

Webinar on World Soil Day by SHYAMALA SUBARNA



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Shyamala Subarna is one of the leading names in agriculture based magazines in Odisha. Published in Bhadrak by students of agriculture since 2018. The magazine has made a name for itself among farmers across Odisha. Shyamala Subarna has been conducting various agricultural programs through Webinars. This year, on the occasion of

World Soil Day, on December 5, a webinar was held on behalf of Shyamala Subarna. Dr. Arun Kumar Sahu, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries Development and Higher Education of Odisha, graced the occasion as the inaugural speaker and the chief guest. He encouraged the farmers to conserve the soil and boost the productivity of soil. Distinguished

guest, DG, IMD, Newdelhi Dr Mrutyunjaya Mohapatra of the Indian Meteorological Research Center spoke on the benefits of soils. Among the special guests were Dr. Pawan Kumar Agrawal, Vice Chancellor of OUAT, Dr. Kumbhakarna Raut, Senior Soil Scientist and Dean of OUAT, Retired Professor of OUAT and Dean SOA University, Dr.

Bijay Kumar Pany, Dean Centurian University Dr. D. Reedy, Dr Pabitra Mohan Samantaray, editor-in-chief, Paryabekhyak and The Kalinga Chronicles-, D Shuvam, the editor of Shyamala Subarna spoke about the development of the magazine and the concerns of Soil Day. The guests commented that the SHYAMALA SUBARNA was not a

compromise with anyone, but a commitment to the peasantry. Members of the magazine Shubhshree Sahu and Mandira Pradhan co-

ordinated the program while Bigyan Mihir Rout thanked the audience. In the essays competition organised by Shyamala Subarna,

the first prize received by Ms Bijeta Mishra of Gunupur Agricultural College, Sonali Parida of Gunupur Agricultural College came

second and Amitabh Bando-padhyay of Centurian University and Jadunandan Panda of Bhuvaneshwar came third.

President Ram Nath Kovind, PM Narendra Modi extend greetings on Navy Day 2021

New Delhi (KCN): President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime

Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday

occasion of Navy Day 2021. President Kovind said that besides safeguarding the country's maritime security and protecting its interests in the sea, the navy also played a stellar

role in managing the grateful for your service," the president said, greeting all Navy personnel, veterans and their families on the Navy Day. "On Navy Day, greetings to all Navy personnel, veterans and their families. Besides safeguarding mari-



Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday



COVID-19 related

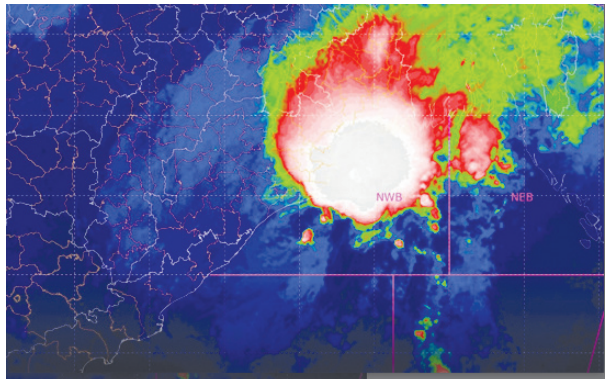
Jawad spares Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The remnants of cyclonic storm Jawad has been weakened into a depression and laid centred over northwest Bay of Bengal close to Odisha coast about 50 km south-south-east of Puri, 130 KM east-south-east of Gopalpur and 100 KM south-southwest of Paradip. Bhubaneswar Meteorology Centre said it is likely to move north-northeast wards, weakened further into a low pressure area during the next 12 hours.

heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to continue at some places over the districts of Puri, Khordha, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak Balasore and

reaching 45-55 KMPH gusting to 65 KMPH is likely to prevail along and off Odisha coast till this evening. The sea condition will be rough to very rough during the period and

all ports of Odisha. Under the impact of the system, heavy rainfall occurred in many places of coastal Odisha in the past 24 hours. Highest 158 mm rainfall reported at Khallikote while rainfall above 50 mm recorded at 12 blocks of the State and 20 to 50 mm in another 58 blocks.



There are 120 cyclone shelters in 12 districts, where about 4,000 people are taking shelter, said Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena. About 400 pregnant women have been shifted to the nearby hospital and 267 NRDF, ODRAF, Fire Service teams have been deployed in the likely affected areas in a precautionary measure, he said.

Mayurbhanja till tomorrow morning. The MET office also issued a yellow warning for the districts of Ganjam, Nayagarha, Keonjhar, Anugul and Dhenkanal during the period. Squally wind speed

warned the fishermen not to venture into along and off Odisha coast and northwest adjoining the west-central Bay of Bengal during the next 24hours. It advised hoisting the local cautionary signal No3 at



(December 4) extended their greetings on the

COVID-19-related crises. @Indians remain

time security and protecting our interests in the sea, our Navy also

crises. Indians remain grateful for your service," he tweeted.

Odisha sustains agricultural damage as deep depression triggers heavy showers

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Odisha sustained agricultural damage as heavy rainfall lashed some parts of the State for the second consecutive day on Sunday under the influence of a deep depression which is remnant of post monsoon season's maiden tropical storm Jawad. Khallikote in Ganjam district received very heavy rainfall - 158 mm and eight other places recorded heavy rainfall in the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Sunday. Nayagarh received 107.5 mm rainfall, Chatrapur 86.6 mm, Banapur

depression in next three hours. Thereafter, the system is expected to move north-northeastwards along Odisha coast towards West Bengal coast and weaken into a well marked low pressure area around Sunday midnight," said Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) DG Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra. IMD has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall at one or two places in Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts, and heavy rainfall at isolated places in Ganjam, Nayagarh, Keonjhar, Angul and Dhenkanal districts on Sunday.



The national weather forecaster and Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) have indicated the system might not brush coastal Odisha and move towards the West Bengal coast. Private weather forecaster Skymet said the system will further weaken into a depression by Sunday afternoon and reach near Puri. The weather system will continue its journey in northeast direction towards Gangetic West Bengal and south Bangladesh. It is likely to reach south Bangladesh and adjoining area as a well marked low pressure by Monday morning. The impact of the system will reduce significantly over Odisha and Gangetic West Bengal in the next 24 hours, added the private forecaster. Meanwhile, flight services were suspended at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) between 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm due to inclement weather conditions.

All Eyes on Naveen

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of the 2019 General Elections to Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who is also the founding President



of Biju Janata Dal, had said that it was important to have coordination among the regional parties for strengthening cooperative federalism. Two years after Naveen's statement, his West Bengal counterpart and All India

Trinamool Congress Supremo Mamata Banerjee has launched a campaign to unite all the regional parties with the basic intention of ousting the Narendra Modi led NDA Government from power.

Mamata took this initiative after realizing that the existing principal opposition, the Congress, is in no position to face the challenges of the mighty Narendra Modi-Amit Shah combine. This apart, many politicians across the country also feel that it is regional parties which have the potential to unseat Modi-Shah combine and not the Congress, which faced a crisis of leadership.

The Bengal's Didi has also given her election winning popular call "Khela Hobe" to all the regional party chiefs. The Bengal's Didi is now out to become India's Didi and make the country "BJP Mukta Bharat". Mamata, has meanwhile succeeded in her mission to a certain extent by gaining support of certain regional parties like Shiv Sena, CONTINUED ON: P-7

ADADDA -a two day integrated marketing communications event organized by The Heritage Academy, Kolkata

Kolkata (KCN): Department of Media Science, The Heritage Academy

Education Society College, Scottish Church College, The Heritage Academy,

Bhattacharya as the guest of honor. "Advertising is all about emotions and

emy, Kolkata and other faculty and staff members. "At Heritage, we inculcate value-based education which adds value to the careers of the students and such events are a part of regular curriculum. Unless they get an exposure, they cannot perform in the industry," said Shri P.K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

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Kolkata, organized a two-day integrated marketing communications event AD ADDA 2021 on a hybrid mode on 2nd and 3rd December which was participated by various colleges across Kolkata. The event comprised of competitions like Copyright, AD SpooF, AD Quiz, Jingle making competition and many more which helped in enhancing the students' knowledge about ads & ad campaigns and also provided the participants with a whole new insight into the world of advertisements. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Arindam Sil, a well known film director, screenwriter, producer and actor on 2nd December 2021 as the Chief Guest. AD ADDA also consisted of panel discussions on both the days which were addressed by leading experts from the country virtually. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of students from Bhowanipore

St. Xaviers College, St. Xaviers University, NSHM Knowledge Campus, Calcutta University and many more. Bhowanipore Education Society College bagged the winner's position in the AD quiz competition,

ethics" said Mr. Arindam Sil during the inaugural ceremony. "These two days the students got an excellent platform to interact with leading experts across the country which will help them to amplify their knowledge in



Calcutta University grabbed the winner's position in AD SpooF competition and once again Calcutta University also bagged the winner's position in the Copyright competition. The prize distribution ceremony on the final day i.e. 3rd December, 2021 was graced by actor Neel

the world of advertisements", said Prof. Madhupa Bakshi, Dean, Department of Media Science, The Heritage Academy, Kolkata. The event witnessed the presence of Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal, The Heritage School, Kolkata, Prof. Gour Banerjee, Principal, The Heritage Acad-

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Navy Day Celebration at Odisha



Khordha(KCN): On the occasions of Navy Day 04 December -2021 Cmde NP Pradeep Naval Officer -in-Charge, Odisha and Commanding officer, INS, Chilika laid a

wreath at the war memorial of the station as a mark of respect to the fallen sailors who have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Navy day is celebrated every

year on 04 December to mark the decisive victory achieved by India in 1971 Which was made possible by the daring missile attack on Karachi by Naval warships. The

wreath laying is traditionally done on all important days to honour the supreme sacrifice made by the veers and to reaffirm the nations gratitude to all the departed souls.

"Amit" created new direction of birthday celebration



Barbil (KCN): It is often seen people having healthy back ground celebrates their birthday in a grand way spending thousands of money just for few hours. But there are people who want to make the need to be the part of their celebration. Ofcourse the numbers

are few to count, but they establish a benchmark for others " the real meaning of joy". Amit Sandil, one youth of Thakurani area under Barbil municipality of Keonjhar district recreated the same example in his birthday. "5th December" in his

birthday, he invited people of a slum area of Thakurani to be the co-partner of his birthday celebration. It is need not mention that the slum is thickly populated with people living below the poverty line. He donated blanket and distributed sweets to

all family members of the slum followed by a grand feast. This initiative should be followed by others who can afford and real meaning of joy can be felt with this, remarked Amit Sandil. His way of birthday celebration is talk of the town and praised by all.

Amitabh Samal wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "Kalinga Regiment"

Rourkela(KCN): Amitabh Samal, the president of Rourkela Jagran Manch wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. He mentioned that our Soldiers have a great place in our heart as they play vital role for the safety and security of our country and citizens. There has been a long demand for Kalinga Regiment and several letters are also been sent for this wing. Amitabh Samal said that Prime Minister has considered specially the state of Odisha in its overall development since government came in power and initiated functioning from the year 2014. People

have great expectations and with greatly hoped that this wing of Kalinga Regiment to be considered and people of Odisha will love and will feel special by this initiation. Social Worker Amitabh Samal said that it is very much hoped from people of Odisha including Rourkela that he will be kind and give this a priority. Social Worker Amitabh Samal has sent it's copies to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Home Minister Amit Shah, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Odisha government mulls shutting down school hostels if more COVID cases detected

BHUBANESWAR (KCN) : The School and Mass Education department may close residential school hostels indefinitely if further infections are detected from such institutions. School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said if cluster outbreaks continue to surface from residential schools, the government may shut down the institutions to prevent transmission. He said provision has been made for visit of medical teams to campuses, wherever required, to check the

spread of infection. Keeping large outbreak of Covid infections in residential schools recently in mind, the department has issued instructions to the district education officers (DEOs) asking them to keep a close eye on hostels and report to the nodal officers on a daily basis. It also asked the DEOs to ensure compliance to Covid appropriate behaviour and standard operating procedure (SOP) in all educational institutions in their jurisdiction. Stating that the second wave of Covid-

19 pandemic in the State is not yet over,

letter to the DEOs advised to ensure that

cold, running nose, fever or any other

into the campuses. The DEOs have also

to attend classes online and contact

At least 53 students of a junior (Plus II) residential college in Dhenkanal had tested positive for coronavirus a couple of days back while 42 hostel inmates of St Mary's Girls High School in Sundargarh town were put in isolation on November 24 after they tested positive. Odisha Abhibhabak Mahasangh chairman Basudev Bhatt on Saturday urged the department to issue instructions to all private schools in the State to ensure strict compliance to Covid SOP for the safety of students and staff.



department secretary Satyabrata Sahu in a

students, teachers and other staff having

symptoms of Covid must not be allowed

been asked to advise those with symptoms

the nearest health centres for testing.

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Please Contact- 8338870595

Maara Movie Review: A grounded remake of Charlie with quite a bit of heart

If you didn't know that Maara is the remake of the Malayalam film, Charlie, the opening shot of fireflies fluttering about is a strong hint of the magic contained within the universe of this film. Shortly, you see little Paaru in rapt attention, as a nun narrates to her the story of a soldier who's travelling across seas and jungles in a quest to find his soul. This is pretty much the story of this film as well, as Paaru (Shraddha Srinath) grows up to find herself in a similar quest for her soul, well, soulmate, in Maara (Madhavan). There's another quest for a soulmate in this film, one undertaken by Vellaiyan (a wonderful Mouli), one that is later taken over by Maara. The film is a reinforcement of the power of stories, of the stories each of our lives are. This is why there are multiple characters with their own short stories, including those of Selvi (Abhirami), the sex worker, and Kani (Sshivada), the guilt-ridden doctor. The implication is that no one story is necessarily more important than another. I got the sense that Maara doesn't think of himself as a hero or a saviour, even if those around him seem to believe that. He's merely a tool, a person who breezes through life hoping to repay the extraordinary help that Vellaiyan has done to him. I loved this touch because shorn of it, Maara, the character, could have felt idealistic and

unrelatable—which would have gone against the point of the film itself. This way, there's a reason for why Maara is the way he is, why he can't afford to stay at one place for too long. I quite enjoyed that Madhavan plays this character without

kites, in the sketch-book and its pencil illustrations... hell, even in the blotches of Maara's acid-wash hoodies. There's a call through this film, through its characters, to refuse to fall into the trap of mundanity and indif-

small community. Maara, the film, suggests that perhaps, just perhaps, his way of life could also come down to the courage to choose to step away from the norm. Realise the magic of life in you, it seems to be saying... notice the al-

speaking about Maara says, "destiny". Another likens him to a mythical character, Santa Claus, while commenting on Maara's habit of sudden appearances that usually result in joy to whoever he meets. Maara himself, as he

about Meenakshi; watch his eyes grow wide in surprise, and almost well up under the weight of decades of mourning. Ghibran's background music and Thamarai's evocative lyrics add so much to such scenes as well. It's wonderful that films like Maara are able to offer elderly characters like Mouli's as much purpose and are able to see them for the individuals that they are, instead of simply as a crutch for a lead character. Of course, much of this credit must go to the original film, Charlie. In a world that is in a tearing hurry, at a time when films and stories are designed to be rapid for fear of making audiences impatient, films like Maara come as a welcome relief. In this film, at least two important exchanges—between Vellaiya and Paaru, and later, between Maara and Kani—happen as wood slowly burns to ember, as tender faces are lit by the warm glow of a fireplace. It's for such moments that I'll remember this film, even if some inconsistent performances and some synthetic moments stop it from being truly great. Nevertheless, it's a film that has heart and that encourages empathy towards those around us, and if possible, to note that magicity doesn't need to be thought of an otherworldly trait, if only we cared to pay more attention to the beauty around us.



a sanctimonious flavour—and more importantly, in a way that shows that Maara isn't above vulnerability. There's no moral superiority in that ascetic laughter of his—which probably can be thought of as even the desperate attempt of an unhappy man to be happy, chained as he is to his lifelong quest.

Director: Dhilip Kumar
Cast: Madhavan, Shraddha Srinath, Mouli

The film is almost a homage to art—and the dreaminess inherent in it. This can be spotted throughout the film: In the pretty wall murals, in the art plastered across and drawn all over the walls of Maara's home, in the designer

ference, into routine and repetition. Maara is pretty much the film equivalent of 'Follow the white rabbit'. That's perhaps why during a conversation between Maara and a thief (Alexander Babu), you can see a neon sign in the background that reads 'White Rabbit'. The usual response to such a call is to cite a lack of financial security, and while that is a reason to be empathetic about—especially given the enviably cushy work-free existence Paaru seems to be leading in this film—we could also note how Maara, who's hardly a wealthy man (as a thief realises), makes the choice to get by, winning and returning favours in his

most mystical beauty of existence. It's also likely that this is why the film's many shots are lit as they are, with many faces often aglow, as though in the presence of a halo. This is why the coincidences in this film become palatable. The central idea at the heart of this film is of two lonely souls in search of each other. Take note of that inexplicable attraction little Paaru feels as she sees a speeding train from within her bus. Or take note of that instinctive smile from Maara as he steps into his room, a room that Paaru has lived in briefly. In such a film, coincidences are to be thought of as divine providence, or as one character, when

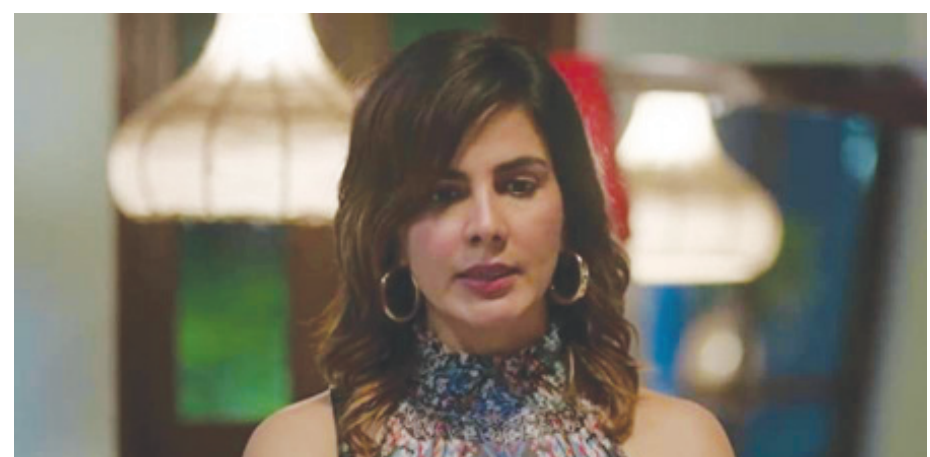
does many times in this film, underplays this notion that he's a mystical being. It's his understanding—and you will see it from his eyes when he's engaged in conversation with every single character—that each of us is magical, as are our stories. In this film with performances that range from great to over-the-top, I loved Mouli in particular, who plays Vellaiya, an old man consumed by his unrequited love. Watch him in that scene with Paaru as he brings to her an old photo of his beloved, Meenakshi, but hesitates after seeing her be so charmed by photos of Maara instead. Watch him in another scene with Paaru as she tells him

Shooting for third season of 'Four More Shots Please' to begin soon: Kirti Kulhari

MUMBAI(KCN): Bollywood actor Kirti Kulhari on Thursday said shoot for her series "Four More Shots Please!" is set to commence in coming days. The Amazon Prime

Taking to Instagram, Kulhari shared her excitement to team up with her co-actors again for the new season. "And we are back #fourmoreshotsplease #season3 shoot begins su-

tions, the show was recently nominated in the best comedy series category at the 48th International Emmy Awards. On the film front, Kulhari is currently awaiting the release



Video series, which also features Sayani Gupta, Maanvi Gupta and Bani J, follows a quartet of friends who deal with their relationships, work-life conflicts, ambitions and anxieties in a male-dominated society.

per soon. Lovely to be back with the crazy 3," Kulhari wrote alongside a series of candid photos with Gupta, Gagroo and Bani. Created by Rangita Pritish Nandy and produced by Pritish Nandy Communica-

of the Hindi remake of Hollywood blockbuster "The Girl on the Train", starring Parineeti Chopra. The movie, which premiere on streamer Netflix on February 26, will feature Kulhari as a British cop.

Vijay Sethupathi, Katrina Kaif in Sriram Raghavan's next?

It was recently revealed that Sriram Raghavan's upcoming film, Ekkis, has been put on hold. A big-budget military drama starring Varun

Santosh Sivan, is a Hindi remake of Maanagaram (2017). He is also rumoured to star in an upcoming web series directed by Raj and

Sriram Raghavan's last film was Andhadhun (2018) with Ayushmann Khurrana and Tabu. The film is getting a Tamil and Telugu re-



Dhawan, the film was delayed due to Covid-19.

Now, rumour has it that Sriram has signed Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi for his next. If true, this is the latest Hindi project Vijay Sethupathi is attached to — the others being Laal Singh Chadha and Mumbaikar. The latter, directed by

DK. The unrevealed series will also star Shahid Kapoor.

Banita Sandhu clarifies on COVID-19 diagnosis, says she 'continues to test negative'
MUMBAI(KCN): "October" actor Banita Sandhu on Thursday said she has continued to test negative for COVID-19 since her arrival to the country in January 3, contrary to what is being reported in media.

make with Prashanth and Nithiin, respectively, in the lead.

According to health department sources, Sandhu had tested positive for COVID-19 on January 4 in Kolkata after flying from United Kingdom and was admitted to a private hospital after she refused to be treated in a government facility.

Stay of Income Tax Demand Part 2

Narayan Jain

(Contd from article carried on 29.11.2021)
This article deals with the important points regarding interest u/s 220(2), waiver or reduction of interest u/s 220(2A).

13. Consequence in case of delay in payment of tax: The assessee shall be liable to pay simple interest u/s 220(2) @1% for every month or part thereof, which shall be calculated from the day immediately following the end of the period allowed for payment in the notice u/s 156 and ending with the day on which the amount is paid.

Sec. 220(2) first proviso provides that, where as a result of an order under sections 154, or 155, or 250, or 254, or 260, or 262, or sec. 264 or an order of the Settlement Commission u/s 245D(4), the amount on which interest was payable under this section had been reduced, the interest shall be reduced accordingly and the excess interest paid, if any, shall be refunded.

W.e.f. 1.10.2014, second proviso to sec. 220(2) provides that where as a result of an order under sections specified in the first proviso, amount on which interest was payable u/s 220 had been reduced and subsequently, as a result of an order under the said sections or section 263, the amount on which the interest was payable u/s 220 is increased, assessee shall be liable to pay interest u/s 220(2) from the day immediately following the end of the period mentioned in the first notice of demand, referred to in sec. 220(1) and ending with the date on which the amount is paid.

Some decisions:

a) **Birla Cotton Spg. & Wvg. Mills. Ltd. v. ITO and others** [1995] 211 ITR 610 (Cal.): If an amount specified in notice of demand is not recoverable and enforceable, the assessee cannot be held responsible for non-payment of the said amount during the period it is not recoverable and enforceable. Liability to pay interest would arise u/s 220(2) only in cases where the amount specified in the notice of demand is not paid within period specified u/s 220(1). Liability to pay interest u/s 220(2) will commence from the end of the period mentioned in sec. 220(1). There is no liability to pay interest from the date of service of notice of demand for the marginal period of **30 days** as specified in sec. 220(1). Sec. 220(2) necessarily assumes that the amount specified in the notice of demand remains outstanding and payable by the assessee even after the expiry of the period mentioned in sec. 220(1). Where the amount specified in the notice of

demand is either already paid or no longer payable or subsisting, no liability to pay interest u/s 220(2) can arise.

b) **SMS SchloemannSiemag v. Dy. CIT** [2001] 250 ITR 97 (AP) (FB) :Condition precedent for invoking sec. 220(2) is satisfied only if there is a demand under a notice by revenue within time stipulated therein and if such a demand is not satisfied, then sec. 220(2) can be invoked.

c) **CIT v. Sir Shadi Lal Enterprises Ltd.** [2009] 310 ITR 283 (All.) :Interest cannot be charged prior to date of issue of notice of Demand Notice u/s 156.

d) **CIT v. Golcha Properties (P.) Ltd.** [1987] 167 ITR 737 (Raj.): The provisions of sec. 220(1) and 220(2) are inoperative in the case of a company which was in liquidation by the orders of the winding-up Court.

Further, penalty may be imposed u/s 221(1) which may be equivalent to the amount of tax in arrears.

14. Opportunity of being heard: In **J. Jayalalitha v. CIT &Ors.** [2004] 244 ITR 74 (Mad.)It is not necessary to give an opportunity of being heard before levy of interest u/s 220.

15. Whether interest u/s 220 is payable even on interest u/s 234B: Where the assessee has not paid interest u/s 234B which is included in demand notice issued u/s 156, the assessee is liable to pay interest u/s 220(2) even on interest levied u/s 234B- **Shriram Chits & Investments (P) Ltd. v. CIT** [2005] 2 SOT 838 (Chen).

16. Where interest u/s 201(1A) has been charged: When interest is charged u/s 201(1A) on the amount specified in the intimation issued u/s 200A(1), then no interest will be charged for the same amount for the same period u/s 220(2).

17. Whether a company Court can waive the recovery of interest levied u/s 220(2): In **Catholic Centre v. Pilot Pen Co. (India) (P) Ltd. (in Liquidation)** [2003] 259 ITR 252 (Mad.) it was held that powers of Company Court u/s 446(2)(b) of the Companies Act, 1956, override all other Acts, particularly sec. 220(2) of the IT Act, 1961 as the payment of interest/penal interest for liability under the IT Act would cause hardship, grave miscarriage and injuries to contributories. The claim of the I.T. authorities for interest/penal interest was rejected and the official liquidator directed to pay admitted liability towards income -tax proper only. [Also refer **ITO v. Official Liquidator** 138 ITR 136 (Cal.)].

18. Where the assessment made originally by the A.O. is either varied or set aside

and then again revived: In such a case the interest u/s 220(2) will be computed with reference to the due date reckoned from the original demand notice and with reference to the tax finally determined. The fact that during an intervening period, there was no tax payable by assessee under any operative order would make no difference to this position - **Circular 334** [F. No. 400/3/81-ITCC], dated 3.4.1982, 135 ITR (St.) 10.

19. Authority who may be waive or reduce interest u/s 220(2): Interest u/s 220(2A) may be reduced or waived by the CCIT or CIT if he is satisfied that -

- (i) payment of such amount has caused or would cause genuine hardship to the assessee,
- (ii) default in the payment of the amount was due to circumstances beyond the control of assessee, and
- (iii) the assessee has co-operated in any enquiry relating to the assessment or any proceeding for the recovery of any amount due from him.

Some decisions:

a) In **G.T.N. Textiles Ltd. v. Dy. CIT** 217 ITR 653 (Ker.), **Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd. v. CIT &Ors.** [2000] 242 ITR 547 (Pat.) and **N. Gopalakrishnan v. CIT & Another** [2006] 280 ITR 592 (Ker.) have held that interest payable u/s 220(2) cannot be waived/reduced unless all the three conditions mentioned in section 220(2A) are satisfied.

b) In **Apeejay Industries Ltd. v. CIT** [2002] 120 Taxman 440 (Cal.) held that sec. 220(2A) gives the assessee right to apply for waiver and further to get the interest amount waived if the conditions mentioned therein are fulfilled. All the trappings of substantive law are to be found, therein. Therefore, it cannot have retrospective operation.

c) In **Kishan Lal v. Union of India** 97 **Taxman 556 (SC)** it was held that when an application is filed u/s 220(2A), authority concerned is called upon to take a quasi-judicial decision. If it is satisfied that the reasons contained in the application would bring the case under clauses (i), (ii) and (iii) of section 220(2A), then it has the power either to reduce or waive the amount of interest.

d) Whenever an application is filed u/s 220(2A), the same should be decided by a speaking order and a proper application of mind - **J. Jayalalitha v. CIT &Ors.** [2000] 244 ITR 74 (Mad.); **Auro Food Ltd. v. CIT** [2005] 276 ITR 658 (Mad.); **Mani v. CIT** [2010] 320 ITR 472 (Mad); **World**

Vision India v. CIT (Exemptions)[2018] 89 **taxmann.com 193 (Madras).**

The application for waiver of interest should be construed liberally. Partial waiver may also be given. An application for stay of recovery proceedings cannot be construed as non-co-operation by the assessee - **Arun Sunny v. CCIT** [2013] 350 **ITR 147 (Ker.). Principles of natural justice** would be clearly applicable.

20. On what ground an application for waiver of interest can be rejected: The condition that the delay should have occurred because of **“genuine hardship”** is crucial. It is difficult to conceive of non-genuine hardship, since a hardship, if not genuine, is not a hardship at all. The expression **“genuine hardship”** displays the anxiety of the Legislature to spare penalty only in cases of real hardship.

Supreme Court in **B.M.Malani v. CIT** [2008] 306 **ITR 196 (SC)**, reversing the decision of the High Court had appreciated the expression **“genuine hardship”** to mean genuine difficulty on the part of the assessee in payment of tax. **The fact that the assessee has large liquid assets by itself, does not mean that there is no difficulty in selling the assets and paying the tax and interest levied.** What is meant by genuine hardship is to be understood primarily in the sense that **a person cannot take advantage of his own wrong** as decided in a number of precedents from Supreme Court. The Court allowed the waiver of Interest.

21. Time limit for disposal of application u/s 220(2A): As per sec. 220(2A) application for waiver or reduction of interest u/s 220 has to be disposed off by the Principal CCIT, CCIT, Principal CIT or CIT within 12 months from the end of month in which application is made. Before rejecting such application, an opportunity of being heard is to be granted to assessee.

22. Whether TRO can go ahead with the sale of property pending application u/s 220(2A): Where only interest is outstanding and assessee makes an application for waiver of the same u/s 220(2A), sale of property pending such application will vitiate the object and spirit of sec. 220(2A) - **Kings Infra Ventures Ltd. v. TRO** [2019] 107 **taxmann.com 132 (Mad).**

(to be contd.)

Author of books “How to Handle Income Tax Problems” and “Income Tax Pleading & Practice” with CA DilipLoyalka.

Pension payable to employees to be determined on rules existing at time of retirement: SC

Employee pension claim: The Supreme Court observed on December 2, 2021 that the pension payable to an employee upon retirement shall be determined based on the rules existing at the time of retirement. The court also stated that the law does allow the employer to apply the rules differently in relation to persons who are similarly situated.

The SC bench of judges comprising Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna gave the ruling while considering a civil appeal against an order dated August 29, 2019, which was passed by the Division Bench of the Kerala High Court wherein the High Court had dismissed an appeal.

What is the case appeal about?

The civil appeal was filed by Dr G Sadasivan Nair, who was appointed as a lecturer in the School of Legal Studies of Cochin University Of Science And Technology in September 1984. Before he was appointed as a lecturer, the appellant was a lawyer practicing in the District Court and Kerala Subordinate Courts Kerala between March 11, 1972 and February 2, 1980.

He had then pursued his Ph.D. programme

between March 1980-February 1984 and re-

Sangeeta Nair

sumed practice as an advocate in the Kerala



High Court and Subordinate Courts after getting his PhD up till the date of his appointment as a lecturer in the University.

Dr G Sadasivan Nair made a representation before the Registrar of the University on November 10, 2004 to consider his practice of 8 years at the Bar to determine the pensionary benefits payable to him on his superannuation.

The Registrar of the University declined his request in January 2006. The appellant then approached the Chancellor of the University contending that the Registrar had rejected his request without following the relevant rules in their proper perspective. However, he received

no response from the Chancellor. He then submitted a writ before the Kerala High Court on the same grounds and the court

on April 3, 2006 directed the Chancellor to decide within four months, as to whether the appellant was entitled to get the benefit under Rule 25(a), Part III, KSR.

As per Kerala HC's judgment dated April 3, 2006, the University Chancellor gave the appellant an opportunity of hearing on July 12, 2006, and subsequently dismissed his petition on October 7, 2006, by holding that the Government or any other statutory body had the right to modify the service conditions.

The appellant then submitted a writ petition before the High Court. The Single Judge of the High Court on January 25, 2012, dismissed the writ by ruling that the Government had the right to unilaterally alter the service conditions of employees during their service.

The bench had asserted then that what was applicable was the rule prevailing as on the date of retirement and not that which existed on the date of entering service. The appellant then approached the top court.

Sangeeta Nair is a news professional with 6+ years of experience in news, education, lifestyle, research and videos. She has a bachelors in History and Master in Mass Communication. At jagranjosh.com, she writes on Current Affairs. She can be reached at sangeeta.nair@jagrannewmedia.com.

Navjot Singh Sidhu does a Arvind Kejriwal, joins guest teachers' protest outside Delhi CM's house

NEW DELHI: Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu joined the sit-in protest of Delhi guest teachers demanding regularisation of their jobs outside Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence in Civil



Lines on Sunday. Last month, Kejriwal had joined the contractual teachers in Punjab's Mohali, who staged a protest making a similar demand. In the run up to the Punjab polls, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener has

announced a slew of sops for different sections of society, including teachers. Among the assurances are regularising contractual teachers and revamping the education system in the state if voted to power. Punjab goes to polls

education. "Delhi Education Model is Contract Model -- Delhi Govt has 1031 Schools while only 196 schools have Principals -- 45% teacher's posts are vacant and schools are run by 22,000 Guest Teachers on daily wages

He said the AAP government had been filling up the vacant posts by hiring guest lecturers. "AAP promised to regularise contractual teachers give equal wages as permanent staff but made it worse by just having guest teachers.

with every 15 days renewal of contracts," Sidhu alleged in a tweet. The Punjab Congress chief said that there were 12,515 job vacancies for teachers in Delhi in 2015, but in 2021, the number had shot up to 19,907.

Through School Management Committees, so called AAP volunteers earn Rs 5 Lac yearly from Govt funds that earlier were meant for school's development," Sidhu's another tweet read.

Her attack on the BJP government came over media reports that claimed the Lucknow Police on Saturday evening used batons on a group of protesters holding a candlelight march alleging irregularities in the 2019 Uttar Pradesh teachers' entrance test.

"The youth of UP, carrying the light of candles, were raising their voice saying 'give employment'," Priyanka Gandhi said. But the Yogi Adityanath government which has become synonymous with misrule beat those youths with sticks, the Congress

Priyanka Gandhi slams Uttar Pradesh government over 'lathi-charge' on protesters



NEW DELHI: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday attacked the Uttar Pradesh government over the reported lathi-charge by police on a group of protesters in Lucknow, saying the Yogi Adityanath dispensation has become synonymous with misrule.

general secretary alleged. She urged the youth not to let the "flame of the fight for the right to employment" go out. "I am with you in this fight," Priyanka Gandhi added. She also posted a purported video of the police baton-charge on protesters in Lucknow.

has the capacity to fight Prime Minister Modi. Meanwhile, SP's national vice-president Kiranmoy Nanda told PTI Sunday, "We have supported her (Mamata Banerjee) in the West Bengal Assembly elections. I myself have campaigned for her in the elections."

"We welcome the gesture (of offering support) by Didi. We want to defeat the BJP, and Didi also wants to defeat the BJP. If Didi supports us, we are happy, and we welcome it." When asked as to how he views Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is trying to mobilise the party cadre (ahead of the polls), Laliteshpati Tripathi said, "Politics is not a game, which is started two-three months before the elections. If I take the example of Mamata Banerjee, she fought the Communists in the state continuously for three-four years by being there. The Congress, too, needs the same thing".

NATO spy aircraft nearly caused mid-air 'catastrophe': Russia

MOSCOW: Moscow has said that a US plane threatened civilian aircraft but "catastrophe" was avoided when a Russian passenger plane dived to avoid the NATO reconnais-

reconnaissance aircraft, which the pilots saw from the cockpit with the naked eye. A second plane, a smaller CL650 aircraft, flying from the Black Sea resort

which nation had operated the spy plane, Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova indicated on Sunday that the reconnaissance aircraft belonged to the

diplomatic protest. "Increased activity by NATO aircraft near Russia's borders, including above the Black Sea, creates a risk of dangerous accidents in-



sance aircraft that crossed its path above the Black Sea. On Friday morning a NATO CL600 reconnaissance aircraft descended rapidly across the planned route for a Tel Aviv to Moscow Aeroflot service with 142 people on board, Russia's Federal Air Transport Agency said in a statement. The Aeroflot flight reportedly had to drop 500 metres (1,600 feet) to keep its distance from the

Sochi to Skopje, the capital of Northern Macedonia, also had to divert to avoid the spy plane, the Russian air transport authority said Saturday. "The direction and altitude of the commercial flights were immediately altered" to avoid a collision, the agency said, adding that the unknown plane did not respond to radio hails from air traffic control. While the Federal Air Transport Agency did not say

United States. "The actions of the US Air Force have created a threat to civil aviation. If now a catastrophe in the airspace over the open waters of the Black Sea has been averted, this does not mean that the United States and NATO can continue to risk people's lives with impunity," Zakharova said on messaging app Telegram. The Federal Air Transport Agency said it would lodge a

volving civilian aircraft," the agency said. The incident came as tensions rise between Russia and Western nations, which accuse Moscow of massing troops on its border with Ukraine in preparation for a possible invasion. Russia has denied it has any such plans, in turn accusing NATO countries of "provocations" including military exercises near its borders.

UP polls 2022: Mamata Banerjee likely to visit Varanasi, support Akhilesh Yadav

LUCKNOW: Trinamool Congress president Mamata Banerjee is expected to visit Varanasi next month amid indication that her party will support Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party in the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls. "Didi has already said in Delhi that if Akhilesh Yadav needs our help, we are ready to extend



help. The gesture of senior SP leader Jaya Bachchan seeking votes for the TMC during the West Bengal Assembly elections will be reciprocated in Uttar Pradesh," said Laliteshpati Tripathi, who recently joined the TMC. "The target is the same and we have to leave no stone unturned to ensure that these forces (led by the BJP) are defeated. We are also with SP chief Akhilesh ji in his fight," Tripathi said on Sunday.

He said Banerjee would visit Varanasi probably around the second week of January. "The TMC is holding meetings and deliberating how to strengthen itself in Uttar Pradesh. As far as party chief Mamata Banerjee's visit to Varanasi is concerned, we have not finalised the dates. We were planning to organise her visit in December, but owing to her previous engagements, we could not get the dates," Tripathi said. Uttar Pradesh is not the immediate focus of the TMC, he said.

For the TMC, Goa and Tripura are the states of immediate focus, Tripathi said, adding his party is not in the fray in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election due early next year. Asked whether Banerjee is visiting Varanasi since it is represented by PM Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha, and possibly because she wants to send across a message, Tripathi said, "No. According to the initial roadmap of the TMC, the party's Purvanchal unit office was to be based in Varanasi, and Mamata ji wanted to have a darshan (of temples)."

Tripathi also reasoned that she chose Varanasi as the first phase of the joining of new members in the TMC was to be held in the holy city. Laliteshpati Tripathi, ex-vice president of the state Congress and great-grandson of former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kamalapati Tripathi, and his father Rajeshpathi joined the TMC in the presence of Banerjee in Siliguri on October 25.

Asked what made him and his father join the TMC, the 43-year-old leader said Banerjee

When asked as to how he views Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is trying to mobilise the party cadre (ahead of the polls), Laliteshpati Tripathi said, "Politics is not a game, which is started two-three months before the elections. If I take the example of Mamata Banerjee, she fought the Communists in the state continuously for three-four years by being there. The Congress, too, needs the same thing".

"The Congress seems to be fighting now, and for the candidates it is good that the star campaigners are active. Whosoever can take advantage of it, will do so. But, as far as the revival of the party is concerned, it should have been started in 2019," he said.

Commenting on the announcement made by Priyanka Gandhi that the Congress will give 40 per cent of tickets in Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls to women, and whether it could be possibly a game changer, Tripathi said, "If this was to be made a game changer, this should have been introduced in states like Uttarakhand, Goa and Punjab, where they could have guaranteed the win of their candidates, and it could have been a strong initiative towards women empowerment. "This is a welcome move, but based on it alone, you cannot win the polls as there are a host of other factors," he said.

"Didi has shown that she can take on Narendra Modi and defeat him as well," Tripathi said and added that the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly election has become Akhilesh Yadav versus Yogi Adityanath. "If Akhilesh is seen on a strong footing, then the prime minister would have to come here and lead the (BJP's poll) campaign," Tripathi said.

Tripathi claimed that BJP's tally of seats in the 2022 Assembly elections will decrease from its 2017 total of 312, as there is "anger in the society, farmers are worried in absence of proper purchase of paddy and due to non-availability of fertilisers". He also claimed that the BJP will lose seats in the rural areas of Varanasi in the Assembly polls.

Tripathi said that he and his father have not taken any designation in the TMC and are working to strengthen it in the state.

Suresh Prabhu MP (former Union Minister) visiting Bangladesh on invitation



Kolkata : Honourable Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu MP, (and India's former Union Minister for Multiple Ministries and India's former Sherpa to G-7 and G-20 countries) is visiting Bangladesh on Government Invitation. He is accompanied by Ms Uma Prabhu, Se-

nior Journalist and CEO Manav Sadhan Vikas Sansthan. In the evening he had a meeting with the Honourable Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. Shri Prabhu said, "Glad to meet the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Honourable A K Abdul Momen. Thank

You for depicting the rich culture of Bangladesh. Thank you also for hosting such a fantastic dinner."

Shri Prabhu also had a meeting and meaningful discussion with the Honourable Commerce Minister of Bangladesh. Shri Prabhu said, "It was a pleasure meet-

ing my dear friend Honourable Tipu Munshi MP, Minister of Commerce of Bangladesh. Thank you for hosting a very sumptuous lunch of local delicacies. Discussed new trade opportunities & measures to boost India-Bangladesh trade relations."

Pact To Promote Swimming Eco System

Bhubaneswar: In order to develop, promote and expand the Swimming ecosystem in the state of Odisha and India, the

agreed terms. Secretary, Sports and Youth Services, R. Vineel Krishna and Secretary General, Swimming Federa-

duct 'Train the Trainers' courses in Odisha.

Secretary Sports and Youth Services, R. Vineel Krishna,

tional and international repute Aquatic Championship in Odisha."

"Our Biju Patnaik Swimming Pool Complex at Kalinga Stadium is one of the finest swimming infrastructure in the country and we are strengthening our grass root Swimming training centres too. Our High Performance Partnership with JSW Sports and this association with Swimming Federation of India will give an added impetus to the sport of Swimming, Mr. Vineel Krishna added.

Speaking on the partnership, Secretary General, Swimming Federation of India, Monal Chokshi, shared, "We are very excited with the signing of the agreement between SFI and the Odisha Government for development of aquatic sport in Odisha and the country. This is an important milestone for SFI and I am certain this partnership will be an enduring relationship to take aquatic sport in the country to uncharted heights."

Government of Odisha, through Sports and Youth Services Department (DSYS) and Swimming Federation of India (SFI), today, entered into a partnership

Through this collaborative partnership, Odisha will provide support and sponsor SFI and the Federation in conjunction with Odisha State Swimming Association (OSSA) will provide their technical expertise. The partnership will be valid for one year extendable to five years, under mutually

tion of India, Monal Chokshi signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in presence of Virendra Nanavati, FINA Bureau Member & Senior Vice President SFI, on the side lines of the ongoing Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2021 at the Kalinga Stadium. The partnership, over the next five years, will be towards the holistic development of the sport from grass root to elite, include conduct of National and International repute swimming competitions and events and con-

shared, "Swimming is a major discipline in multi events. The sport has a lot of potential to grow and many young swimmers are showing great prospect at the national level. We are delighted to partner with Swimming Federation of India for the holistic development of the sport of Swimming in Odisha. The Federation will assist in developing all forms of aquatic sports in the state and to produce elite swimmers. This partnership will enable us to collaborate to also conduct Na-

Odisha Adopts Transformational Approach in Governance

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today said that Odisha has adopted a transformational approach in its governance, keeping people at the forefront.

Speaking at the valedictory session of Regional Conference on Replication of Good Governance Practices organized at Convention Centre in Lok Seva Bhawan, the Chief Minister underlined the significance of Mo Sarkar in good governance.

The Meeting was attended by Union Minister of State for Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances Dr Jitendra Singh and officers and resource persons from across the country.

The CM said, "A 'Mo Sarkar' program has been rolled out with Direct Random Feedback from citizens who visit Government Institutions for various services to instill high professionalism in the Government and monitor the feedback from the citizens. The spirit behind Mo Sarkar is that in a democracy - the citizens are supreme and their satisfaction of government service delivery must be taken seriously and used as a benchmark for initiating change. This has been welcomed by our people." The CM added

that Good governance is ultimately the greatest tool of transformation and we all have a genuine responsibility to the people. Elaborating his views on good governance, the CM said that Good Governance



precisely includes building competency, aligning strategies with goals, being accountable, having a high level of ethics and integrity, defining roles and responsibilities. And above all State Government is having a pro people approach to all interventions. He further said that Odisha has initiated a number of good governance practices and various e-governance projects including Odisha One Portal and Odisha Right to Public Services Act to provide services to people within the stipulated time frame. E-Jana Sunani has also been rolled out to cater to the

grievances of citizens anytime anywhere, he added. Adding that this conference has played a major role in seamlessly exchanging unique ideas and best practices from across the country, he hoped that the constant picture of a digitized government envisioned, will definitely get into motion with the deliberations carried out in this forum.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of State for Administrative Reforms, Public Grievances & Pension Dr Jitendra Singh said that this initiative is directed towards a natural way of improving work culture. Best practices in governance in different regions will be replicated in other regions that are suitable for a specific purpose. He said that with improvement of system, grievance registration has improved significantly. We have to redress them to achieve maximum satisfaction among people.

Speaking on Odisha's efforts on good governance, he appreciated digital initiatives such as OSWAS, Mo Sarkar, and Bhubaneswar Land Use Information System. He said that we will collaborate with Government of Odisha for its replication in other

regions. We all have a common goal to serve people, added. Minister Planning & Convergence Padmanabh Behera outlined the state's initiatives to bring in more professionalism and efficiency in governance. Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra also spoke on the occasion.

Union Secretary for Administrative Reforms & Public Grievance Sanjay Singh gave the welcome address. Joint Secretary, Ministry of AR & PG NBS Rajput coordinated the entire efforts for organizing National Convention.

Mr. Rajput proposed Vote Of Thanks, in which he profusely thanked Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Minister Planning & Convergence, Padmanabh Behera, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra for all out support.

He also thanked Union Minister Administrative Reforms, Personnel & Public Grievances Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Secretary AR & PG Sanjay Singh, Special Secretary V Srinivas and others from Government of India and participants, who came across the country.

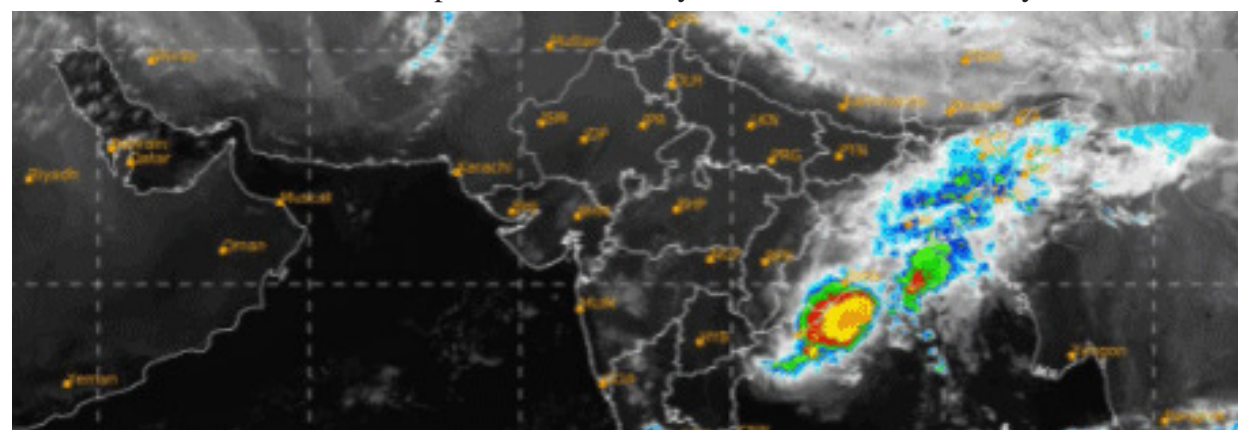
NO Cyclone threat

Bhubaneswar: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) this evening said that the cyclone Jawad weakened into deep depression and will further convert into a

Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), 260 km south of Gopalpur, 330 km south-southwest of Puri and 420 km south-southwest of Paradeep.

area during subsequent 24 hours, the Met department said. From this forecast, it is clear that there is no more threat of this cyclone to Odisha or any other area.

vised not to venture into westcentral & northwest Bay of Bengal till tomorrow. Under the impact of the weather system, rainfall occurred in many coastal areas,



depression before heading towards Puri. The cyclonic storm Jawad over westcentral Bay of Bengal moved nearly northwards with a speed of 9 kmph during the past 06 hours, weakened into a deep depression and lay centered over westcentral Bay of Bengal, the IMD said in its latest bulletin. It is located about 180 km east-southeast of

The system is likely to move north-northeast wards and weaken further into a depression by Sunday morning. It is likely to reach near Puri around Sunday noon, the IMD said. Subsequently, it is likely to continue to move north-northeast wards along Odisha coast towards West Bengal coast and weaken into a well marked low pressure

However, rainfall activity is likely to continue for another day. Heavy rainfall may occur at one or two places over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Keonjhar, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Jajpur, Khordha and Puri, Sunday. As the sea condition will remain rough, the fishermen are ad-

Saturday. Highest 23 mm rainfall recorded at Paradeep, followed by 21 mm at Chandbali, 19.6 mm at Bhubaneswar, 12 mm at Balasore, 4.6 mm at Chatrapur, 4 mm at Puri and 2 mm at Gopalpur. This seems that the IMD, which had forecasted several past cyclonic systems very accurately, has failed to predict the cyclone in an accurate way.

Deba Deepabali in Srimandir

Puri: Three-day long festival of light in Srimandir popularly known as 'Deba Deepabali' is being observed at Shree Jagannath Temple here from Friday.

Today, Lord Jagannath, his elder brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra are observing Madhya Deba Deepabali and Amabasya. Every year, the festival begins on the day of Krushnapaksha Chaturdashi Tothi in the

In front of the 'Ratna Singhasana' a motif of tree and an offering of 28 "Deepas" or oil lamps is performed and the same ritual is observed near the "Jaya Bijaya Dwara".

On the first day, the Lords offered pinda to King Indradyumna, who installed the divine Trinity in the temple. According to legend, he asked for a boon to end his dynasty so that none of his successive family members could

claim ownership of the temple. The boon was granted by Lord Jagannath, who volunteered to offer pinda to his ardent devotee Indradyumna.

On the second day, as incarnation of Sri Ram Lord Jagannath offered pinda to his father king Dasarath and as Krishna he of-



Hindu month of Margasira, and continues on Amabasya and Pratipada. After the "Sandhya Dhupa" ritual, the Sevaks adorn Mahaprabhu Shree Jagannath with a white Nagapuri Kasha Dhadia cloth measuring 16 hands in length, 14 hands in length for Shree Balabhadra and 12 hands in length for Devi Subhadra and they proceed for offering obeisances to Kashyapa and Aditi on the first day.

The divine "Shradha Besha" of the deities is performed in observance of the ritualistic rites to ancestors or "Pitru Punisha", which was started on yesterday, concluded today.

In the adornment, the deities are made to wear "Tadagi, Nalibhuja, Chandra, Surjya, Kundali, Adakani, Harida Mali, Kamarapati".

ferred Pinda to parents Basudev and Devaki. Likewise, on the third day, the pinda will be offered to his foster parents Nanda and Jashoda. During these three days, a set of complex rituals were observed and the deities were adorned with Shradha Besha.

Temple was illuminated by a large number of diyas. Hundreds of devotees waited for hours in front of the temple since afternoon to witness the ceremony.

Display of fireworks from the temple top was enjoyed by the devotees. The temple administration had taken special measures for completion of all the rituals of the lords in time. Lakhs of devotees taste Mahaprasad during these three days.

Sahaya for Beggars

Bhubaneswar: The State Government has identified a total of 6,970 beggars across the State and is implementing a scheme called Sahaya for their welfare, Minister Ashok Panda said on Saturday.

In a written reply to the Assembly, Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Minister Panda said as many 4128 male and 2842 female beggars have been identified by the state government in all 30 districts of Odisha. For their welfare, he said, the State Government is implementing a scheme called Sahaya. In the first phase, special drives named as Niladri Nilaya and Ekamra Nilaya have been launched in Puri and Bhubaneswar towns, respectively, he said.

Under the Scheme, baggers Rehabilitation Centres have been opened in Khurda and

Sambalpur districts while funds have been sanctioned for establishment of such centres in Rourkela municipality, Ganjam and Dhenkanal.

A proposal for opening of such a Centre in Cuttack Municipal Corporation is under consideration of the government, Mr.Panda said.

The Minister informed that Cuttack district tops the list with 1,060 beggars, it is followed by 595 in Bargarh district, 545 in Ganjam, 502 in Bolangir, 447 in Sundargarh, 418 in Khurda, 363 in Kalahandi, 354 in Nuapada and 350 in Puri.

Among other district, 283 beggars are identified in Sonepur district, 222 in Koraput, 205 in Angul, 196 in Jajpur, 188 in Bhadrak, 183 in Nabarangpur, 176 in Rayagada, 164 in Mayurbhanj, 132 in Dhenkanal and 131 in Balasore, he informed. However, Panda said that there

is no child bagger in the State. The process is on to include left-out baggers in the list, Panda said.

As per the Scheme guidelines, financial assistance will be provided to the child beggars and children of beggars studying at pre and post matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education. These scholarships are available to the child beggars and children of beggars for studies in India only and are awarded where the applicant is studying. Under this scheme students so eligible will get a scholarship for a maximum period of 10 months in an academic year.

There are provisions for providing money for marriage of their daughters. The beggars including the leprosy affected persons getting their daughters married in mainstream social life are eligible to get financial assistance up to Rs 50,000.

Mamita murder rocks house

Bhubaneswar: Even after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's statement, the much-talked Mamita Meher murder case continued to rock the Odisha Legislative Assembly as opposition BJP and Congress in no mood to go back from their protest demanding removal of Minister Diba Shankar Mishra.

The functioning of the Odisha House was almost washed out today due to protest by BJP and Congress members over the issue.

Except for the tabling of some papers relating to the Housing and Urban development department in the post-lunch session, the House could not transact any other business today. Speaker Surya Narayan Patro first adjourned the House till 4 PM and again at till Monday due to the vehement protest by the Opposition members.

Opposition BJP and the Congress members have been demanding the dismissal and arrest of Minister of State for Home Diba Shankar Mishra for his alleged involvement in the murder case.

As soon as the House assembled for the day at 10.30 AM, the opposition members trooped into the well

by holding placards and shouted slogans seeking removal of Minister of State for Home Diba Shankar Mishra for his alleged links with the prime accused in the murder case.

Going by the BJP way, the Congress member Tarapasrad Bahinipati Saturday sprinkled Gangajal and cow urine inside the House alleging that the entry of the Minister has impured the holy place.

The Congress MLA has alleged that Mr.Mishra has been accused of having links with Gobinda Sahu- the prime accused in the murder of Mamita Meher, has put his 'unholy feet' in the House and the temple of democracy has become 'desecrated'.

Speaking to the media outside the House, Mr.Bahinipati said, "Minister Mr.Mishra put his unholy steps in the temple of democracy and desecrated it. I sprinkled Ganga Jal, cow urine and basil leaves on the floor to purify it."

In his response, Speaker SN Patro said, "It is not a drama hall...please go to your seat."

Other party colleagues also joined Mr.Bahinipati. The BJP members, who performed a similar act in the As-

sembly premises outside the Hall, today also continued to create uproar in the House along with the Congress. Carrying placards, the opposition members rushed and shouted slogans against the government over the case and created a ruckus. Unable to conduct the Question Hour session, the Speaker repeatedly requested the members to go to their seats. As the opposition members did not respond to him, the House first adjourned the House till 4 pm.

When the BJP and Congress members continued their protest in the post-lunch session, the House was adjourned till Monday. With this, stalemate continued in the Assembly for the fourth consecutive day of the winter session.

The opposition BJP and the Congress members were continued their protest demanding dismissal and arrest of Minister Mr.Mishra for his alleged involvement in the murder case.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had made a statement in the House through video conference yesterday saying his government is committed to give justice to Mamita Meher. However, it seems that the opposition is not in a

Codeshare with IndiGo likely to be implemented by March 2022: American Airlines

NEW DELHI: American Airlines is in the process of getting requisite approvals from the US government for its codeshare agreement with IndiGo airlines and the partnership is likely to be implemented by March 2022, a senior official of the Texas-based carrier has stated.

American Airlines and IndiGo had in September announced that they have entered into a codeshare agreement which allows the former to sell seats -- on its distribution system -- of the Indian carrier's flights operating on 29 routes.

The Texas-based carrier resumed its New York-Delhi flight on November 12 after a gap of 10 years.

American Airlines' Managing Director (Sales) Tom Lattig has told PTI in an interview that the carrier's Seattle-Bengaluru flight would start flying from March 25 instead of January 4 as was announced be-

fore. "We have not seen much corporate travel recovery yet. We know that route (Seattle-Bengaluru) in particular will depend heavily on corporate traffic and we have made the decision to push the date," he mentioned. The airline has more

in place," he mentioned.

American Airlines would be going to those companies and adding special pricing for them on its new service to India, Lattig added.

Gulf carriers such as Qatar Airways and Emirates carry a significant share of traf-

fic on the India-US routes and the India-Europe routes through their one-stop flights.

When asked how he sees the competition posed by the Gulf carriers on the India-US routes, Lattig replied: "We certainly expect to be able to take traffic on our non-stop services. To the ex-

tent the pie is going to grow -- it is going to be a bigger market -- we will certainly be able to take traffic and build traffic there."

"I do expect we would be able to take traffic from airline that carry passengers via third countries (one-stop flights).

dian government should resume scheduled international flight services, Lattig said, "It's really up to the government to decide when they are going to open and how many flights they are going to allow."

"We certainly hope to move towards open skies," he added. American Airlines is in the process of the getting the requisite approvals from the US government regarding their codeshare partnership with IndiGo, he said.

"Once we get all the approvals, we will move into the implementation phase and we expect that to be in the first quarter of 2022," he said. It is going to be really a great partnership for us because it is going to help us connect passengers from North America to everywhere in India and the Indian passenger to anywhere in the US, he added.

Certainly, that will be the target for us," Lattig added.

He said there is a lot of pent up demand for travel between India and North America.

"We see that (pent up demand) in our forward bookings. We want to fly more and more flights," he added.

When asked if the In-

to lack of sincere efforts by the railways. It was, however, expected that Mr.Vaishaw's induction as the Railway Minister would boost the fate of the Sitapalli project even as the then Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain in 2017 had replied to Naveen Patnaik citing difficulties in setting up the factory stating that the demand for wagons may not rise till 2024. Shelving of Sitapalli project may be one of the factors for Naveen getting annoyed over the Modi dispensation; but will the BJD Supremo join hands with the regional parties which have been desperately attempting to get united and create an anti-Modi force across the country? As nobody is able to read Naveen's political mind, Mamata Didi is also not sure what Odisha's regional party head is up to. His legendary father Biju Patnaik had all along worked towards uniting people of different parties to oust Congress and he was successful on certain occasions. Now, the question arises will Naveen follow his father's path and become a king maker?

However, the ground situation in Odisha indicated that Naveen has reasons to join hands with Mamata's group as BJP has emerged as a formidable opponent to the regional party. As the state is all set to go for the three-tier panchayat, urban and cooperative polls in 2022, the BJD will face a tough challenge from the saffron party and there seems no change in mood of the saffron and "give back" to Naveen who has all along helped the NDA Government led by BJP.

Unsure of support from left parties and BJD, Mamata has given open options to non-BJP parties asking a question to consider who is enemy Number 1 in the state as well as in the country. Is it Mamata and her TMC or BJP? Mamata has also asked the Left parties and Congress to decide who their main adversary was. "The Congress and the CPI (M) are responsible for what has happened to them in Bengal. They have to decide who their principal enemy is. Is it the TMC? Or is it the BJP?" she asked after meeting Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in Delhi recently.

There is a brainstorming exercise among Left parties and silence in the BJD as all know that it is Naveen alone who will take the final decision and no one else in the regional outfit. Therefore, all eyes are now concentrated on Naveen's next move. Whether the tallest leader among all the regional parties in the country will prefer to go with likeminded parties or throw his weight behind the Modi-Shah combine as he has done in the past?



than 2,000 agreements in place in the US with various companies, he noted.

"Any of our big technology firms in North America, on the west coast in particular, which is where we expect to get traffic from for our Seattle-Bengaluru flight, we already have those corporate agreements

All Eyes on Naveen

Continued from page-1

Lalu Yadav's RJD, Akhilesh Yadav and Mulayam Singh Yadav's Samajwadi Party, Sharad Pawar's NCP and also the DMK. She is in search of the support from YSR Congress and some other parties including Biju Janata Dal.

The support of BJD for Mamata is crucial because Odisha is the neighbor of West Bengal and both she and Naveen share many similarities. They were part of the NDA during Vajpayee-Advani era and later became foes of the rightist party, particularly after Modi-Shah combine took over the reign of the BJP, the biggest political party in the world.

Though Mamata is confident of winning friends across the country, she and her AITMC are not sure about Naveen's support keeping in view certain instances of BJD providing open support to the NDA Government ever since BJP formed the government at the Centre. Naveen, though in the past had decried Congress as "corrupt" and the BJP as "communal" during the 2009 General Elections, later appeared to have changed his mind and thus revealing his tilt towards the right instead of going straight.

However, certain recent political developments indicate that Naveen is not fully satisfied with the saffron leadership even as the BJD had done a lot in support of the BJP. Apart from giving a Rajya Sabha seat to BJP candidate Ashiwini Vaishnav, Naveen has also earned criticism from non-BJP and non-Congress parties, for supporting major issues of the NDA Government like that of the CAA, Demonetization and others major bills.

Even as BJD claims that Naveen takes all decisions keeping Odisha's interest on priority, Mr.Vaishnav's recent announcement not to further proceed on setting up a wagon factory at Sitapalli in Naveen's home district of Ganjam in Odisha has come as a shock for the people of the state as the announcement of cancellation of the Sitapalli project came from none other than Mr.Vaishnav, who got elected to Rajya Sabha with the support of Naveen. Existing wagon manufacturing capacity in the country is adequate and therefore there is no proposal to set up a wagon factory at Sitapalli, he said.

Interestingly, the Sitapalli project was allocated to Odisha by Mamata Banerjee in 2011-12 when she was a Union Minister, Railways. The project was supposed to be implemented in public-private-partnership (PPP) mode and was approved in 2013. But it was delayed due

Rourkela: Hockey nursery to national treasure

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Dust. It's in most street corners of Rourkela. It's on the top of your floaters. It's on the bag you carry. It's on the windscreen of your cab. To be fair to the city, divided under two townships (steel and civil), dust is a common Indian problem. But this is a different kind of dust. It's the dust that tells you there are multiple buildings being constructed within a few blocks of each other. It's the dust that tells you an earthmover is somewhere in the vicinity, moving large quantities of sand. It's the dust that turns your black shoes brown within a few hours... it's the dust that tells you the city is being reconstructed from scratch, one piece of land at a time. The city's dust pollution has been flagged by Dilip Ray, a former Union minister and Rourkela MLA, who wrote to chief minister Naveen Paknaik.

his son Albus Severus, after Dumbledore and Snape. That's the heft the place commands. It's considered as one of the sport's nurseries in the country. Kids getting acquainted with hockey sticks while learning multiplication tables isn't an exaggeration. The belt's dalliance with the sport, after missionaries had taken it to the region, grew thanks to a steady stream of players the district contributed to the national team. There is no one more prominent than Dilip Tirkey. "It will be a big social event," he says. "Taking the World Cup to a tribal belt will send a positive message to the youth there. Hockey is there in their DNA." Another former captain to have emerged from Rourkela, Lazarus Barla, echoed Tirkey's sentiments. "I didn't even dream that this day would come," he said. "Locals filling stands,

Covid-19 but in terms of actual construction, we lost four months," one of the contractors informed. He is confident that it will be completed by July. To make it happen, they have taken special permission from the government. "People are working in three shifts so work will progress 24 hours a day till July," the contractor says. Some people will have to do so without a single off or leave. To ensure players and officials don't have problems commuting to and from the stadium, the aerodrome — located a stone's away from the stadium — is also being given a facelift. When that is complete, 76-seater flights can land. The other big developmental project going on near the stadium is also linked to the World Cup. A multi-purpose building (it was a Covid-19 hospital earlier in the year) will now be 200-bed hotel that could poten-

damagingly, some parties have alleged that the state is using the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) in non-priority projects (DMF funds are typically used in areas or communities affected by mining-related activities). In November, two MLAs of Sundergarh, Shankar Oram (BJP, Birmitrapur) and CS Rajen Ekka (Congress, Rajgangpur), both members of the DMF trust board, flagged the issue. There has also been some noise on seeking a CAG audit. In July, the ministry of Mines (DMF comes under their purview) once again reminded all states about transfer of funds from DMF. "It has come to the notice of the Central government that there are instances where a part of the funds of the DMF are being transferred to the State treasury/consolidated fund of the State or Chief Minister's Relief Fund or schemes," they said.

It further noted that transfer of funds from DMF to a state-level agency defeats the purpose of DMF in the first place. It also reminded states that any such utilisation is in violation of the provision of Section 9B of the Act (it's important to note that there has been no suggestion that the state is falling foul of the Act). R Vineel Krishna, during a conversation with this daily, did say that they were using part of the DMF for their sports budget this year. "We have a combination of investments," the commissioner-cum-secretary, sports and youth services department and special secretary to the chief minister, said. "There is the state budget. Some of these are mineral districts so there is a district mineral fund. Then we have OMBUDC (Odisha Mineral Bearing Area Development Corporation). We have massive CSR funding also, so it's a combination of all of this. Our budget for this year is about Rs 500cr but it's because we are investing in infrastructure. Once infrastructure is done in a year or two, we can stabilise at about Rs 200 cr." Krishna, though, pivoted to speaking about hockey when it was suggested to him that the state was perhaps taking the World Cup to western Odisha for political purposes. "Political things I shouldn't be saying," he said. "From where I see, it's more driven by the passion for sport. If you look at our sports hostels, most of them

come from Sundergarh. It's not only about hockey, it's about athletics, football, almost everything. (...) if it's to be politically done, then there are other politically weak areas also for the state government..." The Ease of Living Index (EoLI) for 2020, released by the ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in March 2021, made for grim reading from a Rourkela perspective. Among all cities with a population of less than a million, Rourkela ranked 54 out of 62 (EoLI is based on criteria like education, health, housing, safety and security, environment and so on). Per the report, Rourkela came in 58th out of 62 for quality of life, 26th for economic ability, 35th for sustainability and 29th in citizen perception. The hope is that the World Cup will lift Rourkela into the top 10 and beyond in all of these metrics.

Indian women's hockey team eases past Thailand with 13-0 win in Asian meet

DONGHAE(KCN): Dragflicker Gurjit Kaur scored five goals as the Indian women's hockey team thrashed Thailand 13-0 in its first game at the Asian Champions Trophy here on Sunday. Gurjit gave India the lead in the second minute of the match after an infringement from Thailand in their defensive third awarded them a penalty stroke. Gurjit, who scored four goals at the Tokyo Olympics, kept a cool head and put the ball in the back of the net. Conceding an early goal put Thailand on the back foot straight away, and Vandana Katariya, the only Indian women's player to score a hat-trick at the Olympics, found the second goal five minutes later. By the time the first quarter ended, Lilima Minz added another field goal in the 14th minute, while Gurjit and Jyoti scored two more from penalty corners in the 14th and 15th minute, giving India a 5-0 lead. The second quarter started much the same way as India kept most of the possession giving no room to Thai-

land to cause any danger. Within the first minute of Q2, Rajwinder Kaur, who made her international debut on Sunday, scored a field goal in the 16th minute, and in the 24th minute, Gurjit scored her third goal and Lilima scored another from a penalty corner also in the 24th minute. The Indian team demolished the Thai defence as they struck another in the 25th minute through Gurjit, giving them a massive 9-0 lead at the end of the second quarter. Returning from the 10-minute half-time break, India dominated by continuing to make threatening circle penetrations from the left flank. But Thailand dug in deep and defended well for the first six minutes in the third quarter. Jyoti broke the threshold, scoring another field goal in the 36th minute to exceed India's lead by 10 goals. A defensive error four minutes later from Thailand gave India another penalty corner, but this time Gurjit's powerful flick

was deflected by the opposition. A well-constructed move from the middle late in the 43rd minute caught Thailand's defence napping as Sonika struck in her first goal in the match. The fourth quarter saw Navneet Kaur threatening Thailand's defence with penetrating runs from the right flank. But Thailand's defensive troops managed to keep the danger at bay, preventing any further damage to the scoreline. In the 55th minute, Monika managed to get her stick on a long pass inside the circle, as she deflected the ball into the back of the nets to exceed India's lead by another goal. Three minutes later, Gurjit scored her fifth goal of the match from a late penalty corner, adding in the 13th goal for India. This was the Indian team's first match since the historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics. In the absence of Captain Rani, who has been rested from the tournament, India were led by veteran goalkeeper Savita.



"On March 8 (2021), as per a report of the State Pollution Control Board the level of PM 2.5 and PM 10 was five times higher than the desired level and it's needless to underscore the devastating health consequences of such high level of pollution on the citizens," he wrote. "One understands that such development works have been necessitated by the growing needs of the city but it is equally important to ensure that such works don't become a source of incessant trouble for the general public." The developmental works, though, are understandable. The Steel City is in a race against time to transform Rourkela before its big day out. The 2023 edition of the men's hockey World Cup which it will co-host with Bhubaneswar. There is a tendency to look for romance in sport. It lends itself to narrative, gives it a certain feel-good factor. That's what Rourkela had on the afternoon of December 24, 2020. Patnaik promised India's biggest hockey stadium would come up in Rourkela. As far as feel-good stories went, this was up there with Harry Potter naming

watching a World Cup." He is so caught up while talking about it he manages to wear a smile throughout the conversation at Panposh sports hostel, a facility for boys and girls hoping to become the next Tirkey or Barla. Some 3.7 kms from Panposh sports hostel, there is a commemorative plaque remembering the players who have worn the Indian jersey from the region. It's aptly named 'Hockey Chowk'. Come January 2023, this 'Hockey Chowk' will throw one of its biggest parties ever. Fifteen acres. That is the land (roughly 11.5 full-sized football fields) that's been allocated to build India's biggest hockey stadium, a 21,050 seater at roughly Rs 130 crore. Because of the second Covid-19 wave, there was a delay. Suspicious soil integrity, people on the ground told this daily, meant that the practice facility will now be the stadium facility and vice versa. For want of a better phrase, the entire area looks like a hole in the ground, a series of interconnected pits with steel rods protruding out of them. "Work stopped for 21 days because of

tially house teams and officials. Elsewhere, roads are being widened, parks are being beautified and existing stadia are being completely overhauled. Both the Birsa Munda football stadium and the Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium are multi-crore projects which could become the hub for sport in the region going forward. The two stadia, between them, can host football, badminton and swimming among other disciplines. The officials in the district are even redoing the city's rainwater drains. Out of a total of more than two dozen projects under the Smart Cities Mission, 'about 60% is directly or indirectly related to the World Cup', one official responsible for delivering the project said. In the name of sport, a city is rapidly changing its colour. Even as the Odisha government was applauded for the part they played in the men's team's bronze at the Olympics, voices of dissent have grown within the state for the oversized role it has taken in promoting the sport. A few of the locals wonder if taking the World Cup to Rourkela is a political ploy to gain traction in western Odisha. More




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