

Odisha destined to become trillion-dollar economy: CM Naveen Patnaik at MIO conclave

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha is destined to become a trillion-dollar economy in the near future, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the Make in Odisha (MIO) Conclave-2022 here today while addressing industry leaders and investors. "We will emerge as the gateway to East and Southeast Asia. I invite you to come and invest in a new Odisha," the CM said at the event. "Odisha is fast emerging as a major investment destination in the country. We are a progressive state with clear focus on transformation in all sectors. Our fiscal prudence and economic management has been appreciated across the country. We are one of the few states with adequate revenues to

undertake large scale infrastructure "Our investor-friendly initiatives and transformative governance has put us on a journey of progress and prosperity. I invite each one of you to come join us on this journey I assure you that our government will run the extra mile to make you comfortable in our state. We will walk along your side and make sure your dreams as an entrepreneur are realized. Odisha's prosperity is interlinked with new investments. We completely understand this and therefore, we welcome you from the core of our hearts," he said. "Our new Industrial Policy provides the support and incentives which are beyond the best in the country. We



are launching new policies in the sectors of Tourism, renewable energy, apparel and textile, food processing, exports and so on. We will continue to work with each one of you and understand the requirements of your sector and provide the best of support systems,"

he mentioned. "As you all know, Odisha is a major force in the field of mining and mineral-based industries. The State has attracted major investments in Steel and Aluminum projects and will emerge as the global hub in these sectors by the turn of this decade. However, we are

ambitious to develop Odisha in other sectors too. We are making huge capital investment in improving our transport infrastructure – expressways, railways, airports, sea ports. We are a pioneer in electricity reforms and have successfully created the framework and investment towards providing quality affordable energy," the Chief Minister said. "Our focus on creating quality education through high schools' transformation, world class higher educational institutions, Skilled in Odisha program the World Skills Centre, providing quality affordable health care systems will enable social capital and support the industries with highly qualified human resources," he added.

Minister says over 20K persons died of Covid-19 in Odisha; dashboard data differs



Bhubaneswar(KCN): More than 20,000 people in Odisha have died due to Covid-19 pandemic since 2020, said Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik in the Assembly here today. The Revenue Minister made this revelation while replying to a query of BJP MLA Naba Charan Majhi in the Assembly. Altogether

227 people have lost their lives due to floods, cyclones, droughts and heavy rains in the state in last 10 years, said the minister. At least 72 people were killed in cyclone Titli in Odisha in 2018 while 64 lost their lives due to cyclonic storm Fani in 2019, claimed the minister. Cyclone Phailin of 2013 claimed the lives of 22 people in Odisha while

no one in the state died due to cyclones Amphan, Bulbul, Gulab and Jawad, she added. "Odisha has suffered a loss of Rs 14,373 crore due to cyclone Phailin while properties worth Rs 9,336 crore have been damaged due to cyclone Fani. The Centre has so far provided Rs 6,300 crore as assistance for these natural calamities," said the minister.

ECoR General Manager Inspected Cuttack-Paradeep Railway Section

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): East Coast Railway General Manager Shri Roop Narayan Sunkar in his visit to Paradeep today; inspected the Railway Developmental Works in Cuttack-Paradeep

He also reviewed the developmental works of Railways in Paradeep area. Divisional Railway Manager of Khurda Road Railway Division Shri Rinkesh Roy and other

Stake holders and visited various Railway Sidings for loading and unloading issues. He also assured the Stake Holders to provide all kinds of support in the field of transportation and



Railway Section and took stock of various developmental activities of Railways in connection with traffic facilities and hassle free train operations.

Principal Heads of the Departments of ECoR were present on the occasion. Shri Sunkar also discussed various issues with the officials of various

traffic facilities and advised Railway Officials for early completion of o-ngoing projects and increase transport facilities and Revenue.

Book Release of Admiral S.H. Sarma

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): To commemorate the first death anniversary of Late Vice Admiral S.H.Sarma, PVSM, the Navy Foundation and the Admiral Sarma Centenary Committee are holding a month long series of events starting from the 1st December 2022. The release of his much acclaimed book in Odia, release of a set of postcards, a coffee table book, a seminar on Naval Strategy in the Indian ocean etc. are being planned. Vice Admiral Sarma was the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet during the 1971 war and also served as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC in C) of



the Eastern Naval Command. He expired on the 3rd January 2022 and has left behind a legacy of 35 years service in the Indian Navy. He was a son of the soil, a brave Odia who devoted his life for the motherland. The book "Mo Sagar Jeevan Smriti", an Odia translation of his much acclaimed book "My Years at Sea" was released by Smt. Sulochana Das, Mayor of Bhubaneswar at

Navy House today. Copies of the books were distributed to different schools. Speaking on the occasion, the Mayor said that Admiral Sarma was an inspiration of many Odias and that youth should emulate his ideals. Capt. Navin Chandra Sarma, the son of Admiral Sarma thanked the translator and said that the book will be distributed free of cost to many schools all over the

State. Among the others present on the occasion were General Narayan Mohanty, General J K Mohanty, Veteran Bidyadhar Nayak, President of the Veterans Club of Odisha. They lauded the stellar role played by Admiral Sarma in the Indian Navy and his contribution to the State. Speaking on the occasion, Historian Anil Dhir said that a proper Gallery should be dedicated to Admiral Sarma at the

Maritime Museum at Cuttack where his life story can be displayed. He said that Admiral Sarma was a keeper of the flame, he upheld the ancient maritime traditions of Odisha. The family of Admiral Sarma are willing to donate all his artefacts if the Gallery is commissioned. Similar book release and book handing over ceremonies have been planned at Brahmapur and Cuttack too.

Odisha signs MOU with BSE & NSE to promote local MSMEs to access Capital Markets

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In the Make in Odisha Conclave 2022, on day-1, a Business Leadership Talk was organised by Finance Department on Emerging Solutions for Financing Industries & Infrastructure. The session was attended by SS Mundra, Chairman BSE, Ramann, CMD, SIDBI, Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director IIM Sambalpur, Moazzam Mekan from International Finance Corporation, The World Bank, Rachana Bhusari, VP-NSE and P R

Jaishankar, MD, IIFCL. The session was moderated by Vishal Dev, Principal Secretary Finance Department, Government of Odisha. The session dealt with two sub-themes, one focusing on financing MSME and the other on infrastructure. During the session, few progressive and forward-looking initiatives were announced including, the launching of electronic Bank guarantees in collaboration with National e-Governance

Services Ltd. (NESL). In order to enable MSMEs to access capital markets, the State signed MOUs with BSE Ltd & NSE Ltd for facilitating the listing of MSMEs from Odisha. Under the aegis of the MOU, BSE & NSE shall provide handholding to MSME to impart training and education required for listing and improving financial credibility. Mundra, citing the benefits of listing in capital markets, suggested to the State to prepare a list of 10-15 MSMEs that could

aspire for listing and Govt can hold seed equity in these through a dedicated corpus till they mature. Bhusari from NSE assured her support for the listing of state MSMEs on NSE Emerge platform. Gulshan Malik, Dy Managing Director from SBI appreciated the projects announced by the State and assured all support for industrial growth. SBI also signed an MOU for financing start-ups and MSMEs of Odisha. Ramann, CMD

SIDBI spoke about their commitment to create a Corpus for guaranteeing loans to MSMEs in Odisha which could be supplemented by the State to further enhance the quantum of guarantee. SIDBI would like to partner with the State for onboarding and facilitating digital funding support to MSMEs. On Infrastructure financing, PR Jaishankar, MD, IIFCL spoke about the relay and refinancing of debt

and suggested the state to take up a Hybrid annuity model for financing its infrastructure. Complementing the discussion, Moazzam Mekan, from International Finance Corporation, suggested the State to upscale the PPP portfolio through creating a project pipeline and incentivise projects through VGF support. Professor Mahadeo Jaiswal, Director IIM Sambalpur highlighted the need for skills and

trained manpower for the promotion of MSME. IIM Sambalpur has already taken up a pilot program to upgrade the marketing and financial service skills in the weavers' cluster of western Odisha. The State shall take forward all the concrete suggestions given by various speakers to strengthen the MSME eco-system, particularly ensuring timely and adequate finance availability to MSME in the State.

For infrastructure financing, State shall explore new options for structuring PPPs, creating a corpus for VGF support and engaging with departments to create a pipeline of projects. The session was attended by officials from Banks, FI, Industry Associations, Financial service providers, FinTech companies, Business Schools and Officials from Government Departments.

JSW to invest 1L CR Nod for Nasal Covid Vaccine

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The JSW Group has committed to invest another Rs one lakh crore in Odisha in various sectors including a mega greenfield steel plant in Paradip, its Chairman Sajjan Jindal said on Thursday. Addressing the Make in Odisha Conclave here, Mr.Jindal said, "Before Covid, nearly four years, we had committed to invest Rs 60,000 crore in Odisha, of which Rs 30,000 crore has already been invested and projects worth another Rs 30,000 crore under way.



Today we make a commitment to invest another Rs 1 lakh crore in the state in various sectors."

The JSW will invest the money in building a mega green-field steel plant project in Paradip, a silicon plant which will be used for making solar panels, renewable energy and many other areas, he said.

He praised Odisha Government for the work done for development of sports, transformation of schools and ancient temples and ease of doing business.

Mr.Jindal suggested the State Government to improve the infrastructure as the Government can only invest in it. "The more we will create infrastructure, the more investors will come," he said.

The JSW owner also said Odisha is going to be a trillion-dollar economy State in near future.

The Adani Group has already invested Rs 7,600 crore in Odisha and the planned capital investment will exceed Rs. 60,000 crores over the next ten years, said Karan Adani, Chief Executive Officer of Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd. (APSEZ) at the Conclave.

"Our investments in the state of Odisha continue to accelerate – and, over the last five years, the Adani Group has already put in Rs 7,600 crore as we have gone about developing LNG terminals, the Dhamra port and our mining activities."

The company's planned capital investment

Policies to attract investments

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Government has approved at least seven different policies to attract investment in the state and boost the economy. The decision regarding the State Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approving seven



policies and other decisions was announced by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallick in the Odisha Legislative Assembly on 30 November. The Cabinet at its 52nd meeting on Tuesday approved 17 proposals including seven policies.

The policies which have been approved were Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) 2022, Odisha Apparel and Technical Textiles Policy-2022, Export Promotion Policy 2022, Odisha Logistics Policy 2022, Odisha Civil Aviation Policy 2022, Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility Policy-2022, and Odisha Tourism Policy 2022.

The Cabinet has approved Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) 2022 for next five years. This policy aims to transform Odisha into "Industrial Hub of Eastern India" by promoting industries in thrust and

will exceed Rs 60,000 crore over the next ten years, he said.

The number of direct jobs created has already touched 4,500 while the planned investment will create tens of thousands of direct and indirect jobs and help reshape the economics of the state, he said.

Mr.Karan said that Adani Group's primary interests in Odisha are in ports and logistics, industrial clusters and special economic zones, power generation, transmission, and distribution, integrated natural resource management, renewable energy, data centres, defence, cement, and agri-businesses.

"We are leaders in all our core businesses – and Odisha is one of the most important states for the Adani Group," said the young industrialist.

He also informed that Dhamra port is the first port in India to receive environmental clearance for more than 300 million tons. It will have 35 berths with a massive 315 million tons in port capacity.

He announced that the LNG terminal of 5 million tons capacity in Dhamra will start commissioning in December this year. This entailed an investment of Rs 5,200 crore. "We have already planned to double this capacity within the next five years," he added.

Besides, Mr.Karan stated, the High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) of Odisha Government has approved Adan Group's proposal to set up a 4-million-tons-per-annum alumina refinery and a 30-million-tons-per-annum iron ore project in the state.

At the event, the Energy Department has executed three Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with leading Central PSUs for an investment of Rs. 51,000 crores in the State. The first was executed between GRIDCO and NTPC Green Energy for development of large-scale on-ground Solar, floating solar and pumped storage projects in the State. In the first phase, 1000 MW Pumped Storage Hydro and 2000 MW Solar projects will be developed with an investment of Rs. 17,000 crores.

The second was executed between GRIDCO and SJVN Ltd. for development of 2000 MW Pumped Storage Hydro Project and 2000MW ground based and floating Solar projects with cumulative investment of Rs. 30,000 crore.

The Third was also signed with the NLC for development of large-scale on-ground solar, floating solar, pumped storage hydro and green hydrogen projects in the State.

Initially, 600 MW Solar capacity and 5 Million Tonne Green Hydrogen production has been planned with an investment of Rs. 4,000 crore. These MoUs are expected to generate 1200 direct and 2600 indirect employment in the State. The Make in Odisha Conclave was started here on November 30 and will continue till December 4.

priority sectors of the state. The Odisha Apparel and Technical Textiles Policy-2022 will boost employment and enhance economic growth in the state. The policy includes incentives like Capital Investment Subsidy, Employment Cost Subsidy and Market Development Initiative.

The Export Promotion Policy 2022 will take Odisha to the league of top five exporting states, achieving an export target of Rs 3.5 lakh crore by 2026-27. The policy

provision aims to diversify Odisha's export basket by facilitating value addition, it said.

The Odisha Tourism Policy 2022 also aims to make the tourism and hospitality sector attractive for investors. The policy promotes sustainable and responsible tourism, and focuses on accelerated development of the tourism sector.

This apart, the Cabinet also approved a proposal for assessment of physical fitness for appointment to various Categories of Group B and C posts, make Odia movie Daman tax free, examination for junior stenographer, junior typist, data entry operator and junior clerks, the note said. The Cabinet also approved a proposal ensuring a budget of Rs 294.10 crore for post harvest processing of farmers' produce to augment their income with better marketing facilities.

New Delhi: World's first intra-nasal vaccine for COVID developed by India has got approval from



the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for restricted use in emergency situations in the age group of 18 and above.

This was stated here today by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh while chairing the meeting of the

KIIT receives Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar 2022

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) on Wednesday was conferred the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar

2022. The award was given away by President Droupadi Murmu to the founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta. Expressing his gratitude to the President and Government of India for bestowing the honour, Dr Samanta said the award has been given in recognition of KIIT's sustained focus towards development of sports since its inception.

"Along with education, we have strengthened sports and sports-related infrastructure. The encouragement and support of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik towards sports has also inspired KIIT to develop and take sports to the next level in Odisha," said Dr Samanta. He dedicated the award to all the students and staff members of



Societies of Autonomous Institutions of Department of Biotechnology where he also informed about the historic decision to merge the 14 societies of Biotechnology Institutes into a single society in the interest of convenient functioning, cost-effectiveness and integrated working.

The Minister lauded the role of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and its PSU, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance (BIRAC) for supporting the development of world's first Intranasal

vaccine for COVID by Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL). Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Product development and Clinical trials were funded by the Department of biotechnology, Government of India and BIRAC under the Mission COVID Suraksha Program. This vaccine received approval under restricted Use in emergency situations for ages 18 and above for primary 2 dose schedule, homologous booster doses.

distinct identity for itself across the globe due to its state-of-the-art sports infrastructure and for grooming Olympians. The university has sponsored the education and training of hundreds of sports persons over the years. KIIT has produced many elite athletes including Olympians such as Dutee Chand, CA Bhavani Devi, Shivpal Singh, Amit Rohidas.

KIIT.

KIIT has been at the forefront of the promotion of sports for over 20 years. It has established a

Join juggernaut; CM

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Offering the better than the best, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday invited investors from all sectors to join the Juggernaut.

Welcoming to industry leaders, investors and all



delegates present here for the 3rd edition of the Make in Odisha Conclave, the Chief Minister said, "Welcome to the Land of new opportunities! Welcome to Odisha! Odisha is fast emerging as a major investment destination in the country."

Odisha is a progressive state with clear focus on transformation in all sectors. Stable governance is the cornerstone of peace, prosperity and progress, he said. Secretary to CM V K Pandian moderated the meeting.

"We have an unprecedented mandate from the electorate due to our continued performance over the last two decades. Our citizen centric governance model has set global benchmarks. Initiatives like Mo Sarkar and 5T charter give dignity and respect to our people," said Mr.Patnaik.

He said the State Government's inclusive development agenda emphasizes on education, health, skill development, agriculture, women's empowerment, tribal development and so on.

The State had been able to reduce poverty by 50%, while doubling the farmers income over the last two decades.

The fiscal prudence and economic management has been appreciated across the country. Odisha is one of the few states with adequate revenues to undertake large scale infrastructure projects, he pointed out.

"Our investor-friendly initiatives and transformatory governance has put us on a journey of progress and prosperity. I invite each one of you to come join us on this journey. I assure you that our government will run the extra mile to make you comfortable in our state," he told the industrialists.

State's new Industrial Policy provides the support and incentives which are beyond the best in the country. The State has launched new policies in the sectors of tourism, renewable energy, apparel and textile, food processing, exports and so on, he added.

Odisha is a major force in the field of mining and mineral-based industries. The State has attracted major investments in Steel and Aluminum projects and will emerge as the global hub in these sectors by the turn of this decade.

"However, we are ambitious to develop Odisha in other sectors too. We are making a huge capital investment in improving our transport infrastructure – expressways, railways, airports, sea ports," the Chief Minister said.

The State is a pioneer in electricity reforms and has successfully created the framework and investment towards providing quality affordable energy.

"Odisha is destined to become a trillion-dollar economy in the near future. We will emerge as the gateway to East and South East Asia. I invite you to come and invest in a New Odisha," he appealed to investors across the globe.

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Charlie Chaplin - Remembering the legend on his 133th birth anniversary

Today, 16 April, is the 133th birth anniversary of Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin - or just Charlie Chaplin as he is more commonly known.

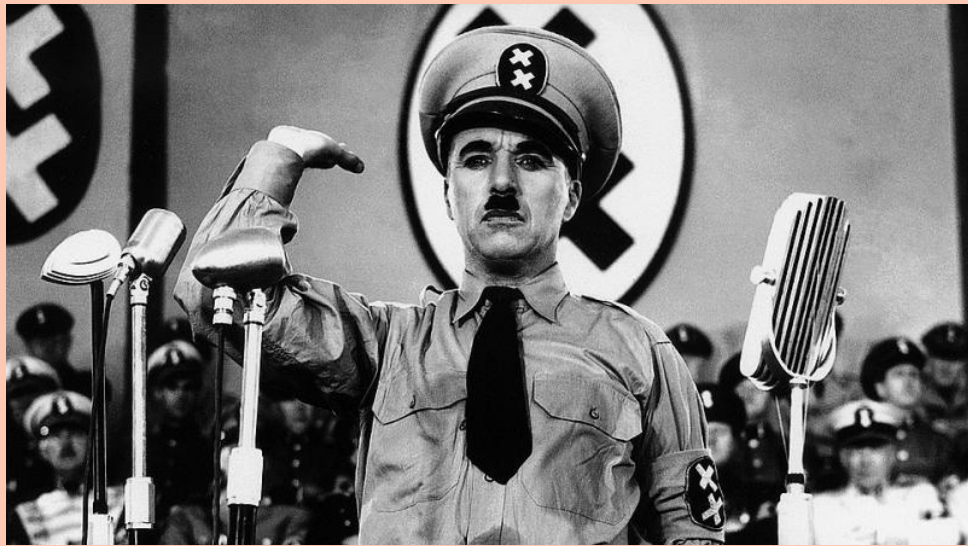
Chaplin wrote, directed, produced, edited, starred in, and composed music for most of his films. Multitalented as he was, the English comic actor rose to fame in the era of silent film and became a worldwide icon through his screen persona in The Tramp, which became a sobriquet.

Chaplin satirised Adolf Hitler in two of his movies, The Great Dictator (1940), and Modern Times (1936), as a "grim contemplation on the automatization of the individual". Considered his most successful commercial film, the movie is lauded by critics, especially for the famous climate monologue.

"Chaplin could never really be outdated," remarks Vineeth, who is an ad executive by profession. "In some form or another, he will reappear, even though he may not be a central character today, unlike earlier times," he adds.

Vineeth, observing that a number of ads too were modelled on Chaplinesque characters, says "The poor, innocent worker looking for happiness in small things of life made Charlie Chaplin a comic

hero, but his was not just (plain) buffoonery, his comedy often made you cry even while you were laughing all the way."



Throughout the world, even to generations born way after Chaplin bid adieu, he is easily identified by his trademark style of performance. Walking in a geometrical movement with a mop of hair under his Bowler's hat, a wide grin on his face and a little mascara in his eyes, sporting a toothbrush moustache, a tight coat, baggy pants, big sized shoes and holding a curved stick in his hand - all his mannerisms have now become iconic just like the man himself. Hariharan Subramanyam, a Tax Consultant in Hyderabad, said "I have fond memories of The Circus, which

finds the Little Tramp joining a travelling circus and falling in love with a beautiful horse rider (Merna Kennedy). A tightrope sequence featuring

Chaplin and several monkeys is brilliant. The film earned him a special award for writing, directing, producing and acting at the very first Oscar ceremony itself." Phillip Joshua, a Corporate Communications professional from Hyderabad, said "The movie Kid is deeply entrenched in my memory. The great bond between the kid and his foster father played by Chaplin is memorable. The adopted son Jackie goes forth gaily to break the neighbouring windows while Chaplin follows about, as a glass repairer to the rescue. Thus they do a thriving business, in spite of the suspicious police." Chaplin believed his first influence to be his mother, who entertained him as a child by sitting at the window and mimicking passers-by: "It was through watching her that I learned not only how to express emotions with my hands and face, but also how to observe and study people," he once said. Chaplin was a perfectionist, and his financial independence enabled him to spend years on the development and production of a picture.

Amitabh@80: Still a delight, keeps getting better, say directors old and new

Mumbai: He's 80 and going stronger than ever, spooling in celluloid 'miles' with the roles rolling in and directors still lining up to sign him on. Amitabh Bachchan, they say, was and is still an exciting actor, perhaps the best there ever has been. From Ramesh Sippy who directed him in the 1975 cult film 'Sholay' to Ayan Mukerji who helmed his latest 'Brahmastra' 47 years

screen with 'Zanjeer' in 1973. There was no looking back after that, and storytellers across five decades are still trying to decode the success of the man who keeps on reinventing himself - the 'angry young man' of 'Zanjeer?', 'Don?' and 'Deewaar?', the amiable, fun professor of 'Chupke Chupke?' and the conflicted singing star of 'Abhimaan?' in the 1970s.

cult role and he stood out, and 'Bombay to Goa', where he played a lighter and a more boisterous role, which had impressed me a lot. We signed him? A few months later 'Zanjeer' and 'Deewar' released. By the time 'Sholay' came, he was the rising star, the veteran filmmaker added. Sippy, who also worked with Bachchan in 'Shakti', 'Shaan' and 'Akayla', said it is ex-

some people. I write my films for him. I have been searching for my next film for some years now," Balki told PTI. The filmmaker's other ventures -- 'Ki & Ka?', 'Pad Man?' and 'Chup: Revenge of the Artist?' - feature the veteran star in a special appearance. "There is one word to describe Amitji and it is Amitabh Bachchan. There are no other words... It has become like a character itself. It has so much meaning, you can say persona, dignity, grace, powerful, voice, performance, everything being put together. There is a character called Amitabh Bachchan. That charac-

ter is a rare phenomenon," Balki said. For new-age directors - Ayan Mukerji and Ribhu Dasgupta -- the opportunity to direct Bachchan is nothing short of a dream. While Mukerji cast Bachchan as a guru in his astraverse, sci-fi film, Dasgupta directed Bachchan in the TV series 'Yudh' (2014) and 2016 mystery-thriller 'Te3n?'. Dasgupta has tried hard to keep his fan boy self out of the picture. "I come from Kolkata and we worship him there. There is an Amitabh Bachchan temple in Kolkata. But when I directed him, I

had to keep the fan boy out. Also, sir knows everything, where the camera should be, what and where the light should be, etc. He sees what the person in front is doing," Dasgupta said. This year, Bachchan has already had three theatrical releases -- Nagraj Manjule-directed 'Jhund?', Ajay Devgn's 'Runway 34?' and 'Brahmastra?'. His latest film 'Goodbye', directed by Vikas Bahl, opened on Friday. He is now awaiting the release of 'Uunchai', directed by Sooraj Barjatya.



later, Bachchan is the man for all seasons and all kinds of films. "What a wonderful innings it has been and he just keeps getting better. He has played so many varied roles in comedy, drama, romance, dancing and songs. He can do anything and everything perfectly. Has there been anybody bigger or better? I doubt it," Sippy told PTI as the star celebrates his 80th birthday on Tuesday. It's been just five days since his latest release 'Goodbye?'. "For me, to have Mr. Bachchan walk in my film is a big deal. He is the father of Indian cinema. He is the most respected person in the film industry," Mukerji added. Making his debut with the relatively low profile 'Saat Hindustani?' in 1969, remembered all these years primarily for serving as his launchpad, Bachchan exploded on the silver

Then came the 1980s with films such as 'Shakti?' and 'Silsila?'. The 1990s saw a slump in Bachchan's career and many of films, including 'Mrityudata' and 'Lal Baadshah', tanked at the box office. Bachchan was back in the reckoning the following decade as a television host in 'Kaun Banega Crorepati?' in 2000. Twenty-two years later, the show is still running. This is also the time Bachchan transitioned into age appropriate characters in films. It started with 'Mohabbatein?' and continues with varied roles, be it 'Pink?', 'Cheeni Kum?' or 'Jhund?'. Sippy recalled the casting for 'Sholay?', which saw Bachchan and Dharmendra as two friends 'thick as thieves?'. "I had seen two of his earlier films -- 'Anand' in which he played a serious role, it was a diffi-

citing to see the megastar recreate magic on screen, both the big and small even after all these years. "There have been a lot of fine actors and there is absolute respect for all but he definitely stands above," he said. They may be in awe of him, but all of Bachchan's directors have experimented with the roles they offered him. R Balki, who first worked with Bachchan on an advertisement campaign, gave him 'Cheeni Kum', where Bachchan is a 60-something arrogant chef romancing a much younger Tabu, and 'Paa?' that sees the star playing a 12-year-old boy afflicted with progeria. "Every filmmaker thinks of Mr Bachchan first, everybody would love to get a chance to work with him. We all came to the cinema being his fans. I was luckier than

Mehreen opts for 'acupointlift'

Stars often undergo cosmetic and corrective surgeries on various parts of the body. But actress Mehreen took a less-trodden path to maintain her looks. A couple of days ago, she visited the famous Dr John Tsgaris, a wellness and acupuncture specialist in

reputed to be the best in the world. "I don't believe in fillers and botox!" the Raja The Great star says, adding, from inserting needles painlessly into specific spots to finally cleaning up the face, the entire process took an hour. "Initially three pins were put on my



London, for a procedure on her face. Mehreen, who says she prefers traditional methods of treatment to medicines, explains that acupuncture can be extended for cosmetic procedures too. The actress first read about the doctor in a magazine, and wanted to get the treatment done by him as he is

ears and then on my face. This is the first time I am undergoing such a treatment and it's been great and amazing. I could see the results immediately," she says. "Facial acupuncture makes my skin look younger, smoother and healthier. It addresses not only signs of aging, but also the skin's overall health and appearance," shares Mehreen, adding that the treatment boosts the production of collagen and makes the skin tauter. Mehreen, who is also an adventure freak, recently did some diving in the Maldives. A certified scuba diver, she relishes taking up adventure sports whenever she visits an island country. "I love taking up tasks that push me and I love adventure sports. Being adventurous is like therapy. It changed me a lot. Underwater life makes me feel very peaceful," she says and shares that it gave her a different perspective on life.

India's Infrastructure Financing Challenges



Pradeep Kumar Panda

Infrastructure contributes significantly to economic development both by increasing productivity and by providing amenities that enhance the quality of life. The impact of infrastructure on economic growth is well documented. Elasticities of output with respect to various stocks of infrastructure indicate that the transport and communication sectors play a dominant role in explaining the variations in GDP and its subsectors in Indian Economy.

India has one of the largest road networks in the world, aggregating to 3.34 million km. If India has to achieve the kind of economic growth rates that have now become a matter of common aspiration, infrastructure must become even more of a priority than it has been. Inadequate infrastructure acts as significant constraint on India's growth potential and retards GDP growth rate by 1-2% p.a. (estimates); acts as a major barrier to Foreign Direct Investment

and hinders the objective of Inclusive development.

The present condition and stage of development of state highways and major district roads varies widely from state to state. The status of major district roads is particularly worrisome. The main reason for this state of affairs is that the funds for the development of this secondary system are very inadequate. The National Highways are provided with reasonable funds for their development at the Central level while the rural roads receive the lion's share at the State level. In the process, the secondary system of roads is neglected.

The growth of population has put urban infrastructure and services under severe strain. Smaller cities have found it particularly difficult to cope with the increasing demands on services because of inadequate financial resources. Urban areas in India, present a grim picture with regard to availability of basic infrastructure.

Urban infrastructure investment suffers from the lack of resources resulting from inadequate municipal finances and low user charges. With the state of Central and State finances being what it is, precious little can be done by way of downward devolution. For the provision of public goods, there is little alternative to the generation

of local resources through local taxes, in particular property taxes, which should be buoyant in the face of rapid urbanisation and an incipient housing boom.

City roads are inadequate for traffic requirements, leading to congestion and fast deterioration in quality of roads due to excess loads. The state of services reflects the deterioration in the quality of city environments.

At present, developing countries spend over \$200 billion a year on infrastructure development. About 90 per cent of this is sourced from Government tax revenues or funds intermediated by Governments, which bear almost all project risks. On an average, half of Government investment spending is accounted for by the infrastructure sectors. In addition, maintenance and operating expenses command a high share of current expenditures. However, Governments' ability to spend on infrastructure has been severely constrained, partly due to poor performance and pricing and partly because Government budgets have come under tightness due to macroeconomic reasons.

All constraints to private sector investment must be loosened so that it can at least partially compensate for the lower than desirable level of public investment.

There is no escape from raising the public sector levels of infrastructure investment since some infrastructure services are really public goods, whereas others exhibit partial public good characteristics.

Issues such as problem in clearances, difficulty in land acquisition, delay in decision-making, pricing model of infrastructure projects; inadequate dispute resolution mechanism, etc. need to be addressed, to make infrastructure a lucrative investment. There is also a need to create a facilitating atmosphere and set up suitable protections to encourage bigger participation by the private organizations in infrastructure projects. An elementary prerequisite for advancement of investment in infrastructure sector is a favourable policy environment, helpful in appealing private and overseas investment, while shielding community welfares and benefits.

Given that most infrastructure sectors exhibit some public good characteristics, investment can be maximized through public private partnerships. If the achievable return to an infrastructure activity through the levy of user charges is, say, 70 per cent of market returns, a public subsidy of 30 per cent would elicit market based private investment, and the enterprise can then run on commercial basis.

Viability gap funding mechanism may attract Rs 600 billion in the infrastructure sector through public-private partnerships. Under the new scheme, for Built-Operate-Transfer projects in the road sector, the government will provide a subsidy in the form of an annuity flow to meet the shortfall between anticipated revenue and loan repayment obligations. The shortfall may arise out of various types of risk involved in the project. Armed with Government's guarantees to bridge any revenue shortfall, the executing companies will find it easier to tie up with financial institutions to raise resources.

In developed countries, power infrastructure projects raise finances from institutional investors (insurance companies, pension funds, endowments, etc.) either through bonds markets, or through direct private placements. In India, the contractual savings institutions (LIC, GIC, PFs, EPF) that have long-term liabilities make natural investors in private power projects. Apart from these institutions, other institutional investors such as charitable and religious trusts can also be a source of substantial funds. With the development of an active and liquid market for securitised corporate debt, mutual funds, commercial banks and financial institutions could also emerge as potentially large investors. All this calls for substantial reform in the

debt market.

The Pfandbrief system in Germany is an effective example of private financing of public infrastructure. In this case, it is large mortgage banks that pool local authority debt into "pfandbriefs", which is effective credit enhancement of entities that may not otherwise be creditworthy. Pfandbriefs have succeeded in keeping up their credit quality for more than a hundred years, through hyper inflation and two world wars. There is a complex system of government guarantees that underlies this system. Thought needs to be given to how such innovative systems can be derived to generate greater private financing of infrastructure.

In the United States, municipal bonds, having been made tax free by the Federal Government enable local governments to tap the large U.S. capital market to finance local urban and other infrastructure. Because of the tax free status recognising the public good element in urban infrastructure, they could raise finances at lower cost, thus keeping user charges at affordable levels or municipal taxes at acceptable rates. The institution of municipal bonds provides internalised incentives for local authorities to be fiscally prudent: defaults on municipal bond servicing causes great hardship.

Chile represents one of the best environments in the world for private investment in infrastructure. A World

Economic Forum report on private infrastructure financing in Latin America gave it the top ranking, far above any other country in the region, due to its macroeconomic and political stability, but also due to its extremely well-developed government services, clear information on policy changes, transparency and openness of statistics publications, and dialogue and decision-making process. The financial sector is relatively well developed, with a stock market capitalization of around 144 percent of GDP, a reasonably well developed corporate bond market, and a liquid market in interest rate derivatives. The financial sector has developed in tandem with Chile's privatized pension system.

China's infrastructure construction picked up in late 1980s, and accelerated dramatically after 2000 as the authorities aimed to increase domestic demand and reduce bottlenecks to the booming economy. In the past decade, fixed asset investment as a share of GDP has almost doubled, about one quarter of which is related to infrastructure development. Local governments have been the one of the major drivers behind China's infrastructure boom since obtaining economic autonomy in the reform process begun more than thirty years ago.

Following a 1994 tax reform that allocated a greater share of taxes to the central government, they have become eager to promote economic growth to generate additional revenues. Local authorities have thus poured resources into infrastructure in an effort to accelerate economic activity and productivity. To achieve these objectives, local governments are actively involved in mobilizing financing for infrastructure projects. For example, they provide guarantees—implicit and explicit—for bank loans to infrastructure projects, and in some cases provide subsidies directly for infrastructure SPVs to boost these entities' profits and credit ratings. These factors may partially explain the rising share of infrastructure loans in the total loan portfolios of the state-owned commercial banks.

A great deal of work needs to be done to devise methodologies for the development of public private partnerships: this also requires excellence in public sector management. None of this is possible unless infrastructure is productive: it must either improve productivity so that the gains result in higher tax revenues, or directly through the collection of user charges.

The Author is an Economist Bhubaneswar

Editor To Letter

Dear Editor,

Country needs commuter-sharing app

Transport is currently the most polluting sector in the world, so the UK's Bristol City Council has launched a new app called 'My Journey' that seeks to reduce these emissions. The new commuter-sharing platform is a free online service that brings together commuters from the same workplace to share driving, biking, and walking routes. This innovative platform solves several problems such as reducing transportation costs, congestion and pollution. The UK government is encouraging businesses and organisations to sign up for commuter-sharing platforms and create business centers so that their employees can enjoy the benefits of ridesharing. With petrol prices rising throughout the year, the app is believed to help ease congestion during rush hour and help residents save money. Bristol City Council says it has reduced its carbon footprint by 87% through its shared commute platform. Already achieved more in reducing pollution between 2005 and 2021 as the city has set a goal to become CO2 zero by 2030. The 'My Journey' platform is a very helpful for commuters and easy to adjust for sustainable travel packages. With more than 25,000 employees, this is a great opportunity to help reduce air pollution and save money by sharing elevators in Bristol says industrialists. The online platform handles the logistics of connecting people comprehensively and is very easy to set up. All it is needed to do, according to the Bristol company, is to create a hub and let employees know about it. Bristol businesses are heavily pushing the platform to encourage their employees to work more sustainably through this app. Therefore our country especially in metropolitan cities also needs this kind of app to reduce air pollution and governments should encourage this kind of methods.

VijayKumar H K Raichur, Karnataka Environmentalist

India as a vision: From Multiple Perspective



Saikat Kumar Basu

We live in a country called India. But is this just a piece of land that we inhabit, a biogeographical area in the south of the continent of Asia? Is this just a nation that we are all born and grow up, work, age and die over time? Is this just a vast diverse land that has been in existence from time immemorial, that we all take for granted? What did India mean in the past? How do we define India at our present time or how do we see the nation grow or develop in the not so distant future? Else, we may also ask this enigmatic question what is India or what does India mean for you?

We may all possibly have different feelings, visions, mixed emotions and love for the country we live in or where we were born. But actually it is important to explore the true meaning of India for us. India historically is a vast nation that historically stretches from the borders of Afghanistan to the modern day Myanmar and spreads to Sri Lanka and other island nations in the south across the Indian Ocean. The current political international boundaries of India following independence from British colonial rule on 15th of August, 1947 is still unsettled in various parts of the country following brutal fights

and disputes. The hard socio-economic and geopolitical realities of the partition of British India into India and Pakistan that lead to unimaginable human misery, violent riots, communal violence, gang rapes, looting, arsenal and loss of innocent lives marks the birth of India and Pakistan as modern sovereign states.

India, the vast biogeographic region stretches from Kashmir (north) to Kanyakumari (south) lengthwise; and from the Rann of Kutchch (west) to Kohima (east) breadthwise, is rich with her unique ethnic diversity, rich heritage and a glorious history. A land with more than 22 languages and over 540 dialects, numerous tribal communities, forest residents, bustling cities and towns, dotted with villages and hamlets; and is unimaginably diverse in ethnic, social, religious and cultural parameters. This is the only country that has been the birthplace of four world religions, namely Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism. All other major religious groups such as Islam, Christianity and Judaism are also represented in varied proportion in the present Indian population. A nation that is set to become the country with the largest reported human population by 2030 overtaking China, is the seventh largest nation on this planet.

India has passed through a spectacular and glorious past with an intermingling of various races and nations across the Indian subcontinent. They include numerous Indian aboriginals and their clans, the Sakas,

Huns, Kushans, Gurjars, Maurya, Guptas, Palas, Senas, Ahoms, Nagas, Kukid, Tripuri, Lepcha, Gorkha, Mongols, Greeks, Central Asians, Iranians, Afghans, Turks, Tibetans, Chinese, Burmese, Syeds, Ibrahims, Lodhis, Mughals, Pathans, Lankans, Indo-Chinese, Nepalis, Bhutanese, Sikkimese to mention only a handful. India is a land of great ethnic mixture with lofty Himalayas in the north, desert and salty marshlands in the west to the great Deccan peninsula in the south and the seven sister states comprising the Indian northeast which is biologically, geographically and ethnically continuous with South East Asia. Thus, emergent India is a vast market and corridor connecting Middle East and Central Asia to South East Asia, a region that has endemic economic and geopolitical opportunities.

In spite of the pressure of a massive population, stagnant economy, lack of ample infrastructural developments, slow growth of the economy, high level of corruption, nepotism, political bankruptcy and lack of credible statesman and visionaries with poor leadership, India has emerged successfully as a global powerhouse. India is a major global market for cheaper agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, coal, different minerals, timber products, garments and textiles, plastics, numerous chemical industries, and other industrial products and tools. The rich natural resources of the nation has sustained and fuelled the economic growth of the country post independence along with the support and

hard work of both skilled and non-skilled labourers. India is also one of the biggest workforce supplier to the entire planet by virtue of its gigantic population, educational and technical skills, advanced training as well as cheaper price for their service.

India, currently has the fourth largest army on the planet and is a nuclear powered nation; ranking among the top 10 countries across the seven continents. India has reached the status of the sixth largest global economy through her economic development and liberalization policies over the past four to five decades; and by attracting both direct and indirect foreign investments. The nation has made significant progress in the vast areas of modern education, science and technology and engineering with special emphasis to physics, chemistry, biology, statistics, agriculture, pharmacy, biotechnology, medical sciences, space technology, computer science, electrical, electronics, marine and power engineering, information technology, journalism and mass communication; as well in various disciplines related to humanities and sociology.

Indian arts and architecture has a glorious history since the days of the Indus Valley Civilization. The monumental art works depicted in the historic sites of Ajanta, Ellora, Khajuraho, Ekeoganta, Sanchi, Puri, Agra, Lucknow, Mysore, Chennai, Bengal, Rajputana and other parts of India from north to

south is an awe inspiring experience for any art critic and art lover. The country provides one of the finest examples of art, artistic superiority in designs, craftsmanship as well as ingenuity. Great names such as Ganesh Paine, Bikash Bhattacharya, Nandalal Bose, Abanindranath Tagore, Ramkinkar Baij, M. F. Husain, Wasim Kapoor to mention only a handful names. Legendary cultural icons of India Raja Rammohan Roy, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Chitanyadev, Sri Ramkrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekananda, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Chittaranjan Das, Rabindranath Tagore, Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, Ritwik Ghatak, Muni Premchand, P. C. Roy, C. V. Raman, J. C. Bose, Satyen Bose, Meghnad Saha, Homi Jahangir Bhabha, J. R. D. Tata, Abhijit Binayek Sen, Amartya Sen, Mother Teresa, Bhimsen Joshi, Birju Maharaj, Kelucharan Mahapatra, Lata Mungeshkar, Bhupen Hazarika and others have made us proud as Indian citizens. But at the same time other than cricket, hockey, badminton and kabadi, India's phenomenal failure in proving herself in various disciplines of modern sports is a monumental pain that every Indian carries in his/her back.

But truly speaking and expressing, India represents a phenomenon for not just a country, but as our cultural consciousness. This ancient land and civilizations has provided us with the knowledge of Vedas, Puranas,

Upanishads, Ayurveda, Artha Shastra, Gita, Tripitaka, Jatakas, Guru Granth Sahib and other enlightened texts and scriptures to enrich our life and knowledge. India, a megabiodiverse country is not just a mixture of unique ecosystems such as mountains, coastal and estuarine areas, islands, deserts, peninsula, hot and cold deserts, open grasslands, mangroves, deciduous and coniferous forests, rich diversity of wildlife, forests and biodiversity; but a nation that stands united in spite of all her diversities and differences.

Indian democracy has crossed long perilous journey with its subsequent ups and downs and in this new millennium she has made her global presence felt across the planet. Truly, India could have reached great heights if the managing mechanism and the prestige procedures has been better managed; but, none the less...the nation has made its mark on the global platform geopolitically, socio-culturally, economically, militarily and commercially. The ancient civilization has surfaced as a modern sovereign nation with independent foreign and economic policies and an alert global presence. India is not just an ancient civilization with billion plus population; but it has moved up from her Third World status to an aggressively developing country band and an emergent global superpower.

378 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata, West Bengal India

India assumes Presidency of UN Security Council for month of December

UNITED NATIONS: India on Thursday assumed the rotating Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of

look forward to the month ahead." India assumes the monthly rotating Presidency of the Security Council from December 1, the second time after August 2021 that India will preside over the Council during its two-year tenure as elected UNSC member.



December, during which it will host signature events on countering terrorism and reformed multilateralism.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj will sit in the President's seat at the horse-shoe table. Days before India's Presidency, she met Secretary General Antonio Guterres as well as President of the General Assembly Csaba Korosi and discussed priorities during its presidency of the powerful body.

"Today, delighted to call on Secretary General @antonioguterres. Discussed the priorities and programme of work ahead of India's December Presidency in the @UN Security Council," Kamboj tweeted on Tuesday.

On Monday, Kamboj met Korosi, who tweeted, "Always a great pleasure to meet with India's PR @ruchirakamboj. Today's discussions focused on India's presidency of the Security Council, which begins on Thursday. I

India's 2021-2022 term on the Council ends December 31, with Kamboj, India's first woman Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York sitting in the President's seat at the powerful horseshoe table for the month. Countering terrorism and reformed multilateralism will be among the key priorities for India during its UNSC presidency that will culminate in the completion of its two-year tenure as non-permanent member of the 15-nation powerful body.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will travel to New York to preside over "signature events" in the Security Council on renewed orientation for reformed multilateralism on December 14 and on countering terrorism on December 15. As is customary, on the first day of its Presidency there will be the Permanent Representatives' Breakfast, Political Coordinators' Meeting and Consultations on the monthly Programme of work. Kamboj will then brief reporters in the UN Headquarters on India's priorities for the month and the programme of work for the Council.

Ayush ministry makes a U-turn on action against Ramdev's pharmacy for misleading ads

NEW DELHI: The Ayush ministry has made a U-turn on misleading advertisements of Ayush products contradicting its stand and the minister's statement in Parliament, an RTI reply has revealed. After Kannur-based ophthalmologist Dr K V Babu complained against dubious and misleading advertisements by Baba Ramdev's Haridwar-based

"The Drug Policy Section of the Ministry of AYUSH is misinterpreting the stay on Rule 170, which was added just to reinforce the existing Acts, as a stay on the whole of DMR (OA) 1954 section 3(d) and D & C Act 1945, section 106(1), which prohibits the advertisements of the drugs under schedule." Babu said he has now written to the Ayush minister



Sarbananda Sonowal for "wrong interpretation of the sub-judice nature of Rule 170 of D & C Rules 1945, thereby exonerating the violators of DMR (OA) 1954" and requested him to intervene on the matter. The RTI activist said the U-turn by the ministry is contradictory to the statement of the minister in the Parliament in March 2022 and their communications to the state licensing authority

in April and then in September, asking them to initiate action against Divya Pharmacy under DMR (OA) 1954. Even the file notings of the Ayush ministry indicate that though Rule 170 is sub-judice, action can be taken under DMR (OA) 1954.

"If the present position of the Ministry of Ayush, which is contradictory to the rules of the land, is implemented, it will lead to flooding of the media with misleading advertisements and will prove a public health disaster," Babu added. Sonowal in the parliament had said that "the protocol or guidelines are in force to restrict Ayush products of medicinal use with dubious claims and for selling certain medicines under medical supervision."

"The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and Rules there under encompass the provisions for prohibition of misleading advertisements and exaggerated claims of drugs and medicinal substances, including Ayush medicines and for the penalty to be imposed on the defaulters," he had said in the Rajya Sabha on March 22. "The State/UT Governments are empowered to enforce the legal provisions under Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs & Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, and rules made thereunder," he added. The minister had also said that media regulators have also been approached to prevent the publication of inappropriate advertisements promoting sale of Ayurvedic and other such medicines in public interest. Despite the minister's statement, Patanjali Ayurved products continue to advertise in newspapers, Babu said.

in its reply to Babu on November 22, the ministry reiterated the same stand taken by the state licensing authority, and said, "the matter is under sub-judice and pending" before the Mumbai High Court and the "necessary action may be taken subject to the final decision of the court."

The ministry didn't correct the state authority that action can be taken under Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) 1954, 3 (d) and Drugs and Cosmetic Rules 1945, 106 (1). Under these sections, advertisements of drugs for 54 and 51 diseases that are under the schedule are prohibited. The complaint was against an advertisement claiming that Divya Pharmacy's Lipidom could reduce cholesterol.

"In my complaint in February this year, I had sought action against the misleading advertisement under Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) 1954. I made no complaint under Rule 170. They knowingly cited Rule 170, which they knew could not be used, and flagged it to state that the matter is sub-judice," Babu told The New Indian Express.

"Faith in oneself and continuous hard work is the key ingredient for a successful business conglomerate" - Shri. Sanjay C. Kirloskar

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Xavier Institute of Management, XIM University, Bhubaneswar celebrated its **Foundation Day Ceremony** on the **30th November 2022**, at the Old Campus,

Among the eminent dignitaries present were, **Shri. Rajive Kaul**, Chairman Emeritus, Board of Governors. **Jerome Cutinha, S.J.**, Chairman, Board of Governors, **Fr. Antony R Uvari, S.J.**,



Vice Chancellor, XIM University and **Fr. S. Antony Raj, S.J.**, Registrar, XIM University. On the occasion, **Shri. Sanjay C. Kirloskar** was conferred the Honorary Doctoral Degree in Business Management by the University. He was felicitated by **Fr. Jerome Cutinha, S.J.** The event commenced with the welcome note by **Shri. Rajive Kaul** wherein he spoke about the Kirloskar Ltd. and their efforts towards nation building right from pre-independence era till date.

Some employees of the University were also felicitated with long service medals for their dedication and loyalty. This ceremony was conducted by **Fr. S. Antony Raj, S.J.** The event ended with vote of thanks by **Fr. Antony R. Uvari, S.J.**, wherein he expressed his gratitude to the Chief Guest and all stakeholders of the University for their constant support and contributions towards institution building.

XIM University has been scaling great heights with the support and dedication of all the stakeholders with each passing year. The University fraternity and invited guests had an opportunity to listen to the talk delivered by **Shri. Sanjay C. Kirloskar, Chairman & Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd.** Under his leadership Kirloskar Brothers Ltd. is reckoned as India's largest pump manufacturer with international presence across various other nations. He spoke in-depth about how the focus should be society first and women empowerment. All business endeavors must be transparent and taken forward with commitment and honesty.

Inter, graduate students are new HIV / AIDS risk groups in AP

Vijayawada: The good news for Andhra Pradesh is HIV/AIDS appears to be on a declining trend, being 0.87 per cent at present within general public from 6.74 per cent in 2010-2011, apart from 0.05 per cent antenatal cases presently from 0.46 per cent some 12 years ago.

The bad news is that youngsters pursuing intermediate and graduation in several educational institutions, in addition to those working in various sectors, have become new risk groups in the recent past, as they are getting infected with HIV/AIDS. They are unaware of their health status and spreading infection among their partners.

It is APSACS (AP State Aids Control Society's) mandate to educate and help vulnerable know their HIV/AIDS status, provide antiretroviral therapy to infected patients and suppress their viral load through medication by taking up targeted interventions. But APSACS has limited itself to focusing on so-called high-risk groups of female sex workers, MSMs, transgender people and others.

Health experts say unless youngsters are sensitised about their high risk behaviour and given antiretroviral therapy after testing positive to infection, spread of HIV/AIDS cannot be controlled. They maintain that fearing dip in their admissions, certain educational institutions are not imposing any curbs on high-risk behaviour within their students. A team leader of an HIV/AIDS infected people's organisation said, "It is time APSACS came up with new strategies, especially targeting younger generation. They must be sensitised about HIV/AIDS, subject to tests and provided treatment, so that they can be part of a health society."

While this is so, HIV/AIDS-infected people are complaining about denial of admission to them in hospitals for surgeries under YSR Aarogyasri scheme. They want restoration of Foster Care Scheme, wherein each infected child gets monthly financial support of Rs 500.

They say the scheme had been discontinued during Covid-19. They want government to provide nutritious diet to such children to help them survive. Some of such children have even been orphaned or abandoned.

HIV/AIDS-infected people say state government should sanction monthly pension of Rs 2,500 to all the affected and not just a few. In addition, they want an electric crematorium for themselves, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to deal with dead bodies of infected patients. None is coming forward to support their family members in performing their last rites.

A section of youngsters has welcomed the newly introduced monthly pack of pre-exposure prophylaxis medicine to prevent HIV infection being offered at concessional rate of Rs 425 against its regular price of Rs 2,000. But they say lack of proper knowledge about its usage is resulting youngsters giving up safe sex practices. They are thus becoming either vulnerable to infection or are infecting others.

PM Modi calls for end to war as India takes G20 presidency

NEW DELHI: India opened its G20 presidency on Thursday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling for an end to war, implicitly rebuking longstanding ally Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. New Delhi and Moscow have ties dating back to the Cold War, and Russia remains by far India's biggest arms supplier.

"breadbasket of Europe", has periodically disrupted grain shipments and raised the spectre of a global food crisis.

Modi said India would "seek to depoliticise the global supply of food, fertilizers and medical products so that geo-political tensions do not lead to humanitarian crises."



India has shied away from explicit condemnations of Russia over the war despite its economy being stung by the soaring oil and commodities prices that followed.

Modi has pressed Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the conflict, including at a face-to-face meeting on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in September. He reiterated that call in an article outlining India's ambitions for the G20 forum -- of which Russia is a member -- released by the government and published by the Telegraph newspaper in Britain.

"Today, we do not need to fight for our survival - our era need not be one of war. Indeed, it must not be one!" Modi wrote. The invasion of Ukraine, a country known as the

"As in our own families, those whose needs are the greatest must always be our first concern."

New Delhi has long walked a tightrope in its relations with the West and Moscow -- and the Russian invasion of Ukraine has highlighted the difficulty of that balancing act.

It has repeatedly brushed off calls from Washington to condemn Moscow, despite pursuing greater security ties with the United States.

Putin visited New Delhi last year, bear-hugging Modi and hailing India as a "great power" as the two men bolstered military and energy ties. The Asian giant is also a major consumer of Russian oil, ramping up discounted purchases in the wake of a Western embargo. Climate to be 'big focus' as India assumes G20 presidency

Padampur bypoll: Naveen to hit campaign trail on Dec 2

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will hit the campaign trail for

BJP trumped the ruling party to retain the seat. As the situation at Padampur has become



Padampur bypoll on December 2 where he is expected to address three public meetings besides conducting several road shows in different parts of the constituency seeking votes for the party candidate Barsha Singh Bariha. The chief minister will address public meetings at Padampur, Paikmal and Jharbandh during the day. Arrangements are in full swing for the meetings and roadshows. As the situation is getting increasingly polarised between the BJD and BJP, several senior leaders of the party had requested the CM to campaign physically for the bypoll. The rethinking on the part of the chief minister to visit Padampur to campaign for BJD candidate had assumed significance after the party's Dhamnagar experience in which the

BJD campaign head and former Rajya Sabha member Prasanna Acharya said that the physical campaign of the chief minister will definitely boost party's chances in the election.

to create the 'local feeling' among the voters which the BJP rival candidate Pradip Purohit is exploiting to the hilt. Several BJD leaders are of the opinion that women and sympathy cards being played by the party may fail to match up with BJP's aggressive mode of campaigning. BJD campaign head and former Rajya Sabha member Prasanna Acharya said that the physical campaign of the chief minister will definitely boost party's chances in the election. The chief minister had addressed virtual rallies for the last five assembly by-elections held since 2019 instead of visiting the constituencies. He had last visited the Bijepur Assembly constituency to campaign for party candidate Rita Sahu in the bypoll held in 2019.

Will caste politics in Padampur bypoll pay dividends?

PAIKAMAL: At the foothills of Gandhamardan, the abode of Lord Nrushinghanath, the Gonds gathered for a community meeting on Sunday. It was followed by meetings of two others - Kulta Samaj and Meher

party to bring caste politics into play. The three communities having sizeable voters have been loyal to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, but the party is not leaving anything to chance. The announcement of

isting dharmasala at the base of Gandhamardan hills, revered by the tribals. The Gond leaders claim to have a voter base of over 22,000 which can be crucial in a close fight, but BJP sources say the

our support," Dharua said. Taking exception to the resolution passed at the BJD-sponsored Gond meeting, BJP leader Hom Singh Majhi who belongs to the tribe said, Dharua is not authorised to take a



Samaj. Such assemblies are a normal affair but this time it happened under the banner of BJD sending out a clear message that the ruling outfit is busy wooing the groups ahead of the crucial Padampur bypoll. Caste politics used to be a closed-door affair and is barely professed in public in Odisha. When it comes to tribes which are mostly close-knit groups, they keep issues of common interest within the community, keeping outsiders at bay. Basanta Dharua However, with the BJP making inroads in the constituency and posing a stiff challenge to the BJD seems to have driven the ruling

the chief minister approving one acre land at Puri and grant of Rs 3 crore from the special problem fund for construction of a 'dharmasala' for Kulta Samaj and a similar amount and half acre of land in the state capital for construction of a memorial building in the memory of iconic poet Gangadhar Meher are interesting developments in wake of the bitter fight between the BJD and BJP to reclaim the seat. Before the CM's announcement, BJD leader and former minister Sushant Singh had promised the Gond community a financial assistance of ₹7 lakh for construction of a temple for their traditional deities near the ex-

number is exaggerated. The Kulta Samaj that draws its members from a number of communities including the dominant Sahu, accounts for about 27 per cent of the voters of the constituency. Basanta Dharua, president of Gond Samaj of Padampur told TNIE that the community passed a resolution at the meeting to vote en masse for BJD if assurances made by senior BJD leaders including Rajya Sabha MP Niranjan Bisi and Kantamal MLA Mahidhar Rana are fulfilled. "We are happy with the announcement of the CM. The Gond Samaj of Rajborasambar (Padampur block) will meet again and take a decision on

unilateral decision for the community. Majhi who unsuccessfully contested the last Assembly election from Nuapada constituency said, the All India Gond Samaj has taken a principled stand not to meddle in politics. "The matter will be taken up at the national forum of the community and any deviation from the stand will not be tolerated," he said. "Caste has never been a factor in Odisha politics unlike other states. It is to be seen if this move of the BJD would give electoral dividends," said Panchanan Kanungo, senior Congress leader and former finance minister.

Scammers, honey-trapped leaders are in BJD: Dharmendra Pradhan

BARGARH: Turning the heat on ruling BJD ahead of the high-stake Padampur bypoll, Union Education Minister on Wednesday trained guns on the state government for the police action against

the responsibility of panchayats here. We have never heard such allegations against Kusum Tete," he said. Pradhan also slammed the BJD government over its 'unfulfilled promises'. Addressing

the usual 11 per cent. After running out of new ideas, the BJD government now has waived off the rest 4 per cent and taking all the credit of PM Modi," he said. Harping on the issues



BJP's Sundargarh MLA Kusum Tete. Tete was booked by police for protesting against government officials who held the wife of Gobardhan Agrawal captive for more than nine hours on the pretext of GST raid, he claimed. "Kusum Tete has not murdered anyone, her name is not in the list of scammers and she is not involved in the chit fund scam. These are the characteristics of BJD leaders. Some ministers facing murder charges have camped in Padampur and are campaigning here. Besides, MLAs honey trapped by Archana Nag are entrusted with

public meetings at Badikata and Kharimal in Padampur sub-division, he highlighted the 'lapses' of the state government. At Badikata, the Union Minister criticised the announcement made by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to enhance upper limit for interest free loans to ₹5 lakh for women self-help groups (SHGs). "Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission under which a woman can avail loan between ₹3 and ₹5 lakh from any PSU bank at 7 per cent interest rate instead of

of farmers, Pradhan said, "The state government announced input subsidy 10 days back. Have you received the money in your accounts so far?" He took a jibe at the CM. "You (Naveen) had announced an assistance of Rs 10,000 for farmers under the KALIA scheme but reduced it by Rs 6,000 and paid only Rs 4,000. In Sohela, you had also promised a bonus of Rs 100 on per quintal of paddy. But that too was not kept." The union government, Pradhan said, has made a provision of around 28 lakh houses for the people of Odisha. However, the

state government has not sent the list of beneficiaries in Western Odisha. "The Centre cannot sanction the funds if the list of names from Western Odisha is not sent to it," he said. "Those who could not provide basic amenities are now trying to woo voters with money and political influence. I believe Padampur people will never fall prey to their deception but pave way for Pradip Purohit's victory," the Union Minister added. Contractor faces GST raid Bargarh: Officials conducted another GST raid at the residence of popular contractor of Padampur Pratap Patnaik on Tuesday. The raid was conducted by a joint team of NAC and GST officials. The raid started at around 9 pm and continued for over two hours. Additional tehsildar Ramakrushna Mishra said, "The search was conducted on the basis of some inputs related to the upcoming bypoll. However, nothing was found during the search." While the contractor has no direct link with the BJD, the GST raid has raised suspicion over his links with the opposition. On Monday, GST raids were conducted on the premises of six persons including Padampur BJD Nagar president Sunil Agarwal.



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India's fiscal deficit widens to Rs 7.6 lakh crore in Apr-Oct'22

NEW DELHI: India's fiscal deficit expanded to Rs 7.58 lakh crore in the April-October period, 39% higher than that of the same period last year, as non-tax revenues



contracted by 14%, revenue expenditures rose 10% and capex surged 62%.

The fiscal deficit has breached 45% of the full-year budget estimate during the period October, the government data showed. In the same period of the last year, the fiscal deficit, which is the difference between expenditure and revenue, stood at 36% of the budget estimates of 2021-22. The fiscal deficit of the government is expected to be at 6.4% of the GDP.

Net tax receipts surged to Rs 11.71 lakh crore, registering an 11% growth over the same period last year. Total receipts that include tax, non-tax revenues and capital receipts increased 8% to Rs 13.6 lakh crore. The total expenditure was at Rs 21.44 lakh crore – with revenue expenditure at Rs 17.4 lakh crore and capital expenditure at Rs 4.1 lakh crore. Capital expenditure, which is money spent in creating infrastructure, rose 61% year-on-year in the first seven months of the current financial year.

"While monthly capex stepped down from Rs

Tomato, onion growers in Karnataka in tears over price crash

BENGALURU: Tomato and onion growers are a worried lot as the bumper harvest has led to a crash in prices in the state. The Kolar district fruits and vegetable growers struggle committee has

produce. "Even Rs 12 a kg is a pittance for all our hardship. A decent amount goes in transportation, loading and unloading and investment made on growing the crop," an onion grower in

with 205 kg of onions on November 22, he got to know that the price crashed in the city to Rs two per kg. Thus, he got Rs 410 and he had to pay Rs 401.64 as the unloading charges. He got only Rs 8.36

Manjunath, a wholesale vegetable dealer in KR Market here, tomatoes are being sold from Rs 5 to Rs six per kg in the wholesale market while in retail, the prices are between Rs 8 and Rs 12 per kg.



demand the government announce a minimum support price for onion and tomato growers to safeguard the interests of farmers. According to sources in the Yeshwanthpur Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) Yard here, onion prices had dropped to somewhere between Rs 2 per kg and Rs 10, a few days ago. However, it has now stabilised in the range of Rs 12 to Rs 18 per kg depending on the quality of the

Bengaluru rued. People bringing their produce from far-flung areas with a hope of getting a good price were a disappointed lot. Gadag farmer travels 415 km to Bengaluru to sell onions, gets Rs 8.36 for 205 kg! Farmer Pavadeppa Hallikeri from Thimmapura in Gadag district in North Karnataka got a good onion harvest and instead of selling it at the Gadag APMC Yard, he decided to sell it in Bengaluru. On reaching Bengaluru market

in hand, and a photo image of his bills has now gone viral in social media. "It was a mistake to grow onions and take it to Bengaluru for good return," the onion grower told reporters. Hallikeri said for farmers from his region it was double whammy --- there were floods in the region and the price crash. The woes of tomato producers from South Karnataka are no different from onion growers from north Karnataka. According to

The Kolar district fruits and vegetable growers struggle committee president Neelaturu Chinnappa Reddy has demanded that the government announce minimum support price for onions, potatoes and tomatoes. "We vegetable growers are in tears. For all the hard work, labour, investment and months of waiting, we are hardly getting a return of Rs 1.5 for each kilogram of tomatoes these days. For two quintals of tomatoes grown, we are getting only Rs 300,"

Inflation will be within the tolerance band: Finance Minister



NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said that India will succeed in handling inflation better and it will be well within the tolerance band by early next year or the middle

of next year. She said the government has already put in place a "very good framework" in place to address supply-side pressures on food prices. "We probably will succeed in handling

inflation better and there is clearly a picture from the RBI that is on a downward slide and it will be well within the tolerance band by early next year or middle of next year," said Sitharaman, who is

scheduled to present the Union Budget for 2023-24 early next year. The retail inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI) has remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level of 6% since January.

Indian stock indices hit fresh highs on strong fundamentals

NEW DELHI: Indian stock indices traded sharply higher on Thursday morning and hit their lifetime highs for the fourth straight day. At 9.31 am, Sensex traded at 63,471.92 points, up 372.27 points or 0.59 per cent, whereas Nifty traded at 18,857.20 points, up 98.85 points or 0.53 per cent. Sensex breached the 63,000 mark on Wednesday. From 60,000 to 63,000, markets took 14 months time. Among the Nifty 50 stocks, Hindalco, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Infosys, and TCS were the top five gainers, while Bajaj Auto, Hindustan Unilever, Eicher Motors, UPL, and Cipla were the top five losers, National Stock Exchange data showed. Robust foreign fund inflows into Indian equities, the appreciating Rupee, and hints by the US central bank about the moderating rate of interest hikes supported investors' sentiment. The US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Wednesday (local time) hinted about moderating interest rate hikes in the next monetary policy meeting. "The time for moderating the pace of rate increases may come as soon as the December meeting," Powell said at an event.

Coming to foreign funds, foreign portfolio investors purchased Rs 36,239 crore worth of equities in India in November, NSDL data showed. "Fed chief Powell's observation that 'it makes sense to moderate the pace of rate hikes has come as a shot in the arm for the bulls to take the ongoing rally forward. The dip in the dollar index to 105.5 and the US 10-year bond yield declining sharply to 3.63 per cent are hugely favourable for the continuation of foreign fund inflows," said V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services. Further, Rupee opened at 81.07 versus the previous session's closing of 81.42. For the record, in October, the rupee breached the 83 mark for the first time in its history. ICICI Direct, which is part of ICICI Securities, expects the Rupee to appreciate towards 80 levels by the end of this fiscal year 2022-23 ending March. "We won't be surprised even if it breaks the major support level of 80 and appreciates further till 79.00 as well. We believe, the rupee may face a strong resistance near 83.50," Raj Deepak Singh, Analyst - F&O, Currency and Commodity at ICICI Direct had said.

All you need to know about e-Rupee

HYDERABAD: The Reserve Bank of India has launched India's e-rupee on Thursday, as a pilot covering four cities New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar and will subsequently

Bank, ICICI Bank and IDFC First Bank – will be involved initially in the launch of the digital transactions. Another four banks – Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank

issued. Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. The digital rupee would be distributed through intermediaries (banks).

Person to Merchant (P2M). Payments to merchants can be made using QR codes displayed at merchant locations. What is the use of e-Rupee? The e-rupee will reduce operational



expand it to nine more cities in the initial phase. The other nine cities to which the pilot will be later extended are: Ahmedabad, Gangtok, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Indore, Kochi, Lucknow, Patna and Shimla. Four banks – State Bank of India, Yes

– will join the pilot subsequently. What is e-Rupee? The e-Rupee will be in the form of a digital token (sort of an official crypto currency) which will be a legal tender. It will be issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently

How to access and transact with e-Rupee? RBI said users will be able to access and transact with e-Rupee through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks and store it on mobile phones. Transactions can be both Person to Person (P2P) and

costs in managing physical cash, bringing efficiency in payment systems. It will also boost innovation in cross-border payment and curb concerns over money laundering, tax evasion with private crypt-currencies like Bitcoin, Ether, etc.

Asalanka, Wellalage star in thrilling finish as SL level series

New Delhi: A record knock of 162 from Ibrahim Zadran and Rashid Khan's four-wicket haul both went in vain as Charith Asalanka and Dunith Wellalage came up with a match-winning partnership of 65 runs in only 39 deliveries to help Sri Lanka level the series 1-1. Chasing 314 for victory, Sri Lanka were reduced to 249 for 6 in the 44th over. But Asalanka's 83 not out off 72 and Wellalage's 31 not out off 21 stunned the visitors as Sri Lanka won with two deliveries to spare. The equation was 40 off the last four overs and Rashid bowled a three-run over to finish his spell as the required rate went past 12 for Sri Lanka. Asalanka, who was cramping up, found it difficult to get the short-of-length deliveries away from

Fazalhaq Farooqi, who gave away eight, including a boundary for Wellalage. The 19-year-old, who took over the hitting with Asalanka struggling with his fitness, struck three fours off Gulbadin Naib, whose slower ball strategy had become rather predictable. Fazalhaq Farooqi ended up being hit for a six by Wellalage off the first ball before Asalanka finished it off on the fourth ball of the final over with a maximum. The Sri Lankan openers started the chase on a watchful note despite a few boundaries being scored. Pathum Nissanka was the quieter of the two while Kusal Mendis upped the ante in the 10th over when he struck three fours off Mujeeb Ur Rahman and followed it up with a six off Gulbadin Naib in the

next. Nissanka, meanwhile, used a review to overturn an lbw decision in the 13th over bowled by Gulbadin. The century partnership was raised five overs later, with Mendis having contributed nearly 70 per cent of the runs. But Afghanistan managed a crucial strike as Mendis, looking for a big shot off Mohammad Nabi, found deep midwicket to depart for 67. Rashid Khan delivered a couple of quick strikes and Afghanistan sneaked in a few quiet overs to make things difficult for Sri Lanka. Both Nissanka and Dhananjaya de Silva were bowled by Rashid's fastish googlies. Rashid could have had another but the umpire ruled that the catch Nabi took off Dinesh Chandimal's edge had made contact



with ground first, although the soft signal was out and the replays were not conclusive enough to prove otherwise. A promising partnership between Chandimal and Charith Asalanka came to an end at 48 when the former was bowled by Nabi for 33.

Asalanka then partnered with skipper Dasun Shanaka as they raised a 45-ball half-century stand to help Sri Lanka stage a recovery. Finding the fence at regular intervals and rotating the strike, the two batters looked set to take it deep as they brought down the equation to 82 off the last

10 overs. Afghanistan re-introduced their chief weapon Rashid and he delivered immediately as he had Shanaka bowled for 43 and also bagged the wicket of Wanindu Hasaranga in his next over. Asalanka, meanwhile, got to his fifty and struck two sixes off Mujeeb to keep Sri

Lanka afloat and then Wellalage came along to provide the finish that the home team hoped for. Earlier, after opting to bat, Afghanistan rode on Ibrahim Zadran's fine knock to post a formidable total. The 20-year-old registered his third hundred in eight innings, and his second in the series against Sri Lanka. He surpassed Mohammad Shahzad's 131* against Zimbabwe to register the highest individual score for Afghanistan in ODIs and was also involved in a record fourth wicket stand with Najibullah Zadran (77). To add to the records, Ibrahim became the first Afghanistan player to reach the landmark of 150, the first to score 150 in Pallekele, and he also surpassed Gautam Gambhir (150) to register the highest score as an opener against Sri

Lanka in Sri Lanka in ODIs. The visitors had suffered an early setback as Rahmanullah Gurbaz was dismissed by Kasun Rajitha, chopping one onto the stumps. A promising 41-run stand involving Rahmat Shah and Ibrahim was cut short by Rajitha with the dismissal of the former while Hashmatullah Shahidi did not have a productive stay either, leaving Afghanistan precariously placed at 57/3 in the 15th over. Ibrahim then joined forces with Najibullah to steady the Afghanistan innings. It was a well-paced partnership with the two batters rotating the strike well while Ibrahim also found the fence regularly. Wanindu Hasaranga came under attack from Ibrahim, who cleared the fence a couple of times en route to a century stand which was raised off 106 deliveries.

'This is Demoralising for Sanju Samson, He Is Treated Like An Average Cricketer'



Karachi: Rishabh Pant's inclusion over Sanju Samson has raised eyebrows, especially the way the former has been batting in recent times. The Delhi Capitals skipper managed to play just one good innings in recent times which came against England where he scored a century to take his team home in the series decider. Apart from that, Pant's stocks has been going down and he was even benched most part of the

T20 World Cup in Australia. Pant's scores in his last nine innings across the two white-ball formats read 10, 15, 11, 6, 6, 3, 9, 9 and 27. On the other hand, Samson shone with the limited opportunities he got with the bat, moreover, he also scored 36 off 38 balls in the first ODI match. Speaking on this whole issues, former Pakistan cricketer Danish Kaneria lashed out at BCCI. He said Pant is not a white ball cricketer,

adding Samson needs more opportunities. "India should accept the fact that Rishabh Pant is not a white-ball cricketer. They have tried him at every position in the order, just so that he can score runs. But what about Sanju Samson? Did he do anything wrong by scoring 36 runs?" he said on his Youtube channel. "From fans to former players, everyone has expressed displeasure over this. All this is very demoralizing

for Sanju Samson, as he is being treated like an average cricketer."

Here, it must be noted that Samson led Rajasthan Royals to the final in IPL 2022 and was subsequently dropped despite being picked for Ireland and England tour. He eventually found himself out of contention for T20 World Cup only to be picked again for New Zealand tour where he warmed the bench for T20Is. Moreover, the former Pakistan spinner said that management didn't treat Deepak Hooda well and now the batter has lost all his confidence. "Deepak Hooda was dancing when the ball started to seam. He didn't understand what was happening. The team management dropped him when he was doing well, shattering his confidence."

Former Members Chetan Sharma, Harvinder Singh Re-apply For BCCI Selector's Positions: Report

New Delhi: Former BCCI chairman of selector Chetan Sharma has reapplied for the position in the All India Selectors Committee. Apart from Chetan, Harvinder Singh who was part of the selection panel from the Central Zone, also applied again for the post. It is an open secret that Chetan and his panel's performance and consistency in selection have been below par in recent times as the BCCI decided not to extend their tenure for more years. Chetan (North zone), Harvinder (Central Zone), Sunil Joshi (South Zone) and Debasish Mohanty (East Zone) have had the shortest stint as senior national selectors in recent times. Some of them were appointed in 2020 and some in 2021. A senior national selector normally gets a four-year



term subject to extension. According to a report in IndianExpress, More than 60 applicants have applied for the post, including Chetan and Harvinder. The report further stated that the other two members of the earlier panel Joshi and Mohanty haven't re-applied for the positions. The BCCI released a statement where it pointed out the criteria to apply for the position. A total of five positions are up for grab as the

applicants should have played 7 Test matches or 30 First Class matches or 10 ODI and 20 First Class matches. The applicant should have retired from the game of cricket at least 5 years ago. "No person who has been a member of any Cricket Committee (as defined in the rules and regulations of BCCI) for a total of 5 years shall be eligible to be a member of Men's Selection Committee," the BCCI stated. The deadline for the

application is November 28. The job domain has two key points which had never been in any earlier selection committee advertisements — prepare and provide evaluation reports of respective team performance to the Apex Council of BCCI on a quarterly basis, and appoint a captain for the team in each format. Also, for the first time, the BCCI job domain description contains that the chairman would have to address the media with regard to team-related queries. Chetan and other members of the selection committee were heavily criticized for their squad selection for the 2021 T20 World Cup and it was the same case this year too for the mega event. India were knocked out of the 2022 T20 WC after losing the semifinal to England.



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