

## Logjam continues in House

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Logjam continued to prevail in the State Legislative Assembly

has called all party meetings twice, it failed to bring normalcy to the House.

banners. They sought slogans reiterating their demand for the removal of the Min-

ister of State (MoS) for Home, Dibya Shankar Mishra over Mamita Meher murder case. The BJP members continued to beat gongs and bells as a mark of protest. The Congress MLAs showed placards and



for the seventh consecutive day of winter session on Wednesday as both the opposition BJP and Congress members created ruckus in the House throughout the day.

Though the Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro

The House was adjourned several times and could not transact any business. As soon as the House assembled for the day at 10.30 am, opposition BJP and Congress members rushed to the well holding placards and

shouted slogans. The House witnessed a political high drama after both the BJD and the BJP Members tried to outwit each other in a poster war. While the BJP members showed the photographs of Gobind Sahu, the prime accused in the Mamita Meher murder case with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Treasury Bench members standing on their seats showed photographs of Mohan Lal Sharma, advocate of Gobind Sahu with senior BJP leaders like Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan, former Odisha BJP President Basant panda, senior BJP leader KV Singh

CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Plea for Parboiled Rice

New Delhi(KCN): The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MPs on Wednesday met Union Food & Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal and submitted a memorandum for lifting of surplus parboiled rice from Odisha.

chase of their paddy. This has greatly benefited the farmers of Odisha as well as strengthened the rural economy more so in the aftermath of COVID pandemic, the Memorandum pointed out.



In the memorandum, the BJD MPs said 14 lakh farmers have sold 77.33 lakh MT of paddy (equivalent to 52.35 MT of rice) by October 10, 2021 during KMS 2020- 21 and Rs 14,444 crore have been transferred to their bank accounts within 24-48 hours of the pur-

However, the Government of India through its letter (dated 31.8.2021) informed that no surplus parboiled rice shall be accepted from Odisha by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the next Kharif Marketing Season, they said. CONTINUED ON: P-7

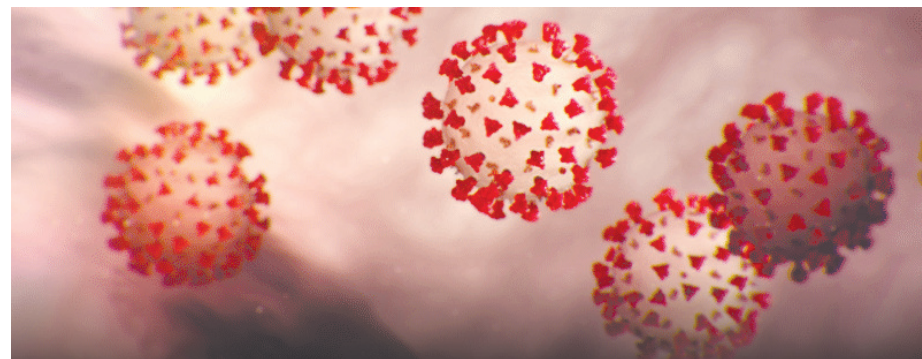
## 'At Risk' Tag on 4 Returnees

Bhubaneswar(KCN): At least four persons who arrived in Odisha from Omicron 'at-risk' countries have tested Covid-19 positive

All four persons are asymptomatic and their health condition is stable. They are under isolation now," Public Health Director Niranjana Mishra

there is no need to panic, he said. As a new variant of the virus has been detected, there is much talk on this and the cases are being put

rapid response teams are visiting different villages. Once the exercise will be completed, we will be able to know who many of them are untraceable."



and their samples have been sent for genome sequencing. "As many as 982 persons from various 'at-risk' foreign countries have arrived in Odisha and four of them have tested Covid Positive so far.

told reporters here on Wednesday. The samples from the foreign returnees have been sent for genome sequencing to trace if they are infected with the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 but

under observation, Mishra said. Asked about whether some of the returnees are untraceable, the director said, "Some of them are not picking phones and in a bid to trace them, our health workers and

Stating the State Government has successfully managed the first and second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr.Mishra said, "We are fully ready to deal with possible third wave of the pandemic." Meanwhile, Health Director Bijay Mohapatra said, "We have to be careful in the technical and community sector as far as the Omicron variant of Covid-19 is concerned. Children CONTINUED ON: P-7

## 'Inefficient government', BJP on BJD's request for Aawaas+ reopening

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): The BJP on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, ridiculed the

ment. Rajya Sabha MP Sasmit Patra had made this request to MoRD through a spe-

Fani. BJP State general secretary Golak Mohapatra in a press conference here said

found that 5.6 lakh of the 8.22 lakh beneficiaries registered in the Aawaas+ are eligible. In July last year, the Centre asked the State to verify the eligibility of the remaining 2.62 lakh applicants.

Accordingly, Panchayati Raj Principal Secretary DK Singh wrote to all district collectors to verify the eligibility of the applicants rejected by the Centre and submit a revised list to the department. But the revised list has not been uploaded on the department website till date. He alleged that the list could not be finalised as many of the rejected applicants belong to the ruling BJD.



demand of BJD for opening of the Aawaas+ app window for a month to give an opportunity to people of western and southern regions to register their names under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) terming it an example of inefficient govern-

cial mention in the Upper House reiterating the earlier request of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for inclusion of six lakh identified eligible households under PMAY-G in respect to districts not affected by cyclone

that the timeline of the Aawaas+ window was extended four times following the request of the State government between 2017 and 2019. "Asking for more time is ridiculous as it proved the inefficiency of the government," he remarked. The Ministry had

## Mamita Meher case: Odisha ruling party accuses BJP of trying to save Gobinda

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Amid protests by the Opposition over the Mamita Meher murder case, the ruling BJD on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, accused the BJP of hatching a conspiracy to bail out main accused Gobinda Sahu by engaging a party member who is also a lawyer to argue his case in the court.

BJD spokesperson and MLA Pratap Deb said Mohan Lal Sharma, a well-known BJP leader of Kantabanji, is appearing for Sahu at the court of Additional District Judge and this has exposed the double standards of the party. "The BJP is shedding crocodile tears for Mamita Meher and it has become clear from the fact that Sharma is an active party member and participated in BJP's Jana Sampark Yatra and other programmes in the area. Besides, he was also in the race for a BJP ticket for Kantabanji Assembly constituency in the 2019 polls," he said. Stating that BJP has so far failed to show any evidence of Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra's involvement in the case, Deb said the party is trying its best to save the main accused. "The

BJP had indulged in such cheap politics in the Nayagarh Pari case even after the High Court expressed satisfaction over the SIT probe into the incident," he said. Rubbishing the ruling party's claim, BJP legislator Mukesh Mahaling alleged that the BJD has now scripted a new story to protect the main accused in the case. Stating that Sharma does not hold any post in BJP, Mahaling alleged that according to local gossip Mishra and Deb have persuaded him to fight the case for Gobinda by promising that he will be

made a government lawyer. He alleged that Sharma and the two BJD leaders' association is old. "Both have now hatched this story fearing they will be exposed," the legislator said and added Mishra and Deb had even tried to get a BJD ticket for Sharma in the 2019 Assembly election. "Gobind was the mediator of Sharma in this," he claimed. Alleging that Naveen is trying to protect his junior through Deb, Mahaling said he was present on the day when the former met Sahu at Naveen Nivas.

## Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, 12 others confirmed dead in TN chopper crash

New Delhi (KCN): Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and his wife Madhulika Rawat have been killed along with 12 others when the Army chopper they were flying in crashed near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu, the IAF confirmed on Wednesday.

The tragic incident happened when the chopper was heading for Wellington from Sullur. The IAF has issued a list of names of General Rawat's staff on board the crashed chopper. They include Brigadier LS Lidder, Lieutenant Colonel Harjinder Singh, Naik Gursewak Singh, Naik Jitendra Kumar, Lance Naik Vivek Kumar, Lance Naik B Sai Teja and Havaldar Satpal. Group Captain Varun Singh SC, Directing Staff at DSSC, who was also on board, is currently undergoing treatment at Military Hospital,

Wellington, said the IAF.

The IAF has ordered an inquiry into the accident.

TN Forest Minister K Ramachandran told The New Indian Express that the accident took place because of thick mist engulfing the area.

Fire Service personnel and local people helped in the rescue operations which was a difficult one as the site of the accident is narrow and didn't allow for movement in large numbers, Ramachandran said. The chopper was on its way from the Sullur IAF base to the Defence Services College (DSC) at Wellington when it crashed. The mishap happened at Nanjappanchathiram area amid heavy mist and early visuals showed the helicopter in flames. ALSO READ | Madhya CONTINUED ON: P-7





## Dealing with time

Shibananda Barik

Indeed longer  
When I feel a goon of crime  
Count a squart of love  
When I cheer triumph of rhyme.  
Unbranded and unclaimed,  
Elusive and invain.  
It ebbs and it flows,  
Wishing away as it goes.  
Calm to be I wish  
Shout ever outs me ,  
Chuckle I show on leaps  
Threats the sorrow to be

Mountained dreams  
split to dooms ,  
Ocean of impulses  
lost its groom.  
Our true feeling  
amidst upbringing.  
you are up there  
I am down here  
we have a deal  
Still am happy with single crew  
Is that you ? Is that you ??  
Is that you ? Of course you  
Kabisuryanagar, Ganjam, 7978031434

## 'The Red Rose'

Sanjib Kumar Dash

Queen of the beauty pageant  
Comes in cats' walk,  
With a princess like silky- georgette wear,  
curling around her silvery skin.  
Roses blooming fire red  
On her curly hairs n bun,  
Over it shines the most coveted,  
golden crown, pearl studded.  
Her glowing lips drowning hearts,  
A numinous look indeed.  
It's a fashion's Eldorado,  
descending down to earth,  
Warm applause all around.  
Someone listens,  
the Red rose lispng some volatiles in despair,  
"A lad in hunger fetched me  
here for a coin", it murmurs.  
'Had hot blood spring  
from his thorn-cut hands,  
darker the colour than me', it throbs.  
'My petals would scatter,  
hither n thither a day after' it says,  
'Morning will find someone  
On the poster ascending  
'the throne of celebrity', n  
miss the other running  
towards bushes, life at stake,  
for nibbling foodstuff  
of some ounce.'



Reader in Physics, Deogarh College, Mo 9437739577

Sometimes life  
doesn't give you  
what you want,  
not because you  
don't deserve it,  
but because you  
deserve more.



# Indian Artistry: 10 Distinct Types of Paintings In India

Gunjan Tripathi

The rich cultural diversity of India is well reflected in the vivid, distinct and enchanting folk art and crafts. Various painting styles are prevalent across various regions, each representing tradition, customs, and ideologies passed on from one generation to other. Traditionally, most of the Indian painting styles existed as wall paintings or murals. In due course of time, urbanisation brought these painting forms on paper, canvas, and cloth etc. Indian painting styles are not just a reflection of the indigenous lifestyle but a perfect example of artistic expression through simple yet distinct compositions.

Here are some of the popular Indian folk painting styles -

### 1. Madhubani Paintings

One of the most celebrated styles of folk paintings in India is, Madhubani which originated in the Mithila region of Bihar



as a form of wall art. This spectacular art style was unknown to the outside world



until discovered by the British colonial

William G. Archer in 1934 while inspecting the damage after the massive Bihar earthquake. Archer was amazed by the beautiful illustrations on the exposed interior walls of the houses... The beauty of Madhubani lies in its simple and evocative portrayal of culture and traditions. The designs are characterised by eye-catching geometrical patterns, symbolic images, and scenes from mythology. The balance between the vibrancy of colors and simplicity in its patterns make Madhubani different from other painting styles. Bharni, Katchni, Tantrik, Godna, and Kohbar are the five distinct styles of Madhubani painting.

### 2. Warli Paintings

The 2500-year-old tradition of Warli paintings of the Thane and Nasik areas of Maharashtra are closely linked with nature and social rituals of the tribe. Warli paintings showcase daily activities

of the local people of that community like farming, dancing, hunting, praying etc. Traditionally, women used twigs to draw lively designs with rice paste on mud walls of tribal houses to mark celebrations of harvests or weddings. Simple geometrical patterns in white against a red or yellow surface are used to depict

everyday life scenes. Warli art with its linear and monochromatic hues resembles the execution of pre-historic cave paintings.

### 3. Kalighat Painting or Bengal Pat

The Kalighat painting style was developed around Mid-19th century in the neighbourhood of Kali Temple in Calcutta. These drawings on pa-

per were done by a group known as



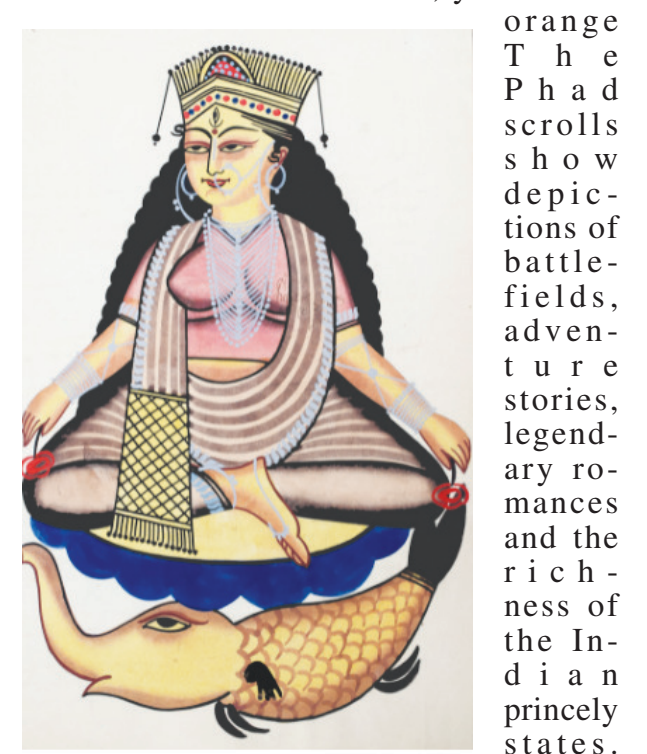
“patuas” hence the name Kalighata Pata. They depicted scenes of everyday life and mythological deities in a simple yet captivating manner and developed into the popular kalighat style of painting. Kalighat painters predominantly use earthy Indian colours like indigo, ochre, Indian red, grey, blue and white. The swift, seamless, free-flowing outline is a distinguished characteristic of Kalighat style of paintings. This paint-



ing style has inspired many artists, the most famous being Jamini Roy.

### 4. Phad

Phad is the narrative scroll painting tradition from Rajasthan, dating back to a thousand years. Stories of local deities and heroes are painted on horizontal cloth scrolls in hues of red, yellow and



The Phad painting style leaves one spellbound at how the folk artists accommodate multiple stories in a single composition, yet maintain the aesthetics of artistic expression.

### 5. Kalamkari

This 3000-year-old organic art of hand and block printing was traditionally used for making narrative scrolls and panels. This exquisite folk art has a strong connect with Persian motifs. Kalamkari derives its name from kalam or pen and is a legacy that has been handed down from generation to generation in Andhra Pradesh. The stylised animal forms, floral motifs and mehrab designs predominant in Kalamkari paintings have also found a place in Kalamkari textiles. Kalamkari art primarily involves earthy colours like indigo, green, rust, black and mustard.

(To be Continued)



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**WATCH 'Manikarnika' trailer: This Kangana Ranaut-starrer looks like bits from a Bhansali product**



MUMBAI (KCN): Finally it comes. The trailer of the beleaguered historical "Manikarnika - The Queen Of Jhansi" brings to us a furious, ferocious and feral Kangana Ranaut, who tells the 'gora log', "We both want Jhansi. But you want to rule. I want to serve."

Well, precisely. The Rani Of Jhansi was passionately

dedicated to her kingdom. I don't see much of that dedication in the trailer. Much of it is devoted to displaying its leading lady's skills on horses and with swords. The trailer gives us an epic primer on 'Kangana Rides The Horse', 'Kangana Swats The Enemy', 'Kangana Bays For Blood', so on and so forth.

There is so much

of the talented actress' efforts to appear queenly, the trailer barely offers a glimpse of the impressive supporting cast, namely Danny Denzongpa, Atul Kulkarni, Suresh Oberoi and others who flit by in this steamroller view of a woman warrior's day-out binge. Threadbare thunder in a fancy teacup.

Alarmingly and

annoyingly, the film wears a thick and heavy Sanjay Leela Bhansali hangover. In the way the camera zooms in and pans the long stretches of the battle scenes, I was taken back to Bhansali's "Bajirao Mastani". In fact one of Kangana's derring-do in a battle sequence here, she gambols over her army to strike was a move identical to

Ranveer Singh's in "Bajirao Mastani".

ALSO READ: Ready to do a good movie down south, says actress Kangana Ranau So is Kangana's Jhansi Ki Rani, Bajirao or Mastani or both?

It's a highly derivative world created by people who seem to have the resources but not the vision. We could do with a lot more chutzpah when

recreating such an important chapter from Indian history.

It's not all a wash-out, though. Kangana seems to convey sufficient fire and elasticity. Her accent is a downer, though.

This is the way the trailer moves: uplifting one moment down to being a disappointment the next. Let's hope the film is not as uneven in tone.

**When Julia Roberts realised she was famous**

LOS ANGELES (KCN): Actress Julia Roberts, 51, revealed that the first time she realised she was famous was when she was in a bathroom stall at age 21 and a fan asked her for an autograph.

The actress had just starred in the 1988 film "Mystic Pizza" at the time of her bathroom encounter.

The Oscar-winner told the story during an appearance on an episode of a podcast, reports [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk).

ALSO READ: 'Ben Is Back' film review She had her fame awakening after returning home to Georgia to visit her mother and younger sister. The three caught a movie and

Roberts stopped by the bathroom afterward.

"It was after the movie was over and I was in the bathroom and there was a woman in the bathroom who said, 'Hey, girl in stall number one, were you in 'Mystic Pizza'?" she said.

The pushy fan proceeded to slip something under the stall and asked the "Mystic Pizza" star to sign it.

**Hansika in Mohanlal's next Tamannaah Bhatia and Shruti Hassan are the new gal pals**

It seems Mohanlal-B new release Bogan. Venkatesh, who has



Unnikrishnan team's untitled film is getting bigger and bigger. After Vishal and Srikanth, another popular south star Hansika Motwani will be making her Bollywood debut through the film. The update was announced by the director himself on his official Facebook page. "I wish great luck to @Hansika for her

She will have a very special appearance in my Mohanlal film produced by Mr Rockline Venkatesh," posted Unnikrishnan. According to the director, who had last teamed up with Mohanlal for Mr Fraud, VFX and special effects will have a lot of importance in the the big budget project. While Rockline

made films like Bajrangi Bhaijaan and Linga, is the producer, the project also boasts of an excellent crew. Manoj Paramahansa, who has cranked camera for films including Vinnaihaandi Varuvaaya and Nanpan, is the cinematographer. 4 Musics, the band behind the hit songs of Oppam, will be scoring the music.

Tamannaah Bhatia has been bonding with her contemporary Shruti Hassan.

eryday due to their busy schedules, but they always make sure to make time on

Shruti. Tamannaah says, "Shruti is a sweetheart and a dear



for a while now. Tamannaah chose to take some time out last week to meet her new BFF Shruti Hassan to celebrate her birthday. According to a source close to Tamannaah says. "Tamannaah and Shruti share a special bond, the two actresses may not be able to talk ev-

each other's birthdays. Shruti Hassan, who celebrated her birthday couple of days ago with close friends, had Tamannaah as one of her special guests. It is said that Tamannaah makes it a point to not miss her friend's special day at any cost. She had also brought a special gift for

friend. Since we both have tight schedules, we don't get much time to spend with each other the rest of the year, so I needed to be at her birthday party so that I could be with her. I have been attending her birthday since the last three years and making sure to be with her on her special day."



# Manikapatna Curd, A lesser known traditional dairy product of Odisha

Dr. Gyana Ranjan Mishra,

Traditional Indian foods have been prepared for many years and preparation varies across the country. Traditional wisdom about processing of food, its preservation techniques, and their therapeutic effects have been established for many generations in India. Despite the diversity, an Indian meal would invariably contain a dish made of milk products due to their excellent nutritional profile and taste so also their proven medicinal value. Milk and milk products are considered as wholesome food and rejuvenator, which can be correlated to modern probiotics and prebiotics that increases the life force. In India only 5-6% of total milk is converted into western type of products in the organized sector. Nearly half of the milk produced in India (50-55%) is utilized for the manufacture of traditional milk products.



Indian Indigenous milk products can be defined as all milk products which are native of India and which were evolved over ages utilizing locally available fuels and cooking ware. In past, to enhance the shelf life of the food product many food processing preservation technique were introduced in household level such as smoking, drying, fermentation, and germination. Out of these techniques the best technique for preservation of food was fermentation. Fermentation is bioprocess technology which is practised since time immemorial. Among the fermented milk product Dahi or curd is the most popular and is being consumed on daily basis in every household in our country. In the Vedic era, the curd was also quite popular, according to Rgveda, Somajuice and barley meal are mixed with curd and consumed thereafter. From Mahabharata and Valmiki-Ramayana, it is found that rasala (According to Pakasasra, Rasala is one of this foodstuff which is to be taken by licking) is consumed as a sweetmeat prepared from curd. There is also indication of a curd drink named as Sikharini in many ancient scriptures which is made from sugar, curd and spices.

Manika patna Dahi or curd or Chilika curd is one such fermented dairy product traditionally prepared by the ethnic community living in and around Manikapatna region, from the milk produced by Chilka buffalo. Manikapatna is an archeological site in the state of Odisha in eastern India. The site is located on the sea coast in Brahmagiri block of Puri district, which is situated near the left bank of the Bhargavi river, at the northeastern end of the Chilika lake. This Chilka lake which is the largest brackish water lagoon situated in the eastern coast of India. The Chilika buffalo (water buffalo) has been named after its place of origin in Odisha (India) known as Chilika Lake. This is a unique breed of buffalo which spends the whole night grazing on weeds in Chilika water. This breed has an exceptional capability of converting the saline biomass of the lake into the most precious milk. Though the documented historical comprehensive cognition about the Manikapatna curd may not be enough and needs more research but one of the most popular stories relating to Lord Jagannath is that of Kanchi Avijana (journey to Kanchi) is popular in almost all households of Odisha. Purushottam Dev (king of Puri) when was being insulted by the King of Kanchi, marched his army on a campaign to Kanchi. At that time both Lord Jagannath and Lord Balabhadra, disguised as soldiers, mounted on white and black horses, proceeded towards Kanchi to help their favourite devotee in the war. On the way, at the village of Dahikha, they met Manika, a milkmaid who offered them some curd. The two lords relished the curd and in exchange they gave her a ruby ring and asked her to give it to the King of Puri when he returned from Kanchi. When the victorious Purushottam Dev was returning from Kanchi, he stopped at Dahikha. Manika showed him the ring. The wise king understood the divine play of the Gods and gifted the entire village, which henceforth got the name of Manikapatna. The word 'Manikapatna' is a combination of two words 'Manika' and 'Patana'; 'Manika', the name of a milkmaid, and 'Patana' meaning 'village'. The farmers of ethnic community of Chilka region follow traditional technique for preparation of Manikapatna curd which they had inherited from their forefathers. The curd

is being prepared inside small container or baskets made from bamboo leaves. At first bamboo baskets are prepared from bamboo leaves, in order to seal the small holes in these baskets, inner surface of the baskets are coated with layers of previously made curd and is allowed to dried in sun. Repeated layering with curd and periodic exposure to sun makes the bamboo basket leak free. Then these baskets are filled with buffalo milk which was boiled previously and cooled to room temperature and was sealed with banana leaves. Then these baskets are kept in isolated places so that the process of fermentation got completed without any disturbance. Varieties of fermented milk products are produced and consumed throughout our state, however, majority of them uses cow milk as substrate. In Manikapatna curd on the other hand, milk of *Chilka buffalo* is the main substrates which makes its taste and consistency unique. Another peculiarity is that here instead of using standard starter culture, back slopping techniques of freshly boiled milk is used for fermentation of milk which makes the Manikapatna curd free from pathogens. The probiotic properties of indigenous microorganisms isolated from the Manikapatna curd have been reported by many researchers. Probiotic milk products can have several health promoting benefits such as modulation of the immune system, maintenance of gut flora, regulation of bowel habits, alleviation of constipation, and curing of gastrointestinal infections. This curd is prepared inside the basket made from fresh bamboo leaves so also wrapped by banana leaves which gives it an unique advantage of environment friendly packaging. It has a long shelf life and can be stored up to 7 days at room temperature. The appearance, colour, flavour, texture and taste of the stored curd remains same as fresh sample for days in room temperature. As an ethnic fermented milk products this curd is rich in calorie content and being consumed by the locals as an energy rich food particularly in summer. Unfortunately very less attention has been given to this unique product even within our state and what to speak of its marketing and identity at national and international forum. This product

has got all the potential to get a Geographical Indication. Broadly speaking Geographical Indications are nothing but a sign that is used on a variety of goods/products (whether natural, agricultural or manufactured) that indicates the qualities, reputation or characteristics that are essentially attributable to their place of origin. The Geographical Indication tag acts as a product differentiator. In a way it contributes in development of the region where the goods are produced which is usually in rural areas. It functions as a protector of the traditional goodness and knowledge keeping alive the traditions. The product became of high value amongst the consumer which needs no advertisement and could attract premium price and tourism towards the territory for the purchase of the goods. Since 2003, GI tag has been issued only to four dairy products by the Geographical Indication Registry, under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Those dairy products are Dharwad Pedha, Karnataka (2008), Banglar Rasogola, West Bengal (2017), Odisha Rasogola, Odisha (2019) and Srivilliputtur Palkova, Tamil Nadu (2019). If we consider Dharwad Pedha in particular the uniqueness of this product comes from the following practices. It is made by hands, made by using milk (buffalo) and sugar, having no flavoring agents, the Pedha has longer shelf-life and originates only from Dharwad city of Karnataka. In that prospective our Manikapatna curd has got all the potential to get a GI tag. It is not too long that we had embroiled ourselves in a bitter battle with our neighbouring state West Bengal on the GI tag of Rasagola for almost two years and finally got GI tag for our own version of that traditional sweet that is Odisha Rasagola. Since then many voices has been raised in different forum to seek formal certification for more of our traditional milk products and sweets like Nayagaeh Chhenapoda, Kendrapada Rasabali, Nimapada Chhena ghili and we must add one more product to the list and that is Manikapatna curd.

M.V.Sc. ( Veterinary & A.H. Extension), Block Veterinary Officer, (OVS-I, Sr.), Veterinary Dispensary, Satyabadi, Puri.

## Evolution of India's Trade Negotiations

Dammu Ravi

Currently, India's share in global exports is 1.7%. Experts attribute India's low share to its decades of insular economic policies but with 1991 economic reforms, leading to integration into the world economy, India's share has picked up. In contrast, countries such as Japan, Korea, China and even ASEAN enjoy much greater share in global trade as a consequence of their open economic policies with significant thrust on exports. In 2000, India's total trade was about \$103 billion (exports \$43 billion+imports \$60 billion); in 2010, it was \$528 billion (exports \$201 billion + \$327 billion imports) and in 2019-20, it was about \$787 billion, India's major trading partners are USA, EU, China, UAE, Germany, Singapore, UK, etc. A worrisome factor for India is the ever widening trade deficit with China, which is feared to be dumping its goods in India indiscriminately through a deliberate state-sponsored unfair trade practices, while insulating its markets through highly cumbersome non-tariff measures. In South Asia, India is the most dominant economy with total trade at about \$25.7 billion in 2019-20, of which India's exports were \$22.8 billion. The World Bank Group study of 2018 observed that if only regulatory obstacles to trade are minimised in the region, trade in South Asia could increase by three times in few years. India's export product profile more or less remained constant for several years; petroleum products, Gems & Jewellery, machinery, organic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, electronics, leather, etc. have been consistently leading the chart. Diversifying export basket with value added products would help to expand its global market share. 18 YOJANA October 2020 Trade in services has assumed high importance in global trade. Technology and mobility of skilled manpower across borders have stimulated trade in services sector. Services constitute more than 55% of India's GDP, similar to the economic profiles of most developed countries. India's export of services trade has been gradually growing in the last two decades; in 2019, services exports were \$214 billion and imports \$128 billion and India supplies 40% of global demand for IT skilled manpower. However,

of the GDP. Deeper external engagements are a necessary condition for boosting trade and, in this regard, Global Value Chains (GVCs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are important tools. Global Value Chains Global Value Chains or Supply Chains are a reflection of fragmentation of production processes that have assumed a high degree of sophistication and specialisation due to changes in technology, skills, capital and investment policies. It denotes an underlying principle that companies source raw materials and intermediate products at qualitative and competitive prices from wide ranging sources across the world. It marks a shift away from the traditional way of manufacturing where components and finished products are all produced in one country. As GVCs reduce input costs, it makes finished products competitive in the global markets, a propitious condition for trade to thrive. Open trade and investment policies of a country naturally attract GVCs. Some sectors of India, especially Pharma, Auto and Textiles are well-integrated into GVCs while those of China, Japan, YOJANA October 2020 19 Korea, Singapore etc. are not only extensive but also deeply entrenched in several countries around the world, lending their products competitive edge in the global markets. Free Trade Agreements Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) create conducive environment for GVCs to oper-

ate efficiently. Partner countries take advantage of liberalised investment climate under FTAs to set up production units as part of Supply Chain networks (GVC) to feed into finished products. A successful FTA creates a win-win situation for both partner countries, not only in terms of providing market access but also enabling deeper engagement through investments, technology and services. GATT Article 24 of WTO allows member countries to enter into bilateral/regional preferential trade arrangements in order to achieve higher level of trade liberalisation, notwithstanding that this provision amounts to derogation of GATT Article 1 'Most Favored Nation' (MFN) that stipulates nondiscriminatory treatment on trade preferences to all countries. In the last two decades there have been proliferation of free trade agreements globally with about 450 FTAs/PTAs concluded and another 180 FTAs/PTAs under either negotiation or review, involving about 2/3rd member countries of WTO. India concluded about 16 FTAs/PTAs and another 20 of them are under either negotiation or review. India's most notable bilateral FTAs are with Japan, Korea, Chile, Singapore and regional FTAs are SAFTA, ASEAN, Mescosur, APTA, etc. Traditionally, India has been conservative to

would amount to inevitable erosion of its market share when FTA countries begin to trade amongst their partner countries at zero duty tariffs. Therefore, the way to go about an FTA negotiation is to seek longer staging phase out of its tariffs with a partner country while at the same time seek immediate phase outs in areas of core interest. For example, as India is relatively strong in textile, leather, chemicals, automobile components, pharma etc., seeking immediate tariff phase outs in these sectors through FTA could be beneficial. Also, India's interest in services trade has grown exponentially; seeking openings in services sector for movement of professionals should be a priority. Similarly, encouraging investments through FTA route should form part of the strategy. Conclusion India's trade negotiating approach would need to take a broader longterm view of things to come in future. Increasing volume of trade is more important than trade deficit because trade need not be a zero-sum game. Ultimately, combination of quality and price determines the staying power of a product in the market. Understanding the evolving linkages between trade, investment, services and technology, GVCs is critical. Investment brings technology which is crucial for making affordable quality products at competitive prices. In the age of serviceification of manufacturing, emphasis on providing quality services would have a ripple effect on the overall volume of trade. Technology will impact trade in big way in near future and staying in niche technologies such as machine learning, 3D printing, robotic engineering, internet-based production; e-commerce, etc. will all impact global trade in a big way. India should consciously develop a wide angle approach to these evolving global trade dynamics. (Concluded)

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## RIP CoDS Bipin Rawat: Senior Pakistan military officials express condolences over 'tragic death'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's top military brass on Wednesday expressed condolences over the



"tragic death" of India's Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 others who died in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu. Pakistan Army's

spokesman in a short statement posted on Twitter said that Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Com-

Raza, CJCS & General Qamar Javed Bajwa, COAS express condolences on tragic death of #CDS



General #Bipin Rawat, his wife and loss of precious lives in a helicopter crash in India," Pakistan Armed Forces spokesperson Major General Babar

Iftikhar tweeted. The Indian Air Force said that the copter carrying Gen Rawat

and his entourage crashed in apparently foggy conditions, killing the 13 people on board. One person survived the crash and is being treated at a hospital.

## UK PM Johnson apologises, orders probe into leaked video of Downing Street 'party'

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was on Wednesday forced to "apologise unreservedly" after a leaked internal Downing Street video emerged showing his press office staff joking about a party in December last year, at a time when the UK was under strict lockdown rules to protect against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing the weekly Prime Minister's Questions session at the House of Commons, Johnson started off with an apology and announced an internal inquiry by his Cabinet Secretary Simon Case to establish the full facts around the leaked video.

He, however, maintained that no party actually took place that would have been in breach of the lockdown rules at the time.

"I was also furious and I apologise unreservedly for the offence it had caused up and down the country, and I apologise for the impression it gives," said Johnson, with reference to the video.

"I have been repeatedly assured since these allegations emerged that there was no party and that no COVID rules were broken, the Cabinet Secretary has been charged to establish all the facts and it goes without saying that if those rules were broken then there will be disciplinary action for all those involved," he said.

The Prime Minister faced off with a furious Opposition Labour Party Leader, Sir Keir Starmer, who dismissed his opening statement as raising more questions than answers.

"Millions of people now think the Prime Minister was taking them for fools and they were

lied to – they were right, weren't they," he said. Starmer accused Johnson of "pretending" that the first he knew about a party, alleged to have taken place on December 18 last year, was only as a result of the leaked video.

"The Prime Minister has been caught red-handed," he declared.

The outrage followed a video acquired by ITV News channel which shows a recording of re-



hearsals for Downing Street's media briefings.

Senior press office staff blurred out in the video pose 'mock' questions to Allegra Stratton, Johnson's official spokesperson at the time and since then his COP26 spokesper-

son. Stratton is mock asked about a so-called "party", to which she responds first by saying she went home and then jokes on to say it was a 'business meeting' this fictional party was a business meeting 'and it was not socially distanced'.

Members of Parliament from across party lines have condemned the video as making a mockery of a serious issue at a time when people were separated from dying relatives due to a fresh wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The footage is said to be from 22 December last year, four days after an alleged Christmas party took place in Number 10.

According to some UK media reports, the dummy video is understood to have been recorded by a company contracted by Downing Street to run the live broadcasts.

The contract ended when Johnson scrapped the briefings.

## Thrust on quality export

Bhubaneswar: The Regional Workshop on Export Promotion with Thrust on Quality for the Eastern and North East Region

Principal Secretary, MSME, Odisha opined that in spite of huge potential for export the State of Odisha is still lagging

taken by the Government.

Addressing the workshop, G Angamuthu, Chairman, APEDA, New Delhi empha-

merce, Government of India told that India's merchandise export is growing at a higher growth in post pandemic period. But, still India's share in international trade is only 1.7% which shows there is a tremendous scope for merchandise export from India.

Addressing the workshop, the Asit Kumar Tripathy Principal Advisor to Chief Minister highlighted the export potential of the state. He narrated Odisha has tremendous potential in the field of pharmaceutical, Gems & jewelry, petro chemicals and agri products.

He emphasized development of ports of Odisha like Paradip, Gopalpur and Dhamara which is not only increased the export of Odisha but it will cater to the needs of export from the land locked state like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and North East Region.

The delegates of all the Eastern and North East region like Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland were participated in the workshop and take part in the discussion for promotion of export from the region. Md. Sadique Alam, Director Industries, Odisha given vote of thanks for the event.



was organized on 8 December in the State Convention Centre, Lokseva Bhawan here.

Department of MSME Government of Odisha in collaboration with Department of Commerce, Government of India organized the Workshop.

The theme of the workshop was District Export Hub, Quality Production, GI, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme, Quality and Standard.

Tarun Bajaj, Director, APEDA in his welcome address narrated the objective of the Regional Workshop. He emphasized quality particularly on agri products for promotion of export. Cost is not a matter in international trade if quality of the product is maintained. Satyabrata Sahu,

behind in export performance in comparison to many other States due to lack of infrastructural support for export in the State.

Setting up of Joint DGFT Office at Bhubaneswar, direct air connectivity to overseas countries from Biju Pattnaik International Airport availability of shipping liner at Paradeep Port and development of other ports like Dhamara and Gopalpur will boost export from the State, said he.

Hemanta Sharma, Principal Secretary Industries indicated that the State Government is very proactive in industrialization and setting up of infrastructures. The sea food park and IT park at Bhubaneswar setting up of testing laboratories and are the recent initiatives



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## Odisha lost 406 elephants in last 5 years

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): On average, 80 elephants died in Odisha every year since 2016-17. In a written reply to a question by Congress legislator Suresh Kumar Routray, Minister for Forest and Environment Bikram

Keshari Arukha said 406 elephants have died between 2016-17 and 2020-21.

The Minister said that accidents claimed the lives of 162 elephants and electrocution led to the highest 54 deaths. Fourteen elephants were mowed down by trains. While four elephants were killed in road accidents, 90 lost their lives due to other reasons. He said 11 elephants were killed by poachers.

Odisha reported 282 elephant deaths from 2018 till August 31, 2021. Between 2018-19 and the first five months of 2021, one jumbo died almost every five days in the State. The highest number of elephant deaths (93) took place in 2018-19 followed by 82 in 2019-20, 77 in 2020-21 and 30 till the end of August

## Crompton launches all-new Insta Fervor Oil-Filled Room Heaters

Kolkata(KCN): With the onset of the winter season, India's leading consumer electrical brand, Crompton



Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd has announced its entry into the room heater segment with the launch of the new range called Insta Fervor Oil-Filled Room Heaters. Equipped with an appealing sense of style and design that will surely elevate the look of any room, the new room heaters range by Crompton does not reduce the oxygen content of the area thereby, preventing any suffocation or skin dryness and ensuring a cozy environment in the chilly winters. It is available across markets in India and e-commerce. Speaking about the latest innovation from the company, Mr. Sachin Phartiyal, Vice President, Ap-

pliance Business - Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. said, "Crompton has always delivered inno-

vation coupled with modern aesthetics to cater to every touchpoint of the home. Our portfolio today comprises of a range of products that ensures comfort across all seasons. Considering room heaters are increasingly used today especially in the colder parts of the country, we wanted to develop a product that not only provides the basic need but is designed to keep the health and safety of the consumer at the forefront. Our new Insta Fervor Oil-Filled Room Heaters not only provides instant relief and comfort from the wintery chills but also its key features like preventing oxygen depletion and skin dryness stands out in creating

## Metro RPF's Samaritan work helps a girl child to reunited with her parents

Kolkata(KCN): A 12-year old girl while traveling in the Metro on December 3, 2021 with her mother mistakenly got down at Mahanayak Uttam Kumar Station while her mother was still on the train at 9.55 pm at night.

On seeing the incident, the on-duty RPF staff brought her to the RPF post of the said station and contacted her father over mobile phone as provided by the girl.

At 10.25 at night, the girls' parents arrived at the RPF post and after proper verification; the girl was handed over to them.

The parents of the child thanked the Metro Railway authority for extending a helping hand to get their daughter back.

a healthier environment. Presenting an unbeatable combination of warmth and comfort, we remain confident that this new / innovative range of room heaters will ensure long - lasting and better heating efficiency, along with safety for one's health keeping all winter worries away / at bay." The ideal replacement of a fireplace that creates a warm blanket for the whole family, Crompton's

Setting with Adjustable Thermostat - Helps to maintain the room temperature at desired level. Ambient Temperature - Maintains surrounding temperature. After the desired temperature is set and if the surrounding temperature falls down, the room heater will adjust itself accordingly and increase the heating in the room. Tilt Over Protection - If the heater falls down accidentally, it will shut itself down. Over heat protection



Insta Fervor Oil-Filled Room Heaters comes with a combination of functionality, aesthetics and innovation. Along with being silent and providing uniform heating throughout the room, given below are a range of other benefits: Three Heat - It shuts down automatically when gets over-heated and protects the heater from self-damage. Quick heating with 400W PTC heating element. Wave fins that heat large surfaces / rooms very quickly and comes in 9 Fins, 11 Fins & 13 Fins.

## Media Release - Jio-bp and Mahindra Group sign MoU for EV and low-carbon solutions

Mumbai (KCN): Reliance BP Mobility Limited (RBML), operating under the brand name Jio-bp and The Mahindra Group, today announced a non-binding MoU for exploring creation of EV products and services, alongside identifying synergies in low-carbon and conventional fuels. The MoU also covers evaluating charging solutions by Jio-bp for Mahindra vehicles including electric 3 and 4 wheelers, quadricycles and e-SCV (Small Commercial Vehicles - sub 4 ton). This would include captive fleets and last-mile mobility vehicles of Mahindra Group. The partnership aims to leverage the strengths of both companies in the areas of EV products and services. Mahindra Group and its channel partner locations will be evaluated for setting up of Jio-bp Mobility Stations and EV charging and swapping points apart

from utilizing existing Jio-bp stations. Jio-bp recently launched its first Mobility Station in Maharashtra, offering multiple fueling choices, including EV charging infrastructure, while providing a world-class retailing experience. Additionally, business models like Mobility as a Service (MaaS) and Battery as a Service (BaaS) will be explored wherein Jio-bp could provide charging solutions to vehicles made by Mahindra Group. The EV market in India is still in a nascent stage and through this MoU, various possibilities and orientation of database, operations support systems, software, pilot and commercial-scale business model and types of charging and swapping facilities are proposed to be explored and implemented subject to techno-economic feasibility and necessary approvals. The partnership aims at accelerating EV

adoption in India with high-performance and swappable batteries that will help in dispelling range anxiety. The solutions would afford great convenience to customers who can ideally bring in a depleted battery to their nearest swapping station and within minutes move on with fully charged batteries by paying a nominal fee. Such innovative solutions will broaden the horizon for both the companies and help realize India's net-zero emissions goals faster. About Jio-bp: Jio-bp is an Indian fuels and mobility joint venture between Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and UK's bp plc. With the vision to become a solution provider of choice for mobility in India, the joint venture will leverage Reliance's presence across 21 states and its millions of consumers through the Jio digital platform. bp will bring its extensive global experi-

ence in high-quality differentiated fuels, lubricants, retail, and advanced low carbon mobility solutions. Jio-bp aims to expand its fuel retailing network to 5,500 over the next five years. About Mahindra: Founded in 1945, the Mahindra Group is one of the largest and most admired multinational federation of companies with 260,000 employees in over 100 countries. It enjoys a leadership position in farm equipment, utility vehicles, information technology and financial services in India and is the world's largest tractor company by volume. It has a strong presence in renewable energy, agriculture, logistics, hospitality and real estate. The Mahindra Group has a clear focus on leading ESG globally, enabling rural prosperity and enhancing urban living, with a goal to drive positive change in the lives of communities and stakeholders to enable them to Rise.

## Rly inter departmental sports tournament concluded

Sambalpur(KCN): East Coast Railway Sports Association, joined as Chief Guest and President, ECoRWWO Smt. mental sports tournament, the final match of cricket was played between the Engineering and Operating team



Sambalpur (ECoRSA) organized Inter-departmental sports tournament-2021 at Railway Stadium, Sambalpur. All departments of Sambalpur division participated in the tournament. Various sports like Cricket, Volleyball & Badminton were played in the tournament. In the closing ceremony Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur, Shri Pradeep Kumar

Isha Malik & Addl. Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur, Shri Anand Singh graced the occasion as Guest of honour. On this occasion, Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur, Shri Pradeep Kumar said that active participation in sports keeps us mentally and physically fit. Chief Guest & Guest of honour distributed prizes to the winner & runners up teams. In the Inter depart-

played between RPF-XI and Operating-XI. The RPF team won the toss and elected to bat first and scored 124 runs for 8 wickets in 15 overs. In response, the Operating team scored 125 runs for 9 wickets and won the final match by 1 wicket. Gyanarajan Mahato adjudged as man of the match and Dhaneswar Chhatria as Man of the series. In volleyball, the final match

where the Engineering team won by 2-1. In Badminton doubles Dr. M.K.Behera and Bijay Mishra won the final match against A.Chakroborty and S. Das by 2-0 set. On this occasion, Sports officer, Dr. Manoj Kumar Behera, Sports Secretary, Shri Alok Ranjan Panda and all officers and a large number of staff and their family members witnessed the event.



# Amazon-Future case: SC displeased over submission of documents; to hear Future group plea on January 11

NEW DELHI: Expressing displeasure over the timing and content of documents submitted before it by the parties in the Amazon-Future case,

against a Delhi High Court order declining stay on an arbitration tribunal decision refusing to interfere with the Emergency Award (EA) of the

with Reliance Retail.

The SIAC, in the EA, had granted relief to US e-commerce major Amazon by restraining the Future from going ahead with the Rs 24,731 crore merger deal of Future Retail Ltd (FRL) with Reliance Retail.

Amazon had dragged Future Group to arbitration at SIAC in October last year, arguing that FRL had violated their contract by entering into the deal with rival Reliance.

On November 23, the bench was irked over "truckload" of bulky documents filed by parties in the case and had asked whether the purpose was just to drag on or "harass the judges" and sought a common small compilation of documents.

It had asked the counsels for the parties to file a small volume of documents so that the matter can be disposed of, and fixed the case for hearing on December 8.

"I am sorry to say to all of you. What is the fun in filing 22-23 volumes of records. How many documents both sides have filed repeatedly and is it the purpose of just dragging on or otherwise to harass the judges," the CJI had said.

Prior to this, Justice Hima Kohli had offered to recuse herself from hearing the pleas, saying she and her family members have shares in Reliance Industries Ltd group firms, one of the interested parties to the litigation.

"We have no objection," said a battery of lawyers appearing for the parties -- Amazon, FRL and FCPL.

On October 21 this year, a duly-constituted panel of arbitrators at the SIAC reiterated the EA's decision.

On October 29, the Delhi High Court declined Future Group's plea for stay on the arbitration tribunal.

The high court sought response from Amazon which had challenged the merger before the SIAC, and listed the appeals by FCPL and FRL for further hearing on January 4, 2022.

FRL and FCPL moved the top court recently against the order with fresh pleas.

Kishore Biyani and 15 others including FRL and FCPL have been embroiled in a series of litigations with Amazon, an investor in FCPL, over the deal with Reliance.

Following the EA, subsequently, a three-member arbitral tribunal was constituted to decide the issues arising from the deal.

On September 9, the apex court had stayed for four weeks all proceedings before the high court in relation to the implementation of the EA and also directed statutory authorities like National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Competition Commission of India (CCI) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) not to pass any final order related to the merger deal in the meantime.

Subsequently, the arbitration tribunal under the SIAC rejected on October 21 the FRL plea to lift the interim stay granted by its EA on Octo-

ber 25 last year, observing that "the Award was correctly granted".

The FRL and FCPL had moved the top court against the high court order of August 17 which said that it would implement the earlier order by its single-judge restraining FRL from going ahead with the deal in pursuance of the EA's award.

The high court had said that in the absence of a stay, it would have to enforce the order passed by its single judge, Justice JR Midha, on March 18.

On March 18, besides restraining FRL from going ahead with its deal with Reliance Retail, the court had imposed costs of Rs 20 lakh on the Future Group and others associated with it and ordered attachment of their properties.

On August 6, the Supreme Court gave the verdict in favour of Amazon and held that EA award, restraining the Rs 24,731 crore FRL-Reliance Retail merger deal, is valid and enforceable under Indian arbitration laws.

The apex court had also set aside the two orders of February 8 and March 22 of the division bench of the Delhi High Court order which had lifted the single-judge's orders staying the FRL-FRL merger.

A bench headed by Justice R F Nariman, since retired, had dealt with the larger question and held that an award of an EA of a foreign country is enforceable under the Indian Arbitration and Conciliation Act.

## 'At Risk' Tag on 4 Returnees

Continued from page-1

are more at risk due to the new variant and necessary pediatric management has been made at various hospitals across the State," said Dr.Mohapatra.

"We are extending ICU facilities in more hospitals and health workers are being imparted better training for effective healthcare management," he added.

Odisha reported 255 fresh Covid positive cases and two deaths in the past 24 hours taking the death toll to 8426. Health department sources said the 255 new infections included 54 cases in the age group of 0 to 18 years. The State now has 2,142 active cases.

Out of the 255 new cases while 152 were reported from quarantine centers 103 were local contact cases.

Khordha district reported 106 cases, the highest in the State during the past 24 hours followed by Mayurbhanja (22), Sambalpur (19), Sundergarha (18), Jaipur (16), Anugul (14) and Cuttack (12). During the period two Covid deaths—one each from Cuttack and Khordha was reported.

## Logjam continues in House

Continued from page-1

Deo.

As the house plunged into a chaotic situation, the Speaker adjourned the House till 11.30 am. After the House reassembled, the opposition members again continued their agitation.

Finding no other alternative the Speaker again adjourned the House at 11.33 am and called an all party meeting. The proceedings were subsequently adjourned twice till 4 pm as the all party meeting failed to break the ice.

There was no change in the situation in the afternoon session too. The opposition members continued their protest forcing the Speaker to adjourn the House again.

The Speaker again convened an all-party meeting in the post-lunch session too but as it was also failed to resolve the issue. Later, he adjourned the House till tomorrow.

The House could not take up the question hour in the pre-lunch session and the demands for grants for the first supplementary grants relating to the Home department could not be taken up in the post-lunch session.

The Treasury Bench members sat on a dharna in front of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi alleging double standard practiced by BJP in Mamita Meher murder case.

BJD leader Pratap Keesri Deb alleged that Mohanlal Sharma, the advocate fighting for Gobind Sahu, the prime accused, is an active member of the BJP.

Alleging BJP is maintaining 'double standard' on the murder case, Mr.Deb said, the BJP is making a hue and cry over the murder case inside and outside the House and demanding the resignation of Mr.Mishra. On the other hand, it engaged Mr.Sharma to get Gobind Sahu free, alleged Mr.Deb.

Opposition chief whip Mohan Majhi denied the allegation made by the BJD. He said Mr.Sharma is not a member of BJP, and the BJD is making the false allegation.



the Supreme Court Wednesday deferred to January 11 the hearing on the Future group plea **RBI lets Schrodinger's cat out of the bag, admits rate corrections can't fight inflation for now**

It appears that inflation has entered the state of Schrodinger's theory, where price rise is both temporary and persistent simultaneously. On Wednesday, the RBI confirmed that headline inflation will

likely peak in January-March 2022, and should ease thereafter. But unlike in the past, Governor Shaktikanta Das has not only retired the 'transitory' phase for 'stubborn' inflation, but also decided not to

take the foot off the policy pedal. In other words, the textbook remedy for arresting persistent price pressures via rate hikes is off the table and the key policy repo rate will squat at 4% until further notice.

A rate hike arrests monetary inflation, or rising prices due to increasing money supply. But given the present inflation is due to global supply bottlenecks, rate corrections are simply useless. So the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), kept key policy rates and stance unchanged. Reverse repo rate too stands at 3.35%. Traditionally, the gap between repo and reverse repo rates is 25 bps and reducing the gap is the first step towards eventual rate hikes. India registers highest growth across all economies in Q2, but now there's Omicron...

Just until last week, a hike in reverse repo rate to narrow the rate corridor and set the ground for actual lift-off appeared certain, but that too has been put off until next year, thanks to the trinity of concerns -- new virus variant Omicron, persistent price pressures and global supply bottlenecks.

For now, the central bank hopes to align rates without the noise around a rate hike. In fact, it has been doing so since at least since October, where excess liquidity was absorbed via 14 and 28-day Variable Reverse Repo Rate (VRRR) auctions, which in turn firmed up short-term rates. Policywatchers expected a reverse repo rate hike on Wednesday officially confirming a faster policy normalisation, but Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that tapering will now proceed at a fairly leisurely pace.

Assuming the government's supply-side measures to contain food prices and fuel tax cuts may alleviate domestic cost-push build-up, inflation estimates were retained at 5.3% for FY22. Headline inflation is expected to peak in Q4 and soften thereafter, but will continue to stay at around 5% in Q1 and Q2 of FY23.

Elevated energy and commodity prices, potential volatility in global financial markets due to a faster normalisation of monetary policy in advanced economies and prolonged global supply bottlenecks could irk domestic outlook. That said, as Das noted, price stability remains the cardinal principal for monetary policy and that the central bank will 'ensure soft landing that is well timed.'

The recovery interrupted by the second wave of the pandemic is regaining traction, but isn't strong enough to be self-sustaining and durable, which is why, RBI believes the key policy rate must squat at 4% indefinitely. Incoming data shows consumption demand improving, and is expected to fare even better due to the recent fuel tax cuts. The government's focus on capex, the deleveraging of corporate balance sheets, rising imports and production of capital goods give enough reason for cheer and so real GDP growth estimates too were retained at 9.5% for FY22 despite uncertainty surrounding Omicron virus, global spillovers and any knee-jerk reaction of Indian and global financial markets to US Federal Reserve's monetary policy action.

System liquidity remains in the surplus mode with the average daily net absorption under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) at Rs 7.6 lakh crore in November, 21. To rebalance the surplus, Das noted that the objective was to re-establish the 14-day VRRR auction as the main liquidity management tool. Accordingly, the central bank will enhance the 14-day VRRR auction amounts on a fortnightly basis of Rs 6.5 lakh crore on December, 17 and further to Rs 7.5 lakh crore on December, 31. From January 2022 onwards, liquidity absorption will be undertaken mainly through the auction route, while any unanticipated and one-off liquidity flows will be managed and complemented by 28-day and even longer term VRRRs.

Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).

A bench comprising Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices A S Bopanna and Hima Kohli, which had earlier sought small written submissions from parties to the litigation in place of "truckload" of bulky documents, again expressed displeasure on Wednesday over the written notes submitted by Future Group.

"Purpose of our last direction was that you circulate the written note well in advance so that we can read them earlier. I got this from FRL at 10 pm. Today morning, we received it from another party," the bench said.

It then referred to the sequence and content of the written note by saying, "We cannot make out anything. There is no connectivity with the submissions. This isn't a way to do it."

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the Future group, said, "May I suggest, I will dictate a note today myself and submit by today evening, and it may be taken up tomorrow".

The bench then said that if there was no urgency then the matter will be listed for hearing on January 11.

The parties agreed to it.

The apex court was hearing a fresh petition of Future Group against the Delhi High Court's recent order declining its plea for stay on an arbitration tribunal decision refusing to interfere with the SIAC's EA which restrained it from going ahead with the Rs 24,731 crore merger deal

## Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, 12 others confirmed dead in TN chopper crash

Continued from page-1

Pradesh loses daughter Madhulika and son-in-law General Bipin Rawat

General Rawat, 63, the first Chief of Defence Staff, was an alumnus of St. Edward School, Shimla and the National Defence Academy. He assumed office as the Chief of the Army Staff on 31 Dec 2016 and was elevated to his current role on January 1, 2020.

He had boarded an Embraer jet at Delhi at 8:47 am, and landed at Sular at 11:34 am. He then got on board the MI 17 V5 helicopter at 11:48 am. At 12:22 pm, Air Traffic Control said contact had been lost, according to sources. The Chief of Defence Staff was slated to deliver a lecture at the Staff College.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh earlier met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and briefed him about the accident. He also paid a visit to General Rawat's residence.

Condolences pour in

The President said "the nation has lost one of its bravest sons".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the late general as an outstanding soldier. "A true patriot, he greatly contributed to modernising our armed forces and security apparatus. His insights and perspectives on strategic matters were exceptional. His passing away has saddened me deeply. Om Shanti," the PM tweeted.

Home Minister Amit Shah remembered General Rawat as "one of the bravest soldiers, who has served the motherland with utmost devotion."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh termed the loss "irreparable".

Former Chief of Army staff and the Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation, General VK Singh tweeted, "Today we have lost a brave and distinguished soldier of the country in a tragic accident. The death of him and his wife in the helicopter crash is very sad. His service to the country was important and will always be remembered. May God give strength to his family to bear this immense loss."

ALSO READ | Mood Sombre in CDS Bipin Rawat's native village in Uttarakhand Congress MPs Rahul Gandhi and Shashi Tharoor too shared their condolences. "The crash must and will be investigated, but today is a day for prayer," Tharoor tweeted.





## Eight Tottenham players, five staff members have tested positive for COVID-19: Manager Antonio Conte

LONDON: Eight Tottenham players and five members of staff at the club have tested positive for the coronavirus, manager Antonio Conte said on Wednesday. "Every day we are having

people with COVID," Conte said at a news conference a day before a match against French team Rennes in the Europa Conference League. Conte said he has 11 players available for

the game at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. UEFA rules state a game must go ahead as long as a club has at least 13 senior players available, including at least one goalkeeper.

Conte said "everyone is a bit scared" at the club because people are coming into contact with others who have tested negative but who later test positive. "At the end of the

training session today, again one

passing on the virus to their loved ones.

in the British media that Tottenham has

group in the Conference League - the



## Serena Williams not on January's Australian Open entry list

MELBOURNE(KCN): Serena Williams was absent from the entry list released Wednesday for next month's Australian Open in a

Open, and was beaten in the semifinals this year by Naomi Osaka in straight sets. Novak Djokovic was on the men's entry list

the ATP Cup which starts Jan.1 in Sydney. The nine-time Australian Open champion is tied with

the U.S.Open final, Alexander Zverev, Stefanos Tsitsipas and Andrey Rublev are listed above No.6 Nadal, who is not



move that suggests the seven-time champion could skip the 2022 edition of the season-opening major. Williams hasn't played since retiring from her first-round match at Wimbledon with a right hamstring injury and her ranking has slipped to No.41. She won the last of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles at the 2017 Australian

at No.1 in a further indication that he'll be playing at Melbourne Park beginning Jan.17 despite Australia's strict regulations requiring all players, officials and fans to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Djokovic has declined to comment on his vaccination status in recent months, although he was included last week on the Serbian team for

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal for the men's record of 20 Grand Slam singles titles. Nadal is also entered for the Australian Open, which starts Jan.17, but Federer is skipping the tournament as he continues his recovery from surgery. Daniil Medvedev, who ended Djokovic's bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam with a victory in

playing for Spain at the ATP Cup. Ash Barty tops the women's entry list and will continue her quest to end a long drought for Australian women at the tournament. No Australian woman has won the singles title since Chris O'Neil in 1978. Defending champion Osaka is listed at No.13, one place below 2020 champion Sofia Kenin.

## India vs South Africa: Virat Kohli no more ODI skipper, Ajinkya Rahane removed as Test vice-captain

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli was on Wednesday removed as India's ODI cap-

position which was also given to Rohit. Kohli throws weight behind Rahane, but

injuries. Hanuma Vihari has made a comeback in the main squad while Ishant

Shreyas Iyer, Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant(wk), W r i d d h i m a n



tain with the national selection committee making Rohit Sharma the sole white-ball leader of the team till the 2023 50-over World Cup. In another significant development, Ajinkya Rahane was removed from Test vice-captaincy, a po-

will decide after meeting with selectors and Dravid. The BCCI announced the 18-member squad for the three Test series which doesn't include all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, spinner Axar Patel, and opener Shubman Gill due to various

Sharma has been able to retain his place despite poor form. Squad: Virat Kohli (C a p t ) , R o h i t Sharma(vc), KL Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane,



Saha(wk), R Ashwin, Jayant Yadav, Ishant S h a r m a , M o h d . S h a m i , Umesh Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Shardul Thakur, Md.Siraj. Standby Players: Navdeep Saini, Saurabh Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Arzan Nagwaswalla.

player is positive, another member of staff is positive. Tomorrow, who? Me? Another player? Another member of staff? We continue in this way but the situation is serious," he said. Conte said he is concerned players and staff members at Tottenham might be

"We have families, we have contact with our families when we come back home. It is a situation that makes me upset. Now for sure we are bit scared, because tomorrow we don't know what happens," a visibly emotional Conte said. It has been reported

asked for its Premier League game against Brighton on Sunday to be postponed. Conte did not confirm that at the news conference. Six Premier League matches were postponed last season because of virus outbreaks at clubs. Tottenham is in second place in its

third-tier European competition - and is tied on points with third-place Vitesse. Rennes has already won the group with one game left to play. The runner-up qualifies for a playoff for the last 16 against a team that will drop down from the Europa League.

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