

## President of India to visit Rashtrapati Nilayam, Secunderabad for Winter Sojourn

New Delhi (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu will visit Secunderabad, Telangana for winter sojourn at Rashtrapati Nilayam from December 26 to 30, 2022. On December 26, 2022, the President will visit Srisailem Temple in Andhra Pradesh and inaugurate projects related to the development of Srisailem Temple under PRASHAD scheme of Union Ministry of Tourism. She will also visit Sri Shivaji Spoorthy Kendram at Srisailem, before reaching to Rashtrapati Nilayam. On December 27, 2022, the President will address the students and faculty members of Keshav Memorial Educational Society in Hyderabad. On the same day, she will visit Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy to address the Officer Trainees of Indian Police Service (74th RR Batch). She will also inaugurate the Wide Plate Mill of Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) at Hyderabad. On December 28, 2022, the President will visit Sri Seetharama Chandra Swamyvari Devasthanam, Bhadrachalam and lay the foundation stone for the development of tourism infrastructure at Bhadrachalam Temple under PRASHAD scheme. She will also inaugurate Sammakka Saralamma Janjati Pujari Sammelan, organised by the Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad -Telangana as well as virtually inaugurate Eklavya Model Residential Schools of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs at Komaram Bheem Asifabad and Mahabubabad districts of Telangana. On the same day, the President will visit Ramappa Temple in Warangal district where she will lay the foundation stones for development of tourism infrastructure at Ramappa Temple and restoration of Kameshwaralaya Temple. On December 29, 2022, the President will interact with the students and faculty members of G Narayanamma Institute of Technology and Science (for Women) as well as students and staff of BM Malani Nursing College and Suman Junior College of Mahila Dakshata Samithi at Hyderabad. On the same day, she will visit the Statue of Equality at Sriramnagar, Shamshabad. On December 30, 2022, the President will host veer naris and other dignitaries over a lunch at Rashtrapati Nilayam, before returning to Delhi.

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### Gobinda Sahu's postmortem report indicates suicide

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Crime Branch received the postmortem report of Gobinda Sahu on Saturday which indicates that it was a case of suicide. Sources said, Sahu's postmortem was conducted in Kantabanji hospital with the assistance of doctors of Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research. CB had earlier seized the DVDs consisting of photographs and videos of Sahu's inquest and postmortem. On the day, the agency's officers visited Mahaling Anchalika College and seized the governing body's resolutions register. Sahu was the principal of the college. The agency's officers are of the opinion that the seized register may have several resolutions and signatures of Sahu. They examined a few staff of the college including the governing body's secretary Kiran Kumar Singh and clerk Josabant Bagh. CID-CB's team investigating the case in Kantabanji visited Sahu's house at Mahaling in Kalahandi district on Saturday. They seized an old note book of Sahu and questioned his family members - wife Susama and their daughters. They also questioned some villagers of Mahaling including Santosh Kumar Sahu and Tarini Sahu. The CB officers are questioning the Kantabanji sub-jail inmates too as part of their investigation.



### BJP to hold satyagraha on BJD's foundation day

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): As the BJD is making elaborate arrangements to celebrate its silver jubilee on December 26, the BJP on Saturday announced to observe satyagraha that day to protest the rising atrocities against women and criminalisation of politics. Announcing this at a media conference here, state BJP president Samir Mohanty said Odisha is among the top five states where crime against women is highest in the country. Never before the state has such a poor track record as it is today and what is disconcerting is that ministers and senior leaders of the ruling BJD are involved in majority cases. Citing four murder cases in which three former ministers and a sitting minister are involved, Mohanty said instead of taking action against them the state government has successfully used the law enforcing authorities to destroy evidences to prove their innocence. CONTINUED ON: P-7



## Eyes on Cong Votes

Bhubaneswar(KCN): It is clear that the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have already started flexing their muscles in Odisha ahead of the 2024 General elections for the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly. The warring parties are trying to improve their vote banks. Interestingly both BJD and BJP have now set their eyes on the Congress votes. The saffron party has expanded its mass base in the nook and corner of the state and also strengthened its booths in many places, as evident from their securing around 40 per cent of the votes. At the same time, BJD headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik also added to its strength continuously. The regional party boasts of one crore members out of the state's 3.29 crore voters. The party's vote share in a majority of constituencies remains at around 50 per cent. The state's oldest party, the Congress, however, struggles with around 15 per cent votes and the ratio is on the decline. Evidently Congress's votes are steadily being captured by both the two parties. Though Naveen's party took a chunk of Congress votes in the recently concluded Padampur by-poll in Bargarh district, BJP too gained a certain portion of traditional Congress votes. Both the BJD and BJP are in a race to wrest the Congress votes. The party which will be able to transfer more Congress votes in its favour will certainly win the 2024 elections. Interestingly OPCC President Sarat Pattanayak claims that Congress will increase its seat number in Odisha Legislative Assembly from 9 to 90. Pattanayak as President of OPCC has faced at least

three by-polls in Brajrajnagar, Dhamnagar and Padampur. One may say that the Congress fielded a very weak candidate in Dhamnagar, but the three times MLA Satya Bhusan Sahu was a strong candidate in Padampur and he too lost the deposit in the by-poll. Therefore, it can be easily said that Congress has failed to retain its traditional votes even as there have been frequent changes of guards at the OPCC top post. The party lost in all the six by-polls held since 2019 and Pattanayak's CONTINUED ON: P-7



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## eAbkari bags award

New Delhi(KCN): Government of Odisha in its endeavor for responsive governance through "Mo Sarkar" and 5T initiative has taken many innovative ICT interventions and one such being adoption of eAbkari suite for the Department of Excise. Initiated under Business Reforms Action Plan, the project has been largely effective fulfilling the objective and mandate of Department of Excise in arresting revenue leakages of the public exchequer, curb on illicit and spurious liquor while streamlining various license management and supply chain distribution activities under the vigil eye of Department of Excise. On 19 December 2022, the ICT intervention in Department of Excise was honored with SKOCH Group Silver award at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.



preventive rail modules have greatly been effective in curbing excise related pilferages. The ICT practice since 2019-20 Department of Excise has now become one of the top most Department in Government of Odisha thriving on digital adoption in almost all functional levels thus making the department a faceless and contactless office to work with. Partnered with National Informatics Centre, the ICT driven Digital intervention of eAbkari brought substantial process reengineering and new technologies in excise realm with a strong command and control system for the state department. The effect is seen in timely service delivery in faceless and seamless manner, license and supply chain management, curbing of spurious/illicit trade, and public grievance redressal.

## MCD organises its first event after AAP's victory; AAP MLAs-Councillors observe Pt Madan Mohan Malviya Jayanti



NEW DELHI (KCN): The MCD organised its first ever event after AAP's victory on Sunday. AAP MLAs-Councillors observed Pt Madan Mohan Malviya Jayanti on the occasion and paid tributes to him. MLA Shri Somnath Bharti attended the event as the chief guest while AAP Municipal Councillors Ms Leena Kumar, Ms Sarita Phogaat, and Shri Kamal Bharadwaj attended as special guests. Shri Somnath Bharti said, "BJP going against Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya's ideology by favouring China in trade. Only CM Shri Arvind Kejriwal living up to Pt Malviya's dreams; his belief that only quality education can empower the nation matches the belief of the



Kejriwal Govt. Pt Malviya wanted safety for women in the whole country & self employment for youngsters. All Municipal Councillors of the Aam Aadmi Party are going to make sure that they give their best to serve the public." Keeping the legacy of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Ji alive, the MCD organised the in A-3, Madan Mohan Malviya Park, Malaviya Nagar, ward- 149. It was the 161st birth anniversary of the great social worker and politician Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. As the birth anniversary of CONTINUED ON: P-7

### About Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya

## At Christmas, Pope urges end to 'senseless' Ukraine war

VATICAN CITY (KCN): Pope Francis on Sunday appealed for an end to the "senseless" war in Ukraine, in his traditional Christmas Day message broadcast around the world. The head of the Catholic Church addressed thousands of people gathered in St Peter's Square, some of them holding Ukrainian flags, before delivering the "Urbi et Orbi" blessing ("to the city and the world"). A call to peace is traditionally the focus of the pope's message at Christmas, the holiday marking the birth of Christ, which he delivers from the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica and is broadcast live worldwide. The 86-year-old on Sunday first turned to "our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who are experiencing this Christmas in the dark and cold, far from their homes". "May the Lord inspire us to offer concrete gestures of solidarity to assist all those who are suffering, and may he enlighten the minds of those who have the power to silence the thunder of weapons and put an immediate end to this senseless war!" he said. "Tragically, we prefer to heed other counsels, dictated by worldly ways of thinking," he added, recalling "with sorrow" that "the icy winds of war continue to buffet humanity". "Food as a weapon" "Our time is experiencing a grave famine of peace also in other re-

gions and other theatres of this third world war," he said. Francis referenced numerous countries in difficulty this Christmas, whether due to conflict or another crisis, from Afghanistan to Yemen, Syria, Myanmar, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Lebanon and Haiti.



For the first time, he also called for "reconciliation" in Iran, rocked by women-led protests for the past three months. The pope has called for peace in Ukraine ever since Russia invaded its neighbour in February, condemning the war but seeking to maintain a delicate dialogue with CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Farmers threaten to dump paddy

JEYPORE (KCN): Peeved over nagging issues during procurement of paddy at mandis, farmers of Jeypore have threatened to dump their produce on NH-26 near Kumuliput on Monday. Sources said procurement in mandis of Jayatigiri, Hadia and Kumulipur panchayats



of Jeypore sub-division has been marred by issues like deduction of paddy to compensate for low quality produce. Sources said while farmers of the region are ready to add three kg to a quintal of paddy to make up for the low-quality produce, some middlemen are preventing them from doing so. This has brought the procurement process to a standstill at all mandis under the panchayats.

## KiiTIS 16th Annual Day Celebration Observed; Students Put Up Dazzling Show

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The 16th Annual Day celebration of KiiT International School



“Udaan Unlimited-2022” was observed at the KIIT Campus with a colourful cultural show by the students.

The event was inaugurated by the Founder of KIIT-KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta in the presence of KiiTIS Chairperson Dr Mona Lisa Bal, Director and Principal of the school Dr Sanjay Suar, among others. Dr Samanta called upon the young students to remain rooted to humanitarian values and cause. “The KIIT brand has now got a pan-world recognition and wherever one goes, KIITians are there to greet and recognize you. However, you must work hard to match the demanding expectations and prove your mettle,” he underlined.

KiiTIS Chairperson Dr Mona Lisa Bal emphasized on nurturing human ideas as the ideas distinguish one person from another. “With

### Churches in Capital set to celebrate Christmas with usual fervour

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Church of Christ, After two years of Covid-induced restrictions, also known as Union Church, in Bhubaneswar started



Bhubaneswar is all set to celebrate Christmas with the usual fervour this year. However, churches in the state capital have urged revellers to follow all guidelines amid the scare of Covid-19's BF.7 variant.

the Christmas celebrations from December 14 onwards. The members of the church visited various centres for differently-abled, visually impaired people and old age homes as part of the celebrations.

The members took part in Christmas prayers with inmates of the centres and

Whitson. On the eve of Christmas, midnight worship will be held in the church at 11 pm on Saturday. Worship in English will be held at 10 am and Odia at 3.30 pm on Christmas day. “We are expecting a footfall of about 12,000 people including 10,000 non-Christians on Christmas,” said Union Church’s member Paresh Das.

He said over the years the church has been witnessing a significant rise in the footfall of non-Christians during Christmas and New Year celebrations. He urged the visitors to follow Covid guidelines for their own and others’ safety.

## Master plan for Mangala Temple

Puri(KCN): An ardent devotee of Adi Shakti, V K Pandian on Saturday directed officials to prepare a master plan for the development of Maa Mangala temple, Kakatpur within 15 days.

Secretary to CM Shri Pandian gave the direction after holding discussions with the servitors, trustees and local people during his visit to Kakatpur.

He said the work for the development of the Shakti Pitha will start after the Chief Minister approved the developmental plan prepared by the Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation (OBCC). Under the programme steps would be taken for the release of water from the temple premises, park-



ing facilities for the visitors and development of the Prachi river bank.

Earlier, Shri Pandian had reviewed the progress of the Parikrama project around Shree Jagannath Temple Puri and the construction of the Shree Jagannath Medical College Teaching Hospital. The construction of the medical college teaching hospital would be completed by June 23 next year. Later, the ST Secretary reviewed the development work of Chandrabhaga beach, expansion of the Konark-Chandrabhaga state highway and the new ring road. Shri Pandian directed the officials to complete the expansion work of Konark-Chandrabhaga State Highway by April, 2023.

## State wants Re Loan

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With foreign exchange fluctuation creating havoc, the State Government has urged the Centre to go for local currency loan in Indian Rupee (INR) instead LIBOR-based dollar denominated loan from World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In fact the rupee is weakening against the US dollar and the loans and assistance taken from foreign sources have become expensive.

The State Government has approached the Ministry of Finance to consider the case as the State Government has gone for major loans from both the international lenders.

External assistance in respect of new projects signed on or after April 1, 2005, are being passed on to the State Government on the same terms and conditions on which such assistance is received by the Union Government.

The disbursement and repayment procedure for the external assistance in respect of externally aided projects of the State Government has remained unchanged

with the exception that the exchange rate variation risk hitherto borne by Union Government is being borne by the State Governments in respect of the new externally aided projects signed on or

after April 1, 2005. The multilateral development assistance from World Bank and Asian Development Bank is denominated in US dollar and the interest rate is determined on the basis of London InterBank Offer Rate (LIBOR) Plus a spread. In this connection, it is pertinent to mention here that, the ref-



erence rate of US dollar in rupee which was Rs.43.76 on 4 April, 2005 has gone up to Rs.81.52 as on date representing an appreciation of about 86pc over a period of 17 years. This will enhance the

interest payment and repayment liability of the Dollar denominated multilateral assistance availed by the State Government. Besides, these loans have a long repayment period ranging from 20 to 25 years during which the reference rate of US Dollar with respect to INR may either go

down or go up. In this context, it may be worthwhile to look at the prospects of availing multilateral development assistance from World Bank and ADB in local currency so as to eliminate the foreign exchange rate fluctuation risk.

It is learnt that; the Asian Development Bank has local currency loan products for both private sector borrowers and the World Bank has floated bonds in Chinese Yuan Renminbi (CNY) and Indian Rupee (INR) to finance sustainable development projects in borrowing member countries.

It is, therefore, urged upon the Government of India to kindly explore the possibility of availing Local Currency Loan in INR instead of LIBOR based Dollar denominated loan from World Bank and ADB.

These loans have inherent exchange rate fluctuation risk and also indicate the comparative advantage and disadvantage of local currency loan over Dollar denominated LIBOR based loan.

## Sainik School is an institution of character building: Naveen

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): The strength of our education system not lies in academic excellence, but rests in the ability to empower the students with knowledge, confidence, responsibility, and abil-

ity to think and face situations of life independently, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday. Addressing the diamond jubilee celebration of Sainik School Bhubaneswar here, Naveen advised the young cadets to seize each and every opportunity they get, and live up to the expectations of the

school as well as the nation. The chief minister said the school stands apart for its efforts to instil the ethos of armed forces, and endeavour to awaken the individual potential of each student to serve

cadets have made significant achievement in the fields of civil services, medicine, engineering, merchant navy, entrepreneurship and other fields,” he said.

The CM unveiled a AK Samantrara, SM, DG Infantry and an alumnus of the school. An Army dog show and aero modelling display was also organised, while Army band display and a cultural show



the motherland in every sphere of life. “Set up by legendary leader Biju Patnaik in 1962, Sainik School Bhubaneswar, after sixty glorious years, has become a benchmark for quality education, character building and personality enrichment. The school has not only produced some of the finest soldiers of our country, but also a large number of its

were also a part of the diamond jubilee celebration that will conclude on December 25. Agriculture and Farmer Empowerment Minister and chairman of the reception committee Ranendra Pratap Swain, Principal Col Balu Bharath, Lt Gen (retd) JK Mohanty and president of the Old Boys’ Association Hardaman Singh along with other dignitaries were present.

the diamond jubilee celebration that will conclude on December 25. Agriculture and Farmer Empowerment Minister and chairman of the reception committee Ranendra Pratap Swain, Principal Col Balu Bharath, Lt Gen (retd) JK Mohanty and president of the Old Boys’ Association Hardaman Singh along with other dignitaries were present.

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## 'Laththi' movie review: Interesting ideas get lathi-charged in this actioner

Debutant Vinoth Kumar's Laththi has a hero-evil line said by a bad guy that goes: "Avan namba kita maatala da, namba dhaan avan kita maati irukom!" We have heard this a thousand times already, but here, the dialogue isn't so out of place because the story is of Muruganandham (Vishal), a lone policeman who takes on an army of goons. While Kaththi's Kathiresan used the help of a friend and a few coins to face 50 men, Muruganandham takes the game a level higher by increasing the body count to over 100, all alone. What's his weapon though? The entire building, it seems.



The protagonist hides his weapons in several locations in the building and they range from an iron baseball bat, hand grenade to a water sprinkler-controlled machine gun! Oh, there is a catch. Muruganandham's sick son is also stuck in the same building and the hero has to ensure the latter's safety. Everything points at a fun, engaging action-thriller on paper, but the end result is quite the opposite. Ads by

The bad men in the film are a problem. While Sunny

PN's Sura is a mafiac who stops his traitor from

getting electrocuted only to kill him with a less painful gunshot, Ramana's Vellai, is a whole new level of bizarre. He wears a yellow polythene bag on his face for a major part of the film, as a reminder to avenge the hero. Laththi is a treasure trove for such unintentionally funny content. During one of the initial scenes, Sura asks his allies to list the crimes committed by his son. For some strange reason, the goons start performing a clumsy mime in an attempt to recreate the crimes, without just listing them out. Many such 'innovative' ideas come across as silly humour. Laththi relies on its lead actor to do much of the

heavy-lifting. However, Vishal falls terribly short de-

spite showing effort—especially his Moondram Pirai-esque act in the climax that only ends up highlighting his limitations as a performer. Sunaina is probably the only actor who doesn't give in to the over-the-top tone of the film. She delivers a sensible performance as a dotting mother and wife.

Right from the title announcement, it was clear that the film would be about a laththi-happy policeman, and the protagonist tries to do justice to the title by charging in at way too many people on screen. But the film doesn't take a clear stand on police brutality. Though there are stretches where Muruganandham dreads executing custodial violence, and mouths preachy dialogues like, "Kandika dhaan na adikanum, dhandika illa!" you also learn that he has always enjoyed beating the criminals to a pulp. The much-hyped fight sequences of this film feel heavily rushed and the exciting weapon-reveal sequence too is force-fit into a background song. Though Laththi tries hard to be an edge-of-the-seat thriller, it's not a good sign that you're laughing for most of it.

## Mahesh Narayanan: Ariyippu is my most satisfying work yet



In today's digital era, where privacy has become a luxury for many, scandalous videos being leaked online is an everyday thing. It's a pertinent, universal subject that has been explored in several films worldwide. With his latest film, Ariyippu, writer-director Mahesh Narayanan also attempts the same by interweaving it with a few other relevant topics like imbalances in marital life, patriarchal conditioning, migration among skilled labourers, and the crumbling economy during the pandemic.

Unlike his previous films, Mahesh has eschewed all the so-called commercial elements in Ariyippu, and as intended, the film has had a successful run in several international festivals across the world. It all started with its world premiere at the 75th Locarno International Film Festival, followed by screenings at the British Film Institute, Busan International Film Festival, IFFI, and IFFK. Despite the successful run at the festival circuit, Mahesh feels that the

'real test' is on December 16, when the film comes out for public viewing on Netflix. "So far, the reception has been great, but unless and until it reaches the common audience, we can't be complacent. December 16 is the D-day."

Mahesh, an editor-turned-filmmaker is known for helming hard-hitting films like Take Off, CU Soon, Malik, and Malayankunju. There's an interesting pattern



to all his films—he borrows inspirations from real-life incidents, craftily blends them with fictitious elements and then sets them in distinctive terrains. Mahesh admits that Ariyippu also germinated from a similar thought. "It was sometime in 2015 during the Take Off days when I accidentally came across this news article about a bank employee in Mumbai approaching the high court about a lookalike video circulating through porn websites. She wanted the judge

to issue a declaration stating that she wasn't the same woman. The judge was sarcastic saying that it can't be used as a legal document anywhere. But the woman was determined, and she got it issued. This incident sparked an idea."

When asked about how the pandemic and migrant labour issues came into the picture, Mahesh explains in detail the chain of events that lead to the making of Ariyippu. "A certain incident should affect me, and then I'll let it marinate and travel with me for some time. That's how most of my films are born. This incident of a woman's fight for a declaration stayed with me for long. I initially thought of setting the story in a bank, but changed it later because I'm someone who keeps rewriting my drafts every six months to ensure it stays relevant. During the pandemic, I visited a few factories in Kochi and interacted with the workers there. They were among the first to ring the bell saying that, 'look, there's something ominous coming our way'. They sensed it from the unusually huge quantity of orders and their long work shifts. From there, I also heard stories about how these skilled labourers migrate to other Asian countries like Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. They don't take the usual route through Mumbai or Chennai. They move to places like Delhi, where most of the embassies are, live in the city's outskirts, work there for 6-8 months, attend recruitment programmes and then get the paperwork done. I found their journey interesting. What if such a couple with the intention to move abroad are caught in this video scandal and get stuck in an alien environment? How would they cope with it? That was my trigger for Ariyippu."

### Residential Yoga Camp Organized

Nayagarh (KVCN): From 24th to 26th a special residential Yoga Camp was organized at the Braja Bihari Temple premises of Jamadeipur, Bania Sahi, Gopalpur Nayagarh. In these 3 days camp near about 60 participants from nearby villages participated with great joy. Aim of this camp was to create Health awareness among the villagers to manage stress and psychosomatic ailments such as Asthma, Back pain, Knee pain, Hypertension, Diabetes, Obesity, etc through Integrated Approach of Yoga Therapy. Inauguration session was blessed by Swami Bhabtatananda Puri, the founder of Sri Ramakrishna Sevashram Tikatal, Tahasildar Chilika Sri Pradip Kumar Sahoo and Senior teacher Sri Kishore Kumar Bhanja. Yoga sessions were conducted by Dr. Nabakishore Mahapatra and Prof. Akhil Chandra Rana.



Megastar Amitabh Bachchan inaugurated the 28th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) on December 15. West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Big B's actor-wife Jaya Bachchan, superstar Shah Rukh Khan, former India cricket skipper Sourav Ganguly, filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and veteran actor Shatrughan Sinha, among others, were present on the occasion at the Netaji Indoor Stadium.

## Tax Treatment of Unexplained Expenditure-Part 2

{Contd from 19 Dec 2022}

### 4. Some more decisions in favour of Assessee :



Narayan Jain

a) The AO is not entitled to treat the purchases as bogus merely on the basis of information from the sales-tax department. He has to make independent inquiry. The fact that the vendors did not respond to notices u/s 133(6) and the assessee did not produce them is not sufficient if the documentation is in order and payments are through banking channels – **Geolife Organics v. ACIT [2017] 88 taxmann.com 756 (Mumbai - Trib.)/[2017] 58 ITR(T) 297 (Mumbai - Trib.)**.  
 b) Addition cannot be made on the basis of a hand written loose paper which does not indicate if it pertains to the assessee and if AO has not brought on record any forensic evidence to prove the handwriting of the assessee, an addition cannot be made on the basis of suspicion and guesswork and without bringing corroborative material on record - **Saamag Developers (P.) Ltd. v. ACIT [2018] 90 taxmann.com 20 (Delhi - Trib.)**; **CIT v. Praveen Juneja ITA No 57/2017 Delhi High Court Order Dated 14.07.2017**.  
 c) An admission of assessee, which is retracted cannot be the basis of addition. The allegations made by the authorities have to be supported by actual cash passing hands. The addition cannot be sustained in the absence of material which would conclusively show that huge amounts revealed from the seized documents are transferred from one side to another and if the Revenue did not bring on record a single statement of the vendors of the land in different villages and if none of the sellers has been examined to substantiate the claim of the Revenue that extra cash has actually changed hands. Where seized documents were not in name of assessee, no action could have been undertaken in case of

assessee u/s 153C and further entire decision being based on huge amounts revealed from seized documents not being supported by actual cash passing hands, additions u/s 69C were not sustainable - **CIT v. Lavanya Land Private Limited [2017] 83 taxmann.com 161 (Bombay)/[2017] 249 Taxman 275 (Bombay)**.  
 d) Where all purchase transactions with parties were made through account payee cheques and same were confirmed u/s 133(6) proceedings by said parties, addition made on account of bogus purchases was to be deleted - **ACIT v. Lumens India [2017] 88 taxmann.com 614 (KolTrib)**.  
 e) In the case of **CIT, Surat-I v. Tejua Rohit Kumar Kapadia ALP Diary No. 12670/2018 dated 20.06.2018 (SC)**, Investigation Wing reported that Shri K, who was running shroff business and he in his statement on oath stated that he issued acknowledgment to the beneficiary on receipt of cheque and delivered cash and the assessee was one of the beneficiaries. Purchases of the assessee were duly supported by bills and all the payments were made by account payee cheques. The entire purchases made from the company of Shri Kulwant Singh Yadav were found to have been sold and sales were also accepted by the Assessing Officer. In the absence of evidence to draw the conclusion that the entire purchase consideration which the assessee had paid to M/s. Raj Impex had come back to the assessee in cash, addition on account of purchases cannot be sustained. Similar view has been expressed in **Assistant CIT, Mumbai v. Haware Construction (P.) Ltd. [2019] 101 taxmann.com 168 (Mumbai - Trib.)**; **Smt. Sudha Loyalka v. ITO, Ward 35 (2), New Delhi ITA 399/DEL/2017 available in <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/116187612/>**.  
 5. **Addition sustained/ partly sustained:**  
 a) Making purchases through the grey market gives the assessee savings on account of non-payment of tax and others at the expenses of the exchequer. In such

situation in my considered opinion on the facts and circumstances of the case a 12.5% disallowance out of the bogus purchases would meet the end of justice". In this case the decision of Gujarat High Court N.K. Industries v. Dy CIT 72 taxmann.com 289(Guj) was also considered. Also refer **John's Pack v. ITO ITA No 497, 499 & 500/MUM/2017 Order dated 17.08.2017, Kimaya Impex (P.) Ltd. v. Income-tax Officer\* [2022] 136 taxmann.com 117 (Mumbai - Trib.)**.  
 b) Similar view has been expressed in case of **ACIT v. Akshay Rajesh Samdariya ITA No 2076/PUN/2016 order dated 13-12-2018**, wherein it has been held that Assessing Officer during assessment proceedings has not discarded total sales of the assessee. In other words, the sales of the assessee have been accepted by the Department. Without purchases, there cannot be sales. Thus, entire alleged bogus purchases cannot be added in the hands of the assessee. Under such circumstances, the possibility of assessee purchasing the goods from grey market and procuring bills from the Hawala dealers cannot be ruled out. The CIT(A) after considering catena of judgments on various facets including the GP ratio to be applied in different set of industries estimated 3% of GP addition on account of bogus purchases in the hands of the assessee. We find the impugned order is reasoned and hence, requires no interference. Also refer **DCIT v. DBM Geotechnics and Construction (P.) Ltd. [2022] 136 taxmann.com 345 (Mum)**, **Rollon Hardware India Pvt. Ltd., in ITA No. 1621/Mum/2018 order dated 05.11.2018**.  
 6. **Decisions in favour of Revenue :**  
 a) Where certain additions were made on account of inflated purchase price and alleged sellers were not traceable and though payments had been made by account-payee cheques, entire amounts so deposited had been withdrawn by bearer cheques, Tribunal was justified in

sustaining addition.- **Sanjay Oilcake Industries v. CIT [2009] 316 ITR 274 (Guj)**.  
 7. **Whether money earned abroad can be sufficient basis to make addition u/s 69C:** The Madras High Court in the case of **R. Kanakammal v. CIT [2000] 244 ITR 152 (Mad.)** held that in the absence of any proof of linkage between the funds earned abroad and the amounts spent in India, mere fact that there is proof of earning outside India will be insufficient to hold that the monies spent in India are, in fact, from the amount earned abroad and remitted into India.  
 8. **To whom the notice may be issued u/s 69C:** Notice u/s 69C, being in the nature of a show cause notice, is issued by the A.O. to those assessee who have incurred certain expenditure during the financial year and the A.O. is of the view that the source of the same is required to be explained by the assessee concerned. The purpose of the notice so issued is to give an opportunity to the concerned assessee to give an explanation as to the source of such expenditure incurred by him during the financial year as may be specified in the notice.  
 9. **Consequences of failure to comply with the notice proposing addition u/s 69C:** In case the assessee, who is in receipt of a notice u/s 69C fails to appear before the A.O. either personally or through his Authorised Representative or even fails to give the explanation in writing about the source of such expenditure, the A.O. may treat such expenditure as the income of the concerned financial year and bring the same to charge to tax in the assessment of the assessee for the assessment year immediately following that financial year. Similarly the A.O. can make addition u/s 69C even in a case, where the assessee has complied with the notice but the explanation given by him or the evidence produced by him is not satisfactory, in the opinion of the A.O. ( to be contd)

(Narayan Jain is former Secy General of AIFTP and author of the books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" and "Income Tax Pleading & Practice" with CA DilipLoyalka).

## Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling

Every other person in India is celebrating the 25th December 'Bada Din' or the 'Big Day'. The whole world is celebrating this day as the birthday of Jesus Christ. It is the birth anniversary of the great Jesus Christ, who is believed as the Son of God by the people of Christian religion. Jesus Christ is believed to be the messenger of God. On this unique occasion of Christmas, even non-Christians remember, with due reverence, the Son of god, who suffered the terribly painful death on the Cross to deliver humanity and kindness from evil. The spread of love and peace among mankind is the supreme message of Christmas. Christmas lights are now called "winter" lights, Christmas greetings have been replaced by "season's" greetings, and what used to be Christmas sales in high street stores are being increasingly referred to as "winter" or "season's" sales. Christmas parties are no longer simply Christmas parties but pretend to celebrate all religious festivals on the year's calendar. Jesus is love, which is a magical four-letter word that provides peace of mind. One must believe that there is a supernatural power that regulates human life. We can also say Conscience is God. We can see in our life that whenever we breach the rules of conscience, we suffer a lot least knowing the reasons for it. Jesus Christ, the most important figure in Christianity, is believed to have founded the Christian religion. The birth of Jesus is considered one of the most significant event in world history. Jesus Christ took birth on this earth to save humanity from misery and darkness. Basically, Christmas in India is celebrated the same way as it is celebrated world around. It is day when Christian people do pray to their God Jesus Christ, confess in front of God to remove their sins and

sufferings, sing holy songs, and exchange lots of gifts among friends, relative, family

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

something more than the consumption of commodities; it is meant to remind us of the

to learn more about the link between work depression and happiness, and find resources to have a healthier, happier life. The manner in which Christmas has come to belong to all of us is not



without consequences for a multi-religious society. In recent times, when Hindus have started to celebrate Christmas as their own, we have moved into an era where a festival of legitimate difference has transformed into one of a ritual of leisure and lifestyle. The author conveys the message that nothing fosters the spirit of Christmas more than an entire neighbourhood rallying behind its people. Christmas day is a day of merrymaking and joy. Like Diwali, Christmas for us is also a different kind of festival of lights. On this unique occasion of Christmas, even non-Christians remember, with due reverence, the Son of god, who suffered the terribly painful death on the

Cross to deliver humanity and kindness from evil. Let us forget jealousy, hatred and selfishness and spread the supreme message of Christmas the love and peace among mankind.

different kinds of people in society. Today, when depression has become a common catchword in our society which leads deaths related to stroked, work stress is extremely prevalent in today's society, and can impact happiness levels, health, and other important aspects of your life, we need

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

# Kin of detained naval officers await visa to visit them in Doha

# Mata Vaishno Devi shrine ready to meet New Year rush of pilgrims

NEW DELHI: It has been four months one. No charges have been framed against some of the detained officers (who have



since eight former Indian naval officers, working for Dahra Consultancies in Doha were picked up from their home by Qatar's interior ministry. They have been under solitary confinement since then. On Monday, 26th December, they will go for bail appeal the fifth time and are hoping that they would be granted

them yet. Those having family members in Doha are allowed to have weekly physical meetings with them but, few officers' family in India have not been granted visas by Qatar and are still waiting to visit them. However, they are allowed to have a 10 mins phone call every week.

"Family members of

been kept under solitary confinement) have been trying to get visas from Qatar for sometime now. However, due to the recently concluded FIFA world cup there was a caveat that those applying for visas to Qatar had to buy a ticket for matches in Doha. Since these members had no requirement for buying a

ticket for football match, they were denied visas.

"However, as the FIFA world cup is over, hopes are high," said sources.

"Families back home are stressed with delay in the repatriation of these officers who have been working for Dahra for over two tenures and there was never any issue that cropped up earlier. These eight Indians are amongst the top ranking officials. With four months in solitary confinement, families back home fear them facing medical issues," said sources. All hopes are pinned on for 26th December bail appeal that the officers will make again and the Indian fraternity and families are hoping that they be granted it this time.

## South Africa fuel tanker blast death toll rises to 15

JOHANNESBURG: The death toll from a fuel tanker explosion in a South African city east of Johannesburg has risen to 15, the health

The tanker, transporting liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), was caught beneath a bridge close to the hospital and houses on Saturday morning in Boksburg, east of Johannesburg.

The minister said three hospital employees, two nurses and a driver, died later from severe burn injuries.

Thirty-seven people were injured, including 24 patients and 13 staff members who were in the hospital's accident and emergency unit at the time of the blast.

They "sustained severe burns and have been diverted to neighbouring hospitals", Phaahla said.

Others were hit by shattered glass, he added, while some were hurt as they were in the parking lot or in front of the hospital.

"We send our deepest condolences for the families that lost their loved ones," he said.



minister said Sunday.

"Yesterday (Saturday), the death toll was at 10 people and now we are sitting at 15 as of this morning," Joe Phaahla told reporters at Tambo Memorial Hospital.

## China stands ready to work with India: Chinese Foreign minister Wang Yi

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday that China is ready to work with India for the "steady and sound growth" of bilateral ties and the two countries are committed to upholding stability at the border areas where tensions have prevailed since 2020.

Addressing a symposium on the international situation and China's foreign relations in 2022, Wang said both countries have maintained communication through diplomatic and military-to-military channels.

"China and India have maintained communication through the diplomatic and military-to-military channels, and both countries are committed to upholding stability in the border areas," said Wang, who has been elevated to the ruling Communist Party of China's (CPC) high-power political bureau during the recent party Congress. "We stand ready to work with India in the direction toward steady and sound growth of China-India relations," he said at the symposium. Wang, along with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, is the Special Representative of the India-China boundary mechanism which has remained dormant in the present set of border standoffs.

In his lengthy address on China's diplomatic work, Wang focused more on China's troubled ties with the US and burgeoning relations with Russia, despite the Ukraine war.

He briefly touched on India-China relations that have been bogged down since April 2020 when China tried to move a large number of its troops to the disputed areas in Easter Ladakh, resulting in a prolonged military standoff.

India blames China of trying to alter 'status quo', Beijing downplays Arunachal border clash

The two countries have held 17 rounds of talks so far to resolve the standoff.

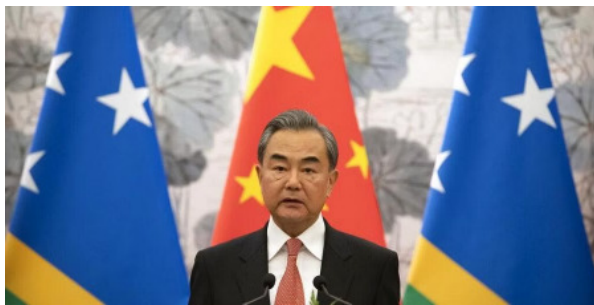
The 17th round of the India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting was held on December 20 during which the two sides agreed to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest, according to a joint press release issued after the talks.

Ever since the once-in-a-five-year Congress of the CPC in October which re-elected President

Xi Jinping for an unprecedented third five-year term, speculation is rife about Beijing's future course of India policy, especially in 2023 and whether it will normalise relations and restore stability at the 3,488-km long Line of Actual Control (LAC) which has been witnessing tensions between the two militaries.

According to observers, this month's clash between Indian and Chinese soldiers at Yangtse in Arunachal Pradesh, barely weeks after Xi began his new term, spelled danger that 2023 too will end up as yet another blank year in the bilateral ties.

Tensions at LAC persist as India, China hold 17th round of high-level talks, first since Tawang clash It was the first major clash between the Indian and Chinese armies since the fierce face-off in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.



JAMMU: Various measures are in place at the famous Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine atop Trikuta hills in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir to tackle heavy rush of pilgrims and avoid any untoward incident, an official said on Sunday.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has also issued guidelines for strict adherence to the COVID-19 guidelines as a precautionary measure, the official said.

In a first-ever stampede at the shrine on January 1 this year, 12 pilgrims lost their lives and 16 were injured, prompting the shrine board to introduce Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) as part of various projects sanctioned for the convenience of the pilgrims, better crowd management and tracking of the yatris along the 13-km track and the 'Bhawan' (sanctum sanctorum).

"The shrine is ready to meet heavy rush of devotees around New Year. A strategy has been chalked out to ensure smooth regulation of expected influx of pilgrims, decongestion of entire track, particularly the Bhawan area, and all-time surveillance through CCTV dedicated network of over 500 cameras," a shrine board official said.

He said enforcement teams of the board are being deployed for four days at the Bhawan from December 30 to January 2 to keep an eye on the number of pilgrims to avoid crowding.

The dedicated teams will also ensure that the pilgrims, except those having valid accommodation slips, return to the base camp Katra immediately after having 'Darshan' at the shrine.

The official said the shrine board has also identified four holding areas, one each at Katra, Ardhuwari, Sanjichha and Manokamana area, to accommodate the pilgrims if their number increases beyond the daily limit of 50,000.

Earlier, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB

Anshul Garg said the RFID-based yatra registration cards have been started with the focus to enhance not only the security but also ensure real-time tracking of pilgrims on the track en route Bhawan for better regulation of the pilgrims in accordance with the holding capacity of the trek and the shrine area



(Bhawan).

He emphasized that security agencies not allow any pilgrims without a valid RFID card for which additional handheld scanners may be put to use with sufficient staff to plug any shortfall.

On the concern about COVID-19, the official said all the stakeholders have been advised to wear masks while dealing with the yatris.

The shrine board has made wearing face masks mandatory for every pilgrim attending the 'Atka Arti' and in the 'darshan queue', the official said.

On Friday, Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta at a meeting had said there is no need to panic given rising COVID-19 cases in neighbouring countries as no surge has been reported so far in the Union Territory.

However, Mehta enjoined upon the health experts to take preemptive measures so that the administration is fully prepared to meet any contingency. He asked them to activate all the Covid testing facilities so that any person desiring to test finds the facility nearby. He impressed upon them to create ample awareness among the public so that no unnecessary scare is created among them. According to officials, there is currently no bed occupancy related to Covid in the health facilities in the Union Territory.

The ties between the two countries froze since then, with India making it clear that peace and tranquillity at the border is the sine qua non for the overall development of bilateral ties.

The PLA's move at Yangtse taking place after the completion of disengagement from many friction points was seen as the reflection of the dilemma prevailing in the Chinese political and military ranks on how to deal with India which is on political ascendancy internationally.

In his address on Sunday, Wang spoke about China's opposition to "bloc confrontation".

Beijing has been opposing the formation of the Quad alliance comprising the US, India, Australia and Japan, as well as the AUKUS alliance of the US, Australia, and the UK. China claims that such blocs are aimed at containing its rise.

"We have continued to reject bloc confrontation and zero-sum competition, and maintained strategic stability in relations with other major countries," Wang said.

Why imperil national security for sake of your vanity: Congress questions PM on China He said the BRICS countries have projected a resounding voice for global equity and justice, and injected strong BRICS impetus into global economic recovery and development.

The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) has become the most influential platform for South-South cooperation. A host of emerging markets are taking great

strides to catch up in terms of global governance, turning from followers to forerunners, he said.

In his address, Wang also briefly touched on China's ties with Pakistan, saying the two countries have "continued to firmly support each other, uphold the invaluable all-weather strategic partnership, and consolidate the iron-clad friendship". On the China-US ties, which continued to witness turbulence, Wang said, "we have firmly rejected the United States' erroneous China policy and have been exploring the right way for the two countries to get along with each other".

"As the United States has stubbornly continued to see China as its primary competitor and engage in blatant blockade, suppression and provocation against China, China-US relations were plunged into serious difficulties," Wang said.

On the Taiwan issue, Wang said China has not been intimidated by US bullying.

"We have not been intimidated by any hegemonic power or its bullying, and have acted resolutely to safeguard China's core interests and national dignity," he said.

He, however, spoke highly about the development of China-Russia ties, notwithstanding Moscow's involvement in the Ukraine war.

"We have deepened good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation with Russia, and made China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination more mature and resilient," Wang said.

"Over the past year, China and Russia have firmly supported each other in upholding respective core interests, and our political and strategic mutual trust has been further consolidated," he said.

# IIT K Honors SOA Chief Gopalpur Beach Festival kicks off

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak, Founder President of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) was on Saturday conferred with the prestigious Distinguished Alumnus Award of IIT Kharagpur for 2022.

Nanda, Pro-Vice Chancellor of SOA Deemed to be University received the award on behalf of Prof. (Dr.) Nayak. "As your Alma Mater, the institute applauds and takes great pride to bestow this honour in

community-society and the institute at large," a communication received by Prof. (Dr.) Nayak from IIT Kharagpur said. A teacher-turned-entrepreneur, Prof. (Dr.) Nayak, graduated in electrical engineering

He obtained his doctorate from the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (O U A T), Bhubaneswar. Prof. (Dr.) Nayak had also received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from NIT, Rourkela earlier. After working as a Professor in OUAT, he floated SOA and has set up ten institutions of professional learning in Bhubaneswar.

The institutes, which operate under the SOA Deemed to be University umbrella have been imparting education in engineering and technology, medical sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, dental sciences, management sciences, hospitality and tourism management, nursing, legal studies, agricultural sciences and veterinary sciences and animal husbandry. Around 15,000 students study in SOA including from foreign countries. The Deemed to be University was ranked 16th in the country in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2022.



The award was conferred on Prof. (Dr.) Nayak in absentia at IIT Kharagpur's 68th convocation ceremony. Prof. Pradipta Kumar

recognition of your professional achievements that made significant contributions in various fields of academia and research, industries,

from the Regional Engineering College (presently NIT) at Rourkela and completed M.Tech in Computer Science from IIT, Kharagpur.



## Orchid cultivation centre comes up in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR: An Orchid Cultivation and Breeding Centre and a Tissue Culture Production facility were inaugurated at the Regional Plan Resource Centre (RPRC) here on Friday to supply new varieties of orchid and produce banana saplings on a mass-scale for farmers of Odisha.

Additional chief secretary, Forest, Environment and Climate Change department Mona Sharma inaugurated the two facilities on the RPRC premises in presence of PCCF and RPRC chief executive Pusazhule Mekro, senior scientist Nihar Ranjan Nayak and other delegates. Set up at an investment of Rs 4 crore with the help of Agriculture department, the Orchid Cultivation and Breeding Centre will be a platform for the floriculture farmers to know about orchid and the new technologies used in its farming. Besides, it will also help RPRC scientists undertake research for creation of new orchid varieties from the existing species in the country, that can be supplied to the farmers. The newly inaugurated facility has three orchid cultivation chambers in which low-cost technology has been adopted for cultivation of three varieties of Dendrobium (Earsakul, Singapore White, and Sanan White). Around 300 different orchid species and cultivars have also been collected by the RPRC for development of new hybrids at the breeding centre. On the other hand, the Tissue Culture Production facility, set up by the Forest department at a cost of Rs 3 crore with support from the centre under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, will help produce around 5 lakh banana saplings using tissue culture technology for farmers of the state. The facility has already been approved by the National Certification System for Tissue Culture Raised Plants (NCS-TCP) under Centre's Biotechnology department.



## Indian Navy band enthralls audience in Bhubaneswar



BHUBANESWAR: As part of Indian Navy Week celebrations and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, INS Chilka conducted a band concert on KIIT campus in Bhubaneswar. During the event, Governor Ganeshi Lal complimented the Indian Navy's band concert and recalled his love for music. As an appreciation for the Indian Navy and its band concert, the Governor

recited the poem of Ramavtar Tyagi - 'man samarpit, tan samarpit aur yah jeevan samarpit, chaahataa hoon desh ki dharti tujhey kuchh aur bhi doon'. Odisha naval officer-in-charge and Commanding Officer of INS Chilka Commodore NP Pradeep remembered Vice Admiral SH Sarma, who was the fleet commander of Eastern Naval Command during the 1971

war. Vice Admiral SH Sarma, PVSM (veteran) passed away in January this year in Bhubaneswar. Commodore Pradeep said that Indian Navy's band has evinced the country's art of music in various international platforms. He urged the youths to join the Indian Navy and serve the nation and said that the force has a commendable work-life balance. The naval musicians,

also known as unofficial ambassadors of the country, performed on patriotic, classical and western music. They also enthralled the audience by singing 'Call of the Blue Waters', the Indian Navy anthem penned by noted lyricist Prasoon Joshi. Senior officers of the armed forces and Odisha Police, retired military personnel, NCC cadets, students and other guests were present.



BERHAMPUR: Gopalpur Beach Festival, the biggest cultural extravaganza of south Odisha, was inaugurated by Odisha Legislative Assembly speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha on Saturday. The five-day festival, which will conclude on December 28, is being organised at the sea town of Gopalpur after a gap of two years. People from within Ganjam district and

neighbouring Andhra Pradesh visit the town for the festival during which cultural troupes from across the country enthral the audience with their performances, said collector Dibyajyoti Parida. Mission Shakti stalls, Pallishree Mela, Meena Bazaar, Biju Patnaik Manoranjan Park and various other exhibitions are the other attractions of the festival.

Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said while 32 CCTV cameras have been installed at the festival venue, 15 platoons of police force are deployed to maintain order. Among others, minister Srikant Sahu and Berhampur MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu were present in the inauguration ceremony. Meanwhile, police detained an 18-year-

old youth for spreading rumours of availability of tickets for the festival on OLX. The youth, a resident of Jail Road in Berhampur is mentally unsound and had created an ID on OLX in which he put up VIP passes for the festival on sale. The youth's house was searched and no tickets were found, said the SP. He said the boy was handed over to his relatives.




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## Buoyant tax collections cushion Govt on fiscal front, ITR reforms likely next year

NEW DELHI: Riding on the back of a 26 per cent surge in tax collections, the government is set to unveil the next set of reforms in tax administration by pruning the number of forms available for filing Income Tax Return (ITR) to improve taxpayers' experience and reduce the time taken to file returns. Both direct and indirect tax collections have been buoyant in 2022, a clear indication of the revival of the economy after the pandemic and also as a result of government efforts to plug tax leakages. Going forward, as it seeks to tighten the noose around evaders, the government may also look at stricter tax deduction norms for e-commerce and online service providers, besides online gaming. Taxation of the digital economy, ensuring developing countries get their fair share of taxes and global coordination for taxation of cryptocurrencies would be one of the priority areas as India is all set to host the leaders of G-20 countries next year.

The rationalisation of long-term capital gains tax structure is also expected to bring parity in the holding period between similar asset classes. Currently, shares held for more than one year attract a 10 per cent tax on long-term capital gains. Gains arising from the sale of immovable property and unlisted shares held for more than 2 years and debt instruments and jewellery held for over 3 years attract 20 per cent long-term capital gains tax.

Some tweaking in the new tax regime is also expected next year as the government wants to make the exemption-free tax regime more attractive to individual income taxpayers. In the longer run, the government wants to do away with the complex old tax regime by establishing a new system, devoid of exemptions and deductions.

Moving in that direction the government in Union Budget 2020-21 gave the option to taxpayers to choose between the old regime with various deductions and exemptions and the new tax regime that offered lower tax rates without exemptions and deductions.

Even after two years of it coming into effect, the new tax regime has not taken off and the I-T department is now considering some tinkering with it so that more taxpayers shift to it. The gross collection of direct taxes (before adjusting for refunds) till December 17 of the current fiscal year stood at Rs 13.63 lakh crore, a rise of 26 per cent over the same period of 2021-22 on robust growth in advance tax payment and TDS deductions.

After adjusting for refunds, the net collection of tax on corporate and individual earnings has jumped nearly 20 per cent to Rs 11.35 lakh crore, which is about 80 per cent of the full-year budget target.

The tax authorities are working on a common ITR form for most taxpayers and the forms (ITR-1 and 4) for individual taxpayers will continue. The taxpayers filing ITR-1 and ITR-4 will get an option to choose which form they want while filing their tax returns - the proposed common ITR form or the existing one.

Currently, there are 7 types of income tax return (ITR) forms which are filed by different categories of taxpayers. Rising tax revenues also give a cushion to the government on the fiscal front as it more than makes up for the shortfall in the budgeted disinvestment target set for the current fiscal year. Nangia Andersen LLP Partner Sandeep Jhunjunwala said this budget is unique being the post-COVID-19 recovery budget and the last full-year budget from the second term of the current government ahead of the Lok Sabha elections to be held in 2024.

"As the disparity between the personal tax rates and corporate tax rates has widened over the years, it would only be fair if the grief of the common man is allayed and the overall personal taxation system for individual taxpayers is made more sparing. This would indirectly help the government widen the tax collection net by paving way for increased voluntary

### BJP to hold satyagraha on BJD's foundation day

Continued from page-1

"Odisha is a peace loving state. BJP strongly condemns increasing criminalisation of politics and crime against women. As a mark of protest the party has decided to observe four-hour satyagraha in each of the 1,004 zilla parishad zones on Monday," Mohanty said.

Addressing the media separately, general secretary of national BJP Mahila Morcha Deepti Rawat Bhardwaj came down heavily on the state government for the rising violence against women and its failure to utilise the central assistance given under Nirbhaya fund aimed at improving the security and safety of women.

She said the state has utilised only Rs 45 crore out of Rs 75 crore of the Nirbhaya fund in 2021 while the expenditure in 2022 is Rs 19 crore out of Rs 26 crore. The BJP leader from Uttarakhand criticised the state government for implementing all the welfare schemes of Centre for women on party lines and doing vote bank politics through self help groups.

compliance in the country," Jhunjunwala said. Deloitte India Partner Rohinton Sidhwa said there is an expectation that at the G-20, India will push the agenda on areas which will yield more tax for developing countries.

"The unfinished agenda on taxing digital activities of global MNCs is high on the priority list. Also, India is expected to spearhead quick headway on better reporting for crypto transactions. The crypto industry globally has attracted much attention and there is a spur to regulate the industry better, prevent misuse through money laundering and capture any tax leakages."

Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co Partner Amit Singhanian said it is expected that the government will rationalise prosecution provisions under the Income-tax Act, 1961.

The current monetary threshold to invoke criminal prosecution is as low as Rs 10,000 and may require rationalization.



The year that was On the Goods and Services Tax (GST) side, the GST Council, comprising finance ministers from states and the Centre, has set the ball rolling on the rationalisation of tax rates and merging of slabs as the indirect tax regime completed 5 years.

The completion of half a decade of the GST regime was significant as the compensation paid to states for revenue loss ended this year and also the term of the National Anti Profiteering Authority (NAA) ended with its job getting transferred to anti-monopoly watchdog Competition Commission of India (CCI). GST collections, which are a barometer of the economy's performance, have been showing improving signs and are stabilising around Rs 1.4 lakh crore on the back of a vibrant economy.

As the government stepped up compliance checks and data sharing among departments, the tax revenues have improved over the year and this fiscal is likely to exceed the budget target of Rs 27.50 lakh crore by about Rs 4 lakh crore, helping the government to keep its fiscal deficit in 2022-23 within the budgeted level.

Keeping a hawk eye on the areas which can garner more taxes, the government this year brought in a 30 per cent tax on transactions in virtual digital assets or cryptocurrencies. Also to establish the money trail, a 1 per cent Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) too has been brought in. This tax has somewhat dampened investor sentiment in highly

### At Christmas, Pope urges end to 'senseless' Ukraine war

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Moscow.

However, he has been criticised in some quarters for not being more explicit in blaming Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In a magazine interview published last month, the Argentine pontiff denounced the cruelty of Russia's troops in Ukraine, drawing a formal protest from Moscow.

On Sunday, the pope also urged those celebrating Christmas to remember those "who go hungry while huge amounts of food daily go to waste and resources are being spent on weapons".

"The war in Ukraine has further aggravated this situation, putting entire peoples at risk of famine, especially in Afghanistan and in the countries of the Horn of Africa," he said.

"We know that every war causes hunger and exploits food as a weapon, hindering its distribution to people already suffering.

"On this day, let us learn from the Prince of Peace (Christ) and, starting with those who hold political responsibilities, commit ourselves to making food solely an instrument of peace."

Meaning of Christmas

On Saturday evening, the pope led the traditional Christmas Eve mass at St Peter's Basilica, using a wheelchair as he continues to struggle with knee pain.

He prayed for "the children devoured by wars, poverty and injustice" and lamented that "men hungry for power and money swallow up their loved ones, their brothers".

He called on people to "abandon the warmth of worldliness" and "rediscover the meaning of Christmas" in the face of "consumerism", advocating for a Church that serves the poor.

The Vatican put the crowd Sunday at 70,000, while 7,000 people attended Saturday evening's mass, with more following the service on screens outside. "It's very inspiring to be here with all these people," Victoria Machado, who travelled with her family to the Vatican from Mexico, told AFP.

"We're happy and moved to see the pope, even if we're outside, and to feel this connection between each other," the 19-year-old added.

Julie, a 50-year-old who manages a business in France, said the pope was a "very humble man. I think he's capable of offering a message of peace and trying to unite people and ease tensions".

risky crypto investments.

Also, the 'windfall profit tax' was introduced to tax 'above-average profits' earned by the domestic oil and gas companies after crude prices skyrocketed following the Russia-Ukraine war.

To tax the above-normal profits earned by upstream oil companies, India imposed a windfall tax on oil producers in July 2022 and reviews it every fortnight.

Besides, the concept of updated returns has been introduced this year to enable taxpayers to disclose omitted income and correct mistakes made in income tax returns within a two-year window.

An additional 25 per cent on the due tax and interest would have to be paid if the updated ITR is filed within 12 months, while the rate will go up to 50 per cent if it is filed after 12 months, but before 24 months from the end of relevant Assessment Year. KPMG in India Partner Indirect Tax Abhishek Jain said the forthcoming year will be an exciting one for indirect taxes with the much-awaited new Foreign Trade Policy and the DESH bill expected to be launched.

### Eyes on Cong Votes

Continued from page-1

claim of 9 to 90 appeared to be just a slogan and nothing more than that. Political Pundits do not see a future for Congress as its leaders and workers are in a demoralized state.

Insiders said that the BJD has already set a separate strategy on how to maximize Congress votes to its kitty and at the same time ensure that the BJP do not gain from the weakening of the country's oldest party. The BJD has adopted the similar approach of BJP which was implemented by Saffron Political Master Strategist, Amit Shah in Assam. Himanta Biswa Sarma is now the BJP's Chief Minister in Assam and he was a strong aide of former Congress CM Tarun Gogoi. However he was roped in to the Saffron Brigade and his acumen helped in installing BJP Government in 2016. With help of Sarma, the BJP brought down Tarun Gogoi's 15 years rule from 2001 to 2016 and installed the Sarbananda Sonowal government. In the 2021 elections in Assam Sonowal was sent to centre and Sarma became the Chief Minister. Assam is a classic example of BJP poaching Congress leaders and thus bringing down its government.

However, Shah's formula is unlikely to become beneficial for BJP in Odisha as the saffron party realized the importance of Congress votes very late. The BJD has already taken many Congress leaders to its fold and they now come handy for the party to bring votes from the oldest party. Odisha's health minister Naba Kishore Das for instance was instrumental in the victory of BJD candidate Barsha Singh Bariha in Padampur. As a former Congress stalwart in the region, Shri Das knows who are the vote catchers for their party in Padampur area.

He first convinced the grass root level Congress leaders that voting for their party candidate will instead help the BJP candidate Pradip Purohit. For remaining out of power for two decades, many Congress leaders have changed their party affiliation, shifted to either BJD or the BJP. It is very easy for the BJD to motivate Congress supporters to cast their votes to conch symbol in order to oust BJP. This apart, being in power in the state, BJD also assured many Congressmen of help in different ways.

Nobody can deny that the Congress has a certain percentage of votes in each assembly segment and they will play a vital role in the ensuing 2024 elections. BJP candidate in Padampur assembly segment Pradip Purohit, who is considered as a strong leader having a mass base, in his first reaction claimed that the victory of BJD was surprising for him. He claimed that Barsha won as the BJD purchased Congress votes. Hence, there should be no doubt that Congress votes decide the fate of candidates in the assembly elections.

Therefore, both the BJD and BJP have been eyeing on the Congress vote as they may be a deciding factor. BJD and BJP are fighting almost near zone but the party which gets a major share from Congress's fixed votes, will win the 2024 elections. Two MLAs - Suresh Routray and Mohammad Moquim- have now been served with show cause notices by the OPCC for uttering words on transfer of Congress votes to BJD. The Congress leadership may not admit it openly, but the fact remains that the party votes are being transferred either to the BJD or the BJP.

Can Congress leaders retain the party's vote share in 2024? They may give slogans like 9 to 90 seats, but the ground reality is something else. Congress can be 'King Maker' in 2024 if it retains its vote. But, nobody knows how much the Congress workers and supporters at ground level resist the onslaught of BJD and the BJP. Many Congress leaders in strategic zones like Coastal and Southern Odisha are being targeted by BJD to be roped in before elections. Like Naba Kishore Das they will be playing a key role in strengthening vote banks of the regional party. Time will tell, whether Congress becomes a 'King Maker' or exposes itself for sale in the electoral market as alleged by two veteran Congress lawmakers. So, all eyes are on Congress votes.

### MCD organises its first event after AAP's victory; AAP MLAs-Councillors observe Pt Madan Mohan Malviya Jayanti

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Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya was organised in the Madan Mohan Malaviya Park, the authorities of MCD welcomed the MLA Shri Somnath Bharti as the chief guest as well as the Municipal Councillors Ms Leena Kumar, Ms Sarita Phogaat, and Shri Kamal Bharadwaj as special guests. All the guests were welcomed with heart warming wishes for their works and also for their dedication to their posts. There was a huge crowd gathered in the park for the very first time in celebration of the birth anniversary of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.

After the welcoming of all the guests, Shri Somnath Bharti shared his valuable and intellectual speech to everyone present during the program. Shri Somnath Bharti said in his statement that Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji was a great social worker, politician and educational reformer. He said in his statement that Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji always wanted to bring change in the educational reaches. "He wanted to make each and every citizen of India educated so that India would be able to reach the heights of success and everything that a country and people's desires. The people of India are not standing on the expectations of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji. He wanted a place where there would be safety for the women in the whole country. He wanted self employment to be there for the youngsters."

MLA Shri Somnath Bharti further said that the citizens of India have always wanted that there should be a government body which would be working for the growth of the citizens of the country. He said that earlier import of the foreigner trade worldwide was around 25% and now it is more than 80%, and China has been playing the big role of supplying their products in India which has decreased the number of the production and innovation in the country. Shri Bharti mentioned in his statement that brain-drain is a big issue in our country. He said that if we look at the big organisations such as NASA, Google, Microsoft, and others; they have been getting profit from the Indian educated people who shift to different countries such as the UK, USA, Canada, Dubai and many other countries. When it is asked from the people of India who have been shifted to the other countries then it comes out that they did not get the opportunity to express their skills while being in India, and that is the main reason they shift to the other countries and those countries give them the stage of performing their skills.

Shri Somnath Bharti said in his statement that the expectations of the citizens of India are that everyone should be taught, and there should be safety for the women. He said, "all the Municipal Councillors of Malaviya Nagar from the Aam Aadmi Party are going to make sure that they give their best. The Aam Aadmi Party has got to be inspired by Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji, and the party has always worked on the things that Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji always wanted to be done in the country. However, for now it is just in the capital of the country, Delhi, but further it is going to be shared in the whole country if there would be the blessings and support of the citizens of India."

On the 25th of December every year India celebrates the birth anniversary of the famous Indian scholar, social worker and a greatest educational reformer. It is a great day for the whole country, India to remember the legacy that Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji has left behind. Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji was a great Indian scholar, educational reformer and an amazing social worker who gave his great dedication to Indian freedom.

By He had been the president of the Indian National Congress for four times. He was also the founder of the Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha. As Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji was born on the 25th of December, 2022.

## Team India: Rahul's approach, sane selection calls are need of the hour

NEW DELHI: India's batting approach in the two Tests against Bangladesh was a far cry from the aggression promised by KL Rahul and the buck stops at the stand-in captain's doorstep after a close shave in

ings. A special stand between Shreyas Iyer and Ravichandran Ashwin saved the blushes for India but the below-par performance of the top order and a few tactical blunders raise plenty

more than just defending against the rampaging Bangladesh spinners. Skipper Rahul never looked assured in the middle and was dismissed on the front foot in the two innings. His place in

sweep shot often but is brilliant at using the crease. However, he just chose to defend everything on the front foot and it was only a matter of time before he got the ball that had his number.



the Mirpur game which could have gone the home team's way. The Indian bowlers did get the 40 wickets on expected lines but their propensity to let the opposition tail wag nearly cost them the second Test which was won by four wickets.

The day four surface was challenging but knocking off 145 should still have been a straightforward job for India. Instead, they chose to employ ultra-defensive technique on a track where that should have been the last option. In a small run-chase, letting that sort of mindset allowed the Bangladesh spinners to boss the proceed-

of questions for the tougher test that awaits them in the upcoming home series against Australia. India don't need to copy England's uber-aggressive style of play popularly known as 'Bazball' but Rahul and Co should have taken a leaf out of their book at least while chasing 145. Chasing 167 on a tricky Karachi pitch, England shut the game by racing to 112 for two in 17 overs at stumps on day three. They eventually 'gunned' down the target in just 28.1 overs the following morning.

The Indian top-order did not need to go hammer and tongs like the English but it could have done a lot

the first Test against Australia in February looks far from certain. Shubman Gill and Cheteshwar Pujara tried to step out of the crease against offie Mehidy Hasan Miraz but failed miserably.

The current generation's struggles against spin are not new and their underwhelming showing against Miraz and Co will only leave the much more accomplished Nathan Lyon licking his lips ahead of the series opener in Nagpur.

Virat Kohli's greatness can't be argued but his 1 off 22 balls on day three is an innings he himself would like to forget. He doesn't play the

Among the tactical errors, not playing Kuldeep Yadav after his eight-wicket haul in his comeback Test stood out. The third spinner on a turning track would have possibly helped India finish the game on day three itself.

The series opener was won by a handsome margin but that could have been wrapped earlier had Rahul chosen to enforce the follow-on. With the World Test Championship final appearance at stake, India will need to be much more positive with their approach while walking the "positive intent" talk and not just provide lip service.

## Sania Mirza to pair up with World No 11 Anna Danilina for Australian Open 2023

NEW DELHI: India's ace tennis star Sania Mirza will pair up with Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina to compete at the Australian Open 2023, which will begin on January 16.

For the first Grand Slam of 2023, the Indian tennis player will partner with the World number 11 in the world, according to Imran Mirza, the tennis star's father and coach.

League, which is taking place in Dubai. Former number 1 in the world in women's doubles, Sania Mirza, reached the finals of the WTA 500 Charleston Open and the WTA 250 Strasbourg Open in 2022. She participated in six other women's doubles semifinals in addition to two finals.

An achievement of Sania for the year was reaching the Wimbledon 2022 mixed doubles semifinals with her Croatian partner Mate Pavic. Saina, 36, made her first Grand Slam semifinal appearance in five years.

Sania Mirza bids adieu to Wimbledon with semifinal loss in mixed doubles

Sania has won two Australian Open championships in her career, one in women's doubles with Martina Navratilova and the other in mixed doubles with Mahesh Bhupathi in 2009.

At the Australian Open 2022, Sania Mirza paired with Nadiia Kichenok in women's doubles and was knocked out in the first round. She teamed up with USA's Rajeev Ram in the mixed doubles and made it to the quarter-finals.



However, Sania Mirza's participation in the Australian Open's mixed doubles competition has not yet been confirmed.

Sania ranked number 25 in the world in the WTA doubles rankings, had intended to give up playing competitive tennis after the 2022 season, but later changed her mind.

The Indian tennis player is presently competing in

## Hockey World Cup trophy on display at five places in Bhubaneswar today

BHUBANESWAR: The FIH Men's Hockey World Cup trophy to be received in the state capital on Sunday will be put on display at five different places throughout the day to mark the celebrations. Officials said after being received at Biju Patnaik International Airport at 11.30 am, it will be taken near Biju Patnaik statue close to the airport at 12 pm and kept there for half an hour.

It will be then taken in a procession to Lingaraj temple through Sishu Bhawan Square, Mausima flyover and Ratha Road and will be kept there for 10 minutes. The trophy will also be kept on display at Esplanade Mall from 1.50 pm to 2.20 pm after being taken on a pro-

cession via Kalpana Square and Puri-Cuttack Road.

From there it will then be taken to SOA University campus and then to KIIT University campus. The trophy will then be taken to Nayagarh. Sources said the tro-

phy will arrive in Bhubaneswar after travelling 13 states and one Union Territory. The World Cup will be played at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and Birsra Munda Sta-

dium in Rourkela from January 13 to 29. To mark the celebrations of the quadrennial event, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) will resume its weekly fest 'Patha Utsav' from

The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) has also planned 'Dot Fest' from next month to mark the World Cup celebrations. Also, the Bhubaneswar Festival of International Storytelling 'BhuFeSto' will also



be back to the state capital during the hockey World Cup. The festival will be organised by BDA in collaboration with BMC, Odisha Tourism and city-based Bakul Foundation from January 14-17.

Sunday. The first 'Patha Utsav' will be organised on Master canteen-Ram Mandir stretch of Janpath from 6.30 am to 9.30 am in which the civic body has planned a talent show.

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