

Odisha: CM Naveen Launches Over 1500 Projects Worth Rs 1,805 Crore In Angul

Angul(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today launched over 1500 projects under various welfare programmes in Angul district.

Attending a public meeting at Angul Stadium, Patnaik received a warm welcome from women associated with different Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the district.

He announced to provide to total Rs 242 crore loan under Mission Shakti programme benefitting more than 75,000 women in the district.



The CM launched and laid foundation stones of total 1541 projects worth Rs 1,805 crore during his one-day visit to Angul district today. Speaking on the

occasion, he said, "Angul district is leading in the field of industries for which Rs 800 crore will be invested. The state cabinet has approved a proposal of

Rs 350 crore for supplying drinking water to 48 Gram Panchayats in the district. The government will set up two mega drinking water projects at cost of Rs 358

crore in Angul and Banarpal Blocks benefitting total 2,36,000 people (1.66 lakh in Angul and 70,000 in Banarpal) in the district. Both the drinking water projects will be completed within two years." Besides, the state government is considering to provide Rs 50,000 crore loan to women under Mission Shakti during next five years. Assembly Deputy Speaker Rajani Kant Singh and Dhenkanal MP Mahesh Sahoo also addressed during the event.

Deaths Of Russian Tourists: Another Crime Branch Team Sent To Rayagada To Collect Evidence

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha Police has formed another Crime Branch (CB) team and dispatched it to Rayagada as part of the investigation into the back-to-back deaths of two Russian tourists at a hotel in the south Odisha town recently.

The four-member CB team led by DSP Saroj Kant Mahanto has been entrusted with the responsibility of visiting the spot, examining the witnesses and, identifying and collecting evidence from the spot and local police before taking follow up action, sources said. Two forensic experts and a photographer have been sent to Rayagada to assist the CID-CB team in



the investigation, sources added. The CB, meanwhile, has collected some information about the family members of the deceased Vladimir Bydanov (61) and Pavel Antov (65) during the examination of Russian couple Turov Mikhail (63) and Natalia Panasenko. The Russian couple along with Bydanov, Antov and their Indian guide Jitendra

Singh had checked into the hotel in Rayagada on December 21. Bydanov was found dead under mysterious circumstances in his hotel room on December 22. Two days later on December 24, Antov was found dead in the hotel. Antov was a Russian lawmaker and a bitter critic of President Vladimir Putin. The police had said that Antov died after falling from the third floor of the hotel. We are in the process of contacting the family members of both Bydanov and Antov to cross-check the veracity of information collected during the examination of Russian couple Turov Mikhail and Natalia Panasenko," said a CB official.

Union Minister of Mines Shri Pralhad Joshi lauds NALCO for stellar and record-breaking performance



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Shri Pralhad Joshi, Hon'ble Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines has appreciated the collective efforts of employees and Management of National Aluminium Company Limited in achieving record-breaking results, despite the challenging global business environment. Hon'ble Union Minister was addressing the employees, during his visit to NALCO Corporate office, today at Bhubaneswar. Worth mentioning that National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the Navratna CPSE, under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India and country's leading manufacturer and exporter of alumina and aluminium has recorded an all-round success in the Fiscal 2021-22. NALCO recorded a net profit of Rs. 2,952 crore which is the highest ever since the inception

of the company. Hon'ble Minister Shri Joshi praised for Team NALCO and its leadership for steering the company's production and productivity in the right direction, when the whole world was reeling under the impact of COVID-19. Shri Joshi said that NALCO has always remained in the forefront in addressing the self-sufficiency of the strategic metal - ALUMINIUM. Organizations like NALCO and many other mining & metal industries are indeed bright examples of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-reliant India), he added. "When organization and industries continue to achieve significant milestones in their journey of success and set new benchmarks every time, then it gives a sense of confidence that our economy and our efforts to achieve the vision of New India is in

the right direction, said Shri Joshi. On this occasion, Hon'ble Union Minister announced a production & performance gift of 1% of Profit Before Tax as a token of appreciation for all employees who have made the feat possible of achieving several records, beating the history of last 42 years. For all contractual workmen, Shri Joshi also announced a performance reward in the form of 1-month basic wages for their valued contribution. He urged upon the Nalconians to continue their tempo, dedication and commitment with same vigour and zeal, for achieving greater heights of success in future. Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Govt of India, was also present on the occasion and congratulated NALCO collective for their exceptional achievement.

FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF BHUBANESWAR RAILWAY STATION

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Hon'ble Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal, Mines & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi and Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways, Communication and Electronics & Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw laid the foundation Stone for much awaited public centric vital Railway project "Redevelopment of Bhubaneswar Railway Station" proposed to be a World-Class infrastructure at Bhubaneswar Railway Station and flagged off Puri-Jaleswar-Puri MEMU, today.

Speaking to the gathering, Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Pralhad Joshi praised Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw for utilising Electronics & Information Technology in Railways and speeding up the infrastructural Development in the country by laying new lines and redeveloping the Stations and also providing amenities for the benefit of the people.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw in his speech said that, priority is being given for the development of Railways in Odisha. Now Odisha is getting more than 10 thousand crores instead



of rupees 700 to 800 crores before 2014. Now Railway is constructing about 300 Kms rail line in an year instead of a mere 20 to 30Kms earlier. Apart from this, 36 Railway Stations of Odisha are now being upgraded with modern facilities where every corner of the State have been given priority. These apart, Jagannath circuit will also run within a few days.

Redevelopment of Bhubaneswar Railway Station will have a number of facilities with modern infrastructure and amenities. The Construction period of the project is 24 months

from the start of the work, added Shri Vaishnaw. Hon'ble MPs Shri Pratap Sarangi & Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, Hon'ble MLAs Shri Ananta Narayan Jena graced the occasion at Bhubaneswar Railway Station.

In the function at Angul Station, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik Flagged off New Express train between Sambalpur and Shalimar via Talcher-Dhenkanal & Bhadrak in presence of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Shri Pralhad Joshi and Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw. Much awaited Sambalpur -

Puri-Jaleswar-Puri Passenger Train Flagged Off from Bhubaneswar Station. Angul-Balaram New Railway Line Inaugurated. Sambalpur-Shalimar-Sambalpur Express Flagged off from Angul.

Shalimar Express via Talcher-Dhenkanal & Bhadrak will fulfil the aspirations of the people of this area.

Later, the 14 Kms long Angul-Balaram New Railway Line was inaugurated at the function held at Electrical Loco Shed, Angul by Hon'ble Union Ministers Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Shri Pralhad Joshi and Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw. Angul-Balaram New Railway Line will provide facilities for the transportation of freight, especially coal to the different industries and power houses of the

country and will add additional revenue for the Nation.

Hon'ble Dy. Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly Shri Rajani Kant Singh, Hon'ble MP Shri Mahesh Sahu, Hon'ble MLAs Shri Braja Kishore Pradhan, Shri Sushant Kumar Behera also graced the occasion at Angul Railway Station and Electric Loco Shed at Angul.

Earlier, General Manager, East Coast Railway Shri Roop Narayan Sunkar delivered his welcome address.

Puri Srimandir To Remain Open With Revised Timing On New Year

Puri(KCN): In view of possible rush for New Year in Puri, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has revised the timing for opening Srimandir in wee hours on January 1, 2023.

Following discussion with servitors and other officials at a meeting

chaired by Puri Collector Samarth Verma on Wednesday, the temple administration has decided to make all kind of arrangements for devotees for smooth darshan of deities on New Year.

As per the decision, the Dwarafita Niti (opening of Singhadwar) will be

held at 1.00 AM on January 1.

As there will be heavy rush on December 31 and January 1 for New Year, the SJTA has decided to close the main entrance of the temple early on New Year eve and open the temple at 1.00 AM after a few hours of pause. A special shed



will be built for senior citizens at Singhadwar and the existing shed meant for public darshan will be expanded, an official of the Jagannath temple administration said.

He said that a temporary shed with arrangement of drinking water will be in place from Singhadwar

to Market Square. A temporary shoe stand will be built at Market Square. The devotees can know the schedule of rituals on New Year through LED display. The free parking arrangements will be made for devotees and tourists at Jagannath Ballav, Sharadhahali,

SCS College Square, Barabati Jaga and Loknath Road. In case of lack of space at these parking places, the additional number of vehicles can be parked at Talabania. Besides, the fee will be fixed for parking of vehicles at parking lot by Puri Municipality.

Hemant Soren Government failed in all Front: V S Nayak

Ranchi(KCN): During the tenure of 3 years, the Hemant Soren government tried to work in the interests of the

his response today on the completion of 3 years of Hemant government. He further said that in the Hemant

date. Mr. Nayak also said that the Hemant government did the work of playing with the sentiments of the

bunal commission and all the important corporations related to the public interest, which protect the interests of the people, are not even constituted. To die by drowning in a handful of water for the government there is respect. Mr. Nayak further said that Hemant Soren's government did not show special interest and seriousness in fulfilling all the election promises made at the time of elections, all those promises are being proved as election gimmicks today. They were seen busy only in the game of saving their power and avoiding the ED-Income Tax Department and shining their face and whenever the chair power was in danger, they did the work of playing with the feelings of the Jharkhandi public, otherwise the Jharkhandi public Neither Khatian based planning policy nor local policy can give this benefit to anyone. Expressing hope, he said that Hemant Soren's government would be successful in fulfilling all the promises made in the future, Jharkhandi Information Rights Forum and Adivasi Moolvasi Janadhikar Manch wish that the Dalit Aborigines of Jharkhand would get full benefits from it



Jharkhand society, but they could not succeed, as a result of which they could not live up to the criteria of the Dalit tribal native of Jharkhand. The above things were said today by the Central President of Jharkhandi Information Rights Forum, Central Vice President of Adivasi Janadhikar Manch, former candidate Hatia Vidhansabha Vijay Shankar Nayak in

Soren government, on the question of giving jobs to unemployed youth or giving unemployment allowance or khatian-based local policy, planning policy, reservation, reservation in works up to 25 lakhs in contracting, security to women To give and share in power to Dalit-OBC society. In matters of ensuring, this government has proved to be a complete failure till

Jharkhand people and by doing the work of throwing politics, the government has misled the Dalit tribal native community of Jharkhand on the basic subjects of Jharkhand. Despite the end of the 3 year government and the beginning of the fourth year, the women's commission / human rights commission / information commission / education tri-

Odisha Agriculture department to fill up vacancies by March, says minister



BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment Ranendra Pratap Swain on Wednesday directed the department to take approval from the empowered committee of the Finance department for filling up all vacant posts in the direc-

torates under the department. The minister took a review of vacant positions in the directorates of agriculture and food production, horticulture, soil conservation and watershed development and the demand of various service associations

for restructuring cadres at a meeting here. In view of the huge vacancies at the base level posts like assistant agriculture officer, assistant soil conservation officer, assistant horticulture officer, assistant agriculture engineer and field level extension staff, the

department has taken up the matter with the Odisha Public Service Commission, Odisha Staff Selection Commission and Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission for expeditious steps to conduct test for selection of candidates.

Odisha: BJD rakes up demand for inclusion of tribal groups in ST list

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): On a day when the national president of the BJP JP Nadda lashed out at the state government over misgovernance, the BJD on Wednesday demonstrated in front of collectorates of nine tribal-dominated districts demanding the inclusion of 160 tribal groups in the ST list. Earlier during the week, a delegation of BJD MPs had met Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda in New Delhi with the same demand. Alleging that the delay on the part of the Centre has brought to the fore its neglect towards the state, the BJD submitted a memorandum to the President of India through the district collectors. The BJD demonstrations for the tribals have come ahead of the 2024 elections. The tribals comprise 22.85 per cent population in Odisha and constitute a major vote bank. Stating that Odisha has a huge tribal population of which a major segment belongs to the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs), the BJD said that special development councils (SDCs) have been formed in these nine districts to take up welfare and development works for them. BJD held demonstrations in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur and Malkangiri. The party said that the government has undertaken

many works for their all-around development. But many communities in these areas are yet to be recognised as tribals due to delays by the Centre. The demand for their inclusion in the ST list are pending with the Centre for many years now, the BJD said and maintained that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had met Munda in New Delhi on September 16 to take up the issue. Similar demands were made before the Centre thrice earlier. Describing it as unfortunate that such efforts by the state government and the chief minister have not been acknowledged by the Centre, the party alleged that an attempt is being made now that there was no such demand. The BJD has apprised the President in the memorandum about the steps taken by the state government for the inclusion of 14.5 lakh people of 18,687 villages in 117 blocks in the ST list. The CM had also written a letter to the Centre in this regard on February 19, 2011. A delegation of senior officials from the tribal affairs ministry also visited the state on April 20, 2022, during which the state government raised the demand for the inclusion of 169 communities in the ST list. The state government later sent a detail report with recommendations for the inclusion of nine communities in the ST list. But the recommendation is also pending with the Centre, it added.

5G by 26 Jan in Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said that 5G internet services will be launched in Odisha before January 26 next year.

Shri Vaishnaw was addressing a programme organised to lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of Bhubaneswar railway station here.

Earlier, Odisha was neglected in the telecom sector. But, now, the Modi government has allocated Rs 5,600 crore for development of the telecom sector in the state, he said.

"Modi Ji has taken the responsibility to provide 4G service to each village of Odisha. Now, no one can dare to say that Odisha is being neglected," Shri Vaishnaw said.

It is pertinent to mention here that on October 16, the Minister said that 5G telephony services will be available in four cities of Odisha by March 2023 and 80 per cent area of the state will have access to the upgraded network by the end of next year.

PM Narendra Modi had on October 1 launched the 5G services that promise to provide ultra high-speed internet on mobile phones.

Earlier this week, the state, in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, had approved a proposal to provide 2,000 sq ft of land each at 1,687 places to BSNL for 30 years at Re 1 per site per annum without any premium and incidental fees.

It will help provide 4G connectivity in 1,792 villages, Odisha Chief Secretary SC Mohapatra had said.

Shri Vaishnaw, the Railways Minister, has announced that a new train service will be introduced to Bhadrak from Bhubaneswar soon. He made this announcement on the request of newly elected BJP MLA of Dhamnagar, Suryabanshi Suraj.

The State has also been allocated around Rs 10,000 crore in the budget for railway infrastructure development in 2022-23, Vaishnaw said.

"The Modi government has raised the allocation for railways in Odisha to Rs 10,000 crore per annum from only Rs 800 crore during the UPA regime," he said, claiming that "critics have no reasons to make the allegation of central negligence to the state's telecom and railway sectors". The Union Minister also said that "railway projects will make progress if the State Government cooperates and provides required land".

Shri Vaishnaw also praised Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for his work for the development of Odisha. "Pradhan Sir

has a holistic vision for Odisha. If it will be implemented, Odisha can become a trillion dollar economy," he stated.

Union Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi, who was also present in the programme, claimed that Odisha has substantially gained from the central government's policy for auctioning of mines.



The State's revenue from the mining sector has touched Rs 50,000 crore from around Rs 5,000 crore in 2014-15, Shri Joshi said. He also alleged that the States were "unable to garner adequate revenue from mining operations earlier" as a policy of 'first come first served' was followed.

Under the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), Odisha gets Rs 15,000 crore per year, Joshi said, adding that the fund can be utilised for development of mine areas and welfare of the poor and tribal people.

Under this Narendra Modi government, work is being done at a light speed, Pradhan said while mentioning about the announcement of running of a new train to Bhadrak on request of MLA Suraj. Within less than two hour, the announcement was made, he pointed out.

Award for SOA Chief

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Anusandhan (SOA) Four days after its 68th Convocation, Prof. (Dr.) Nayak

Kharagpur, who is presently on a visit to Bhubaneswar,



the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, conferred its prestigious Distinguished Alumnus Award on Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak, Founder-President of Siksha 'O'

was to be conferred with the award at IIT, Kharagpur's Convocation held on December 24 but he could not be personally present to receive the honour. Prof. V.K. Tiwari, Director of IIT, bestowed the honour on Prof. (Dr.) Nayak at a special program. Prof. (Dr.) Nayak, who had done his B.Tech in Electrical Engineering from National Institute of Technology (for-

merly Regional Engineering College) at Rourkela, did his M.Tech in Computer Science from IIT, Kharagpur. He obtained his Ph.D from the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT). "As your Alma Mater, the institute applauds and takes great pride to bestow this honour in recognition of your professional achievements that made significant contributions in various fields of academia and research, industries, community-society and the institute at large," a communication received by Prof. (Dr.) Nayak from the institution, said.

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'Bol Radha Bol' producer Nitin Manmohan dies at 62



MUMBAI: Film producer Nitin Manmohan, known for movies such as 'Bol Radha Bol' and 'Laadla', died on Thursday at a hospital here, his daughter Prachi said.

He was 62. The filmmaker was undergoing treatment at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Navi Mumbai after he had a cardiac arrest on December 3.

Nitin Manmohan was battling several health complications and passed away around 10 am today following status epilepticus (abnormal brain signals), his daughter said.

"He had a cardiac arrest on December 3 and since then he has been on a ventilator. When he was brought to the hospital, the doctors revived him. No oxygen and blood supply in the brain

and other parts of the body led to some damage and caused status epilepticus. Slowly, his condition started deteriorating. He left us today at around 10-10.20 am," Prachi told PTI.

Nitin Manmohan is the son of the late actor Manmohan, who featured in films such as 'Brahmachari', 'Gumnaam' and 'Naya Zamana'. Besides his daughter, the producer is survived by his wife.

Tollywood : Driven by success

When Mrunal Thakur's name was announced as the leading lady in Sita Ramam, many were surprised with her casting. (Photo By Arrangement) 2022 has been a tough year for leading ladies in Tollywood. Top actresses like Rashmika Mandanna, Pooja Hegde, etc., had a bad year as their films weren't successful. However, we also saw some brilliant performances. In a year when most films were rejected by audiences, there was little to celebrate. But if there was any glimmer of sunshine it was the rise of a few actresses

Mrunal Thakur

When Mrunal Thakur's name was announced as the leading lady in Sita Ramam, many were surprised with her casting. But the audience couldn't stop raving about her stellar performance of Sita post the film's release in August. Mrunal won instant applause for bringing gravitas to her character. When asked Mrunal to comment on the success, she says that she couldn't have gotten a better birthday gift than the film's super success. "It was Sita who chose Mrunal and not the other way," Mrunal smiles, adding that she was overwhelmed with the love and appreciation that was poured. "Characters like Sita come your way once in a decade, and I couldn't have asked for a better debut in Tollywood."

Anupama Parameswaran

Interestingly, Anupama Parameswaran has had three releases this year! She started off the year with Rowdy Boys. But it was Karthikeya 2 that saw her showcase her acting chops! Having done a few roles, Anupama shares that her role in Karthikeya 2 made her realise how she had evolved as an actor and a person.

"I loved the journey of Karthikeya 2 so much that when the shooting was over, I felt very disappointed," shares Anupama, adding that the success of the film gave her new enthusiasm. The actress adds that she believes in going hatke films that challenge her to do better. "The costumes I sport, my hairdo, and the body language in the film resembles the real me. So I thoroughly enjoyed playing the part." Anupama likes to be part of content-driven films, and as such she had to let go a few offers for Karthikeya 2. Her transformation from being a chubby girl to sporting a lean look was appreciated. "I have

audience," thanks Meenakshi, recalling on a lighter note that she shot both her films during Covid. "I think in every actor's journey there's one film that will change their journey forever. That's what happened to me with HIT 2. It has introduced me to a new set of audiences who applauded my performance. My career dynamics have changed with HIT 2," Meenakshi acknowledges, adding the film was such a big hit that people will start taking notice of her subsequent films too. What's even more exciting according to her was that her one and half year journey



has started post Covid. "I am doing five films and have seen so much in a short span of journey," she asserts.

Samantha

In the year, Samantha has been in the news for her personal reasons rather than filmy. But she did not let her personal life affect her work. The actress has shown great character to bounce back and find success at the box office. She has

had two releases this year — Kaathuvaakula Rendu Kaadhal (in Tamil) and Yashoda (Telugu-Tamil). The latter became a super hit and further strengthened her ability to shoulder films. With her ability to pull off female-centric films, Sam has been in a phase of her career where she can choose!

Meenakshi Chaudhary

A pageant winner, Meenakshi Chaudhary was new to films and debuted in Tollywood this year with Ravi Teja-starrer Khiladi. While she was able to make some noise with the film, it was HIT 2, released earlier this month, that made the audience take notice of her work. The actress states that she is still discovering and learning the ropes of the industry. "Yes, it's been a great year for me; all thanks to the Telugu

had two releases this year — Kaathuvaakula Rendu Kaadhal (in Tamil) and Yashoda (Telugu-Tamil). The latter became a super hit and further strengthened her ability to shoulder films. With her ability to pull off female-centric films, Sam has been in a phase of her career where she can choose! Sam was diagnosed with Myositis and is undergoing treatment on one side, but she continues to surprise the audience with her genre of films. While Yashoda was a film that was about surrogacy, her upcoming film Shakuntalam is a costume drama, and Khushi is a contemporary love story. She wows the audience with her uncanny knack to transform into the character she plays.

SIMPLY SQUEEZING THE SPACE MEANT FOR DISSENT

Adani, 60, is the world's third-richest person, with an estimated net worth of \$137 billion and interests ranging from Australian coal mines to India's busiest ports. Recently, Indian tycoon Gautam Adani said that the media should have the "courage" to support the government when warranted after his hostile takeover bid for one of the country's top broadcasters sparked press freedom fears. NDTV's two channels, one in Hindi and one in English, stand out among India's myriad rolling news broadcasters for inviting on critics of the government as well as their hard-hitting reporting.

In a wide-ranging interview with the Financial Times, Adani said his foray into media was

a "responsibility" rather than a business opportunity. The truth is that he is a close acolyte of Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi, often publicly supporting .

The reason is that Modi's pro-Adani policies helped Adani's to have a fortune of \$137 billion as on September 2022. His wealth has grown by \$60.9 billion so far this year, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. On March 30, 2014, Gautam Adani had only \$5.10 billion in assets, according to Bloomberg. Adani's fortune increased significantly, reaching \$11 billion on January 16, 2020, and beginning in June 2020.

Gautam moved up from the 8th rank in 2018 to the number one spot when his wealth

increased 15.4 times, while his brother Vinod moved up from the 49th spot to the sixth ranking. Adani's wealth has more than doubled (116 per cent) in the last one year and in absolute terms, he added Rs 5,88,500 crore. In the last five years, the first-generation entrepreneur's wealth has increased by 1440 percent. "In 2012, Adani's wealth was hardly one-sixth of Ambani's wealth and no one could imagine that he would overtake Ambani to become the richest man in India in 10 years.

Adani's wealth increased due to the manipulation of stocks of his companies, which allowed to borrow heavily from banks (ie. Overleveraged the economy). Lower interest rates and reduction of

Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

corporate tax helped to amass wealth. His rise of wealth is independent of productivity and reveals what is cronyism. That is why he wants Modi to be in power always. Hence, he purchased NDTV which was the last bastion of pro-people journalism. NDTV was not anti-Modi but pro-people. You cannot be pro-people and pro-rich at a time.

"Adani's statements : Independence means if the government has done something wrong, you say it's wrong". But at the same time, you should have courage when the government is doing the right thing every day. You have to also say that.

This is wrong and a ploy to suppress dissent. If we ask the opposite question, Has Adani the

courage to point out mistakes of the government? Will Adani not take any action, if his employees criticize the government?

Has the ruling dispensation courage to admit its own failures? Has BJP courage to appreciate non-BJP ruled state governments? In each speech, BJP leaders including Modi will blame Congress or its predecessors and even cast aspersion on dead persons. The media will call it positive. But the moment you expose failures of ruling dispensation at the Centre, then it becomes negative. Adani should know that ruling class is targeted not opposition as seen today. Can Adani ensure that Door Darshan does not become the voice of ruling class.

A government is elected to perform. Its moral responsibility to do well. It collects taxes and generates resources in different ways and spend. How can a government be given credit for spending people's money? Yes, if do exceptionally well, it should be told. When one exposes the failures of the government, his/her purpose is not to blame the government but to show where it is failing and should rectify.

Adani must know that criticizing on certain aspects means just way doctors tell which part of the body is ill. The doctor does not write on each part of the body which is in order.

Adani should tell why government resorts to the advertisement blitzkrieg at the cost

of taxpayer money. It means Adani says that government will publicize. Their leaders will write articles in their favour. Journalists will not expose the failures of the ruling class. It means the popularity of the ruling class should not be affected so that it can rule for a long time.

There is always a pass mark. Do we praise if one keeps below the pass mark? Even we do not praise if one fails to secure the first division. Adani's statement shows that even if the government fails to secure a pass mark, you praise those mark secured. In another way, a doctor will not tell about ailing part of a person, till all parts are not out of order.

Adani should know that one can die if one's major part becomes out of order. So the economy.

Here the question

arises: will a judge while pronouncing punishment should appreciate the good things of that person? Similarly, should police talk about the good qualities of criminals while arresting them. A murderer has also might have many qualities. Then our justice delivery system should discuss those good qualities and should not punish them.

A simple thing, Gandhiji had told that one's decision should see that it address the person in the worst condition. If out of 1 lakh people, only one is languishing in poverty, the media should talk about that one person, not about 99999 people. The role of media is investigating and pro people in nature.

It is not an instrument of advertisement for ruling class.

Latter To Editor

Dear Editor,

Sea acidification becoming a major concern globally

Since the start of the industrial revolution more than a century ago, human activity has led to an increase in the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide. The pH of surface sea waters has decreased by 0.1 pH units during this time. The pH scale is logarithmic, so even though this change might not seem like much, it actually represents a thirty to forty percent increase in acidity. The chemistry of the seawater changes when carbon dioxide is absorbed by the sea from the atmosphere. About forty percent of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere is absorbed by the sea. The amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by the sea also rises as atmospheric carbon dioxide levels rise as a result of human activity like burning fossil fuels and altering land use. A series of chemical reactions take place when carbon dioxide is absorbed by seawater, increasing the concentration of hydrogen ions. The effects of this process on the ocean and the marine life it supports are extensive. 7 is the neutral pH on the pH scale, which ranges from 0 to 14. Anything above 7 is considered basic, and anything below 7 is considered acidic. More hydrogen ions equal higher acidity and a lower pH because the pH scale is inversely proportional to the concentration of hydrogen ions. Seawater absorbs carbon dioxide, which is present naturally in the atmosphere. Carbonic acid, a weak acid that dissolves into hydrogen ions and bicarbonate ions, is created when water and carbon dioxide combine. There is more carbon dioxide evaporating into the sea as a result of human-driven elevated levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Currently, the sea globally have an average pH of 8.1 which is basic but as more carbon dioxide is absorbed by the ocean, the pH drops and the ocean turns more acidic. The chemical equation for the reaction of carbon dioxide with seawater demonstrates how carbonate ions harm marine life. Fish, crabs, oysters, and other organisms have all perished in seawater with a lower pH over time. Shells and skeletons may even start to dissolve at too low a pH. The sea butterfly, for instance, is a tiny sea snail the size of a small pea. This sea butterfly is a crucial component of numerous food webs and is consumed by organisms of all sizes, from tiny fish to whales. Shells will slowly dissolve after a few days when placed in sea water that had pH and carbonate levels. Non-calcifying organisms can also exhibit different behaviours as a result of changes in sea chemistry. In more acidic waters, some fish, like clownfish, have a harder time spotting predators. According to studies, larval clown fish's ability to find suitable habitat is also impacted by low pH levels. Over the last decade, there has been much focus in the sea science community on studying the potential impacts of sea acidification. Sea Acidification Program serves to build relationships between scientists, resource managers, policy makers, and the public in order to research and monitor the effects of changing sea chemistry on economically and ecologically important ecosystems such as fisheries and coral reefs. Since sustained efforts to monitor sea acidification worldwide are only in beginning, it is currently impossible to predict exactly how sea acidification impacts will cascade throughout the marine food web and affect the overall structure of marine ecosystems. With the pace of sea acidification accelerating, scientists, resource managers and policymakers recognise the urgent need to strengthen the science as a basis for sound decision making and action. Sea acidification is a problem that impacts the sea ecosystem as well as commercial industries like fishes globally. Therefore the sincere efforts are needed to reduce sea acidification.

Vijay Kumar H K Raichur, Karnataka Environmentalist

TikTok Offers a Lot of Tools for Creativity



Tik Tock Day is celebrated on December 29 every year. Thomas Roy an American film, television, and voiceover actor was the creator of Tik Tock Day together with his wife Ruth Roy. The day reminds people to get down to work on all the things they meant to accomplish before the year ends. TikTok is a social media platform for creating, sharing and discovering short videos. The app is used by young people as an outlet to express themselves through singing, dancing, comedy, and lip-syncing, and allows users to create videos and share them across a community.

Since its 2017 launch, TikTok has become one of the fastest growing social media apps, with India serving as its largest user base followed by the US. Its arrival in India in 2017 opened the doors to fame for many ordinary Indians. It had reached

Vinod Chandrashekhhar Dixit

2 billion downloads globally, counting 200 million users in India at the time of the ban. The move to ban TikTok comes in the backdrop of the current stand-off along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh with Chinese troops. Among the other banned Chinese

were from India. Right before the ban, India became the app's largest market. But the troubles with this were also massive. According to the sources, it is said that the reasoning given by the government was that these 59 apps are "engaged in activities

a chance to interact with some popular content creators who have finally accepted the TikTok ban and settled with an alternative. According to market research firm Sensor Tower, India used to be one of TikTok's largest overseas markets, accounting for 18.8

years, has become a tool for members of many marginalised communities to create their own videos and in absence of TikTok, the marketplace of ideas becomes smaller.

In an interview with India TV, actress Ashnoor Kaur, who has 3.2 million followers on TikTok, celebrated the government's move saying it presented an opportunity for India to become self-sufficient and use homegrown apps. One agrees that TikTok is a platform that celebrates creativity & expression. TikTok has not only objectionable videos but is also pushing youngsters towards unproductive life where they are living only for few followers and even dying when no. We can always use other apps and the best thing is to have an Indian app. Why should we depend on others when we have educated and able youth in our own country?



apps are UC Browser, Helo, Likee, CamScanner, Vigo Video, Mi Video Call - Xiaomi, and Clash of Kings. In India, TikTok's success was massive. India has been the biggest driver of new TikTok d o w n l o a d s , generating close to 660 million installs since its launch in 2017. According to the statistics of 2019, a whopping 39% of the 500 million users of the app globally

prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order."

In India TikTok was banned on June 29, 2020, over national security reasons. It has been a year since the ban, and the app, now forgotten and vilified, was once the only source of income for many. A year after the TikTok ban in India, India Today Tech got

per cent of global downloads in June 2020, followed by the United States at 8.7 per cent.

Top social media platforms such as TikTok, Helo and WeChat came under the ambit of the ban, giving a serious jolt to China's dream of setting up a Digital Silk Route. Content sharing platform TikTok is the first among the list of apps banned. We all know that TikTok in recent

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

Enchanting abhinayas engrossed the audiences at the International Odissi Dance Festival

Bhubaneswar (KC-N): The 4th Day of International Odissi Dance Festival organised by GKCM Odishi Research Centre under the aegis of Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar. The festival showcased varied



aspects of Odissi repertoire through the young, legendary, established and senior dancers of repute in one platform who enthralled the audience by their splendid performances. The dance programme was live streaming in GKCM Odissi Research Centre Facebook page and Youtube channel.

Morning session dance programme started at 10.00 AM, some brilliant performances by Syampriya Kala Sansta (Group) from New Delhi, Prabhat Kumar Mahalik (Solo) from Berhampur, Sasmita Behera (Solo) from Bhubaneswar, Jayaprakash Narayan Pathak (Solo) from Bihar, Nikhil Bora (Solo) from New Delhi, Anudha Sahoo (Solo) from Bhubaneswar, Bhimsen Baral (Solo) from Bhubaneswar, Ananya Kar (Solo) from USA, Jayanti Nath Sharma (Solo) from Bhubaneswar and the last item was Group dance by the dancers from Nrutyangana from Kolkata was made enormously.

The afternoon session was started at 4.00 PM and continued till 6.00 PM. The first item was group dance performance by Sagarika Kala Niketan from Paradeep followed by Sreya Sradhanjali (Solo) from Berhampur, Dibyashree Sahoo & Sonam Sahoo (Duet)

from Cuttack, Prititrushna Sahoo (Solo) from Cuttack, Nruty Prativa (Group) from Bhubaneswar, Sradha Mohanty (Solo) from Cuttack and Nrityadhara (Group) from New Delhi.

The evening session started with the solo performance by Suhag Nalini Das from Bhubaneswar followed by Pompi Paul (Solo) from Jalpaigudi, Bichitra Behera (Solo) from Bhubaneswar, Bikram Samal & Jainyasene Sahu (Duet) from Bhubaneswar, Leena Nanda (Solo) from Bhubaneswar, Swayamprava Mishra (Solo) from Cuttack, Bibhu Prasad Behera (Solo), Khordha, Sonali Das & Roopsa Kahali (Duet) from Cuttack and the last item was group dance by Alpana Nayak and Group.

The fourth evening of the festival was inaugurated by Madhusudan Das, Additional



Secretary, Odia Language, Literature and Culture; Kumkum Mohanty, Eminent Odissi Dancer; Minakshi Behera, Eminent Odissi Dancer; Sangita Gosain, Former Chief Executive, GKCM Odissi Research Centre; Pradeep Mishra, Ex Secretary, Odisha Sangita Natak Academy; Secretary, Odisha Urdu Academy; Subodh Acharya, Chief Executive, GKCM Odissi Research Centre and Anuja Tarini Mishra, Administrative Officer, GKCM Odissi Reach Centre and the programme commenced with the auspicious lighting of the lamp. The programme was compared by Dr. En. Srinivas Ghatuari.

Rahul himself 'violated' security guidelines during Yatra in Delhi: Govt officials

New Delhi: Security arrangements were "fully made" for Rahul Gandhi in accordance with laid down guidelines but he himself "violated" the security protocols, government officials said Thursday, a day after the Congress alleged security breaches during the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in the national capital.

The Congress on Wednesday wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah, alleging security breaches during the Yatra in the city and demanded immediate steps to ensure the security of Gandhi and others taking part in the march.

Dismissing the allegations, the officials said

rately. Asserting that the Congress has lost its leaders and former prime ministers --Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi-- for the country's unity, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal in a letter to Shah had said, "The government should not indulge in vindictive politics and ensure the safety and security of the Congress leaders".

Citing instances of "miscreants" entering the yatra camp site illegally, Venugopal had alleged that they were Haryana's intelligence security personnel, who interrogated people who took part in the yatra.



the security arrangements made for the protectee works fine when the protectee himself adheres to the laid down security guidelines.

However, the officials alleged that on several occasions, violations of laid down guidelines on the part of Rahul Gandhi have been observed and this fact has been communicated to him from time to time.

For instance, since 2020, there have been 113 violations observed and duly communicated, the officials said.

Besides, the officials said during the Delhi leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi "violated" security guidelines and the CRPF, which provides his inner cordon of the Z-plus category security, will be taking up this matter sepa-

"The security of the yatra was compromised on multiple occasions following its entry into Delhi on Saturday. Delhi Police completely failed to control the surging crowds and maintain a perimeter around Rahul Gandhi, who has "Z+ Security", he alleged.

The situation was so severe that Congress workers and 'Bharat yatri' walking with Rahul Gandhi had to form a security perimeter, he said and claimed that "Delhi Police remained mute spectators".

Venugopal also sought improved security for the yatra as it is set to enter the sensitive states of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The Kanyakumari to Kashmir yatra will resume on January 3, 2023, after taking a nine-day break in Delhi.

21 lakh Telangana farmers receives Rs 607 cr Rythu Bandhu

Hyderabad: For the ongoing rabi season, 21.02 lakh farmers received Rs 607.32 crore in their bank accounts towards Rythu Bandhu on Wednesday at a rate of Rs 5,000 per acre, while BRS leaders, workers, and farmers held

(BRS) was voted to power at the Centre in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. They also called upon farmers in other states to support the BRS for the development of the country and farmers.



rallies thanking Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao by chanting the BRS campaign slogan 'Ab Ki Baar, Kisan Sarkar'.

There was jubilation all over with farmers in the state performing ksheerabhishekam on Wednesday by pouring milk over the portrait of the Chief Minister, thanking him for extending the scheme in spite of financial constraints, and expressing eternal gratitude for adopting farmer-friendly welfare programmes.

The farmers claimed that prior to Rythu Bandhu, they were compelled to rely on private money lenders to meet agriculture costs at higher interest rates and fall into debt traps, but that with Rythu Bandhu's assistance, they were able to meet costs to cultivate crops on their own.

Further, they claimed that farming has become a profitable occupation in Telangana as a result of Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, and 24-hour free power, while also demanding that such pro-farmer schemes be implemented throughout the country, which would be possible only if the Bharat Rashtra Samithi

Despite financial constraints, the CM has recently issued orders to the finance department to release Rs 7,776 crore for Rythu Bandhu for the rabi season, which will be credited in the accounts every day until January 15 to cover all 70.54 lakh farmers in the state who own 1.53 crore acres of agricultural

land.

This is the 10th Rythu Bandhu payment made to farmers since the scheme was announced in May 2018 to extend Rs 10,000 per acre per year for the kharif and rabi seasons combined at a rate of Rs 5,000 per acre for each season. The government has so far spent Rs 65,560 crore on Rythu Bandhu since its launch in 2018. On the first day, farmers owning land up to one acre were covered. This will be increased to one acre every day up to 20 acres and all the farmers irrespective of extent of land they own would be covered by January 15. In kharif season this year, 65 lakh farmers received Rs 7,434 crore while an additional 5 lakh farmers will get the benefit in ongoing rabi with officials identifying 70.54 lakh farmers as eligible for Rythu Bandhu.

Tags: farmers account rythu bandhu, kcr rythu bandhu scheme, rythu bandhu benefits, rythu bandhu scheme, rythu bandhu, telangana chief minister k. chandrashekar rao, rythu bima scheme, bhara rashtra samithi, 2024 lok sabha elections, agricultural land, kharif season.

Putin oversees commissioning of new Russian navy warships



Putin oversaw the commissioning of new warships and vowed Thursday to further strengthen his country's navy.

"We will speed up and increase the volumes of construction of ships of various projects, equip them with the most modern weapons, and conduct the operational and combat training using the experience received during the special military operation," Putin said, referring to Russia's 10-month-old campaign in Ukraine.

corvette, a minesweeper and the Generalissimus Suvorov nuclear submarine. The submarine armed with Bulava nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles is the sixth submarine of the new Borei-class to join the Russian navy. "It will ensure Russia's security for decades ahead," Putin said. Another submarine of the same type, Emperor Alexander III, was launched during Thursday's ceremony. The navy plans to commission it following trials.

Odisha govt mandates signboards of all HEIs in Odia

BHUBANESWAR: The state government has asked all the higher secondary schools, degree colleges and universities to mandatorily display their signboards and nameplates of faculty and authorities concerned with all higher education institutions (HEIs) correctly in Odia.

In a directive to all the HEIs on Wednesday, the Culture department has asked the principal secretaries of both the Higher Education and School and Mass Education departments to ensure that Odia language is used in the signboards of all HEIs and nameplates of faculty members, non-teaching staff and heads of the institutions. The institutions have been given a deadline of 30 days to implement the order.

As per the directive, the first line of the signboard or nameplate will be written in Odia, English can subsequently be used but in a smaller font size. Giving the example of all other states in the country that use both regional language and English or Hindi in signboards and other publicity materials, Director of Culture department Ranjan Das said this directive for HEIs will help in propagating and popularising the Odia language among students. It is to be noted that many HEIs, particularly private institutions, just have English signboards. Back in 2018, the state government made it mandatory for all public schools to put up signboards and nameplates in the Odia language. Prior to that in August 2016, the government enacted the rules of the Odisha Official Language Act, 1954, formally bringing it into force for official work in the Odia language.

India gets fresh consular access to eight Indians detained in Qatar

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday got its second consular access to the eight former navy personnel detained in Qatar, the Ministry of External Affairs said here. MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the Indian embassy in the country was ac-

tively pursuing the case.

Responding to a question, he said New Delhi was trying to facilitate visas for the family members of the eight men.

"I understand family members who are in Doha have been able to go there. And we



are trying to facilitate visas for those who

are here so that they can go," he said.

He said New Delhi got its second consular access to the eight people on Thursday. "Our embassy personnel were able to meet the detainees and ascertain their well-being, and of course, we will continue to extend all possible consular assistance in this case. The men have been in detention in Qatar for nearly four months now."

2022, a historic and remarkable year for India-US relation

WASHINGTON: The year 2022 has been a remarkable and historic year for the India-US relationship, top diplomats and experts from both sides feel and are confident that 2023 would be a momentous year for the ties between the world's largest and oldest democracies that will determine the future of technology and innovation.

During the year, President Joe Biden met Prime Minister Narendra Modi twice - first on the sidelines of the Quad summit in Tokyo in May and second on the margins of the G-20 summit in Bali, Indonesia.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken here in September and held productive discussions on the entire gamut of Indo-US relations and the way forward. "2022 saw further consolidation of the India-US bilateral partnership in the direction and vision set by Prime Minister Modi and President Biden,"

noted. Today, the relationship, which has been dubbed as the most important strategic partner of the 21st century, has moved long beyond symbolic platitudes between the world's oldest and largest democracy to robust engagements across trade, defence, climate, and technology, Aghi said.

Despite the pandemic, the bilateral trade between India and the US crossed the USD 100 billion mark in 2021, and in 2022, official figures state that the overall US-India bilateral trade in goods and services reached a record USD 157 billion, a drastic increase from the 2020 trade figures, he said.

"The year 2022 has seen deep collaboration between various ministries and not just between the key principals and the Foreign Minister and Secretary of State. On the finance side, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's recent visit to India and meeting with her counterpart Nirmala Sitharaman. On the energy front, Minister for Petroleum and Natu-

State Seeks Vaccine Support

Bhubaneswar: With the resurgence in Covid-19 cases in some foreign countries, the State Government has sought precaution dose vac-

Mansukh Mandaviya, State Health Minister Naba Kishore Das said the State wants to recommence of COVID-19 precaution dose vaccination of left out Citizens aged 18 years & above in the State.

He said there has been an outbreak of the new variant BF-7 of Covid-19 across some countries like China, Japan, USA, Brazil, Republic of Korea with India reporting some cases.

So far, 8.14 crore doses have been given as first dose & 3.30 crore doses as second dose to the people aged 12 years & above and 1.31 crore doses to the citizens aged 18 years and above as precaution dose in the State, he said.

Hence, the precaution dose has covered only 41 percent of the population and presently, no vaccine stock is available in the State.

Keeping in view the demands from various categories of citizens, there is further requirement of precaution dose to cater to left out 1.93 crore against total of 3.25 crore citizens, Das demanded. He requested the Union Minister to provide necessary guidance and support for supply of additional quantity of precaution dose to the state for vaccination of such left out citizens in Government-run Covid-19 Vaccination Centres (CVCs).



cine for 1.93 crore left out people of Odisha from the Government of India.

In a letter to Union Health Minister



India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, told PTI as the year comes to an end.

The intensity of high-level engagements continued in the form of Quad and Bilateral Summits in Tokyo, the 2+2 Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC, and visits by senior members of the Cabinet in both directions, he said.

The year also saw the resolution of some old market access issues, the first-ever maintenance of a US Naval Ship in India, the Quad focus on STEM, the signing of an Investment Incentive Agreement, the launch of Technology Innovation Hubs as a collaboration of the respective science agencies, record level of trade and investments, etc, said Sandhu. "Our strategic convergences deepened, new initiatives like the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) were launched while others such as I2U2 were strengthened," Sandhu said in response to a question.

Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu concurred with Ambassador Sandhu's take on the bilateral ties, saying that he believes that the India-US relationship is one of the most consequential relationships in the world. This relationship, he asserted, will determine whether Asia remains free and democratic. "It will determine the future of technology and innovation. And increasingly, it will determine whether we will be successful in combating climate change," he said. "This has been a remarkable and historic year for our relations," Lu told PTI in response to a question.

"We have successfully worked in both countries to move beyond the acute phase of COVID-19 and supported millions of people around the world with innovative vaccines," he said.

"We have worked together in the Quad to launch the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness and the Partnership for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. We launched the US-India Alliance for Women's Economic Empowerment which is working to support entrepreneurship and mentoring of women business leaders," he said. Observing that the bedrock of this relationship has always been the people-to-people relationship, the senior American diplomat said more than 1 million people travel back and forth each year between the two nations. "This year we had a record number of Indian students studying in the United States, nearly 200,000. Our bilateral trade this year is on track to exceed last year's record of USD 157 billion. This has been a very good year indeed," Lu said.

According to Mukesh Aghi, president, and CEO of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum, 2022 was "a momentous year" for US-India relations, as the two nations celebrated 75 years of diplomatic relations.

These 75 years symbolized a long journey that had humble beginnings from the Cold War era, long before India's own economic growth story, he

ral Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri recently worked with his counterpart, Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm on the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership, and of course Minister Piyush Goyal and USTR Katherine Tai are in regular conversations on trade," Aghi told PTI.

Next year is going to take the relationship to a new level.

"As we usher in 2023, I am confident that the bilateral relationship would cement even further to address the challenges of tomorrow, continuing to be a partnership for global good. India's G-20 Presidency and the commonalities that India's priorities as President have with the US will also be a significant factor in this," Sandhu told PTI when asked about the India-US relationship in 2023.

Excited about what lies ahead in 2023, Lu said India has the G20 presidency for the first time, and the United States looks forward to working closely with India at all levels of government in support of this important position.

"This year we plan to move forward on intensive collaboration in the defence and clean energy fields. We have committed ourselves to support Prime Minister Modi's Make in India efforts through more co-production of cutting-edge defence technologies in India," Lu told.

"We are also working to provide the technology and financing to support the Prime Minister's vision of 500 gigawatts of installed non-fossil fuel energy by 2030. We are collaborating in solar, wind, civilian nuclear, green hydrogen, and thermal energy projects. Together we can change the planet," he said.

"I am bullish about prospects for cooperation in the year ahead," Lu said.

In the year 2023, Aghi said the Russia-Ukraine conflict will continue to dominate global affairs as both Washington and New Delhi along with their G20 partners work to secure and prevent escalating energy prices and the shortage arising from food grains.

There is also room for synergy not just in tech but space collaboration, as India and the US both have scientific prowess and with increased privatization and a growing list of unicorns in India, space tech startups will be a new engine of economic growth and scientific synergy, he said.

"Most importantly, in 2023, India will be the President for the G20 summit. India's G20 Presidency propels its role as an emerging leader in the global scenario. The leadership also gives a stronger voice to the challenges faced by the developing world as New Delhi leads the way with its increasingly growing economy," he said.

"India has already outlined priorities for G20 2023 pertaining to climate action, critical and emerging technologies, resilient supply chains, and vaccines. New Delhi can strive towards building an inclusive ecosystem with holistic mechanisms to address key global issues for the private sector," Aghi said.

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TN retains investment destination tag in 2022 with Rs 1 lakh crore investments

CHENNAI: Often billed as a favoured investment destination, Tamil Nadu managed to garner over Rs 1 lakh crore investments committed by various companies in 2022, a year that brought both challenges and opportunities to the southern state.

It faced the challenge arising out of various issues like Russia-Ukraine conflict or the suspension of the production at US automaker Ford near here among others.

This year, Tamil Nadu signed memoranda of understanding with over 60 companies which committed investments of Rs 1.25 lakh crore that would generate around 75,000 new jobs. Chief Minister M K Stalin has been reaching out to investors at various platforms to make Tamil Nadu become the most attractive investment destination in South Asia and endeavour towards 'Made in Tamil Nadu' products reaching all parts of the world.

The government also maintained Tamil Nadu was the only state in the country to post a 'positive growth' during Covid-19 enforced lockdown period while other states reported negative growth.

According to the Industry department, TN is the second largest state economy in India accounting for 9.47 per cent of the GDP in FY 2020-21.

In 2021-22, the economy saw a rebound with the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) increasing from Rs 19.02 lakh crore to Rs 21.79 crore.

The government, besides its many policy initiatives, announced establishing the Rs 20,000 crore greenfield airport at Parandur with an aim to give a fillip to the state's economy.

It can handle an annual capacity of 10 crore passengers.

The airport expected to be operational by 2029-30 would have two runways, terminal building, taxiways, apron, cargo terminal and other required amenities.

To reach the ambitious USD 1 trillion

SIPCOT establishing the former in over 300 acres of land in Manallur at an investment of Rs 167.30 crore, the official said.

To support environmentally, sustainable and modern transportation solutions, SIPCOT also planned to establish a Future Mobility Park on a 300 acre land in Shoologiri, Krishnagiri district at an outlay of Rs 300 crore.

Electric vehicle maker Euler Motors founder-CEO Saurav Kumar said 2022 has shown that EVs are the future of mobility.

There is demand and customer willingness towards an electric transition across spaces -- retail and institutional in every segment category be it two wheelers or commercial, he said in a statement.

This year, US headquartered Ford Motors decided to suspend production at its TN unit as part of a 'restructuring exercise'.

While the decision was already made by Ford in September 2021, the process which was planned to end by March 31, 2022 culminated only on September 30, as it faced labour unrest during the period.

The nearly 2,000 odd employees resorted to protest claiming that the severance package offered by the company was not sufficient.

In July Ford rolled out the last product -- sports utility vehicle (SUV) EcoSport from the assembly lines at the unit located about 45 km from here.

While Ford had plans to manufacture electric vehicles in the facility, the project was 'shelved' despite receiving approvals from the government for production-linked incentives.

On the information technology and software front, a CII-KPMG report had said the IT companies in Tamil Nadu were focusing big on Metaverse, Web 3.0 technologies towards enabling Tamil Nadu reach the USD 1 trillion economy.

According to the report, for Tamil Nadu to reach the vision, Metaverse, Web3.0 and



economy by FY 2030-31, the government has drawn up several plans which include attracting Rs 23 lakh crore investments in the manufacturing sector and creation of 46 lakh new jobs.

To achieve the USD 1 trillion economy, the manufacturing sector must take the centre stage for economic development, an official said.

Tamil Nadu is a manufacturing hub in the country due to significant presence in sectors like automobiles and auto-components including electric vehicles, textiles and wearing apparel, leather, chemicals including rubber and plastic, electronics, machinery and fabricated metal products, the official said.

On the exports front Tamil Nadu accounted for 8.40 per cent of the country's total exports with Rs 1.90 lakh crore of shipment made overseas.

The Guidance Bureau, a nodal agency to boost investments promotion in the state, has been enhancing the single window portal to provide a seamless experience for investors.

The government has been working on new policies including life sciences promotion policy, research and development, leather and footwear policy and also upgrading the existing electric vehicle policy to accelerate the growth of these sectors.

Some of the major projects ensured by the government include the large scale furniture park, one of its kind, which is expected to come up in SIPCOT industrial park in Tuticorin at an estimate of Rs 1,000 crore.

Another investment milestone achieved in 2022 was the Rs 3,500 crore investment commitment from Dubai-based Lulu Group. An E-vehicle park and future mobility park are also on the development stage with

related technologies would help achieve the overall gross state domestic product.

Minister of information technology and digital services T Mano Thangaraj had said the government should come out with a policy on Global Capability Centres.

The policy on GCC follows similar policy announcements by the government including on Cyber Security policy, safe and ethical artificial intelligence policy, IT policy among others.

In the banking sector, Tamil Nadu-based public sector Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank reported better performances in 2022 as compared to 2021 largely impacted due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Indian Bank reported a 13 per cent increase in its net profits for the July-September period at Rs 1,225 crore as against Rs 1,089 crore registered in the corresponding period of last year.

Indian Overseas Bank registered a 33.2 percent increase in its net profits for the July-September period at Rs 501 crore.

Commenting on the poultry industry performance, Coimbatore-headquartered Suguna Group chairman B Soundararajan said, "we have noticed that the consumption pattern of consumers has slowly shifted from food security to nutritional security with an increased awareness towards protein consumption".

The year 2022 was favourable to the poultry sector as a whole. In India, the poultry industry produces and consumes 600 billion eggs and six million tonnes of chicken meat every year, he said.

"We anticipate considerable breakthroughs in the poultry industry, as well as increased consumption and adaptability of processed meat in India by 2023," he said.

CAD widens to USD 36.4 billion or 4.4 per cent of GDP in Q2: RBI data

MUMBAI: Widening trade gap pushed up the country's current account deficit to USD 36.4 billion or 4.4 per cent of the GDP in the second quarter of the current fiscal, as per data released by the Reserve Bank on Thursday.

India's current account balance recorded a deficit of USD 36.4 billion in July-September 2022-23, up from USD 18.2 billion

current account deficit for April-June quarter of 2022-23 has been revised downwards due to downward adjustment in Customs data.

"India recorded a current account deficit of 3.3 per cent of GDP in H1:2022-23 on the back of a sharp increase in the merchandise trade deficit, as compared with 0.2 per cent in H1:2021-22" the

July 2022 indicate that the CAD will be comfortably financed.

Net outgo from the primary income account, mainly reflecting payments of investment income, increased to USD 12 billion from USD 9.8 billion a year ago, as per a statement on 'Developments in India's Balance of Payments (BoP) during the Second Quarter (July-

September 2022 (H1:2022-23), it said net invisible receipts were higher on a y-o-y basis on account of higher net receipts of services and private transfers. Net FDI inflows at USD 20 billion in the first half of 2022-23 were comparable with USD 20.3 billion in the similar period of 2021-22. Portfolio investment recorded a net outflow of USD 8.1 billion as against an



(2.2 per cent of GDP) in the first quarter of the fiscal and USD 9.7 billion (1.3 per cent of GDP) in the year-ago period.

"Underlying the current account deficit in Q2:2022-23 was the widening of the merchandise trade deficit to USD 83.5 billion from USD 63 billion in Q1:2022-23 and an increase in net outgo under investment income," the RBI said.

It also said the

RBI added.

Services exports reported a growth of 30.2 per cent on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis on the back of rising exports of software, business and travel services. Net services receipts increased both sequentially and on a y-o-y basis. Meanwhile, the RBI's Financial Stability Report said the steady net inflows of foreign direct investment and the resumption of portfolio flows since

September) of 2022-23'.

"Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, amounted to USD 27.4 billion, an increase of 29.7 per cent from their level a year ago," the statement added.

Also, net foreign portfolio investment recorded inflows of USD 6.5 billion, up from USD 3.9 billion during the second quarter of 2021-22. On BoP during April-

inflow of USD 4.3 billion in H1 of 2021-22.

In the first half of 2022-23, there was a depletion of USD 25.8 billion from the foreign exchange reserves (on a BoP basis).

The depletion of foreign exchange reserves was to the tune of USD 30.4 billion in July-September quarter of 2022-23 as against an accretion of USD 31.2 billion in the year-ago period.

Traders can import refined palm oil without licence till further orders

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday extended the facility of restriction free imports of refined palm oil beyond

permitted through any port in Kerala.

Earlier, these imports were under the restricted category wherein an importer



needed a licence or permission from DGFT for inbound shipments.

According to the industry body Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA), India saw more than two-and-a-half times increase in import of refined palm oil at 17.12 lakh tonne in the last 11 months due to lower prices in

December 31, 2022 till further orders, a move aimed at increasing domestic supplies and bring down prices of cooking oils. In June last year, the government removed import restrictions on refined palm oil till December 31, 2021 as prices of edible oils had risen sharply. Later, it was extend till December 31, 2022.

It, however, added that the import is not

needed a licence or permission from DGFT for inbound shipments. According to the industry body Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA), India saw more than two-and-a-half times increase in import of refined palm oil at 17.12 lakh tonne in the last 11 months due to lower prices in

Indonesia. India, the world's leading vegetable oil buyer, imported 130.1 lakh tonne of vegetable oils during the November-September period of the ongoing 2021-22 oil year, 4 per cent higher than the year-ago period.

Palm oil shipments comprise 50 per cent of the total vegetable oil imports. India imports palm oil mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia, and a small quantity of crude soft oil, including soyabean oil from Argentina. Sunflower oil is imported from Ukraine and Russia.

In a separate notification, DGFT said that the free import policy of urad and tur stand extended up to March 31, 2024.

The Kyrgios- Djokovic bromance ahead of Aus Open

New Delhi: Soon after Novak Djokovic landed in Australia to pursue his 10th Australian Open title, the resident wild child Nick Kyrgios revived their bromance from a year ago.

Kyrgios had been supportive during the Serb's nightmare stay-and-dont-play ban due to no-vaccination status last year.

Tennisworld reported Nick Kyrgios hinted he will play doubles with Novak Djokovic in one Masters event. "Kyrgios and Djokovic have become close ever since the Australian supported the Serb during the Australia visa saga. Kyrgios has

dropped a hint that he might be playing doubles with Novak Djokovic at the Indian Wells Masters. This year, Djokovic wasn't allowed to travel to the United States for the US Open and three US Masters events - Indian Wells, Miami and Cincinnati, Tennisworld noted. This is subject to the the US authorities changing their vaccine policy and allowing unvaccinated foreigners to enter the country. Kyrgios was answering a question to a fan through his Instagram Story and wrote: "If Novak is allowed in the USA we are playing doubles at



Indian Wells, y'all ready?" From their frigid indifference, the two have thawed amidst plethora of criticisms. "But at the start of the 2022 season, Kyrgios was one of the first and most vocal players who came to Djokovic's support during the Australia visa saga. That moment completely changed their relationship and since then Kyrgios and Djokovic have actually become friends in some way. Also, the Djokovic family was extremely grateful to Kyrgios for having the courage to support Djokovic when it seemed that the whole world was against him.

"I want to bring Nick Kyrgios to Belgrade, to thank him for supporting Novak, Belgrade and Serbia." Tennisworld quoted. The invite to Serbia had been prompt. "He is an entertainer, he doesn't mince his words and he will always express his opinion, whatever it may be. But above all, he is a serious athlete and tennis player. I hope that he will come to the Serbia Open before he finishes his tennis career," Djordje Djokovic had said earlier this year according to tennisworld. Djokovic had beaten Kyrgios in four at Wimbledon.

Pant's World Cup hopes in balance after SL omission

New Delhi: The Indian team selection for the six white-ball games against Sri Lanka has left a few question marks over the immediate white ball future of a couple of players who have been hitherto considered key to the national side. Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Rishabh Pant may be wondering what lies ahead for them in the Twenty20 and ODI formats, particularly the latter who could be thinking whether he will be part of the World Cup in India next year. Conflicting signals are emanating from the selection. Cricbuzz has learnt that he has been asked to train at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) as the team management, as of today, will be trying out a few things in the series against Sri Lanka. Things may change going forward early next year when there will be a new selection committee and there is always the possibility of players getting injured but as things stand, Pant is not the preferred



wicketkeeper for the ODIs. It is obvious that KL Rahul, who kept wickets in the three-match ODI series recently in Bangladesh, is being seen as the one for the job behind the stumps and the double century by Ishan Kishan, also a wicketkeeper batsman, in the third ODI in Chattogram, could make a comeback difficult for Pant. With about 10 months left for the World Cup, an ODI return for Pant, considered a once in a generation batsman, may

not be impossible but he may be required to work on a few things which could be the reason behind the move to send him to the NCA. But there is no serious injury that would warrant his omission for the Sri Lanka series. As for Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the team management might be looking beyond him. It is being felt that the veteran pacer, who has only been picked for T20Is in recent times, may not be the right bowler for the next Twenty20 World

Cup which is in 2024. Unless the new selection has different plans, the current thinking is to groom players like Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik, Shivam Mavi and Mukesh Kumar. Harshal Patel also features in the plans and the team management wants to look at players like Prasidh Krishna and Kuldeep Sen, who are both injured at this stage. It is now obvious that Shikhar Dhawan has been upstaged by a new crop of players and his comeback into the ODIs, the only format he had been considered lately, looks extremely difficult. In fact, he could have been left out long back but Virat Kohli fought hard for him before the team selection for the ODI series against England in 2021. He managed to extend his career with some good knocks in the series and later in an exigent situation he was required to be made the captain, for the away series against Sri Lanka as the first-choice squad was in England preparing for the Tests.

Avishka Fernando earns recall for India tour

New Delhi: Sri Lanka have handed a recall to Avishka Fernando for their upcoming tour to India, SLC confirmed on Wednesday (December 28). The 24-year-old's most recent appearance for Sri Lanka came earlier this year in February against Australia, after which he was on the sidelines for a long duration due to an injury.



the squad. Samarawickrama made his debut for Sri Lanka in 2017 and has played four Tests, seven ODIs and nine T20Is so far. His most recent appearance came against India last year at home. The dashing wicketkeeper-batsman has pipped experienced campaigner Dinesh Chandimal in the squad. Uncapped Nuwanidu Fernando finds a spot in

the ODI squad whereas Nuwan Thushara has been picked to play the T20Is after emerging as the best Sri Lankan bowler in the LPL. Chamika Karunaratne, who was left out for the home series against Afghanistan, makes a return after an impressive LPL. Wanindu Hasaranga has been named the vice-captain for the T20I series and Kusal

Mendis will serve as Dasun Shanaka's deputy in the ODIs. The tour kicks off on January 3 in Mumbai. Squad: Dasun Shanaka (C), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Kusal Mendis (VC for ODIs), Bhanuka Rajapaksa (only for T20Is), Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Wanindu Hasaranga (VC for T20Is), Ashen Bandara, Maheesh Theekshana, Jeffrey Vandersay (only for ODIs), Chamika Karunaratne, Dilshan Madushanka, Kasun Rajitha, Nuwanidu Fernando (only for ODIs), Dunith Wellalage, Pramod Madushan, Lahiru Kumara, Nuwan Thushara (only for T20Is).



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