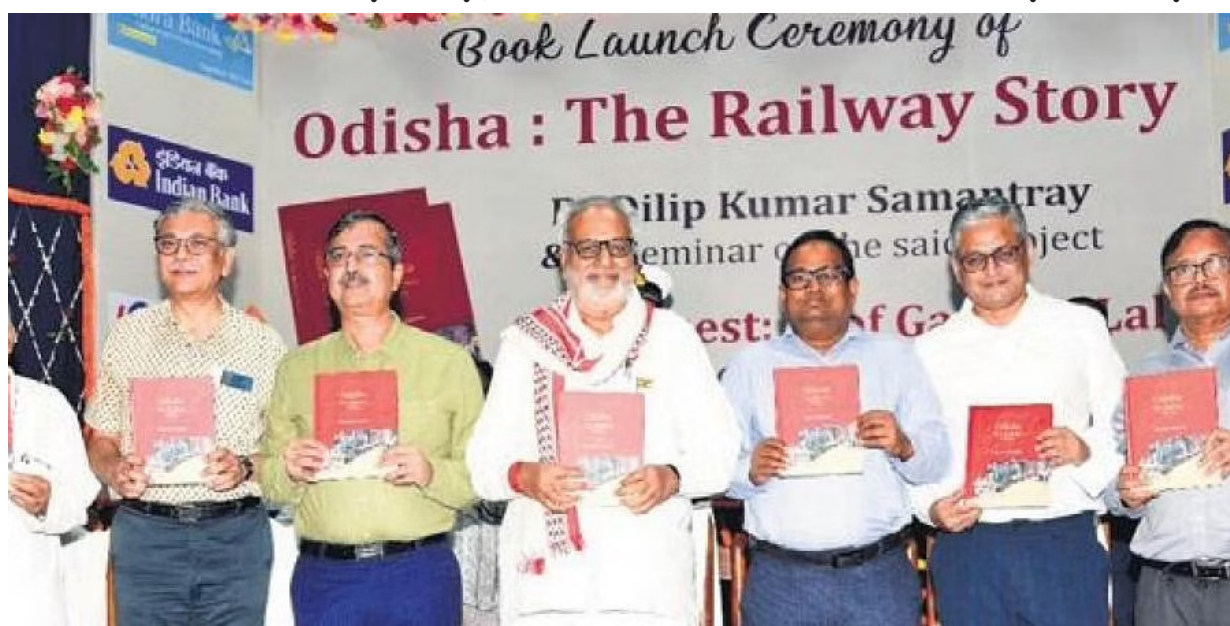
"Congratulations @trussliz for being chosen to be the next PM of the UK. Confident that under your leadership, the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership will be further strengthened. Wish you the very best for your new role and responsibilities," PM Modi tweeted.

Liz Truss was announced as the new head of the Conservative Party today. Forty-seven-year-old Liz Truss will become the third female prime minister of the UK.

She defeated former Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak through a postal ballot of all Conservative members. Truss secured 81,326 votes while Sunak got 60,399 votes. "I am honoured to be elected Leader of the Conservative Party. Thank you for putting your trust in me to lead and deliver for our great country. I will take bold action to get all of us through these tough times, grow our economy, and unleash the United Kingdom's potential," Truss wrote on Twitter.

The Tory leadership race was triggered after Boris Johnson was forced to step down on July 7 following a series of resignations of cabinet members, who protested against his scandal-plagued leadership.

Odisha: The Railway Story; Governor releases book on railways' history



BHUBANESWAR: Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal launched a book 'Odisha: The Railway Story' written by former Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer of East Coast Railway (ECoR) Dilip Kumar Samantray at a function here on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said the book has elaborately captured the interesting courses of railway development, spreading over three centuries in India along

Part of building collapses after massive fire near Chandni Chowk metro station in Delhi

NEW DELHI: The top floor of a three-storey commercial building in central Delhi's busiest and congested market lanes of Chandni Chowk collapsed inward on Monday following a massive fire, officials said, adding that an adjacent building was also damaged in the incident.

No casualty has been reported so far, they said. After over 11 hours, the fire that broke out at the commercial building situated near Chandni Chowk metro station here Sunday night was brought under control, while the cooling operations are still underway, officials said.

"There was no one trapped inside the building as the shops and godowns were all closed. During

with a series of interesting facts and anecdotes associated with the railways.

"The journey of the railways transformed from no caste, no colour, no religion into humanism," he said and suggested that the coaches of the trains should be named after eminent personalities of the country.

ECoR General Manager SK Srivastava said the book has brought out several known and unknown facts about Indian Railways.

the fire-fighting operation, one of the firemen sustained injuries, but he is fine now," a senior fire official said.

During the rescue operation, the fire fighters had to operate from the adjacent building as a massive fire had broken out and all the doors and windows were completely closed and there was no space to move inside, the official said.

The building comprised of combustible materials, mostly clothes stuffed inside the godowns and shops, he said.

Atul Garg, director, Delhi Fire Service said a call about the fire was received around 10.40 pm on Sunday.

In a bid to save biker, truck falls off Turi river bridge in Odisha

UMERKOTE: A goods-laden container truck fell off the bridge over Turi river near Umerkote



tainer truck fell off the bridge over Turi river near Umerkote town in Nabarangpur district on Saturday night. The driver of the truck, who was trapped inside the truck's cabin, was rescued by police and fire service personnel after nearly six hours.

The trucker, identified

as Anis Mohammed, reportedly lost control of the vehicle while trying to avoid a collision with a motorcyclist. The container truck bearing registration number UP78 DN9202 was on way to Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh from Nabarangpur.

Sources said late in the night on Saturday, the truck was passing

over the bridge when a biker suddenly appeared in front of it. In a bid to save the biker, Anis swerved to the other side. However, the truck crashed into the guard rails of the bridge and fell in the river 30 feet below. While the helper, identified as Bal Singh, managed to get out of the truck's cabin, Anis was stuck

inside. Bal made several attempts to rescue the driver but in vain.

Locals rushed to the spot on hearing the duo's screams. On being informed, fire services personnel and police reached the mishap site. After a six-hour operation, Anis was rescued with the help of two JCB machines. Anis and Bal were admitted to Umerkote community health centre in critical condition but their condition was stable, said treating doctor Santosh Panda. Umerkote IIC Deepak Jena said police have registered a case and seized the truck. Further investigation is underway.

Chakma tribals urge India, Bangladesh PMs to implement 25-yr-old CHT accord

NEW DELHI: Four organisations of the Indian Chakma tribal communities on Monday demanded India and Bangladesh fully implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHTs) Accord, signed in 1997,

especially handing over of law and order and supervision of the three Hill District Councils of Bandarban, Khagrachari, and Rangamati to the CHTs Regional Council was not yet

is often used by various insurgent groups, Suhas Chakma said in a statement. He said that the armed conflicts in the Arakan province of Myanmar bordering the CHTs, the expulsion of over 1.5

Hajong Rights Alliance (CHRA). Tripura Rejyo Chakma Gabujyia Jodha President Priya Ranjan Chakma said: "We have urged both the Prime Ministers to take measures for full and effective implementation of the CHT Accord, declare an economic package to assist the Bangladesh government for effective implementation of the CHT Accord including resettlement of the returnee 'Jumma' refugees from India and internally displaced persons within the CHTs in line with similar economic assistance provided by India to the internally displaced persons of Sri Lanka following the end of the armed conflicts with the ethnic Tamils. "Processes must be initiated with the Jana Samhati Samiti, the signatory to the CHT Accord and all other stakeholders of indigenous 'Jumma' people to end civil unrest in the CHT region and facilitate establishment of the CHTs as a region of peace," he said in a statement.



for the development and peace in the southeast region of the neighbouring country.

The demand came as Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in New Delhi on Monday on a four-day visit, during which she would hold talks with her Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, on Tuesday. The Chakma tribal organisations, in a joint memorandum to both Prime Ministers, on Monday urged them to take joint measures for full implementation of the CHTs Accord, signed on December 2, 1997 and declare the CHTs as a "region of peace".

Prominent Chakma leader and former Mizoram MLA Rashik Mohan Chakma said that though the CHTs Accord was signed 25 years ago, key provisions of the accord

done. The other provisions of the accord which are not yet implemented include withdrawal of the Bangladesh Army camps established during the armed conflicts into the cantonments within the CHTs, resolution of the land disputes through the functioning of the CHTs Land Commission, and resettlement of the tribal refugees.

Founder leader of the Chakma Development Foundation of India Suhas Chakma said that the importance of implementation of the CHT Accord for regional peace and security, especially for Bangladesh, India, and Myanmar cannot be stressed enough. In addition to civil unrest of indigenous people of CHTs collectively known as 'Jummas' due to non-implementation of the Accord, the CHTs

million Rohingyas by Bangladesh and the refusal of the military junta in Myanmar to repatriate any of these Rohingya refugees make the CHTs the source of regional instability and conflicts. In fact, peace in the region can be assured only through joint efforts of Bangladesh and India and meaningful participation of the indigenous 'Jumma' people in these efforts by empowering them for self-governance through full implementation of the CHT Accord, he said. "It is not in the interests of Bangladesh, India, indigenous 'Jumma' people to have the active civil unrests in the CHTs region or allow the region to be used for various insurgency activities, said another tribal leader Pritimoy Chakma, Convenor of the Chakma

effective implementation of the CHT Accord, declare an economic package to assist the Bangladesh government for effective implementation of the CHT Accord including resettlement of the returnee 'Jumma' refugees from India and internally displaced persons within the CHTs in line with similar economic assistance provided by India to the internally displaced persons of Sri Lanka following the end of the armed conflicts with the ethnic Tamils. "Processes must be initiated with the Jana Samhati Samiti, the signatory to the CHT Accord and all other stakeholders of indigenous 'Jumma' people to end civil unrest in the CHT region and facilitate establishment of the CHTs as a region of peace," he said in a statement.

Modi announces PM-SHRI scheme for upgrading 14,500 schools

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Monday 14,500 schools across the country will be developed and upgraded under the Pradhan Mantri Schools For

capsulate the full spirit of NEP," he said in a series of tweets.

"The PM-SHRI schools will have a modern, transformational and holistic method



Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana. On the occasion of Teacher's Day, Modi said the PM-SHRI schools will become model schools, encapsulating the full spirit of the new National Education Policy.

"Today, on #TeachersDay I am glad to announce a new initiative - the development and upgradation of 14,500 schools across India under the Pradhan Mantri Schools For Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana. These will become model schools which will en-

of imparting education. Emphasis will be on a discovery oriented, learning centric way of teaching. Focus will also be on modern infra including latest technology, smart classrooms, sports and more," Modi added.

Noting that the National Education Policy has transformed the education sector in the recent years, the PM said, "I am certain that the PM-SHRI schools will further benefit lakhs of students across India in the spirit of NEP".

CM Gets Lifetime Achievement Award

New Delhi: Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik today received the lifetime achievement award by Capital Foundation in a glittering function at New Delhi. Former Chief Justice of India Justice N V Ramana presented the award to CM. Many dignitaries including former Supreme Court Justice Anang Patnaik was present.

Accepting the award, Chief Minister Shri Patnaik dedicated the award to the 4.5 crore people of Odisha who have been continuously blessing him to serve them for the past 22 years. The faith they have in me is my biggest inspiration to work towards an Empowered Odisha, he added.

While he humbly accepted this Lifetime

than half a million tribal girls study in our hostels. Farmers have always been the backbone of our state and their hard-work has fetched the state the Krishi Karman award four times. Odisha is the only state to have doubled farmer's income.

Odisha produces the maximum Steel and Aluminium for the country. I should mention here that Odisha increasing her steel production by nearly 10 times in the last 2 decades has helped the country during the Covid crisis. Odisha supplied life saving oxygen to 17 states during the Covid pandemic. In the manufacturing sector, Odisha attracts the maximum investment in the country.

Odisha is set to host the Hockey World Cup twice in a row and has set up high performance centres in various sports. Odisha the sports capital of India has set standards for other states to follow. Skilled in Odisha is a brand which not just Odisha but the country is proud of. Land rights for slum dwellers in urban areas made global urban



Achievement Award, he said, "My lifetime's achievement will be to see an Empowered and Spirited Odisha claiming her place in the Sun."

He thanked Justice Ramana for presenting this award and offered special thanks to Justice Patnaik for actively contributing to the growth of this forum. On behalf of all the awardees, he also thanked the Foundation for recognizing and appreciating the good-work happening in various sectors.

He further said that Odisha has come a long way in the last 22 years. After the super cyclone of 1999 who would have thought that Odisha will set global benchmarks in disaster management and get awarded by the United Nations, he added.

Speaking on the transformation of Odisha, he said, "Odisha known for 'poverty' is now known for the fastest 'poverty reduction' in our country.

Our Governance model rooted in the empowerment of women Mission Sakti is something which we are truly proud of.

Similarly, empowerment of tribal communities has always been close to my heart and Odisha leads the country in providing land rights under the Forest Dwellers Act. More

planners rethink and have a serious look at our model of empowering slum dwellers. Our path breaking health initiative 'Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana' provides near universal health assurance to more than 80% of people of Odisha. Our 5T principles and MO Sarakar initiatives have strengthened peoples faith in professional governance with a humane face. We are on the right path and by Lord Jagannath's grace and the support of our people we shall get there soon. I once again thank Capital Foundation for bestowing this great honour on Odisha and her people."

Appreciating the work done by Capital Foundation, he said that this organisation over the years has evolved and established itself as an important space for open debate, and discussions on various areas of public policy, democratic governance and reforms in various sectors that impact policy makers.

He further added that for more than three decades now, the Foundation has provided a platform for various opinion makers to voice their views freely thus contributing to overall governance. He said, "I feel honoured that I have been chosen for the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Capital Foundation."

CHHATA gets 270 CR

Bhubaneswar: With an objective to conserve Rainwater, augment Ground Water and improve Water Table in the State, Odisha Government has decided to spend Rs.270 Crore in next five years. For the first time such a State Sponsored Scheme has been launched, which targets to harvest 373.52 Crore Liters of water.

in 2020, DoWR looking at the precarious condition in some of the ULBs and Blocks chalked a massive program for such a Green Initiative, officials say.

Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting System will be set up in Government Buildings in 27 ULBs.

Similarly Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting System for Government Buildings in 52 Blocks in Rural Areas will be taken up.

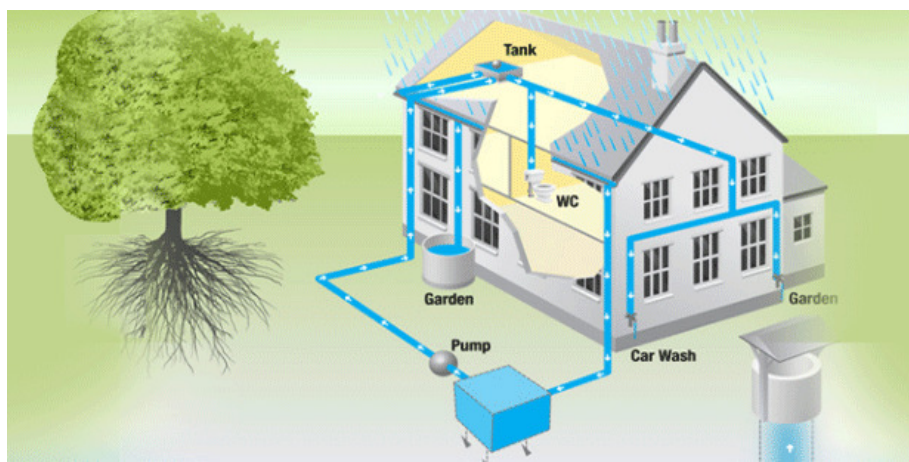
Any person in the specified ULBs, owing a building having a roof area less than 200 SQM and not more than three floors will be eligible to apply under the scheme. After completion and testing of Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting System (RRHS) by the authorized officers, Gov-

ernment will provide Rs.55,000 or 50 Percent of the cost of the RRHS.

However the maintenance cost of these RRHS shall be borne by the owner of the building. RRHS should have a suitable recharge unit which is compulsory under the scheme to claim subsidy.

On an average every year Rs.54 Crore will be spent under CHHATA and detailed program has been chalked out for next five years, officials say. Unemployed Diploma/ Graduate Engineers/ Graduate in Geology will undergo short term training on RRHS. They will be empanelled as Consultants along with existing panel.

A RRHS Monitoring Committee will be set up at ULB level, which will review progress of the scheme and submit report to DoWR and Collectors of the respective districts.



This will be a State Funded Scheme "Community Harnessing and Harvesting Rainwater Artificially from Terrace to Aquifer (CHHATA).

Department of Water Resources (DoWR) has come out with a Mega Program to be implemented from 2022-23 to 2026-27 with an outlay of Rs.270 Crore in 29,500 Private Buildings and 1925 Government Buildings covering 52 Water Stressed Blocks and 27 Urban Zones of the State. While CHHATA aims to conserve rain water, enhance water quality in urban areas, and rural zones, it has the objective to augment ground water and improvement of water table, which is going down. As in some of the Urban Local Bodies water quality condition is not that good, CHHATA will ensure enhanced water quality in identifies 27 ULBs, officials say.

With Ground Water Resources Assessment done

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Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman defends windfall tax on crude, oil product exports

MUMBAI: Finance Minister Nirmala

cally produced oil and gas to rein in what

Additional forex inflows would help

are facing huge headwinds this fiscal due to crude price rise and jump in imports.

Currently, there is a cap on incremental foreign fund investments in government securities (G-Secs) annually, while there is no such restriction on equity investments.

However, she did not answer whether investors' demand for tax and stamp duty gains will be met or

not.

After pumping in over USD 35 billion from June 2020 through October 2021, mostly into equities, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have been on an exit mode.

Between January and July 2022, they were net sellers to the tune of over USD 29 bil-

lion.

But they reversed the trend and have net invested over USD 6.5 billion in August alone, again mostly into equities.

On whether the government is planning to increase the tax-GDP ratio, which is only about 10 per cent now, she said widening the tax base

is an issue that needs lot of consultation and analysis, though increasing number of income tax filings gives some clue on the possibility of widening it.

But the government wants to ensure that as and when it is done, it looks reasonable and is tech-driven, she noted.

The minister also credited the massive increase in tax collection to the introduction of technology for assessment and refunds.

Increase in tax collection is not due to raising any tax rates, but because of introduction of technology, including the faceless assessment system, she noted.

required to serve in the military.

ALSO READ: Taiwan military says it shot down unidentified 'civilian drone' off Chinese coast

About 73 per cent of Taiwanese say they would be willing to fight for Taiwan if China were to invade, according to surveys by Kuan-chen Lee at the Defense Ministry-affiliated Institute for National Defense and Security Research, a number that has remained consistent.

The Ukraine war, at least initially, shook some people's confidence in the willingness of America to come to Taiwan's assistance in the event of an attack.

Whereas 57 per cent said last September they believed the US would "definitely or probably" send troops if China invaded, that dropped to 40 per cent in March.

The US policy of strategic ambiguity leaves it murky as to whether the US would intervene militarily. Pelosi said during her visit that she wants to help the island defend itself. Outside of government efforts, some civilians have been inspired to do more on their own.

Last week, the founder of Taiwanese chipmaker United Microelectronics, Robert Tsao, announced he would donate 1 billion New Taiwan Dollars (USD 32.8 million) to fund the training of a 3 million-person defense force made up of civilians.

More than 1,000 people have attended lectures on civil defense with Open Knowledge Taiwan, according to TH Schee, a tech entrepreneur who gives lectures and organizes civil defense courses with the volunteer group, which aims to make specialized knowledge accessible to the public.

Others have signed up for first aid training, and some for firearms courses, though with air guns as Taiwan's laws do not allow widespread gun ownership.

These efforts need government coordination, said Martin Yang, a spokesperson for the Taiwan Military and Police Tactical Research and Development Association, a group of former police officers and soldiers interested in Taiwan's defense.

"The civil sector has this idea and they're using their energy, but I think the government needs to come out and coordinate this, so the energy doesn't get wasted," he said.

Yang is critical of the government's civil defense drills, citing annual exercises in which civilians practice taking shelter.

"When you do this exercise, you want to consider that people will hide in the subway, they need water and food, and may have medical needs. You will possibly have hundreds or thousands of people hiding there," Yang said. "But where does the water and food come from?"

In July, the New Taipei city government organized a large-scale drill with its disaster services and the Defense Ministry. Included for the first time was urban warfare, such as how first responders would react to an attack on a train station or a port. The drills had the feeling of a carnival rather than serious preparation for an invasion.

An MC excitedly welcomed guests as Korean pop music blared. Recruiters for the military, the coast guard and the military police set up booths to entice visitors, offering tchotchkes such as toy grenade keychains. Chang Chia-rong guided VIP guests to their seats. The 20-year-old expressed a willingness to defend Taiwan, though she hadn't felt very worried about a Chinese invasion.

"If there's a volunteer squad, I hope that I can join and defend my country," she said. "If there's a need, I would be very willing to join."



Sitharaman on Monday defended the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil and additional tax on exports of refined petroleum products, saying the levy has been imposed in full consultation with the industry.

From July 1, the government has imposed a windfall tax on domestically produced crude and additional tax on refined products like petrol, diesel and aviation fuel.

"Let me tell you frankly that I didn't expect such a question from a potential investor. I had clearly stated that on the day this decision was made that India wants to be a refining hub, India wants to encourage investments in refineries, and India wants to ensure that profitability is not taxed with the intention to earn revenue for the government," Sitharaman told a summit organised by Elara Capital here.

"So the belief that windfall tax is ad hoc is slightly unfair. Because the price and the taxation rate decided are arrived at after full consultation with the industry. We've come up with these parameters based on cracks margins that the industry has given to us," she said.

The minister added that she had clearly said everything would be done in consultation with the industry and it is doing that every 15th day. The government is not interested in ad hocism when it comes to taxation in the oil and gas sector, she asserted.

From July 1 onwards, as the oil prices were on a song and many private sector fuel stations were running dry, the government had introduced a windfall tax on oil exports and domesti-

Sitharaman had described as "phenomenal profits" made by some oil refiners by exporting fuel at the expense of domestic supplies.

The move was expected to garner an additional tax of Rs 66,000 crore this fiscal, though the amount would vary depending on the price of crude and export prices of refined products.

From July, the tax on per litre of petrol and ATF export was Rs 6 each and on diesel it was Rs 13.

Additionally, a Rs 23,250 per tonne tax was levied on crude oil produced domestically.

Accordingly, when crude prices fell later in July, government reduced the tax rates.

At the fourth fortnightly review on August 31, government raised windfall profit tax on diesel export to Rs 13.5 a litre from Rs 7 and that on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to Rs 9 from Rs 2 from September 1.

Alongside, tax on domestically-produced crude too was hiked to Rs 13,300 per tonne from Rs 13,000.

To a question on when the decision on inclusion of government bonds in the global bond index of Morgan Stanley will be taken, she said, "I don't know whether we're holding it back or not. I think the global situation has changed a lot since I made that statement in the 2020 Budget. The global fund inflows have not been as big as we wanted it to be primarily due to other reasons. So it'll come to its natural logical conclusion sooner."

Inclusion of government bonds in the global bond index will attract an additional fund inflow of USD 25-30 billion annually.

shore up the current account and balance of payments, which

Liz Truss defeats Rishi Sunak to become UK's third woman PM

Continued from page-1

in Scotland, where the monarch is vacationing, rather than at Buckingham Palace.

Liz Truss: Britain's 'Iron Lady', country's third woman Prime Minister

The two-month leadership contest left Britain with a power vacuum at a time when consumers, workers and businesses were demanding government action to mitigate the impact of soaring food and energy prices. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has had no authority to make major policy decisions since July 7, when he announced his intention to resign.

With household energy bills set to increase by 80% next month, charities warn that as many as one in three households will face fuel poverty this winter, leaving millions of people to choose between eating and heating their homes. The Bank of England has forecast that inflation will reach a 42-year high of 13.3% in October, threatening to push Britain into a prolonged recession.

"The new prime minister is facing a very, very difficult inheritance," said Tim Bale, a political analyst and professor at Queen Mary University of London.

Johnson was forced to resign after a series of ethics scandals that peaked in July when dozens of cabinet ministers and lower level officials resigned over his handling of allegations of sexual misconduct by a senior member of his government.

Suella Braverman may be only Indian-origin MP in Liz Truss' UK Cabinet

Under Britain's parliamentary system of government, the center-right Conservative Party was allowed to hold an internal election to select a new party leader and prime minister, without going to the wider electorate. A new general election isn't required until December 2024.

Fundstack 2.0 boosts startup

Continued from page-1

The first edition of Fundstack was held virtually in 2021 over 200 Startups gained business insights from over 20 eminent Angel Investors. The second edition this year was a 2-day pitching & networking event to attract investments for Startups.

This programme was planned as a precursor to the upcoming Make in Odisha (MiO)- 2022 which would be held from 30 November 30 to 4 December.

CEO of Startup Odisha, Md. Sadique Alam delivered a welcome address and the programme was followed by an interactive session between Investors & Senior Government officials.

On the second day, the investors joined a round table meeting at the Mayfair Heritage Resort, Puri, where they emphasized on private equity investment to fuel the growth in Startup sector. This grand engaging event of two days concluded with one-on-one meetings between the selected Startups and the investors.

Official sources said the Fundstack will create a platform that builds an engaging relationship between Startups & investors where 20 Startups selected through a rigorous process from shortlisted 100 Startups have got the opportunity to impress investors by presenting their innovative ideas to 20 investors

Liz Truss: An heir to Thatcher intent on shaking up Britain

LONDON: As a child, Liz Truss marched in demonstrations against Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. As an adult, she came to admire Britain's first female leader — and now she is about to enter No. 10 Downing St. with a Thatcherite zeal to transform the UK.

Truss, Britain's foreign secretary, was named winner on Monday in the contest to replace the scandal-plagued Boris Johnson as Conservative Party leader and the country's prime minister. The party said Truss won the votes of around 57% of Conservative members, compared with about 43% for ex-Treasury chief Rishi Sunak.

Truss, 47, will become Britain's third female prime minister, after Thatcher, who governed from 1979 to 1990, and Theresa May, who held office from

coming involved in Conservative politics and espousing free market Thatcherite views. She served as a local councillor in London and ran unsuccessfully for Parliament twice before being elected to represent the eastern England seat of Southwest Norfolk in 2010.

ALSO READ | Suella Braverman may be only Indian-origin MP in Liz Truss' UK Cabinet She won the safely Conservative seat after a bump on the way — some local Conservatives were outraged when it was revealed she had had an affair with another MP when both were married to other people. Truss won over her critics, and her marriage survived. She and husband Hugh O'Leary, an accountant, have two teenage daughters. She founded the Free Enterprise group of Thatcherite Tory lawmakers who produced "Britannia Unchained," a political treatise that notoriously included the claim that British workers are "among the worst idlers in the world."

David Laws, a former Cabinet minister who worked with Truss in government a decade ago, recalled her as energetic and "mind-bogglingly ambitious," comparing her in his memoir to "a young Margaret Thatcher on speed." Truss got her first Cabinet job as food and environment secretary in 2014, making her biggest impression with a much-mocked speech in which she thundered that it was "a disgrace" that Britain imports two-thirds of its cheese.

In Britain's 2016 referendum on whether to leave the European Union, Truss backed the losing "remain" side, though she says she was always a natural euroskeptic. Since the vote, she has won over Brexiters with her uncompromising approach to the EU.

She became justice secretary, but she was demoted to a more junior role in the Treasury by May in 2017. When May was toppled by her repeated failure to break a political deadlock over Brexit, Truss was an early backer of Boris Johnson to replace her. When he won, Johnson made Truss trade secretary, a role in which she Instagrammed her way around the world signing post-Brexit trade deals and raising her profile.

In September 2021, she was appointed foreign secretary, Britain's top diplomat. Her performance has drawn mixed reviews. Many praise her firm response to the invasion of Ukraine, and she secured the release of two British citizens jailed in Iran, where her predecessors had failed.

But EU leaders and officials who hoped she would bring a softer tone to Britain's relations with the bloc have been disappointed. Amid trade wrangling, Truss introduced legislation to rip up parts of the binding UK-EU divorce agreement signed by both sides. The 27-nation bloc is taking legal action against Britain in return.

Truss has sometimes suggested the frequent comparisons to Thatcher are sexist, but at other times she has encouraged them. She has posed in a British Army tank in Eastern Europe, evoking an image of Thatcher during the Cold War. In a televised leadership debate, Truss sported a pussy-bow blouse just like one Thatcher used to wear. By stressing her modest background, she is evoking comparisons to grocer's daughter Thatcher, said Victoria Honeyman, associate professor of British politics at the University of Leeds — "the working-class girl done good."

Truss' own personality is hidden behind a stern public persona. Friends say she has a fun-loving side rarely glimpsed in public, and enjoys karaoke and blasting out tunes by Taylor Swift, Whitney Houston and Destiny's Child. Truss' perceived loyalty to Johnson, who remains popular with many Tories, also helped her win. Many party members cited Sunak's decision to quit Johnson's Cabinet in July as a mark against him. Truss didn't resign, saying she was a "loyal person" — though she had been courting party members for months at "fizz with Liz" events to build support for a potential leadership bid.

Conservatives have embraced Truss' optimistic message of liberation through less government, which is reminiscent of Ronald Reagan's "morning in America" boosterism.

The wider British electorate is likely to prove a harder audience to win over. Times are tough and getting tougher as inflation soars and Britain's cost-of-living crisis worsens. Truss' focus on stimulating the economy through tax cuts is unlikely to provide much short-term relief.

Left-of-centre commentator Will Hutton, writing in The Observer newspaper, said Truss' economic ideas were "ruinous nonsense ... persistently anti-Europe, obsessed with tax cuts, buying into the faith that nameless regulations are shackling business."

Truss doesn't have long to persuade voters that she is on the right track. The next national election must be held in two years.

"Is Liz going to be able to say in 2024, 'Are you richer now than you were when I became prime minister?' Possibly," Littlewood said. "But it's not an obvious slam dunk."



2016 to 2019.

IN PHOTOS | Liz Truss: Britain's 'Iron Lady', country's third woman Prime Minister Conservative Party members have embraced Truss' vows to slash taxes and red tape and keep up Britain's staunch support for Ukraine. Some see echoes of the Iron Lady — as Thatcher was known — in Truss' vision of a "network of liberty" binding democracies around the world.

To critics, Truss is an inflexible ideologue whose right-wing policies won't help Britain weather the economic turmoil set off by the pandemic, Brexit and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Mark Littlewood, a libertarian commentator who has known Truss since their university days, said Britain's new leader is less a conservative than a "radical," who — like Thatcher — wants to "roll back the intervention of the state" in people's lives. Britain's new leader, Liz Truss, is the child of left-wing parents who grew up to be an admirer of Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. (Photo | AP)

"I'm expecting a lot of fireworks and a lot of controversy and a lot of action," he said.

Born in Oxford in 1975, Mary Elizabeth Truss is the daughter of a math professor and a nurse, who took her on anti-nuclear and anti-Thatcher protests as a child, where she recalled shouting: "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie — out, out, out!"

In a 2018 speech, she said she began developing her own political views early, "arguing against my socialist parents in our left-wing household."

The family lived in Paisley, Scotland, before moving to Leeds in northern England, where Truss attended a public high school — something that sets her apart from her many privately educated Conservative colleagues.

During the leadership campaign, Truss emphasized her relatively modest background. But she riled some former classmates and teachers when she said students at her school were "let down by low expectations, poor educational standards and a lack of opportunity." The school's alumni include academics, judges and several other members of Parliament.

Truss went on to Oxford University, where she studied philosophy, politics and economics — the degree of choice for many aspiring politicians — and was president of the university branch of the Liberal Democratic Party. The economically centrist Lib Dems back constitutional reform and civil liberties, and Truss was an enthusiastic member, putting up "Free the Weed" posters that called for decriminalisation of marijuana and arguing in a speech for the abolition of the monarchy.

Littlewood, who was a fellow member of the Oxford Lib Dems and now heads the Institute for Economic Affairs, a free market think tank, remembers Truss as "headstrong and determined and outspoken."

"You were never in any doubt where she stood on an issue or a person," he said.

After Oxford, Truss joined the Conservative Party — "when it was distinctly unfashionable," she later said.

She worked as an economist for energy company Shell and telecommunications firm Cable and Wireless, and for a right-of-center think tank while be-

Kyrgios stuns Medvedev at US Open as Gauff advances

Australia's Nick Kyrgios sent defending champion Daniil Medvedev tumbling out of the US Open on Sunday as US teenager Coco Gauff reached the quarter-finals for the first time.

The notoriously temperamental 23rd-seeded Kyrgios produced some scintillating shot-making on his way to a superb 7-6 (13/11), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over the world number one from Russia. Kyrgios, who was beaten by Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final in July, showed grit and composure to save three set points in the opening set before holding his nerve to win an epic tie-break 13/11 before a raucous Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd.

Although he dropped the second set, he roared back to dominate Medvedev in the third and fourth sets to clinch victory in 2hr 53min.

"It was an amazing match, obviously Daniil as the defending champion had a lot of pressure on his shoulders, but I've been playing amazing the last couple of months," Kyrgios said after the win. "What a place to do it -- packed house in New York. I'm extremely blessed."

Kyrgios will face Karen Khachanov in the quarter-finals on Tuesday. Khachanov equalled his best performance in a Grand Slam event by defeating Spanish 12th seed Pablo Carreno Busta in a 3hr 21min five-set thriller.

The 27th-seeded Khachanov dug deep to down Carreno Busta 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 on the Louis Armstrong Stadium.

Elsewhere in the fourth round on Sunday, fifth seed Casper Ruud became the first Norwegian man to reach the US Open quarter-finals with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2 victory over French lucky loser Corentin Moutet.

The 23-year-old Ruud, seeded fifth, will face Italy's Matteo Berrettini for a place in the semi-finals.

Berrettini extended his impressive run of recent Grand Slam singles performances with a 3-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 defeat of Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina.

The 26-year-old from Rome missed Wimbledon earlier this year after testing positive for Covid-19,

and was injured for the French Open. But Berrettini has now made the quarter-finals or better in the last five Grand Slams he has played in after Sunday's win.

"It's not a secret for me the Slams are the goal of the season," he said. "I think it proves that my level is high in Slams ... I play my best tennis in the most important stages of the tour."

- Gauff marches on -

In the women's draw meanwhile, rising American star Gauff kept home hopes alive with a battling 7-5, 7-5 win over China's Zhang Shuai on the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

The 18-year-old 12th seed will now play France's in-form Caroline Garcia for a place in the semi-finals.

"I think she's playing the best tennis she's played in a long time," Gauff said of her quarter-final opponent.

"It's going to be a challenge. When you play these players that are hot, I think it's more of a mental challenge. You just got to accept she's going to hit some great shots, because I know she will."

Garcia, the world number 17, has emerged as a dark horse in New York despite a modest record in Grand Slams.

The 28-year-old reached her only other Grand Slam last-eight on home ground at Roland Garros five years ago.

But she arrived in New York brimming with confidence after claiming the Cincinnati Masters lead-in event, and so far at the Open has yet to drop a set and has lost serve only twice.

Garcia says she is reaping the benefits of a more positive approach to tennis.

"To get wins, definitely helps to be happy, to know which way you have to play, to be healthy, it's a lot of positives," she said.

"I like to play tennis aggressive, to move forward. I'm having fun, enjoying playing that way, and on top of it I'm glad it's working and it's a good way for me."




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