

DTPA urges Finance Minister to lower the Income Tax Rates

Kolkata(KCN): Direct Taxes Professionals' Association has sent a pre-budget memorandum to Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister of India, urging to review the exemption limit for individuals and fix it at Rs. 4 lakhs. KK Jain, President, DTPA said that their association also suggested that slab rate for tax from Rs. 5 Lakh to 10 Lakh should be reduced to 10% and next slab between 10Lakh to 20Lakh should attract tax of 15% and income in excess of Rs. 20Lakh may be taxed at 25% only in view of inflation and problems of people.

Highlighting the Memorandum sent to FM, Narayan Jain, Chairman DTPA Representation Committee pointed out the complication arising from Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) and urged to abolish the same. Instead it has been suggested that, the exemptions and deductions should be brought in one place preferably under chapter VIA and the outer limit of the deduction may be limited to 80% of gross total income and all taxpayers should pay tax on at least 20% of their income. Such a change will be revenue neutral and will bring much needed simplification. The organization also pleaded to allow deduction for expenditure incurred on Corporate Social Responsibility projects. At present the expenses on CSR are not allowed for the purpose of Income Tax which is deterrent in CSR spending. More so, the Government alone cannot undertake the projects on CSR.

DTPA has also urged to increase the monetary limit for tax audit from existing Rs. 1Crore to Rs. 2Crore in view of rise in inflation. The presumptive scheme in case of professionals apply if the income is within Rs.50 Lakh. It has been pleaded that the limit should be increased to Rs. 1 Crore and in such cases the income should be presumed at 30% instead of 50%.

The association has strongly pleaded to reduce the rate of tax under section 115BBE to 30% instead of present effective rate of 75%. It may be noted that, this rate was only 30% prior to demonetization up to assessment year 2016-17.

Narayan Jain, Advocate, Chairman Representation Committee of DTPA has pointed out that, such high rate of Tax is unjust and unthinkable. It needs to be brought back to 30% immediately.

KK Jain, the President of DTPA also pointed out that, the provisions for taxing income on notional basis need to be curtailed and only real income should be taxed. He also highlighted their demand to curtail the prosecution provision under Income tax and said that prosecution should be launched only in big cases in which tax sought to be evaded is more than Rs. 25 lakh. They have raised the issue for simplification of Charitable Trust and allow business activities, in case of those trusts which are utilising the profit for welfare of masses.

Team concerned for Farmers' loss

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Central Inter-Ministerial Team today evening interacted with State Team after its two days field visit

with senior officers of the State interacted with the Six member team lead by Saurav Ray, Joint Secretary Ministry of Home af-

ground zero level, the team discussed about the damages with senior officers of the State in a high level meeting held in State



to different areas of the State for assessment of the losses caused by the cyclone Jawad which crossed close to Odisha coast during the current month.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Development Commissioner and Special Relief Commission Pardeep Kumar Jena along

fairs was divided in to three sub-teams after reaching Odisha and having a preliminary discussion with Special Relief Commission Mr.Jena. The sub-teams visited the affected areas in the districts of Ganjam, Puri, Jgatsignhpur, Cuttack, Jajpur and Kendrapara.

After having a feel of the situation at the

Lokseva Bhawan. Chief Secretary Mr.Mahapatra apprised that this year there was bumper crop in many districts as the deficit rainfall during the initial months were covered up in the following months of cropping season. The crops were almost in ripening condition when the cyclone came

near Odisha coast with heavy rainfall. The farmers were given advisories to harvest the crop, and bring those to safe places as per the forecast of Indian metrological department. The farmers also tried their best. But all the ripen crop could not be harvested and collected within a short span of time. Besides, many variety of paddies and other major crops were nearing the ripen stage.

Secretary Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment Suresh Kumar Bashistha apprised that apart from paddy and other major khariff crops, the heavy rain also caused severe dam

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Rural Poll Dates Soon

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Election Commission (SEC) will very soon announce dates for the three-tier Rural Polls.

"Our electoral roll revision process has been completed and the final list has been published in the entire state. Only we are waiting for the printed copy. The other preparedness from the Commission side has been completed," said



SEC Secretary RN Sahu.

This time the counting will be held at block level instead of Panchayat-level. So the additional requirement of ballot boxes has been made from Telangana and West Bengal, he said. As 91,913 voter boxes are needed for the poll, the SEC has brought 10,000 boxes from Telangana, 7,000 from West Bengal and 16,000 from the Odisha Small Industries Corporation (OSIC).

The tenure of the three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) in the State will end in March, 2022 and elections to form fresh councils will be conducted before the end of the term. Sources said that the dates are likely to be announced by the end of December this year and the polls may begin in February. The State Election Commission had started preparing electoral rolls in November for the upcoming poll. Those who attained 18 years of age as on November 1, 2021, have been included in voters' list for the elections. Names of over 2.61 crore voters have been included in the list. The polls will be held in 91,913 wards among 6,794 panchayats and 853 Zilla Parishad Members in the state. The voting is likely to be conducted on five different dates with one day gap between the poll dates.

Like in the last Panchayat Elections held in 2017, the Block will be taken as a unit and elections to all the Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, Gram Panchayat and Wards coming under the Block will be completed on a single date.

The Commission has decided to hold the election in such a manner that the Block(s) having maximum booths go to the poll in the first phase, gradually tapering off in subsequent phases. Those districts having fewer blocks, can have shorter programmes in three or four dates.

In the last Panchayat polls, the counting was done on the same day of the polling. But, this time, the central counting will be done in a different date to be fixed by the SEC. The result will be declared one day after the completion of the polls in all five phases across the State, sources said.

India Launches Supersonic Missile

Balasure(KCN): Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed supersonic missile assisted torpedo system was successfully launched from Wheeler Island in Odisha on December 13, 2021.

The system is a next generation missile-based standoff torpedo delivery system. During the mission, full range capability of the missile was successfully demonstrated. The system has been designed to enhance anti-submarine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of the torpedo.

This was a text book launch, where the entire trajectory was monitored by the electro optic telemetry system, various range radars, including the down range instrumentation and down range ships. The missile carried a torpedo, parachute delivery system and release mechanisms.

This canister-based missile system consists of advanced technologies viz. two stage solid propulsion, electro-mechanical actuators and precision inertial navigation. The missile is launched from ground mobile launcher and it can cover a range of distances.

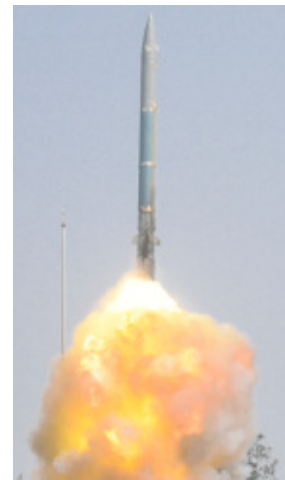
'Three-pronged strategy for agricultural growth in Odisha'

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The State government has adopted a three-pronged strategy to ensure agricultural growth and multiply farmers' income, Principal Secretary of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department Suresh Kumar Vashisht said.

Addressing an event on input management of rabi crop for farmer producer organisations (FPOs) at the Institute of Agricultural Sciences, here, Vashisht said the focus now is on small and marginal farmers to encourage them to diversify and go for high value and climate-resilient crops. "Farmers are being motivated for crop diversification and integrated farming while promoting farm ponds so that they can take up pisciculture along with horticulture," he said. Odisha's cultivation pattern was heavily tilted towards paddy with the crop claiming 70 per cent of the agricultural land while the rest 30 per cent of the cultivable area was under cereals, pulses, oilseeds and other crops. "We are surplus in paddy but deficit in pulses and oilseeds," he said. An MoU was signed between Livelihood Alternatives and Dhanuka Agritech Ltd on the occasion for ensuring farmers have easy access to agricultural inputs.

A number of DRDO laboratories developed various technologies for this advanced missile system. Industry participated in the development and production of various sub-systems.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh congratulated the teams involved in the successful test of the supersonic missile assisted torpedo system and said, the development of the system is a perfect example of building futuristic defence systems in the country. Secretary, Department of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO, Dr G Satheesh Reddy has congratulated all those involved in the successful test. He said, the system will further enhance the strength of our Navy and promote self-reliance in defence, harnessing of expertise and capabilities.



PM Opens Kashi Vishwanath Dham

KCN, Bureau :Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Varanasi today. He prayed at the Kaal Bhairav Temple and Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Kashi. He also took a holy dip in river Ganga. Starting his address with pranam at the feet of 'Nagar Kotwal' (Lord Kaal Bhairav), the Prime Minister said nothing special happens without his blessings. The Prime Minister sought the lord's blessings for the countrymen.

The Prime Minister cited Puranas which say that as soon as one enters Kashi, one becomes free from all bondage. "Blessings of Lord Vishweshwara, a supernatural energy awakens our inner soul as soon as we

come here". He added that this whole new complex of Vishwanath Dham is not just a grand building. This is a symbol of the Sanatan culture of our India. It is a

here, they will see not only faith but will also feel the glory of the past here. How antiquity and novelty come alive together. How the inspirations of the ancient are giving di-



symbol of our spiritual soul. This is a symbol of India's antiquity, traditions, India's energy and dynamism. The Prime Minister said 'when one comes

rection to the future, We are witnessing this very vividly in Vishwanath Dham complex', he added. The Prime Minister CONTINUED ON: P-7

2556 Cr Projects For CTC & KRD

Cuttack(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday

health cards to beneficiaries covered under the Biju Swasthya

Later, he visited Begunia of Khordha district, where he inaugurated 126 projects of Rs 85.53 crore and laid foundation stones for 406 projects of Rs 902.44 crore.

The projects spread over various sectors including roads, bridges, drainage, education, health, livelihood, irrigation, energy, women and child development. Addressing a gathering at Baliyatra ground in Cuttack city, the Chief Minister said his government is taking steps for developing the SCB Medical Col-

lege as a world-class health care institution. The medical college would be a milestone in the country's healthcare sector in the coming days, he said.

Remembering Biswanath Pandit, eminent labour leader from Cuttack, Patnaik announced that the Biswanath Pandit Central Library would be redeveloped as a state-of-the-art library near the Puri-Angul bus stand in the city. Similarly, at Begunia, the Chief Minister said Khordha was the land of the first free CONTINUED ON: P-7



launched various development projects worth Rs 2556.13 crore in Cuttack and Khordha districts. The Chief Minister visited the two districts to launch the distribution of smart

Kalyan Yojana (BSKY). During the visit to Cuttack, he inaugurated 40 projects worth Rs 93.28 crore and laid foundation for 95 projects worth Rs 1474.88 crore.

Dr Jayanta Kumar Ray Shares his Willingness to Adopt CSIR-CMERI Technologies in North Bengal

Kolkata (KCN): Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy, Member, Standing

CSIR-CMERI Solar Chulha, which after widespread adoption

for a Technology-Driven SMART Village. The technologies collectively will have a tremendous impact in developing a Sustainable Ecosystem which is environment friendly and holistic societal development. Dr. Roy also stated that the Director of the institute, Prof. (Dr.) Harish Hirani has fully extended his 'Hand of

Making, Briquetting Plant etc.) Cold Storage System, Mechanized Scavenging System, Waste Water Rejuvenation Technology for Agricultural Use, Solar Tree, SMART Parking Technology, Oxygen Parlour and Solar Chulha Technologies were exhibited to Dr. Roy Prof. (Dr.) Harish



Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests, Government of India, and Member, Consultative Committee, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, visited CSIR-CMERI Durgapur on Sunday

across the nation can help in substantial reduction of dependence upon imported fossil fuels, neutralise pollution levels and help in access to clean cooking systems-which also reduces Indoor pollution to a great extent. Further, adoption of



Support' for building up a robust society through S&T Innovations, the Implementation Plan and Project would be soon discussed in detail for adoption of the same in 'Changmari Village' of Maynaguri Block, West Bengal in near future. The CSIR-CMERI

Hirani, Director, CSIR-CMERI, expressed gratitude to Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy, for his kind presence at CSIR-CMERI to experience the indigenous Socio-Economic Technology Innovations of the Institute which proposes a 3-D Societal Develop-



(December 12, 2021) and disclosed his willingness to utilise CSIR-CMERI Technologies in Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Meckhliganj, Malbazaar areas. In these places, there is a lack of a comprehensive Municipal Solid Waste Management Ecosystem. While speaking to the media, Dr Roy said, CSIR-CMERI Municipal Solid Waste Management System can have a tremendous impact, if utilised in the region. Dr. Roy also gave a special mention to the

sustainable cooking systems such as these will also help in affordable cooking solutions for the masses. The reuse of construction debris as demonstrated by the scientists of CSIR-CMERI can help in the sustainable infrastructure construction efforts, especially in villages and rural India. Dr. Roy further shared that he has been apprised in detail about the CSIR-CMERI Societal Technologies which potentially might form the foundations



Indigenous Innovations i.e. the Municipal Solid Waste Management Pilot Plant (which includes the Bio-Gas, Mechanised Segregation, Plasma Gasification, Brick

ment Plan i.e. 'User-Defined Innovations', Skill Development Initiatives and Continuous Prototype Assessment for 'Incremental Innovation'.

"BhabyaKashiand Dibya Kashi "a spiritual programme organised at Barbil by Hindu Spiritual and Service Foundation

Barbil (KCN): Hindu spiritual and service foundation, Barbill branch has organised

dignitaries of the town. Deba Prasad Mishra, the acting member of the

environment colourful with their active participation. All priests were greeted at the entrance point followed by feet wash and garlanding. Ramesh Misha, one

Prime Minister Narendra Modi 's effort to renovate the 1st phase of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham project which is spread over five lakh square feet and



onoreligious gathering captioned as "Bhabya Kashi and Dibya Kashi at Radha Krishna Mandir, Barbil in connection with the inauguration of Kashi Viswanath temple projects. Hundreds of priests of different temples of Barbil and the surrounding area along with many devotees and

foundation narrated the objective of gathering followed by a devotional speech by Dilip Kumar Mishra, Ramesh Chandra Mishra, Rajkishore Das and many others. The meeting place echos with chanting of Vedas of priest and sounds of conch shell. Women presented in the function made the



senior member of the committee narrated the importance of Lord Shiva mantra. He too described the history of Kashi Viswanth temple. It is said that the programme is organised to dedicate

connects the temple premises to the River Ganga besides providing several facilities to devotees. The meeting was ended with a mass Mangalam Chanting followed by Prasad Sevan.

Shree Shyam Jewellers inaugurated at Khordha

Khordha(KCN) One of the exclusive showroom of 916 Hallmark gold and silver ornaments

Ex-Chairman, Khordha, Municipality in the presence of Ex-President & Senior Advocate,

jeweller and its vision to strengthen retail presence in Khordha. The aesthetically designed

ity assurance and wonderful after sales customers convenience. The Shree Shyam Jeweller's



showroom inaugurated at fish market in Khordha town. The store was inaugurated by Mrs. Sanjukta Sahoo,

Khordha, District BAR, Association, Sisir Kumar Parida. The lavish store is a part of its global expansion plan of the



showroom in Khordha offers superior shopping experience along with extraordinary design diversity with qual-

will display a remarkable range of bridal Jewellery, traditional Jewellery, daily wear Jewellery in gold and silver.

The remarkable blood donation camp



Kolkata (KCN): Jhinkir Hat, Netaji Sangha, South Mohanpur, Mograhat, South 24 Parganas has organized an undeniable "Blood

Donation Camp" on 5th December, 2021 in their "Club Premises". It was a great initiative for them to enrich the entire society in a very befitting

manner. They have got more than 200 blood donor at that very day. They have really been successful through their communal magnanimity in the

end which would definitely be satisfying the common mass to refine their most needful cultural synthesis in the near future.

Tara Prasad Bahinipati dares Odisha CP to prove Congress workers pelted stones at police

BHUBANESWAR: Congress chief whip Tara Prasad Bahinipati on Sunday, December 12, 2021, challenged Twin City Police Commissioner Soumenendra Priyadarshi to prove that students' Congress activists pelted stones at police personnel during their rally on Friday. "I will quit politics if the Police Commissioner provides evidence of Congress activists pelting stones at the police. Rather, police personnel hurled stones at Congress

Bhawan," Bahinipati told media persons here. After the incident on Friday, police had claimed they were forced to resort to lathicharge as the party activists hurled stones at them. Stating that the activists had hurled tomatoes and eggs at the police but not stones, Bahinipati asked whether the Police Commissioner will resign from service if he failed to prove the charge. Coming down heavily on the police for beating the demonstrators mercilessly by enter-

ing the Congress Bhawan, Bahinipati demanded stringent action against the Commissioner and a high-level probe into the incident. The senior party leader announced that Congress activists will gherao the Commissionerate headquarters if no action is taken in this regard. He alleged several activists suffered head injuries and some were critically injured after police chased and beat them up during the protest. "We were

raising slogans and beating gongs demanding Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to attend the Assembly. Instead, the State government let loose policemen on us," he added. Bahinipati criticised the Chief Minister for not attending the Assembly during the winter session which was marred by disruptions. "The Chief Minister did not attend the Assembly but travelled to Ganjam to distribute smart health cards a day after the winter session ended," he added.

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Ajay Devgn and Kajol are two of a kind

Wife and husband and duo Kajol and Ajay Devgn are poles

Tanhaji is Ajay's centennial film in Bollywood. "We

lieve that hard work pays off." At a time when

more than necessary. He keeps me grounded and makes

On the use of 3D technology, the actor says, "The technol-

younger generation is robbed of Indian history. "Not much has been written about unsung warriors such as Tanhaji in school textbooks. My children have not even read about him. During the British era they did not let people read about Indian warriors. Our textbooks have not changed much since then. So, I decided to do this film. The least we can do is respect our heroes. Maybe it will bring about a change in our country. But such films require an audience connect. So, we made it a commercial film with lots of music, action and drama."



apart in their behaviour. While he is quiet and speaks in monosyllables, she is animated and happy-go-lucky. The couple is currently in a celebratory mode as they recently marked their 21st wedding anniversary and are now busy promoting their upcoming film Tanhaji together. The duo is making a comeback on screen after a decade.

Their last film together Toonpur Ka Superhero in 2010 was also made under their own banner—Ajay Devgn Films.

Aditya Roy Kapoor, Disha Patani sizzle in new 'Malang' poster

A new poster of Mohit Suri's Malang featuring Aditya Roy Kapur and Disha Patani is out. The poster highlights an intimate moment between the stars, framed against a surreal background.

Suri shares, "Passionate, exciting, energetic, mad, love is all this and more. Aditya and Disha's love depicts their liberated and Malang state of mind in this poster. I'm looking forward to seeing how the audience perceives it."

Malang was shot in Mauritius, Goa and Mumbai. Produced by T-Series, Luv Films and Ankur Garg, and Northern Lights Entertainment, the film is slated to release on February 7, 2020.

There was strange inherent comfort with Brad Pitt: Leonardo DiCaprio

LOS ANGELES(KCN): Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio

the film, which was well-received across the globe.

working with Brad was this strange inherent comfort and



says working with Brad Pitt on Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" was an incredible experience.

The actor said they both clicked instantly and were on the same page while portraying their respective characters in

DiCaprio played an ageing, out-of-work actor, Rick Dalton, in the film set in 1960s' Hollywood, while Pitt essayed the part of his stunt double and confident Cliff Booth.

"What was very interesting about

ease that we really both clicked into day one. It didn't need a lot of prep work. We talked about the script, and we instinctively knew that dynamic and relationship, and who these guys were to one another," the actor, 45, told Deadline.

me realise that I am going overboard at times," says Kajol on how their marriage works.

The couple reveals that their children Nysa and Yug have not watched the film yet. "They don't like my movies because they feel I weep too much. They feel that I cry in happy scenes too," says Kajol. Ajay laughs and adds, "Nysa doesn't discuss much about films but Yug calls me Tanhaji Malsure when I reach home. Even when I call him he says 'Hello Tanhaji'."

ogy that we've used has been done for the first time in India by Indians. I formed my own company for this. The CGI has been done completely by us. I have always tried to experiment with new techniques. Our director Om Raut had done all the research before we embarked on the path. In fact, we met Tanhaji's family and they would be on the sets every day. We recreated the sets as such locales are not available in the current situation."

The 50-year-old further rues how the

Common man has always been the hero: Vikrant Massey

MUMBAI: Actor Vikrant Massey says for him the common man is the hero in real life and he aims to showcase the same on-screen.

The actor believes "aam-aadmi" has been ignored by the film industry for too long and through his movies he wants him to take the centre stage.

"This is the time of common man. The person cleaning the drain is a common man, the common man are out on streets fighting.

"The common man has always been the hero and they have been ignored for too long. I am an actor, I can act and what I can do through my work is, become their voice," Vikrant told PTI in an interview here.

Coming from a lower-middle class family, Vikrant says he has had his fair share of struggles in life, and he has come out stronger.

"I was told I am a TV actor and I won't get to work in films. When I came here (films) I was told I can only be a hero's friend, but I am the

protagonist and the so-called hero. I have lived a journey. Like Amol in 'Chhapaak' is a common man, who left his job and is walking on this path. There are people, these are characters, who for me are the heroes."

The actor says he has always drawn inspiration from the society as he is not a trained performer.

"I travel a lot. I want to bring on-screen all my experiences. I am still learning, I am very young, what I see around me, I try to bring it on screen.

"I hope audiences like me, they laugh and cry with me and take away something from the characters I play.

I am not attempting to change the world, I want people to get aware of their own self, and relate to the characters I play," he adds.

Vikrant is looking forward to "Chhapaak", featuring Deepika Padukone as an acid attack survivor.

The film, directed by Meghna Gulzar, is inspired the life of Laxmi

Agarwal.

The actor, who was earlier supposed to collaborate with Meghna on "Raazi", says he is happy to have got the opportunity to be part of her latest venture.

"The response has been positive so far and we are looking forward to January 10, when it releases. It's an opportunity for any aspiring artiste to work with Meghna, Deepika and on a story as such. I am fortunate to be a part of this film."

Vikrant says with "Chhapaak" their aim is to create awareness about acid violence.

"It is a heinous crime and no living being deserves this. No one has the right to have an impact or influence on anyone else's life in such a life-altering way.

"Through 'Chhapaak' our attempt is to talk about acid violence and we hope people take this film in the right way and there will be more awareness and discussion on this topic."

The film is scheduled to release on January 10.

China and Pakistan trembled due to General Rawat

R. K. Sinha

The entire nation is bound to mourn the sudden death of the Chief of Defense Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat, in a very sorrowful helicopter accident. Apart from General Rawat, 12 others including his wife Madhulika Rawat, have lost their lives. On December 6, the day marking the 50th anniversary of our victory against Pakistan in

the 1971 war, the country was to celebrate and remember the martyrs. The absence of General Rawat will have a profound impact on all those programs. General Rawat was appointed as the country's first CDS and was also the

Chief of the Indian Army before that. He also had a deep understanding of the workings of the Army and the Navy and managed to do a brilliant job of synergizing the three armies. General Rawat was a keen expert on Chinese affairs and constantly advised the government on the ongoing border conflict with China and Pakistan. He believed that the country would not be suppressed under any circumstances. For their every attack, our country would have a better counterattack. On the ongoing border dispute with China, General Rawat had said that "There is also a military option to deal with the encroachment of the Chinese army in Ladakh." Rawat's statement reassured the citizens that India is prepared for any situation.

There was nothing wrong with what he said. It was a well-balanced true statement. General Rawat never kept the nation in the dark. He had described China as the biggest security threat to India. Some time ago, General Rawat had said, 'China has become a big security threat to India and thousands of soldiers and weapons the country had sent last year to secure the Himalayan border, will not be able to return to the base for a long time.' This statement of General Rawat seemed to strike a nerve with China. China, stunned by Rawat's statement, said that

of the aggressive mindset of General Rawat. The opinion that General Rawat was expressing about China had been expressed by former Defense Minister late George Fernandes many years ago. He described China as our biggest enemy. After the Pokhran-2 nuclear test, the then NDA government's Defense Minister George Fernandes had claimed that India's number one enemy is China. Political experts believed that George Saheb must have given this statement based on information received during his tenure as the

a defense expert and the Former Chief Minister of Punjab, has publicly said that Pakistan will not sit still if an India-China war breaks out. They will fight in favor of China.

Of course, given the attitude of China and Pakistan, Indian security forces have to remain vigilant throughout the year on all fronts, land and sea borders. The Indian Forces were performing this responsibility well under the patronage of General Rawat. It is safe to assume that even after the sudden demise of General Rawat, the tension on our borders with China and Pakistan will not end. China isn't going to give up on its mischievous and underhanded tricks and attacks. Meaning India will continue to face its two enemy countries together on the border every day until they are crushed once and for all. Friendly relations cannot be expected from them. So India has to remain alert always to counter the nefarious antics of these neighboring countries.

It will be the responsibility of the new CDS of the country to replace General Rawat, to continue the work of strengthening the army like during the time of his predecessor, General Rawat. That will be the nation's tribute to that great warrior. He was the pride of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand and a warrior of the nation. India shall always remember him with profound gratefulness and respect.

(The writer is a senior editor, columnist, and former MP.)

The Honest Adieu Farewell to a Modern day military icon

Rahul Kamble

There are moments in a nation's history when time stands still. The unfortunate and untimely death of the country's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Laxman Singh Rawat, his wife Mrs. Madhulika Rawat and 11 other defence personnel is one such occasion. There was heartfelt mourning pan-nation on Friday as the General, his wife, Brig L S Lidder were cremated with Full military honours.

In his larger than life tenure, General Rawat served as a Brigade Commander, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-C) Southern Command, General Staff Officer Grade 2 at the Military Operations Directorate, Colonel Military Secretary and Deputy Military Secretary in the Military Secretary's Branch and Senior Instructor in the Junior Command Wing. He was also a part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force and has commanded a multinational brigade in the Democratic Republic of Congo. During his career of nearly 43 years, he was awarded for gallantry and distinguished service with the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Yudh Seva Medal, Sena Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, the COAS Commendation on two occasions and the Army Commander's Commendation.

General Rawat was assessed as "too patriotic", "too tough" and "too outspoken" by many and was therefore conveniently branded. As the Chief of Army Staff, he had a 'tough-no nonsense' approach when it came to leadership. He walked the talk when it came to giving a "befitting reply to the enemy". He proved this when he led the Indian Army in a decisive and firm manner during the Doklam crisis. The resultant withdrawal by the Chinese was a significant setback for them along the Northern borders in a long time. General Bipin Rawat was part of the team which planned and executed the

Balokot air strikes by the IAF. As the Chief of Defence Staff, he oversaw the robust response by the Indian armed forces against the Chinese misadventures in Eastern Ladakh. The response was not just limited to the Northern borders, but it was orchestrated in all domains including the sea, air and space. He understood the hybrid warfare better than anyone else and minced no words when it came to the present-day role of civil society in the nation's security.

What he leaves behind is his glorious legacy, which will be remembered and talked of for years to come. A modern day military icon, General Bipin Rawat deserves much more than just a tribute. We as a nation shall stress on certain marks in his honour.

The immediate important step needed to be taken is appointing the new CDS, and thus ensuring that the momentum of the post shall not be lost. India has been gifted by some excellent Top level military leadership over the course of time. If seniority is kept in mind, then the frontrunner for the CDS post will be Army chief General M.M. Naravane, who took over the latter position from Gen. Rawat on 31 December 2019. However, this would affect the natural succession plan, since Gen. Naravane was due to retire only in April next year. If a new Army

chief has to be appointed now, three officers will be in contention, based on seniority — Army Vice Chief Lt Gen. C.P. Mohanty, Northern Army Commander Lt Gen. V.K. Joshi and Lt Gen. Raj Shukla, who heads the Army Training Command. These officers would otherwise have retired before Gen. Naravane. Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen. Manoj Pande, who would be the senior-most officer when Gen. Naravane's retirement date arrived in April next year, would

be the fourth in seniority if the latter were named CDS now.

The next big mark in his tribute shall be, completing his unfinished business. General Rawat was a visionary man. His most notable and most talked foresight was the Grand Theaterization of Indian military. General Rawat was on mission mode to integrate the three services into one single fighting entity in the best interests of the nation. His no nonsense approach and some plain speaking led to fierce criticism from within the services. General Rawat's duties as the CDS included bringing about jointness in the three services and carrying out reforms with the aim of augmenting the combat capabilities of the armed forces. As part of the reforms, General Rawat very vigorously pushed for the creation of integrated theatre commands. Currently, In-



The Author is a Medical student studying in Sangli District of Maharashtra

Hong Kong tycoon sentenced 13 months jail for Tiananmen vigil

A Hong Kong court on Monday sentenced activist and business tycoon Jimmy Lai to 13 months in jail for urging participation in last year's banned Tiananmen vigil, amid a crackdown by Chinese authorities that has rolled back the semi-autonomous city's civil liberties. The District Court convicted seven others on similar charges and handed out sentences of up to 14 months.

Hong Kong's government has banned the candlelight vigil for the past two years on pandemic control grounds, although it is widely believed the ban is intended to be permanent as authorities look to squelch the city's pro-democracy movement. Lai, the founder of the now-shuttered pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily, has already been jailed for taking part in pro-democracy protests for which he will serve a total of 20 months. In the latest case, he

was convicted on Thursday of inciting others to take part in the unauthorised assembly to



memorialise those killed in the army's bloody crackdown on student-led pro-democracy protests that centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Two other defendants convicted along with Lai, lawyer Chow Hang-tung and former reporter Gwyneth Ho, were sentenced to 12 and six months respectively for participating in the vigil. Chow was also sentenced for inciting others to join. The trio had previously pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Others sentenced Monday included Lee Cheuk-yan, the former chairman of the now-defunct

organised a candlelight vigil each June, the only large-scale public commemoration on Chinese soil

Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China. Lee received 14 months for organising last year's unauthorised assembly, during which thousands of people gathered to light candles and sing songs in Hong Kong's Victoria Park despite police warnings that they may be breaking the law.

The remainder were given sentences ranging from four months, two weeks, to nine months.

The Hong Kong Alliance previously

of the 1989 crackdown in Beijing. More than a dozen activists had already been convicted over the banned vigil, most of whom pleaded guilty, including outspoken activist Joshua Wong, who was given 10 months in jail for participating.

He was already in jail after a previous conviction on other charges related to his activism.

Two other activists in the case, Nathan Law and Sunny Cheung, have fled the city. Lai's Apple Daily was forced to shut down

in June after police froze USD 2.3 million of its assets, searched its office and arrested five top editors and executives. Police also accused the individuals of foreign collusion to endanger national security.

The Hong Kong Alliance disbanded in September, amid accusations from the government that the organisation was working for foreign interests. Leaders of the alliance categorically denied the accusations.

Lai, 73, is currently serving a separate 14-month jail term for other convictions earlier this year also related to unauthorised rallies in 2019, when hundreds of thousands repeatedly took to the streets in the biggest challenge to Beijing since the British handed over

the city to Chinese control in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" framework. Under that arrangement, Beijing promised that the territory could retain its freedoms not found on the mainland for 50 years, but has largely reneged on that pledge by severely curtailing free speech and barring pro-democracy politicians from office.

China last year passed a broadly defined national security law which has been viewed as codifying Beijing's repressive tactics, effectively ending Western-style civil liberties in Hong Kong.

In the face of criticism at home and abroad, Chinese and Hong Kong officials have repeatedly emphasised promotion of the law and its supposed role in safe-

guarding national security and social stability, even to students at the lowest grades. At a meeting of kindergarten and primary school teachers Monday, Justice Secretary Teresa Cheng lectured on the need to deepen the education sector's correct understanding of the legislation and Hong Kong's revised electoral system that stacks the Legislative Council with deputies loyal to Beijing. "The law aimed to close national security loopholes by effectively preventing, suppressing and imposing punishment for any act that endangers national security," Cheng said, adding that she expects teachers to impart correct knowledge of such matters. The Hong Kong government and Beijing have rejected accusa-

tions that the new electoral system undermines democracy, saying it was merely a move to improve the efficiency of the city's Legislative Council. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Monday reiterated that this month's council election is entirely an internal affair of China, and no external forces with ulterior motives are allowed to make irresponsible remarks about it. "We urge the parties concerned to abandon their prejudice and malice, stop smearing and discrediting Hong Kong's democratic development, and stop interfering with and undermining the Special Administrative Region election," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

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PM Modi's lunch with construction workers of Kashi Vishwanath Dham becomes talking point

LUCKNOW: Recreating the images of 2019 Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj, where Prime Minister Modi washed the feet of

Member of Parliament from Varanasi, the PM extended his gratitude to the workers by showering flower petals on them

lege of meeting them and seek their blessings," said the Prime Minister.

Later in the day, the Prime Minister pro-

knowledge the efforts of the construction workers and the honour extended to them was significant as it would pay divi-



Dalit sanitation workers ahead of Lok Sabha elections, the PM's interaction with construction workers of Kashi Vishwanath Dham emerged as one of the main talking points of the inauguration event of the corridor in Varanasi on Monday. Before inaugurating the phase I of the corridor, Narendra Modi, after performing the 'Jalabishek' of Lord Shiva at Kashi Vishwanath temple, went straight to the construction workers, spoke to them and ate with them. By virtue of being the

as they worked day in and day out to carve out his dream project within the scheduled time.

During his speech in the courtyard of the corridor, the Prime Minister made a special mention of the tireless efforts of the labourers.

"Today, I would also like to thank all my labourer brother and sisters, who shed their sweat to bring this grand complex to life. Even during the difficult Covid-19 times, they made sure that the construction work went on. Just now, I had the privi-

ceeded to share the dining table and have simple 'desi' lunch with around 2,500 construction workers on the corridor premises.

If an Aurangzeb comes, a Shivaji also emerges, says PM Modi at 'immortal' Kashi Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also joined Prime Minister Modi and the construction workers during the meals, which included daal, rice, mix vegetable, roti and papad.

The political pundits feel the gesture of the Prime Minister to ac-

dends to the ruling party in the coming electoral battle.

PM Modi also thanked others involved in building the complex. "I also thank artisans, civil engineers, officials from the district administration, as well as families who had houses on the land on which the corridor was constructed," he said.

The PM also congratulated Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and the state government, who, he said, worked tirelessly to complete the project in time.



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Dog squad to sniff out poachers in Similipal Tiger Reserve

BHUBANESWAR: Similipal South Division Samrat Gowda. Two sniffer dogs will five years back. However, after it died due



now assist the patrolling squads of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in guarding the country's fourth-largest big cat habitat. Maya and Drona - the two canines of German Shepherd breed aged around 1.5 years, have been inducted into the squads after six months of training in wildlife protection at ITBP's National Dog Training Centre, Bhanu in Chandigarh. The dog squad will help track poachers, find hidden guns, snares as well as other wildlife articles and incriminating materials, said deputy director of

Poachers often plant poisoned food deep inside forest to kill wild animals. Besides, they target water-bodies as animals use them to quench their thirst. This has always remained a major challenge for the forest staff. Three Similipal staff have also been trained on handling the dog squad in the tiger reserve. Gowda said the dogs were given to STR by TRAFFIC India, a non-government organisation working closely with the government in the field of wildlife. Sources said a sniffer dog had been brought to the tiger reserve

to age-related ailments, Similipal did not have any dog in its canine squad in the recent years. At present, the newly trained dogs are being acclimatised to the tiger habitat to make patrolling more effective in the forest. Gowda said, if found feasible, more dogs will be added to the canine squad to assist protection squads in patrolling the tiger reserve.

Cancellation of Trains due to developmental works

Kolkata(KCN): The South Eastern Railway authority has informed today that due to developmental works in Bilaspur Division of South East Central Railway, the following trains will remain cancelled:- 22170 Santragachi - Rani Kamlapati Express leaving Santragachi o-n December 16, 2021 and December 23, 2021 will remain cancelled. 22169 Rani

Kamlapati - Santragachi Express leaving Rani Kamlapati o-n December 15, 2021 and December 22, 2021 will remain cancelled. 20972 Shalimar - Udaipur Express leaving Shalimar o-n December 19, 2021 will remain cancelled. 20971 Udaipur - Shalimar Express leaving Udaipur o-n December 18, 2021 will remain cancelled.

Joint cultural programme at ICP Dawaki on the occasion of 50th anniversary of Bangladesh Liberation



Kolkata:BSF is organising a series of events to mark the 50th Year of Independence of Bangladesh and to highlight the contribution made by BSF in 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. In such an endeavour, a "Joint Cultural Programme " with Bangladesh was con-

ducted today at 1100 am at ICP Dawki under Meghalaya Ftr. The Purpose of organising such a friendly event is to remember the Mukti Yoddhas of both sides who fought for the cause and enhance co-operation and good will between the two countries.

During the event, felicitation of war veterans, performance of renowned troupes from Bangladesh and India, experience sharing by war veterans were conducted in presence of approximately 500 local population from both countries, eminent personalities and state dignitaries

along with senior officials of BSF. The programme was duly appreciated and applauded by one and all. Such events on the border will further boost the spirit of amity and confidence among the border populace on both sides of the international boundary.

Timeline of events: PM Narendra Modi's Varanasi visit

Inaugurating phase I of his dream project of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi on Monday, PM Narendra Modi had

11.40 am: PM arrives at Khirkiya Ghat along with CM Yogi. 11.55 am: The PM takes a cruise ride in river Ganga to visits

tum sanctorum of the temple, performs 'Shivarchan' marked by Jalabhishek by the waters of Ganga he had fetched in the Kalash.

Ravidas Ghat 15.00: PM offers obeisance at Sant Ravidas temple 17.30: PM and CMs of BJP-ruled states take a 'Ro-Ro' boat



a number of things lined up during the day. Timeline of PM Modi's visit to Varanasi: 11.00 am: PM Narendra Modi lands at Lala Bahadur Shastri airport. Leaves straight for Kaal Bhairav, also known as Kashi Kotwal temple, accompanied by UP CM Yogi Adityanath 11.30 am: PM Modi welcomed by people with flower petals and slogans all through the streets. The prime minister stops his convoy to accept, head gear, shawl from crowd.

Lalita Ghat to fetch Gangajal for offering Jalabhishek of Lord Shiva on the newly constructed premises of Kashi Vishwanath Dham Corridor 12.00 pm: PM Modi takes a holy dip while chanting shlokas, fetches a 'Kalash' full of the holy waters of Ganga before entering the Kashi Vishwanath temple while CM Yogi and deputy CMs reach Mandir Chowk 12.30 pm: PM reaches Kashi Vishwanath temple premises 12.50: Enters sanc-

13.00: Inaugurates Phase-I of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor by removing the curtains on the plaque 13.15: Showers the construction workers with flower petals, converses with them 13.30: Addresses seers and gathering of other dignitaries at Mandir Chowk, the courtyard of the corridor 14.30: Joins the construction workers on lunch along with CM Yogi 14.45: PM and CM take cruise ride back from Lalita Ghat to

ride to Dashashwamedh Ghat to witness the Ganga Aarti and decorated ghats illuminated with 11 lakh diyas The inauguration of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor comes just months ahead of the crucial assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government led by chief minister Yogi Adityanath is aiming to retain its rule for a second consecutive time.

Odisha CM attends smart class on whirlwind tour of Ganjam district

BERHAMPUR: On a whirlwind tour of Ganjam on Sunday, December 12, 2021, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated several projects and

top hospitals of the country with the help of the cashless smart cards. Each family can avail treatment cost up to Rs 5 lakh per annum. Women can avail

service for 'Ganjam Darshan'. Later, the CM reached Brundaban Vidyapitha, one of the transformed high schools in the district, and joined

prayers at Tara Tarini temple, the presiding deity of Ganjam district, in Purushottampur block. He reviewed the renovation works of the shrine, which is



launched distribution of smart health cards under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) in the district besides attending a smart class with school students. Launching the BSKY cards at Hinjili, the CM said under the scheme, the poor will have access to medical services without getting into financial problem. Beneficiaries can avail services from 200

this benefit up to Rs 10 lakh every year. More than 25 lakh people in Ganjam district will get the benefit of this scheme. Naveen also paid tributes to his father, the legendary Biju Patnaik. He inaugurated 659 projects worth Rs 570 crore besides laying foundation stones of 645 projects worth Rs1,582 crore. The CM also launched new schemes worth Rs 127 crore including the bus

the students in the smart classroom. He interacted with the students on various topics and inspected the modern laboratory, e-library and other state-of-the-art facilities in the school. Naveen held an interactive session with PRI members of the district and felicitated them for their commendable work during the Covid-19 pandemic. Earlier on the day, Naveen offered

being developed with modern amenities for pilgrims. The CM announced that the temple's transformation will be completed by 2023. Naveen was accompanied by 5T Secretary VK Pandian, Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha, MPs Chandra Sekhar Sahu and Pramila Bisoi besides several MLAs. Around 13 platoons of police force were deployed for the CM's visit.

After RBI meet, all eyes now on inflation data

NEW DELHI: India's equity market ended on a strong note last week despite a weak start due to concern of rising cases of omicron variant. The market then witnessed a sharp recovery, thanks to easing concerns of omicron and dovish RBI policy.

Sensex and Nifty ended last week with healthy gains of nearly 2% to close at 58,786.67 levels and 17,511.30 levels, respectively. Amongst

participants will keenly watch inflation data and spread of the omicron variant of coronavirus.

Yesha Shah, Head of Equity Research, Samco Securities, "Domestic inflation data and the FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting will be crucial events that will dominate movements in the Indian benchmark indices. Because the RBI provided no guidance on the rate hike timeline, all eyes

the markets continue to let off steam from excess valuations." Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart, said that European Central Bank, Bank of England, Swiss National Bank, and Bank of Japan will also come out with their monetary policies this week. The recently announced US inflation numbers are in line with expectations and it was not as bad as there was fear therefore the

news flows related to omicron may continue to cause some volatility.

He also said that it is not a clear trend in the dollar index and US 10-year bond yields, however, our market will be interested to know FIIs' behavior after a period of relentless selling. Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking, said, "that going ahead, we feel the recovery would remain uneven, thus



the sector, most indices ended in the positive with realty, metals and capital goods being the top gainers. On the broader market front, midcap and small-cap too ended in the green in the range of 2.1-3%

Going ahead this week, the decision of the US Fed that is scheduled on 15th December is likely to have a major impact on market movement. Beside this, market

will be on the stand FOMC adopts on tapering and interest rate hike trajectory. While it is widely expected that the FED will consider the intensity of the Omicron variant before aggressively preponing tapering plans, any surprises in the announcements can cause choppy movements. Thus, investors should remain cautious and consider value investing till

market is not expecting any negative surprise from the US Fed.

The US inflation rate rose 6.8% over the last year, the highest increase since 1982, Bureau of Labor Statistics said recently. Inflation rose 0.8% in November after rising 0.9% in October. Meena added that the impact of the omicron variant on the market has cooled off but the

recommend continuing with a positive yet cautious approach.

"On the index front, Nifty would face resistance around 17,600 and 17,800 zone while on the downside, 17,300-17,150 zone would act as a cushion in case of any dip. Since we're seeing a mixed trend across sectors, the focus should be on stock selection," added Mishra.

Over Rs 1,300 crore returned to depositors under scheme: PM Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said deposit insurance reforms undertaken by

with stressed banks. "Banks play a major role in the prosperity of the country. And for the prosperity of

Depositors First: Guaranteed Time-bound Deposit Insurance Payment, at Vigyan Bhawan.

Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das said that depositors must be careful of schemes offering

said. Parliament in August passed the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corpora-

covers all kinds of deposits such as savings, fixed, current and recurring deposits in all commercial banks. Deposits in state, central and primary cooperative banks, functioning in states and Union Territories are also covered.

With a deposit insurance coverage of Rs 5 lakh per depositor per bank, the number of fully protected accounts at the end of the previous financial year constituted 98.1% of the total number of accounts as against the international benchmark of 80%.

The Deposit Insurance Bill Parliament in August passed the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2021, ensuring account holders get up to Rs 5 lakh within 90 days of the RBI imposing a moratorium on the banks.

tion (Amendment) Bill, 2021, ensuring that account holders get up to Rs 5 lakh within 90 days of the RBI imposing a moratorium on the banks. Deposit insurance



the government will instill confidence in account holders on the banking system as in the last few days, over 1 lakh depositors have got about Rs 1,300 crore of their money stuck

the banks, it is equally important for the depositors' money to be safe. If we want to save the bank, then depositors have to be protected," Modi said in his address at a function on

He also assured that about three lakh more such account holders will get their deposits with the banks that are under the RBI moratorium, soon. Addressing the same function, the Reserve

high returns. "There are institutions offering higher rates. Higher return higher interest rate has also higher risk. Depositors should be careful while chasing high returns," Das

Financial housekeeping around December is a good idea

It is the end of the year, and you need to clean up. You may do a lot of work in your house putting everything in order. Your finances deserve equal attention.

Take a pause and review your money decisions thus far. You may notice things that could make a difference to your long-term finances.

There could be some unnecessary subscriptions that you may want to discontinue or investment opportunities that you could have easily used to generate an extra return.

Your spending or expenditure

The first step in this exercise is to look at your spending for the year. If you have a credit card or a savings account with a technology-savvy bank, you can use their mobile app or website to analyse your spending.

There are consumer surveys that reveal a difference between the amount people 'think' they spend and the amount they 'actually' spend. The convenience of using your smartphone for payments means your spending would be substantially higher than you think. If that is the case, you may want to know the truth. Most of you have multiple credit cards or bank accounts. You may want to use a credit card with a lower limit or a bank account with your designated money for spending. That way, you can curb your urge to spend efficiently.

The other important thing is to check your credit score. You may want to do a course correction if you have missed making loan repayments on time. Do not let it fall; otherwise, you would end up paying more interest on your loans. Your credit card statements for the year would make interesting reading on relevant and irrelevant expenditures. Try to highlight them and think hard. Ask yourself questions about their need and ensure mistakes are not repeated in the New Year.

Your income

It is time to take stock of your sources of income. Everybody wants more income to fulfil their dreams. However, your existing job or business may not be adequate to help you realise your financial goals. Many Indian households invest in real estate to generate a rental income. That works as a second income for many. However, you need to figure out the cost-benefit of owning a property and the adequacy of your rental income.

If you have invested in more than one property, you may want to consider holding more financial assets. Some stocks pay a higher dividend every quarter. These are usually bluechip companies that have a consistent profit record. The valuation of these companies does not matter if you are a long-term investor.

The other option is to look at mutual funds with a monthly dividend pay-out and offer returns linked to the market. You need to weigh the benefits of the rental income from the additional properties you own with the ease of owning financial assets and generating a dividend income. It is good to speak to a financial advisor to understand the nuances.

Your investments

It could be a good idea to rebalance your port-

folio. The year 2022 could be a year of rebalancing. The world has enjoyed the benefits of easy money, where interest rates have hovered around zero for a long time. However, things are changing rapidly. The US is witnessing an inflation rate never seen in 52 years. That could push the US Federal Reserve, the central bank, to raise rates sooner than later. The year 2022 could see rich countries raising interest rates. In India, that could mean a lot of things. First, the stock markets could witness an upheaval. As the US dollar strengthens, money could flow out of India and other emerging markets. Second, a strong rally for over 18 months could mean institutional investors resort to churning portfolios. They would move out of sectors sensitive to interest rate movements and move into new industries solving problems through technology. Digital transformation is a buzzword in boardrooms. Companies that provide products and services that enable digital transformation would attract more money.

PM Opens Kashi Vishwanath Dham

Continued from page-1

noted that earlier the temple area was only 3000 square feet which has now enlarged to about 5 lakh square feet. Now 50000 - 75000 devotees can visit the temple and temple premises. That is, first the darshan and bath in Maa Ganga, and from there directly to Vishwanath Dham, he informed.

Dwelling on the glory of Kashi, the Prime Minister said that Kashi is imperishable and is under the patronage of the Lord Shiva. He expressed his gratitude to every worker in the construction of this grand complex. They did not let even Corona stop the work here. He met and felicitated the workers. Shri Modi had his lunch with the workers who worked for the construction of the Dham. The Prime Minister also lauded the artisans, people associated with the construction, administration and those families who had their homes here. Along with all this, he also congratulated the UP government, Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath, who toiled relentlessly to complete the Kashi Vishwanath Dham project.

2556 Cr Projects For CTC & KR D

Continued from page-1

dom struggle. Saluting the brave Paikas who fought for the Odia people, he said, "We will continue our fight for the rights of the Odia people," he said.

Notably, the Naveen Patnaik government is demanding the Centre to recognize 'Paika rebellion' as the first war of Indian Independence struggle. Recently, the State Assembly had adopted a resolution to recommend the Centre to declare the Paika Bidroha (Paika rebellion) of 1817 as the 'first war of Independence'.

The Chief Minister has been launching the BSKY smart health card distribution program in various districts either visiting the district or through videoconferencing mode. So far, 26 out of 30 districts have joined the initiative.

Team concerned for Farmers' loss

Continued from page-1

age to brinjals, curli-flower, potato, ground nut, and other major vegetables.

Development Commissioner Mr. Jena said that because of standing water in the agricultural fields, the farmers also could not sow seeds for the rabi crop. Mr. Jena added, "Odisha climatic condition is also not conducive for late rabi crop as the temperature starts growing by mid-February".

The Inter-Ministerial team leader Mr. Ray mentioned that they saw heavy loss to farmers at the ground level caused by the cyclonic rain. He opined that the farmers who suffered loss needed governmental support and assistance.

Discussions in the meeting showed that as per the eye estimates, standing crop on more than 5.78 lakh hectares in around 131 blocks of twelve districts were severely damaged. These districts were Ganjam, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Khordha, Jagatsinghpur, Nayagarh, Jajpur and Mayurbhanj. The ground level assessment was going on and it would be completed in seven days. Detail damage report would be sent to the team just after completion of the filed level assessment.

Dr Man Singh, Ministry of Agriculture; Dr Manas Kumar Sinha, Ministry of Fisheries; R B Kaul, Ministry of Finance; Shaswat Mohapatra, Ministry of Road Transport; and, Poonam Jain, Ministry of Power, Government of India were other members of the team.

UEFA to redo Champions League draw for round of 16 after blunder



NYON: UEFA will have to redo the Champions League draw for the round of 16 after mistakenly placing Manchester United's name into the wrong pot. UEFA voided the initial results of Monday's draw, which had created another matchup between Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi after Manches-

ter United was paired with Paris Saint-Germain. However, United had initially been paired with Villarreal even though the English club's name should not have been in that pot since the two advanced from the same group. UEFA blamed the mishap on "a technical problem with the software of an exter-

nal service provider that instructs the officials as to which teams are eligible to play each other." "As a result of this, the draw has been declared void," UEFA said in a statement published 90 minutes after the draw was done. A new draw was set to take place at 3 p.m. local time (1400 GMT).

After United's name was initially pulled out, Manchester City was then drawn to play Villarreal instead. United's name was then not put in the pot as a potential opponent for Atlético Madrid in the subsequent pairing, which saw Bayern Munich picked out. PSG and Man United were later the final two teams picked.

Rohit Sharma ruled out of SA Tests with hamstring injury, Priyank Panchal named replacement

NEW DELHI: India's Test vice-captain Rohit Sharma was on Monday ruled out of the entire three-Test series against South Africa as his old left-hamstring injury resurfaced during the

expected that KL Rahul is the front-runner for being Virat Kohli's deputy during the Tests. Other contenders could be Rishabh Pant and Ravichandran

faced once again and it might take some time before he is fully fit and available. "They are trying to sort it out. Hamstring injuries normally take four weeks which could

In Tests we have Mayank Agarwal ready to open with KL Rahul, who could potentially be the vice-captain. "And now we have Priyank Panchal also as cover. We would be hoping that he is fit and ready for the ODI series," the source added.



team's net session in Mumbai where he also took a hit on his hand. India A captain Priyank Panchal will be Rohit's replacement opener in the Test series. "Team India Test vice-captain Rohit Sharma sustained a left hamstring injury during his training session here in Mumbai yesterday. He has been ruled out of the upcoming 3-match Test series against South Africa. Priyank Panchal will replace Rohit Sharma in the Test squad," BCCI stated in a press release. The Board has not announced a stand-in vice-captain but it is

Ashwin considering that Ajinkya Rahane has been removed from the role with his place in the eleven not being assured. The Tests will wind up on January 15 followed by three ODIs, scheduled to begin on January 19 in Paarl. The 34-year-old Rohit also sustained a hit on his hands at the Mumbai nets while taking throwdowns from Raghavendra aka Raghu. "Yes, Rohit did suffer an injury on his hand but even after that he had batted. So we can presume that hand injury isn't serious. But thereafter, it seemed the old hamstring problem resur-

effectively rule him out of Test series," a senior BCCI source told PTI on Monday. As of now, the extent of Rohit's injury is not very clear. It is not known whether it's a strain which is a less serious injury or a tear, which will have to be graded. "There are some issues but the medical team is trying to sort it out," a source close to the cricketer. The BCCI is yet to share the details of his scan report which will ascertain the degree of the injury. "Any hamstring injury, even the lowest grade takes a month to heal with rehabilitation sessions.

Also because he recently played in South Africa and scored runs, he was asked to join," an official associated with the India A team informed. Panchal is no greenhorn as he has 100 first-class matches under his belt with 7011 runs, including 24 hundreds. He has been a part of a very successful Gujarat team that won the Ranji Trophy under Parthiv Patel and has been an India A captain. He was fighting for the reserve opener's slot with Abhimanyu Easwaran but pipped the Bengal man as the latter batted at No. 3 in the A series.

Spain's first Wimbledon winner Manolo Santana passes away at 83

MADRID: Manolo Santana, who became the first Spaniard to win Wimbledon and inspired his country's rise as a tennis power, died Saturday at the age of 83. "Thank you a thousand times for what you have done for our country and for having opened the way for so many people. You have always been a point of reference, a friend and a person very close to everyone," tweeted Rafael Nadal, the only other Spanish man to win Wimbledon. "We will miss you." Santana won four major singles titles. He took the French Open in 1961 and 1964, the US Open at Forest Hills in 1965 and Wimbledon in 1966. "I was an intruder among the Anglo-Saxons," Santana recalled in an interview with the daily El Mundo in 2016, 50 years after his Wimbledon title. He won that final wearing the shirt of the team he supported in his native Madrid. "His love for the club inspired him to win Wimbledon in 1966 in the Real Madrid shirt, making him the first Spanish tennis player to win this Grand Slam," wrote the club on their website. He also won the gold medal in singles and the silver in doubles in Mexico City in 1968, where tennis was a demonstration event at that year's Olympics. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez lamented the loss of a "legend". "My condolences to Manolo Santana's family, his loved ones and the tennis world," he tweeted. Santana was married four times. Spanish media reported that he had been suffering from Parkinson's disease and lived in Marbella, on the Mediterranean coast. "Grass is for cows"

Santana was born in 1938, the son of a father imprisoned for his political beliefs during the early years of the Franco dictatorship (1939-

1975). Santana took up tennis by chance after bringing a meal to his brother who worked in a tennis club in Madrid. "I saw men in pants playing tennis. I was immediately charmed. I started as a ball boy and then I started playing. In the end, I am an example of humility in an elitist world," Santana told online newspaper El Espanol. He became one of the world's best clay court players and fired Spanish interest in tennis when he was part of a team that beat the United States in a Davis Cup match in Barcelona in 1965. This success, despite a later defeat in the final against Australia, convinced Santana that it was possible to beat the 'Anglo-Saxons'. He decided to devote himself to their favourite surface, even though he had declared, in a phrase since repeated by many clay court specialists, that "grass is for cows". His victory on grass at the 1965 US Open confirmed his choice. He achieved the holy grail on July 1, 1966, when he beat American Dennis Ralston, 6-4, 11-9, 6-4, in the Wimbledon final. "In my career, there was a before and after that victory," he said. He attained the world number one ranking that year. He retired in 1970 but briefly returned to play in the 1973 Davis Cup. He took on roles that allowed him to pass on his experience to a new generation of Spanish tennis players. He had two spells as captain of the Spanish Davis Cup team in 1980-1985 and 1995-1999 and ran the Madrid Masters tournament from its inception in 2002 until 2018. "He was a pioneer and it's always harder for people who do things for the first time, even if those who follow can do as well or even better. It took someone to lead the way and show that it was possible," said Nadal in 2018.




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