

## Budget 2022: Genuine needs of Odisha overlooked, allege Congress, Left

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): The State unit of the BJP described the 2022-23 Union budget as growth oriented and pro-farmer but the Congress and Left parties alleged that the genuine needs of Odisha have been overlooked. Stating that the budget has taken care of the welfare of all sections of society, president of the Odisha unit of BJP Sameer Mohanty said that it has kindled new hope among the people during the pandemic. Referring to record collection of Rs 1,40,986 crore GST

in January, 2020, Mohanty said that the State will certainly benefit from this.

farmer, he said that farmers will receive ₹2.75 lakh crore through MSP on dif-

fering the provision of 80 lakh rural houses under Pradhan Mantri



He said that the budget is in tune with 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' through which 60 lakh jobs have been created. Describing the budget as pro-

ferent crops. "The focus on bio-fertilisers will benefit farmers from the State. Besides, farm equipment will also become cheaper." Wel-

Awaas Yojana (PMAY), he said that the allocation to provide drinking water to 3.8 crore houses will also benefit the

## Rourkela BJP's press conference, allegations against others

Rourkela (KCN): Bharatiya Janata Party's Panposh organizational district

Sundargarh district MP Jual Oram, Gouri Mundari has alleged that MP Jual Oram

now Rourkela District Congress President, when he was in Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in the past, people have not forgotten the Harshita Patnaik murder case. George Tirkey's son was also found accused in the misconduct case in the past, which people have not forgotten. In the case of atrocities against women, cases like Mamita Meher are in front of the people. Atrocities against women are at the top during the rule of Biju Janata Dal in the headlines of newspapers. By organizing a press conference, Bharatiya

Janata Party leaders demanded action in the case of vandalism in the BJP office by Gauri Mundari. While accusing other parties, she said that other parties should first look after themselves and then they should talk about others. BJP state executive member Purnima Kerketa, BJP leader Pramila Das, Mahila Morcha state secretary Sanjukta Lenka, Mahila Morcha district president Mamta Gautam, district spokesperson Gangadhar Das were present in the press conference held on Monday.



president Latika Patnaik organized a press conference and accused other parties in Rourkela. She had no answer when asking about the case registered in the police station by BJP leader Gauri Mundari against BJP's

has used filthy language over the phone therefore she has registered the case against BJP MP from Sundargarh district Jual Oram. Bharatiya Janata Party District President Latika Patnaik said that George Tirkey, who is

## World Bank-aided climate resilient agri programme for Odisha moving at snail's pace

BHUBANESWAR (KCN):: The World Bank aided Odisha Integrated Irrigation

Ministry of Finance for 2022-23 showed that the Centre had disbursed loan

menting agency incurred its expenditure from the budget provision of the State.

tri-partite agreement with the Centre and the World Bank for a \$165 million (approximately Rs 1,090 crore) loan in October 2019 to support small farmers to strengthen the resilience of their production systems against adverse climatic conditions by improving access to climate resilient seed varieties and production technologies.



Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture (O I I P C R A) programme has not been able to meet its desired objective for the last three years. The expenditure profile of externally-aided projects of the

amounting to only Rs 1.93 crore to the State by end of March 31, 2021 against which an expenditure of Rs 1.47 crore was made. The disbursement was made under reimbursement mode as the project imple-

The budget statement of the State for 2021-22, however, said that a cumulative expenditure of Rs 16 crore has been made on the project covering 15 drought prone districts. The State government had signed a

The project aims at diversifying more climate-resilient crops and improving access to better water management and irrigation services and also provide market support to farmers who

## Beijing hopes to raise its geopolitical stake in the Ukraine conflict

BEIJING (KCN): China will benefit if Russia invades Ukraine and precipitates a drawn-out conflict with the US and its Western allies (though a direct military confrontation is unlikely), China stands to benefit, as noted by Channel News Asia. America will need to divert strategic resources to confront Russia, and its European allies will be even more reluctant to heed US entreaties to join America's anti-

Channel News Asia. Further, after Putin has skillfully exploited the US obsession with China to re-establish Russia's sphere of influence, the strategic value of his China card may depreciate significantly. For Putin, capitalising on Biden's fear of being dragged into a conflict with a secondary adversary (Russia) in order to extract critical security concessions is a risky but smart move. ALSO READ: Ukraine-Russia crisis:

and more dependent on Chinese President Xi Jinping, as analyzed by Channel News Asia. Strategic uncertainty aside, China's rulers know that explicitly supporting Putin will almost certainly antagonise the European Union, which is now China's second-largest trading partner. In Chinese policymakers' strategic calculation, it is vital to prevent the US from recruiting the EU into its anti-China coalition.

publicly. ALSO READ: US, NATO 'ignored' Russia's key concerns over Ukraine, says Putin With Putin holding most of the cards in the ongoing standoff, China's diplomatic support is unlikely to alter the strategic calculus of the principal protagonists in Washington, Brussels, or even Moscow. Beijing's influence will increase dramatically only if Putin rolls the dice and invades



China coalition. But if US President Joe Biden defuses the crisis by acceding to some of Russian President Vladimir Putin's demands, China will likely end up worse off strategically. While Putin will reap the benefits of his coercive diplomacy, and Biden will avoid a potential quagmire in Eastern Europe, China will find itself the sole focus of America's national security strategy, as analyzed by

What to know about rising fear of war But ordering an invasion of Ukraine - and thus effectively volunteering to be America's primary geopolitical adversary, at least in the short to medium term - is hardly in the Kremlin's interest. Crippling Western sanctions and the high costs of fighting an insurgency in Ukraine would almost certainly weaken Russia significantly and make Putin himself both domestically unpopular

Ukraine's independence and security are crucial to the EU, and Chinese efforts to aid and abet Putin would trigger a European backlash. At a minimum, the EU could make China pay by restricting technology transfers and expressing more diplomatic support for Taiwan. China's leaders are realists and know that they can do little to influence the outcome of the current crisis in Ukraine even if they choose to intervene

Ukraine because he will then need Chinese economic support to lessen the impact of Western sanctions. But for now, all this is speculative as far as China's President Xi Jinping is concerned. Although a superpower, China is temporarily reduced to being an onlooker, watching both anxiously and hopefully on the sidelines as the Ukraine crisis unfolds, as analyzed by Channel News Asia.

## Union Budget 2022: Some positives, but common man ignored, says Naveen Patnaik

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said the thrust on infra-

There was nothing for the middle class and poorer sections in the budget. Stating

will affect the household economics very badly. He stated that reduc-

when the country is in the midst of a pandemic will not help the poor.



structure and technology-led growth in the 2022-23 Union Budget will have positive impact, but core issues like alleviating the problems and sufferings of the common man in a year crushed by the pandemic have been completely missed.

that the middle class and the poor are heavily impacted by price rise and inflation, Naveen said the budget has not addressed the issue of price rise. To compound common people's woes, there is a sharp decline in LPG subsidy which

tion in allocation in critical sectors like agriculture and farmers' welfare, higher education, rural development and women and child development would hamper inclusive growth. Besides, reduction of provision for MGNREGS

The Chief Minister was also not happy over the proposal to reduce food subsidy under National Food Security Act (NFSA) which he said will put farmers in serious trouble. "Already there are serious issues of offtake by the Food Corporation of India leading to dislocation in paddy procurement. The proposal should be reconsidered," he stated. The Chief Minister said increasing level of cess and surcharge is shrinking the mandated transfers of share tax due to the

# How art and culture can help us rethink time

There is a line in Hamlet where the prince of Denmark declares, "The time is out of joint." Shakespeare might have written these words yesterday, not more than 400 years ago, for we live in a world where our perception of time is dislocated. Humanity should be acting to preserve its long-term future. Instead, short-term mindsets and structures dominate. We focus on the present day while neglecting problems that will endure for centuries – from climate change to ecological collapse.

For most of human history we haven't needed to think long-term. It wasn't very useful when we were avoiding attacks from sabre-toothed tigers, desperately foraging for breakfast on the forest floor and surviving extreme weather conditions. As futurist Jamais Casio puts it, "In a world of constant, imminent existential threats, the ability to recognise subtle, long-term processes and multi-generational changes wasn't a particularly important adaptive advantage." Yet today, the nature of risk has changed. We no longer live in a world of clear, local cause and effect, and the greatest threats to civilisation are happening on the timescale of decades or centuries.

To avoid these dangers, we can't wait for our Neolithic mental functions to play evolutionary catch-up, so we need to supplement them. While our minds might not be wired to deal with long-term threats and priorities in the abstract, they are wired for two things that we can control: story and emotion. Our predisposition towards story, and the deeply emotional nature of our decision-making, makes art and culture foundational to ensuring our future as a species.

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The perils of short-termism

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How and why did religion evolve?

That's why we have established an initiative called the Long Time Project, which champions art and culture as a route to helping people think and act more long-term. This is about everything from the YouTube videos we watch, to the adverts we scroll past, to the box-sets we binge, to the art exhibitions we attend, to the theatre we see, to the clothes we wear and the furniture we use. All these art forms and creative works are shaped by small "c" culture: the collective values, norms and narratives that underpin and drive our societies. This culture shapes our collective direction of travel, from the kinds of laws we make, to the technology we develop, to the way we distribute wealth.

'Timefulness' is the ability to locate ourselves within eras and eons, rather than weeks and months

So, how exactly can art and culture in this broadest sense expand our perception of time and the future?

Art can stretch our time frames, helping us develop what geologist Marcia Bjornerud calls

that has formed a forest-sized colony by cloning itself continuously for the past 80,000 years.

In her photographs, Rachel Sussman captured organisms more than two millennia old (Credit: Rachel Sussman)

In her photographs, Rachel Sussman captured organisms more than two millennia old (Credit: Rachel Sussman)

As Sussman said in an interview with the Marina Abramovic Institute: "My use of deep time is about creating perspective and differentiating between the shallowness of human timescales and the depth of natural, geologic, and cosmic timescales. It's really meant as a way of shifting our perspective... Somewhere along the way I came to the thought that every problem – personal, societal, anything – can benefit from long-term thinking. It's a simple idea, but it asks you to slow down and consider long-term consequences before acting."

Every problem – personal, societal, anything – can benefit from long-term thinking. Sussman is not alone in her fascination with deep time. Artist-technologist Honor Harger has created a soundscape of the history of the Universe that enables you to hear the "oldest song you'll ever hear": the sounds of the cosmic rays left over from the Big Bang. In 2014, the National Academy of Sciences in Washington DC hosted an exhibition called Imagining Deep Time. And then there is the Deep Time walk, an app produced by a scientist, a playwright and a sound designer that enables people to walk 4.6km through 4.6 billion years of history.

Other artists are stretching our time frames forwards, directly engaging with the far future. The Long Now Foundation is building a clock designed to run for 10 millennia inside a mountain in Texas (read more about the Clock of the Long Now). And the Longplayer project is a self-extending composition with Tibetan bowls designed by Jem Finer which started on 1 Jan 2000

**Ella Saltmarshe and Beatrice Pembroke**

rated to create a story for the Future Library that will not be read for a century (Credit: Giorgia Polizzi)

Speculative fiction is another way we can



stretch our time frames through culture. From ancient Indian vedas to the medieval Chris-



tian obsession with apocalypse, from Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea to Blade Runner, we've been pondering the future for thousands of years. Dystopian visions like The Handmaid's Tale, The Road, or Children of Men cause us to re-examine the elements of

horizon. Not to scare, or overwhelm, but to help people critically reflect upon their actions in the present."

Superflux installation Mitigation of Shock allowed visitors to immerse themselves in life

an apartment in a dystopian future (Credit: Superflux)

Superflux installation Mitigation of Shock allowed visitors to immerse themselves in life an apartment in a dystopian future (Credit: Superflux)

For more positive visions of the future, take a film like Black Panther, which shows a thriving environmentally-friendly, technologically advanced African civilisation that has never been colonised.

Building on the work of writers like Octavia Butler, who placed people of colour at the heart of science fiction, the film enables us to explore a future that moves beyond present-day prejudices. As the second-highest grossing film of 2018 and the most tweeted about movie ever, this kind of speculative work clearly has the potential to influence our collective trajectory.

On a much more local scale, projects like

Forest of the Future in London's Waltham Forest features speculative art and design work about the borough, such as screen-prints of future local by-laws by designer Cat Drew, to help decision-makers – politicians, citizens, consumers, voters, businesses – think about

what a better future can look like, and how to achieve it.

Black Panther showed what a more positive future could look like (Credit: Alamy)

Black Panther showed what a more positive future could look like (Credit: Alamy)

The genius of art and culture is that it allows us to experience ideas about the future on an emotional and embodied level, not just an intellectual one. Take Olafur Eliasson's recent Ice



and will go on without repetition until 2999.

Meanwhile, in 2014, artist Katie Paterson created Future Library, a forest planted in Norway which will supply paper for a special anthology of books to be printed in 100 years' time; Margaret Atwood was the first author to hand

over a manuscript that won't be read for a century.

All of these works stretch our perspectives, expand our time frames and help us relocate our existence in much more epic territory.

Margaret Atwood and Katie Paterson collaborated to create a story for the Future Library that will not be read for a century (Credit: Giorgia Polizzi)

Margaret Atwood and Katie Paterson collabo-

the present that might be taking us towards nightmare scenarios.

Recently, designers and artists have sought to create visceral, immersive works that give people a more direct experience of the darker, more dystopian planet we might face if we don't start thinking longer-term. In 2017, the design studio Superflux created samples of what the polluted air of 2030 would smell like if nothing changed, and at a live event in the United Arab Emirates invited policy-makers and senior politicians to inhale them. In the words of Superflux co-founder Anab Jain, "Just one whiff of the noxious polluted air from 2030 brought home the point that no amount of data can."

Another Superflux installation in Barcelona, Mitigation of Shock, transported people decades into the future into an apartment, set in London, that has been drastically adapted for living with the consequences of climate catastrophe. In Jain's words: "We explored, designed and built an apartment located in a future no one wants, but that may be on the ho-

Watch, in which he transported melting glacial ice from the Arctic to London where the public could see and touch the blocks. "I believe that one of the major responsibilities of artists – and the idea that artists have responsibilities may come as a surprise to some – is to help people not only get to know and understand something with their minds but also to feel it emotionally and physically," Eliasson wrote in a 2016 article for Huffpost.

Often questions about the long-term future can feel distant and hard for people to translate into meaningful action in the context of their lives. It's one thing to watch Black Panther in the cinema, and another to know what its vision of the future means in the context of your own life. Art and culture can not only help us experience the long view, but can provide reflective space to enable us to take action based on that understanding.

Somerset House's recent Earth Day season exemplifies this approach with its focus on "the role of language and storytelling in promoting collective ( To be continued)



"timefulness": the ability to locate ourselves within eras and aeons, rather than weeks and months.

There is a growing body of deep time work that locates us in the epic geological history of the Universe, evoking awe and wonder. Photographer Rachel Sussman's book The Oldest Living Things in the World contains photographs of organisms more than 2,000 years old, like the Pando, a quaking aspen tree

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**'Shakeela' trailer falls flat, lacks the punch expected in a star biopic**



The trailer of Indrajit Lankesh's Hindi language film "Shakeela" doesn't hold much to impress. From using modern-day Hindi music to cliched film sets, it feels like a repackaging of Vidya Balan's 'Dirty Picture' except that this version fails to bring the charm Vidya brought to the

screen. The film, as described by the filmmakers of 'Shakeela', is "inspired by life events of a famous star Shakeela who predominantly starred in southern cinema." It features Richa Chadha as the titular adult actor who was one of the biggest stars of the 1990s ar-

iving from Kerala who went on to act in several adult films in languages spanning Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada, while Pankaj Tripathi is the male lead. The film is described to "portray the hardships of the actress as she had to face a lot of criticism, insults and betrayals from

her own family members and the film fraternity who were influential in getting her films banned." The main reason for the success of 'Kinnarathumbikal', one of the films that catapulted her into the limelight, was solely her screen presence and energy, and with no other male lead in the

movie. Trying to fill in the gaping hole left by Silk Smitha in the low-budget softcore industry, Shakeela made her own mark with around 250 movies in her kitty -- heralding the 'Shakeela Tharangam' (The wave of Shakeela). Meanwhile, the Shakeela that

Indrajith is trying to portray doesn't look like she has much story to tell. The screen-space also seems to be overpowered by star cast Pankaj Tripathi. Let's hope the full length movie holds more than what the trailer showed. The film is produced by Sammy Nanwani and Sahil Nanwani, with music by Meet Bros and Veer Samarth.

**Priyanka Chopra reveals husband Nick Jonas likes her 'natural' looks, calls him 'appreciator'**

WASHINGTON(K-CN): Nick Jonas has

Chopra. The actor re-

2019 and revealed how her husband is

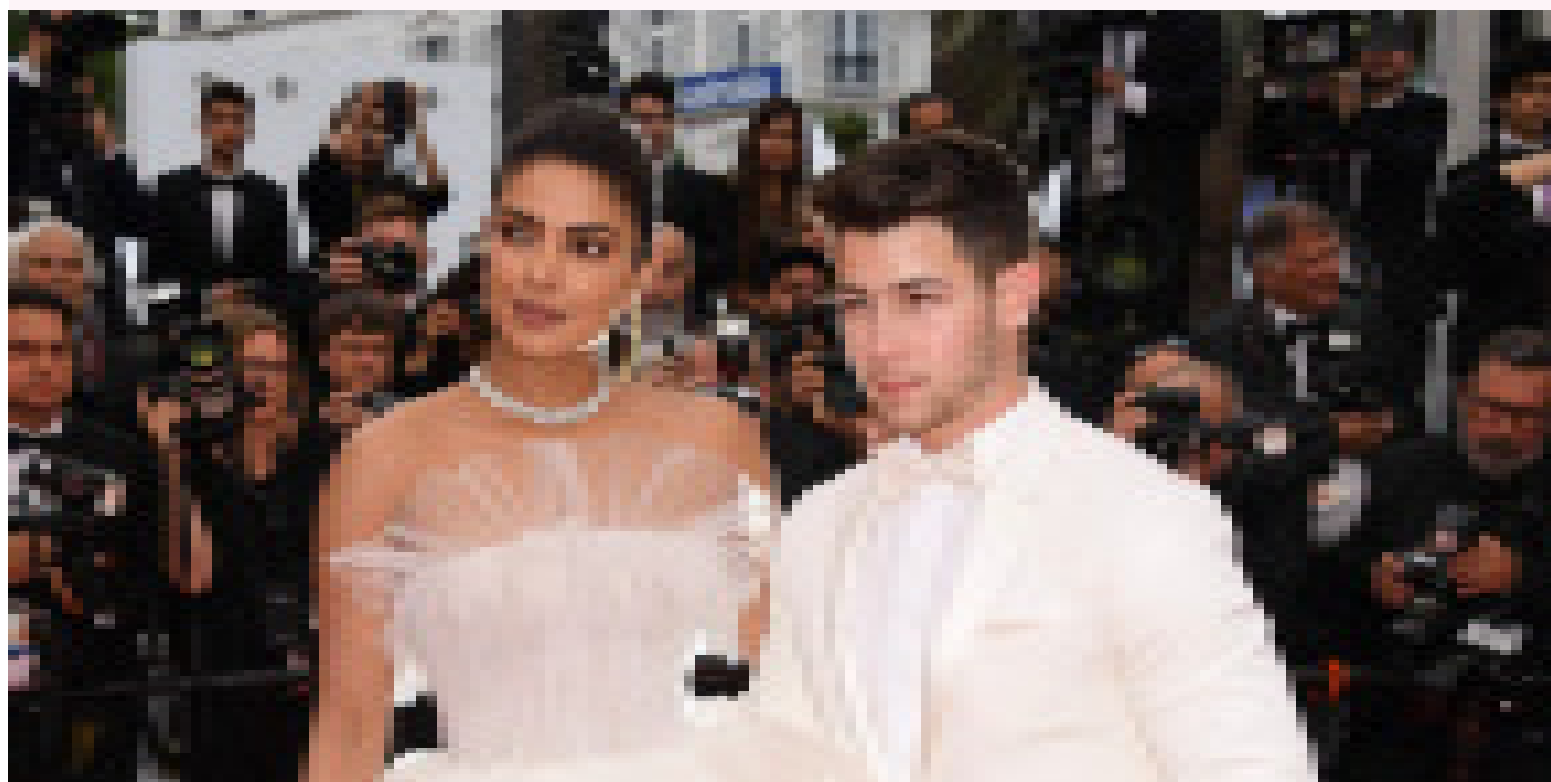
natural or a more glamorous look.

"there are days when he likes a really natu-

went all out for the event, wearing a sheer black top with a pussycat bow, a white blazer paired with a matching pair of pants. Adding a pop of colour to the whole look, she opted for striking pink eye makeup with a matching bold lip colour.

Earlier this month, Priyanka joined her fellow J sisters Sophie Turner and Danielle Jonas in celebrating the first night of their husbands' 'Happiness Begins' tour. All three women rocked Jonas Brothers T-shirts.

The actor shared that it was "really cool" that they all decided on coordinating their outfits since they "have such distinct personalities."



nothing but love and admiration for his wife Priyanka

cently spoke to People at Beautycon Festival Los Angeles

full of admiration for her whether she decides to go for a more

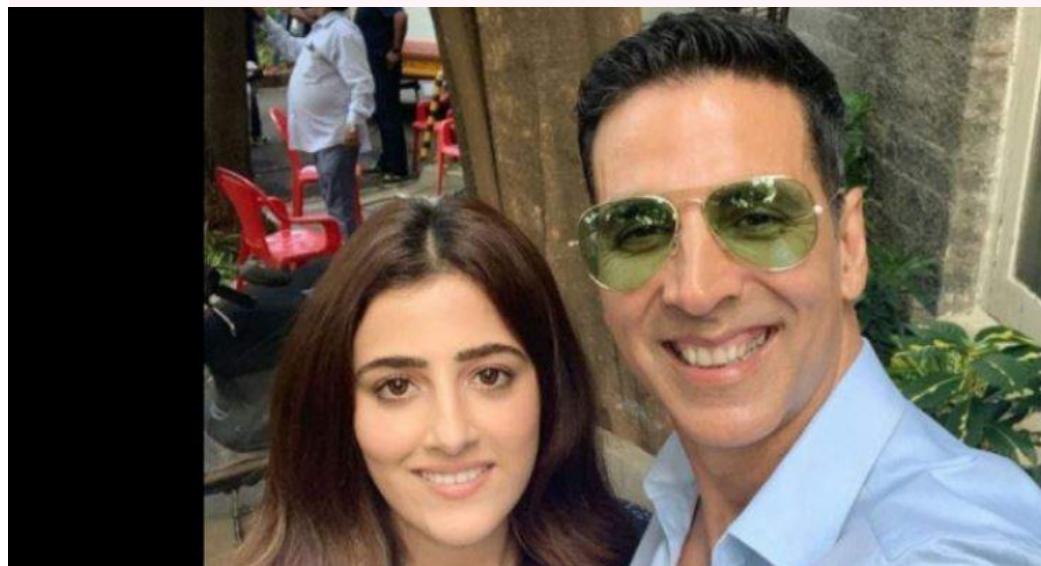
"He likes a bit of both," the 'Quantico' star, said, adding that

real thing."

The 'Mary Kom' actor added, "He's an appreciator. He's someone who can appreciate both things."

In honour of Beautycon, Priyanka

**Akshay Kumar shoots with Kriti Sanon's sister Nupur for music video**



MUMBAI(KCN): Actor Akshay Kumar on Sunday shot for singer B Praaks new single with actress Kriti Sanon's younger sister Nupur.

written by Jaani. B Praak has previously lent his voice to the song "Teri Mitti" in Akshay's film "Kesari".

**ALSO READ:**

It is reported that the romantic song is

Akshay Kumar has a namesake actor in

London!

The song will also feature renowned Punjabi singer Ammy Virk.

A lot of pictures are doing the rounds on the internet in which Akshay is seen

posing with Nupur and Ammy at the St. Xavier's college in Mumbai.

On the work front, Akshay will be seen in "Housefull 4" and "Good Newwz" this year.

**Just 'normal' to exclude women in decision making process: Adil Hussain**

MUMBAI(KCN): Actor Adil Hussain has offered support to the growing group of female artistes who are asking the reason for women's absence from the Bollywood delegation of producers and actors that recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues faced by the film industry.

On Tuesday, an 18-member panel, including Akshay Kumar, Karan Johar, Ajay Devgn, Siddharth Roy Kapur,

Ritesh Sidhwani and CBFC chief Prasoon Joshi, met Modi to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage.

The meeting of the delegation came under fire on Wednesday for its exclusion of female representation with some activists and filmmakers pointing out that it was 2018 and asking, "Where are the women?" Adil took to Twitter to criticize the panel that met the prime minister.

## Article on Retrenchment compensation to the workmen under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

As per the definition of the retrenchment of workman under Section 2(oo), retrenchment means the termination by the employer of the service of a workman for any reason whatsoever, otherwise than as a punishment inflicted by way of a disciplinary action but does not include voluntary retirement of the workman or retirement of the workman on reaching the age of superannuation is the contract of employment between the employer and the workman concern stipulation in that behalf or termination of the service of the workman as a result of non-renewal of the contract of employment between the employer and the workman concerned on its expiry or of such contract being terminated under stipulation in that behalf contained therein or termination of the service of a workman on the ground of continued ill-health. It is pertinent to mention herein that for retrenching a workman certain conditions are there under Section 25(F) of the Industrial Disputes Act (in short "The Act"). The said conditions are mandatory on the part of the employer, failing which, the retrenchment made by the employer be held illegal. The said conditions contemplate as under:

"No workman employed in any industry who has been in continuous service for not less than one year under an employer shall be retrenched by that employer until –

- (a) the workman has been given one month's notice in writing indicating the reasons for retrenchment and the period of notice has expired, or the workman has been paid in lieu of such notice, wages for the period of the notice;
- (b) the workman has been paid, at the time of retrenchment, compensation which shall be equivalent to fifteen days' average pay "(for every completed year of continuous service) or any part thereof in excess of six months; and

(c) notice in the prescribed manner is

served on the appropriate Government (or such authority as may be specified by the appropriate Government by notification in the Official Gazette)."

The title of the section based on the magnanimous conditions required to be followed before retrenchment of a workman and the said conditions are mandatory under the provisions stated supra and the emphasis has been given "no workman employed in any industry who has been in continuous service for not less than one year under an employer shall be retrenched by the employer until" the workman has been given one month's notice in writing indicating the reasons for retrenchment and after the expiry of the period of notice, or the workman has been paid in lieu of such notice the wages for the period of the notice. It has to bear in mind if the workman goes to the court challenging his retrenchment; first of all he has to prove that he has been in continuous service for not less than one year under an employer who has retrenched him from service. In case the workman has completed more than one year of continuous service, in that case the Section 25(f)(b) would help him to claim his compensation which shall be equivalent to 15 days' average pay "for every completed year of service".

It is imperative to explain in the notice the "reasons" of retrenchment in the absence of which the retrenchment may be held illegal by the court of law. It is also mandatory on the part of the workman to prove that he was a workman since the Section 25-F of the Industrial Act, 1947 protects him from an illegal retrenchment i.e. the retrenchment without following the necessary provision as prescribed under Section 25-F of the Act. For substantiating the retrenchment, the plain reading of the provision as per the headnote makes it clear that the requirement of paying compensation is a mandatory pre-condition for a valid retrenchment of a workman. The non-

**Mr. RadhaShyam Jena**

compliance of which will make the retrenchment illegal and nonest in the eyes of law. The question of retrenchment compensation is relevant when the employment is regular, therefore, non-compliance of the mandatory conditions of Section 25-F could render the impugned retrenchment invalid and illegal. The said view has been taken by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of State of Bombay Versus Hospital MazdoorSabha (1960) 1 LLJ = 1960 (2) SCR 866.

The provision under Section 25-F of the Act also deals with the use of the word "until" which introduces three conditions and such conditions must be satisfied before retrenchment. It is mandatory on the part of the workman to prove that he was a workman since the section protects a workman employed under an employer. Therefore, the retrenchment without notice in writing will have no bearing in law.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court while discussing the conditions prescribed in 25-F of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 has clearly gone into the conditions under Clause (a), (b) and (c) in the case of Bombay Journalists & Ors. Versus The State of Bombay & Anr., (1963) 6 SCR 22 which has held as under:

"Held: When the appropriate Government considers the question as to whether any industrial dispute should be referred for adjudication or not, it may consider, prima facie, the merits of the dispute and take into account other relevant considerations which would help it to decide whether making a reference would be expedient or not. If the dispute in question raises a question of law, or disputed questions of fact the Government should not purport to reach final conclusions because these are matters which would normally be within the jurisdiction of the Industrial Tribunal. If the claim made is patently frivolous or is clearly belated or if the impact of the claim on the general relations between the employers and the employees in the region is likely to be adverse the

Government may refuse to make a reference. (ii) Clause (c) of s.25F of the Act cannot be said to constitute a condition precedent which has to be fulfilled before retrenchment can be validly effected even though that clause has been included under s. 25F along with cls. (a) and (b) which prescribe conditions precedent. The observations in the following cases to the effect that s. 25F (c) is mandatory are clearly in the nature of obiter dicta.

State of Bombay v. The Hospital MazdoorSabha, [1960] 2 S.C.R. 866, The District Labour Association, Calcutta v. Ex-Employees of Tea Districts Labour Association, [1960] 3 S.C.R. 206 and Workmen of Subhong Tea Estate v. The Outgoing Management of Subhong Tea Estate, [1964] I.L.L.J. 333

(iii) Even if s. 25F I was constituted a condition precedent it would not necessarily follow that a writ of mandamus should be issued against the Government. The breach of s. 25FI by the Management is a serious matter and the Government normally would refer such a dispute for adjudication. But the provision of s. 10(1) read with s. 12(5) clearly shows that even where there is a breach of s. 25FI the Government may have to consider the expediency of making a reference. But if the Government refuses to make a reference for irrelevant considerations or on extraneous grounds or acts mala fide a party would be entitled to move the High Court for a writ of mandamus."

Therefore, it is mandatory on the part of the management to follow the conditions laid down under Section 25-F of the I.D. Act failing which the retrenchment would be held illegal in the eyes of law and accordingly the Industrial Tribunal / Industrial Court may decide the case.

**Advocate Supreme Court, 209, New Lawyers' Chamber, BhagwanDass Road, New Delhi-110001, Email id: rs.jena@yahoo.co.in**

# The Saga of Azad Hind Radio

The tide of the war was turning in favour of the Allied powers. Germany's warship was sunk off the coast of North Africa and General Rommel was defeated conclusively. Mussolini in Italy was cursing his own government for the setbacks. On the other side, the attack made by Germany on Soviet Union had proved futile and the Soviet was mounting massive counterattack. Operation Barbarossa was launched on 22 June of 1941 with an aim to conquer a portion of the western side of Soviet Union and build up a colony of German settlers. The expectation was that the fertile farmlands of the Soviet will supply required food for the Germans and the rich oil reserves in the Caucasus region will fuel the war machine. But the scenario that emerged in the beginning of 1943 saw the Germans retreating in a rush. They conceded defeat in February in the battle of Stalingrad. The other members of the Allied group were enjoying the clash from a safe distance. Though they didn't come forward to support the Soviet forces yet the British and American leaders wasted no time in capitalising on the hard-earned victory of the Soviet. In a meeting of the Allied state-heads in Casablanca, American President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill demanded unconditional surrender by Germany. But Hitler was in no mood to surrender, he was willing to carry on with the war till the last bullet was spent. Paul Joseph Goebbels, the propaganda minister of the Reich started a fresh campaign to implement Hitler's plans. He delivered a fiery speech at a large gathering in Berlin to declare the resurrection of the German national power. The audience was chosen very carefully and included thousands of Nazi party workers, war veterans, labourers working in factories and women. The speech of Goebbels reached millions of homes through radio broadcast. All the radio channels in Germany were used for

the purpose and that was the only day when Azad Hind Radio did not carry its regular programmes. That was the only exception in the broadcast of Azad Hind Radio, which continued uninterrupted from October of 1941 to 9 April of 1945. On 17 January of 1941 Subhash Chandra Bose had escaped from his house where he was put under arrest by the British. He reached Afghanistan and then carrying a forged Italian passport Bose reached Berlin via Moscow in the first week of April. He was received by Dr Woermann, Under Secretary in the German government. Bose concentrated on drawing up a neat proposal about the help that he expected to receive from the Axis powers. He wanted to form a free Indian government in exile and sought the recognition of the German government. But Hitler, the leader to say the final word on this issue, was not favourable to Bose's plans.

Bose did not receive this recognition till the last day of his stay in Germany. But he had placed some other demands as well. Establishing a Free India Centre and mounting radio propaganda against the British rulers in India from German soil was important among those. The Foreign Minister Ribbentrop had surveyed the situation and permitted these activities. As a result the Free India Centre started its activities towards the end of that year and Azad Hind Radio started broadcasting almost at the same time. The level of importance that the German government attached to this radio broadcast could be gauged from the speech of Alexander Werth. He had come to India in 1969 to deliver the Netaji Memorial Lecture and he compared the German broadcasts at two different periods of time. Germany was generating 140 minutes of radio programmes daily in 1969 for broadcast to independent India. Compared to

**Dr Manas Pratim Das**

this the Azad Hind Radio was allowed to broadcast for 230 minutes daily at the height of fierce fighting and bloodshed during the Second World War. In fact, Adam von Trot and Alexander Werth jointly headed the division of the German government that oversaw matters related to the British occupied colonies. Thus they naturally came in close contact with Bose. They were fully aware about Bose's expectations from the German government as well as his satisfaction and disappointments about the same. Hence Werth had a natural right to comment on the details of the functioning of Azad Hind Radio. In his speech Werth was able to prove the great importance attached to the broadcasts of Azad Hind Radio.

The Listening-in service of Azad Hind Radio collected relevant information from all foreign broadcasts including that by All India Radio. They did the groundwork before preparation of propaganda scripts could be undertaken. The Listening-in service was manned by Dr Girija Kumar Mukherjee, Suresh Chandra and Behan Jhowry. The scripts, written after keeping all related political issues in mind, was done by M R Vyas, Binu Banerjee, Promode Sen etc who were apparently novices in broadcasting. Bose kept a tight watch on the day-to-day work of Azad Hind Radio and held regular meetings with all concerned. There were several items in the broadcasts but Bose's speeches were at the centre of all attractions. Bose resisted the temptation of speaking over radio and hastily revealing his identity to the world. He carefully chose the time to come out of disguise and when Japan became victorious over the British forces in the far east, he decided to speak. After Japan defeated the British in the battle of Singapore Bose had a meeting with the foreign office in Germany and delivered his first radio speech on 19

February of 1942. He was heard in India over the shortwave as he opened his speech with the line – This is Subhash Chandra Bose speaking to you over the Azad Hind Radio. The British rulers had of course declared before his first broadcast that Bose had joined the Axis camp. However, the voice of Bose, the relentless hero fighting for India's independence, created a unique inspiration in the minds of people in India. Was there any doubt in the minds of powerful people in the German government about the success of this broadcast? A few of them definitely harboured such doubts as there were very few shortwave receivers in India at that time. But the mission headed by Stafford Cripps and Bose's radio speech against it put an end to all doubts. Werth, while speaking at Kolkata, had recollected that the Germans became convinced of the effectiveness of Bose's speech in effecting the rejection of Cripps' mission by the politicians in India. Returning to the single day discontinuity in the broadcast of Azad Hind Radio, it has to be mentioned that the break happened at a time when Bose had made up his mind to leave Germany. He left the country in a submarine with Abid Hasan on 8 February of 1943. He had recorded two speeches before his departure. Those were broadcast over Azad Hind Radio after he was far off the coast. As a consequence, till a long time after his departure even his close associates had no inkling of the fact that he was no more in Germany. The two speeches were also useful in keeping Bose's journey secret to the British spies.

The author is an independent scholar researching the history of science and the interface between science and society. He is a Programme Executive in All India Radio.

# Mine tragedy: Rescue operation over after recovery of 5 bodies, SIT begins probe

DHANBAD/RANCHI: After extricating five bodies from an abandoned coal mine in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, government authorities and the Eastern Coalfields limited Wednesday called off the rescue operation.

eration has been stopped and the spot has been barricaded. A probe has been initiated by the SIT to ascertain the reasons behind the mishap," said Sub-Divisional Police Officer Pitamber Singh Kharwar. At least 24 people

tragedy is around 45 km from the Jharia coalfields where scores of underground fires are still blazing in hollowed out mines, as coking coal worth crores of rupees goes up in smoke every year. The first of the fires was detected in the

Nirsa MLA Arup Chatterjee has claimed many people are still trapped under the debris. He insisted 13 people were killed in three mining incidents that occurred simultaneously in the area, including at

Chatterjee alleged villagers had taken away three bodies from Gopinathpur Colliery on Tuesday morning and later police recovered five more during the rescue operation.

Besides, he claimed, locals also carried away three bodies from Dahibari project of BCCL and two from Kapasara open cast project after similar incidents. However, the district administration and ECL management maintained five bodies were recovered from just one site. Sanjiv Kumar, the Senior Superintendent of Police, said authorities found no signs of any collapse and subsidence at the Kapasara mines of ECL and Chach Victoria project of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL).

When asked about illegal mining in Jharkhand, a senior

Coal India official, who did not want to be quoted, said tackling such activities was the responsibility of the state government as they generally occurred in abandoned coal mines.

The official said a total of 17 FIRs have been registered by state-run coal companies under its domain in fiscal 2020-21 with regard to illegal mining, including one each by the Eastern Coalfields and Central Coalfields in the state.

The district administration has sought mines safety audit report of ECL, a Coal India subsidiary, from the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), SSP Kumar said.

An ECL official said the company has filed a complaint at Nirsa police station

against unknown people.

Unauthorised entry into abandoned mines is prohibited and security has been sought from the administration, he said.

BJP's Nirsa MLA Aparna Sengupta demanded that a murder case be lodged against ECL officials for the loss of lives.

Hitting out at the Hemant Soren government, she claimed such incidents have increased in the recent times. Former Chief Minister Raghubar Das of the BJP demanded compensation and jobs for the kin of those killed.

Five people allegedly involved in illegal mining were killed in Nirsa block area in 2021, while the death toll stood at seven each in 2020 and 2019.

Coal Minister

Pralhad Joshi had recently said illegal mining was carried out mainly in abandoned mines and shallow coal seams situated in remote and isolated places. "It is a law and order problem which is a state subject.

Hence primarily, it falls under the domain of the state/district administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining of coal," Joshi had said. The Ministry of Coal had launched a web-based application called Coal Mines Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) in July, 2018 to check such clandestine activities.

The GIS-based portal has registered as many as 246 complaints in the leasehold areas from ECL, 25 from BCCL and 16 from CCL, all coal India arms.



tion, while locals and leaders of political parties claimed more people were still trapped under the debris.

The district administration and ECL management have barricaded Gopinathpur colliery in Nirsa block, and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Superintendent of Police (Dhanbad-Rural) Reeshma Ramesan has launched a probe.

"There are no chances of finding anybody in the debris. The rescue operation

have died in accidents, including illegal mining, at ECL's mines in Nirsa itself since 2019, an official said.

Dhanbad Deputy Commissioner Sandip Kumar said those killed in the Gopinathpur incident, including four women, were not illegal miners, and they had gone to the abandoned open cast mine just to collect residual coal lying around.

He assured the families of those killed that no FIRs will be lodged against them. The scene of the

early 20th century. Some could be extinguished while many still burn.

Thousands of families have shifted to safer places as village clusters sat atop blazing coal mines, a Coal India official said.

He said some 1.04 lakh families, including over 72,000 illegal settlers still need to be evacuated from 595 sites.

Smoke from the underground fires can be seen billowing out of craters on farms and along the highways.

Meanwhile, former

the Gopinathpur colliery.

"I had informed SDPO, Nirsa, and Sub-divisional Magistrate of Dhanbad at around 7.30 am on Tuesday. Had they responded quickly, villagers would not have taken away the bodies," Chatterjee said.

According to some accounts, villagers usually take away the bodies fearing administrative action over the involvement of the deceased in illegal mining activity, which is rampant in the area.

# UK air force scrambles jets against "unidentified aircraft"

LONDON: Britain's Royal Air Force said Wednesday that it scrambled fighter jets in response to

east Scotland, and they were joined by a Voyager air-to-air refueling tanker launched from

monitors approaching aircraft. It has said that Russian military aircraft entering the UK's po-

In November 2021, jets were launched in response to Russian strategic bombers. Officials said at the



"unidentified aircraft" approaching the UK.

The Typhoon jets took off from British air force bases in Lossiemouth, north-

Oxfordshire, England.

Authorities did not provide further details on the operation. The force routinely intercepts and

liced zone of international airspace can pose a hazard to other air users because they often do not talk to air traffic control.

time the fighters escorted the Russian aircraft out of the "area of interest" and that the bombers did not enter UK airspace.



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## 156 endangered Irrawaddy dolphins spotted at Odisha's Chilika lake in latest survey

BHUBANESWAR: Chilika, the largest brackish water lagoon of Asia, is home

habiting the Chilika Lake. The species in India is also protected under the Wildlife

this endangered mammal," said CDA Chief Executive Susanta Nanda.



to around 156 Irrawaddy dolphins, revealed the fifth Flora and Fauna survey carried out by the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) on February 1.

CDA officials, however, clarified that the population of the species could be in the range of 155 to 165 as their figure was 161 last year.

"156 dolphins of the species were directly sighted during the monitoring," stated the survey report released by the CDA on Wednesday.

The Irrawaddy dolphin is one of the flagship species in-

(Protection) Act 1972, CITES (Appendix-I) and IUCN Red List.

Over the years, the lake has become a safe haven for the dolphin species whose distribution range at present has remained limited to Asia, from Chilika to Indonesia.

As per the survey report, a good number of the dolphins has been observed in Rambha bay area along with the outer channel of the lake.

"The dolphins are colonising new areas of the lagoon which gives hope for revival of the population of

Nanda said the movement of the species to new areas of the lake has been facilitated by removing illegal prawn gherries.

The annual survey was conducted by the CDA using 'transact method' followed worldwide to count population of aquatic mammals. Around 28 teams, equipped with binoculars, GPS, Range finder and data recording sheets, carried out the survey from 6am to 12pm on February 1.

The survey also pegged the number of winged guests that visited the lagoon this winter at 10.5 lakh.

"Around 10.5 lakh birds of 105 species were found during the survey which compares favourably with the waterbird census conducted by the Chilika Wildlife Division earlier this year in which 10.36 lakh birds of 103 species had been spotted in the lake," the survey report stated.

Apart from dolphins and waterbirds, this year the survey for the first time observed a group of Eurasian Otter near the bird's island in the southern sector of the lagoon.

It also found five species of seagrass -- Holodule uninervis, Holodule pinifolia, Halophila ovalis, Halophila ovata, and Halophila beccarii -- over 172 square km area of the lake, an increase of around 3 square km compared to last year.

CDA officials said Chilika has 33 per cent of India's seagrass area which acts as a carbon sink and facilitates the climate resilience of the Chilika eco-system.

## UP elections: Mayawati launches attack on SP, Congress and BJP in first poll rally in Agra

LUCKNOW: Stepping out to address her first public rally for the upcoming UP Assembly elections, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on her political rivals including the SP, Congress and the BJP in Agra on Wednesday. Agra will go to the polls in the first phase on February 10. Calling upon the voters to reject

Seeking votes in the name of law and order reminding people of her governance, Mayawati urged supporters to stay vigilant against opinion polls and pre-poll surveys by the media. All pre-election opinion polls, she said, would fall flat and the BSP would bounce back to power with absolute majority like it did in 2007.



all three parties, the former UP CM, who helmed the state four times, accused her political rivals of giving a tough time to people of all sections of society, especially the deprived and downtrodden.

Addressing the gathering, Mayawati also slammed the media for spreading propaganda that she was missing from the poll arena. She claimed that the media falsely propagated that BSP leaders were not visible on the ground. "I came to Lucknow when the Covid-19 situation improved and had been working from there. Then, I had to go to Delhi for two days after the demise of my mother. I worked for other states from Lucknow. I got free yesterday and today came to my people in Agra, the state's Dalit capital," said the BSP chief striking a connect with the people of Agra.

ALSO READ: UP polls: Voting for SP-RLD alliance will lead to 'reign of terror', cautions Amit Shah

while going to the polling stations to cast their votes.

Taking the Samajwadi Party to task, Mayawati said its rule was dominated by goons and hooligans. "The SP worked only for one caste and tormented the SCs and STs during its regime," said Mayawati. She added that it was the SP which opposed the reservation in promotions by tearing the papers of the bill which was being brought in Parliament.

Calling the Congress master of theatrics, the BSP chief claimed that when it was in power, it never thought of women emancipation. "They had been against SCs, STs and backward classes. They had to lose power due to their wrong policies. They ignored Baba Saheb Ambedkar and did not confer Bharat Ratna on him during their regime," said Mayawati. Similarly, putting the BJP in the firing line, the BSP chief accused the saffron brigade of following only the policies propounded by the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS).

"We did a splendid job when we were in power. The tasks undertaken by our regime were copied by the parties which succeeded us. Our government should be brought back for the welfare of all castes and communities," she further said, urging voters to follow the COVID protocol

## Budget 2022 evokes mixed response from industries, realtors

BHUBANESWAR: Despite the hardships brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, traders and industry

of ECLGS and Rs 50,000 crore directed at hospitality sector will provide relief to those affected the

digitisation." Sharda, however, pointed out that the soft measures on income tax is a disappointment for

sociation Abani Kanungo said the positive aspect of the budget is the increase in capital expenditure



bodies as well as realtors on Tuesday welcomed the budget

terming it as 'comprehensive and growth oriented' even as some others expressed disappointment over lack of clarity on support to the MSME sector.

Senior vice president of FICCI and IMFA MD Subhrakant Panda said the substantial increase in government capital expenditure to accelerate economic recovery and crowd in private investment is a welcome step. Panda said extension

most by the pandemic.

The Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd (UCCIL) said financial discipline and monetary controls have been given due priority in the budget. UCCIL vice president (commerce) Ashok Sharda said, "The establishment of a fund with blended capital under the co-investment model facilitated through SIDBI will focus on financing ailing enterprises and support sunrise sectors like pharmaceutical, agriculture and

the middle and lower middle class sections. CREDAI, Odisha, president Swadesh Kumar Routray said a higher allocation for ongoing schemes such as PMAY targeted at the rural segment will give boost to rural infrastructure. He, however, said GST inputs, interest subvention on affordable housing loans and a firm policy to regulate soaring prices of construction materials will be of huge relief to the real estate sector. Chairman of Odisha Industries As-

and allowing states more interest-free loans for capital expenditure. However, there is no clarity on support to MSMEs for their revival even as there could be some invisible provisions in the allocation. "No clear announcements have been made for the MSME sector which has been hard hit by the pandemic, except extending the tax holiday for another year," Kanungo said. A lot could have been announced to give a boost to the sector," he added.

## Slapped with 27 cases, IAS officer Vinod Kumar dismissed from service on corruption charges

BHUBANESWAR: IAS officer Vinod Kumar, one of the key

against Kumar, of which he has been convicted in two.

Rs 33.34 crore illegally in the aftermath of the super cyclone

Odisha had convicted Kumar for financial



accused in the rural housing scam after the 1999 super cyclone in Odisha, has been dismissed from service on charges of corruption.

He was dismissed after the Centre okayed a proposal from the state government in this regard. The Odisha government had filed 27 vigilance cases

Kumar is accused of sanctioning funds through unfair means when he was serving as the managing director of Odisha Rural Housing Development Corporation (ORHDC) after the super cyclone in 1999.

The 1989-batch IAS officer has been accused of sanctioning funds to the tune of

and causing huge financial losses to the state exchequer.

He is also facing charges of granting loans to builders and contractors without obtaining adequate collateral security and proper scrutiny during his tenure at the corporation in 2000-01.

In 2018, the Special Vigilance Court of

irregularities in the ORHDC and sentenced him to 3-year imprisonment.

Officials said the state government has 'zero tolerance' towards corruption. The government had recently given compulsory retirement to senior IFS officer Abhay Kanta Pathak on corruption charges, they said.

# Modi defends Budget, says it did not ignore farmers, youth and poor

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that the Budget 2022 has taken public investment to a record level and this would create more infrastructure which will lead to faster growth and more jobs in the country.

In a virtual address to BJP workers across the nation, Modi countered the criticism that the Budget did not have much for the farmers, middle class and the poor. He said that the river-linking programme under which Rs 60,000 crore have been allocated for Ken-Betwa project will go a long way in meeting the irrigation needs of farmers in Madhya Pradesh.

The Prime Minister said Rs 68,000 crore has been provisioned in the Budget for direct assistance to farmers under the Kisan Samman Nidhi. Besides this, a digital platform has

been created to help farmers get the best price for their produce, and a separate agriculture corridor will also be created

power. Farmers will also be provided with 'Kisan Drones', which will help them efficiently handle their crops. He said

ing constructed for the poor. This, he said, is being done with the aim of providing housing for all.

This, he said, will open doors to development in villages. The Prime Minister said that the Project Parvatmala will take

given further tax benefits and asked youth to start their own business.

ALSO READ | China in mind, border villages to get better infrastructure and facelift

He said the country's first digital university will be established soon and India should move towards becoming the gaming hub. Underlining the huge size of the gaming market, he said India should develop its own games in order to reduce dependence on foreign games.

He said India is known in the world for its high-speed and affordable internet. "Our country is now moving towards 5G internet. This will help in ease of living and ease of doing business."

The PM said India is moving towards being Atmanirbhar, and on the foundation of this Atmanirbhar Bharat, a modern India should be built.



for the benefit of farmers.

ALSO READ | Great as a whole, but 'budget dust' as a sum of parts

He said there is also a scheme to make Annadatas into Urjadatas. Under this scheme, farmers will be provided solar pumps through which they would be able to sell their excess

his government has made a record procurement under the minimum Support price (MSP).

The Prime Minister said the Budget has a large number of schemes for the benefit of the poor and youth. He said over nine crore households have piped water today, and 80 lakh pucca houses are be-

He said the focus of the government has now turned to developing remote areas of the country and talked about the schemes of vibrant villages and Project Parvatmala. He said all the villages of the country will soon be connected with optical fibre cable which will take high-speed internet to the villages.

the government's development schemes to the remote Himalayan villages and provide modern connectivity and infrastructure to these regions.

PM Modi said the Budget has laid the foundation for providing growth avenues for the youth of the country. He said startups have been

## Next year's I-T return to have separate column for crypto income: Government

NEW DELHI: Income tax return forms from next year will have a separate column for making disclosures on gains made from cryptocurrencies and paying taxes, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said on Wednesday.

The government will from April 1 charge a 30 per cent tax plus cess and surcharges, on such transactions in the same manner as it treats winnings from horse races or other speculative transactions.

In an interview with PTI, Bajaj said gains from cryptocurrencies were always taxable and what the Budget proposed is not a new tax but providing certainty over the issue.

"The provision in the Finance Bill is related to taxation of virtual digital assets. It is to bring certainty in taxation of cryptocurrencies. It does not convey anything on its legality which would come out once the Bill (on regulating such assets) is introduced in Parliament," he said.

The government is working on legislation to regulate cryptocurrencies, but no draft has yet

The Budget 2022-23 also proposed a 1 per cent TDS on payments towards virtual currencies beyond Rs 10,000 in a year and taxation of such gifts in the hands of the recipient.

The threshold limit for TDS would be Rs 50,000 a year for specified persons, which include individuals/HUFs who are required to get their accounts audited under the I-T Act.

The provisions related to 1 per cent TDS will come into effect from July 1, 2022, while the gains will be taxed effective April 1.

Also, no deduction in respect of any expenditure or allowance shall be allowed while computing income from transactions in such assets. It has also specified that losses from the transfer of virtual digital assets will not be allowed to be set off against any other income.

No deduction has been allowed since cryptocurrencies and virtual digital assets do not have any economic value, except the underlying technology, Bajaj said.

## Rahul to lay foundation stone of memorial housing 'Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti' on Thursday

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will on Thursday lay the foundation stone of a memorial in Chhattisgarh's Raipur for soldiers and security personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty and will house an eternal flame on the lines of the 'Amar Jawan Jyoti'.



The eternal flame will be lit on the premises of 'Chaithi Vahini Chhattisgarh Armed forces' at Mana in Raipur as a mark of tribute to soldiers who have sacrificed their lives for the country, state government officials said.

During his day-long visit to Chhattisgarh, Gandhi will also launch two state government schemes -- 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana' and 'Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club' at a programme at Science College, Raipur.

The 'Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti' will have a brown marble wall with names of soldiers inscribed on it, a memorial tower and also a VVIP platform, the state government officials said.

The crescent-shaped wall will be about 25 feet high with a length of about 100 feet and a thickness of 3 feet.

In front of the crescent-shaped wall, a memorial tower will be built using sandstone,

brown-white marble and granite with a memento on top.

A rifle and helmet in the form of insignia will be placed at the base in front of the memorial tower.

"Chhattisgarh Amar Jawan Jyoti will be lit in front of this symbol which will remain ignited 24 hours through fuel supply through underground pipelines," the officials said, adding that the two-storey building will be constructed just in front of the memorial tower.

The 'Amar Jawan Jyoti' at India Gate in Delhi was recently merged with the National War Memorial (NWM), drawing criticism from some political leaders, including Gandhi and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. Baghel had said the removal of the Amar Jawan Jyoti pained him. Gandhi will also be laying the foundation stone of 'Sewa Gram'. He will transfer the first instalment of the 'Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Bhumiheen Krishi Mazdoor Nyay Yojana' in the bank accounts of 3,55,000 landless agricultural labourers registered under the scheme.

An amount of Rs 6,000 will be directly transferred to the beneficiaries' accounts in three instalments in a year. The state government has made a provision of Rs 200 crore in the supplementary budget for this scheme, the officials said.

Under the 'Rajiv Yuva Mitran Club' scheme, 13,269 Rajiv Yuva Mitran Clubs will be constituted in each of the gram panchayats and urban bodies of the state in a phased manner, they said. Youngsters will get an opportunity to establish their identity and develop their leadership skills under this scheme, they said.

## Budget 2022: Genuine needs of Odisha overlooked, allege Congress, Left

Continued from page-1  
people of Odisha.

However, president of the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee Niranjan Patnaik alleged that there is nothing in the budget for State. "What is there in the budget for Odisha? Nothing! How could Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman forget that Odisha is in dire need of support after two years of devastating pandemic and its continuing struggle with natural calamities. This is shocking," he added.

The Left parties alleged that the budget is pro-corporate and anti-people. State secretariat member of CPM Dushmant Das said that the budget has proposed to slash corporate tax from 12 per cent to seven per cent which will benefit the rich industrialists. Besides, the proposal to allow correction in IT returns within two years will also help the corporate institutions and industrialists, he added.

CPI State secretary Ashis Kanungo alleged that there is no proposal for employment generation in the State. Besides, no steps have been announced to control the price of LPG, petrol and diesel which hit the middle class and poor people, he added.

## World Bank-aided climate resilient agri programme for Odisha moving at snail's pace

Continued from page-1

are able to generate a marketable surplus. The project was implemented in rural areas vulnerable to droughts and largely dependent on rain-fed agriculture. A target was set to benefit around 1.25 lakh small farmer households from 15 districts of Odisha.

The other objective of the project was to rehabilitate 532 water tanks and stabilise irrigation to 91,435 hectare, promote productivity at farm level, support farmers to reduce the current emphasis on foodgrains (especially paddy and wheat), increase the share of high-value and more nutritious products like fruits and vegetables and provide marketing support to farmers who are able to generate a marketable surplus.

In the first year of the project, a Rs 100 crore provision was made but the total expenditure till end of 2019 was only Rs 47 crore. The State government made a budgetary provision of Rs 150 crore in 2020-21 but could utilise only Rs 16 crore by end of December, 2020. Though a provision of Rs 200 was made in 2021-22, details of expenditure on the project so far is not available. The \$165 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a six-year grace period till December 2025.

## Union Budget 2022: Some positives, but common man ignored, says Naveen Patnaik

Continued from page-1

states. More than 20 per cent of the Central taxes are proposed to be collected through levy of cess and surcharge which is against the spirit of cooperative federalism.

He also said people of Odisha are shocked that the genuine demands of the State on rural housing are being ignored while the same has been considered for other states. "I hope the Centre would rectify this injustice being meted out to the poor and the tribal people of Odisha by not sanctioning houses," he added.

The Chief Minister also expressed his unhappiness over the fact that the State's repeated demand for special status, as it is more frequently affected by natural calamities, has not been addressed in the budget.

Naveen, however, said increased allocation under Jal Jivan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana are welcome steps. The production linked initiative schemes in 14 sectors and extension of emergency credit line guarantee scheme will help in mitigating supply side constraints.

Stating that the 'Odisha Millet Mission' has been a game changer in promoting nutritional security and augmenting farmers' income, the Chief Minister expressed his happiness that the Centre has recognised the importance of millet in the Union budget in the context of declaration of 2023 as International Year of Millets by United Nations.



been released publicly.

In the meanwhile, a central bank-backed digital currency will start circulating in the next fiscal to usher in cheaper, more efficient currency management.

The 30 per cent plus applicable cesses and surcharge of 15 per cent on income above Rs 50 lakh will have to be paid on income from cryptocurrencies, he said adding the income tax return form from next year will have a separate column to declare gains from crypto.

"Next year ITR form will show a separate column for crypto. Yes, you will have to disclose," he said.

The launch of 'Digital Rupee' by RBI as well as a 30 per cent tax from April 1 on profits from digital asset transactions, including cryptocurrencies and non-fungible tokens (NFTs) was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech on Tuesday, as the country keeps pace with the global move toward virtual financial instruments.

"The Government was very clear that it has to push for a tax on income from crypto assets. So we have brought in maximum rate and levied 30 per cent, with an applicable surcharge. We have also brought in TDS, so we will now track the transactions," Bajaj said.

## Prajnesh Gunneswaran keen to regain title at Bengaluru Open ATP Challenger

BENGALURU: Prajnesh Gunneswaran is keen to regain the Bengaluru Open title which he

long period and I have had a good outing at the Challengers," Prajnesh said. "I have many titles



won in the 2018 as the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association gears up to host back-to-back ATP Challenger events starting Sunday with the qualifiers.

"I have great memories of Bengaluru. I practiced at the KSLTA for a fairly

here and it is like a second home for me in India other than Chennai. I am looking forward to coming back to the City which is very familiar to me and winning would definitely add to my joy," said the 32-year-old in an interview from Pune.

Currently ranked 228 in the world, Prajnesh who got into the main draw of the Bengaluru Open on Tuesday, expects a stiff competition during the weeks to come.

"Definitely, it is going to be tough. I'm sure there a lot of good players, especially because it's right after Pune and then the two Challenges are in a row."

"So a lot of the higher ranked players end up staying, which is not necessarily good for the Indians, but it is good to have an event with quality players. It's always nice to watch and be a part of it," he said. Prajnesh, who has two ATP Challenger titles

and nine ITF titles to his credit, was not in the best of shape during last year which also saw COVID-19 curtailing most of the efforts of the players across the world.

"It was surely not a fun year. Just having visa was not enough as there were new updates about regulations and measures every week. I was difficult travelling which was hectic and stressful," said the south-paw. "I have not had a great year in terms of my results as I have been carrying some injuries. I could not train much but over the last two months I have gotten past that and I am raring to go," said Prajnesh.

## Barcelona sign Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang as free agent until 2025

BARCELONA: Barcelona on Wednesday announced they had signed Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang until June 2025 as a free agent. "It's Auba time!" declared the club in a tweet which included a video of Aubameyang declaring "I'm here Barcelona fans! Forza Barca!" "The player will sign a contract until

on Sunday, when Aubameyang could make his debut.

Aubameyang joined Arsenal from Borussia Dortmund on the last day of the 2018 January transfer window for a reported 56 million pounds, a club record at the time. In almost

exactly four years at the club, he appeared in 165 competitive games and scored 92 goals

But his form had dipped rapidly since signing a three-year contract that reportedly made him the Premier League's highest earner at the time in September 2020. Aubameyang was dropped for a north London derby



last season for arriving late for a team meeting and was stripped of the captaincy in December for what Arsenal described as "his latest disciplinary breach". In January, Aubameyang was part of the Gabon squad at the Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon but missed the first two games with coronavirus before being sent home after team medical staff said they had detected "cardiac lesions". The British Press Association reported that Arsenal delayed announcing Aubameyang's departure as a gesture of respect to Barcelona, whose president, Joan Laporta, said on Tuesday that the official unveiling may come later in the week.

## South African players support coach Boucher says captain Dean Elgar

JOHANNESBURG: South African cricket captain Dean Elgar said on Wednesday that his players supported head coach Mark Boucher, who

something we are going to have to chat about as a group. Whether or not it's going to affect the team, I doubt it. This process has been in

us. We know what the head coach is going through and we are supporting him because we know how much value he adds to our system and our

against England in 2019/20.

"It's another curve ball for us," said Elgar. "I was looking forward to seeing him build on what he has



faces a disciplinary process on charges of racism that could result in his dismissal. Elgar was non-committal about whether he personally would testify in Boucher's defence in hearings which have been delayed until May because Boucher intends to call some current players to testify.

It was announced on Tuesday that the hearings would be delayed until South Africa has completed a tour of New Zealand and an incoming tour by Bangladesh.

"It was news to me that that's the process," he told a departure press conference ahead of the two-Test tour of New Zealand. "As a player you don't have much control over that. It's

the air for quite some time now.

"We had a feeling that it might come to this point that players might be asked to testify. I'm sure we'll cover those grounds in the next month."

Elgar said he expected the South African Cricketers' Association, which represents the players, to assist players regarding the process.

Asked whether the Boucher issue was something that would be "hanging over" the players or whether it would galvanise them, Elgar said, "I'd like to think the latter. Of late we've had these experiences that we've had to deal with as a players' group. If anything it's really helped us. "We've realised cricket comes first for

group."

It was announced earlier that new batting star Keegan Petersen was ruled out of the New Zealand tour after testing positive for Covid-19.

Petersen, 28, was named player of the series after South Africa's 2-1 series win against India last month.

Playing in only his second series, Petersen filled the key number three batting position for South Africa and topped the run-scorers with 276 runs at an average of 46.00 with his top score of 82 coming in a crucial run chase in the third Test.

Petersen will be replaced by Zubayr Hamza, 26, who played the most recent of his five Tests

achieved so far."

South Africa will play two Test matches against New Zealand, the world Test champions. Both matches will be at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch, starting on February 17 and 25.

Revised South African squad:

Dean Elgar (capt), Temba Bavuma (vice-capt), Sarel Erwee, Zubayr Hamza, Simon Harmer, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Duanne Olivier, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Lutho Sipamla, Glenton Stuurman, Rassie van der Dussen, Kyle Verreynne (wkt).




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