

Prez speech: Oppn says key issues remain unaddressed, call it BJP manifesto for 2024

NEW DELHI(KCN): Opposition parties on Tuesday criticised the President's address alleging that the speech was like the "first chap-

come through the President" and there is nothing new in it.

"If the government is claiming that the country has progressed so much, then why do the poor people of the country continue to suffer due to unemployment and high inflation," he said and alleged that the schemes "renamed" by the Modi government are not reaching the poorest of the poor.

Asked about the President talking about every Indian being confident and India emerging as a self-reliant, strong nation, touching new heights and emerging as a solution provider to the world under this government, he said, "I do not blame her, but it is Mr Modi whatever he told outside, she is saying so. If it is so, why is there so much inflation, so much unemployment, why the money value has gone down and why is there so much hike in petrol/diesel prices."

TMC Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien said that while it is "convention" that the President's address is "written" by the government of India, key issues were absent in her speech.

"As is convention, Presi0 CONTINUED ON: P-7



ter" of the ruling BJP's manifesto for 2024 and key issues related to price control, communal harmony and women were "missing." In her maiden address to the joint sitting of Parliament on the first day of the Budget session, President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said the country has a government that is "stable, fearless, decisive," working for all classes without any discrimination and giving thrust to 'virasat' (heritage) as well as 'vikas' (development).

Murmu spoke of the government's relentless fight against corruption, the "biggest enemy of democracy and social justice."

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said it is the "government's statement that has

Former law minister Shanti Bhushan dies at 97

NEW DELHI(KCN): Former Union law minister and eminent jurist Shanti Bhushan died Tuesday at his home in Delhi following a brief illness, a source close to his family said. He was 97.

Bhushan, who was also a senior advocate, served as the law minister from 1977 to 1979 in the Morarji Desai cabinet.

Bhushan, whose sons Jayant and Prashant Bhushan are leading lawyers, was active in the legal profession till recently and had argued on a PIL in the Supreme Court seeking a court-monitored probe into the Rafale fighter jets deal.

Shanti Bhushan appeared in several cases of public importance.

He represented petitioner Raj Narain in the

Allahabad High Court in a famous case in which the election of then prime minister Indira Gandhi was annulled for committing electoral malpractices.

He was quite vocal on the issue of corruption which led him to his brief association with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju condoled the demise of Shanti Bhushan, saying he was deeply pained by

the news of the passing away of the eminent jurist.

"Deeply pained to hear the news that former Union Law and Justice Minister Shanti Bhushan ji is no more. My deepest condolences to the family members on his passing away. My prayers for the departed soul. Om Shanti," Rijiju wrote on Twitter.



TIPRA worries for Left-Congress combine in Tripura

AGARTALA(KCN): Fearing the division of anti-BJP votes, the Congress-Left combine in Tripura is seeking to strike a seat-sharing deal with the tribebased TIPRA Motha. The Left and the Congress, which forged a pre-poll alliance along with a seat-sharing arrangement, expected the TIPRA Motha to contest the 20 ST seats where the party holds sway but it fielded candidates in 42 of the state's 60 seats. Twenty-two of the total seats the party is contesting are in non-tribal areas.

The Left fielded candidates in 47 of them and allotted the remaining 13 to Congress. However, the grand old party

set up candidates in 17 seats. One opted out later.

non-ST seats, will split the anti-BJP votes and benefit only the saffron

being held between both sides. He said nothing has been finalised yet.



In the 42 seats which the TIPRA Motha is contesting, it will face either a Left or a Congress candidate among others. These two parties are worried that the TIPRA Motha's presence in the poll fray, particularly in the 22

party. To thwart it, the Left-Congress combine wants the TIPRA Motha to enter into a seat-sharing agreement for the benefit of all. CPI-M state secretary Jitendra Choudhury confirmed the talks are

"Our discussions are on. We spoke even today (Tuesday). They are examining it and so are we. We will see if we can do something before February 2 (last day for withdrawal of nominations)," CONTINUED ON: P-7

State on action mode

Bhubaneswar(KCN): After receiving strong criticism from opposition and supporters of deceased Health Minister Naba Das, the State Government on Tuesday came to action and transferred Jharsuguda SP and SDPO to headquarters.

According to official sources, Jharsuguda SP Rahul Jain and SDPO Brajraj Nagar, Gupteswar Bhoi have been attached to State Police Headquarters, Cuttack.

Shri Bhoi has been replaced by SDPO of Athamalik, Chintamani Pradhan. Bargarh SP Parmar Smit Parshottamdas has been posted as new SP of Jharsuguda.

The new posting of the Jharsuguda SP and SDPO is being treated as punishment, an official said.

The State Government took this action after the Opposition BJP and Congress questioned the silence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and DGP Sunil Bansal.

Rejecting the Crime Branch probe ordered by the Chief Minister, BJP demanded CBI probe while Congress demanded SIT probe under the supervision of Orissa High Court. Speaking to media persons, BJP State President Samir Mohanty said, "Minister Das was not just a politician, he was an influential and

powerful cabinet minister in the state. If such a personality will be killed in broad daylight, one can easily assume the condition of a common man in the state."

Shri Mohanty said it is unfortunate that Naveen Babu, who has been in charge of the



Home department for the last 23 years, has remained silent on the sensitive issue.

Though a cabinet minister was killed, DGP and Home Secretary neither visited the spot in Jharsuguda nor spoke a word on the heinous murder, the BJP president said.

"When a police official has killed the Minister, will the Odisha Police investigate it? People will not accept it," he said.

By ordering a Crime Branch investigation, the State Government has already decided what to do in this case. The Crime Branch has taken over a lot of cases in the past. But the findings are not encouraging, Shri Mohanty said. To ensure proper insti-CONTINUED ON: P-7

Gujarat court sentences self-styled godman Asaram to life imprisonment in 2013 rape case

AHMEDABAD(KCN): A court in Gandhinagar on Tuesday sentenced self-styled godman Asumal alias Asaram Babu, convicted in a rape case filed by a former woman disciple in 2013, to life imprisonment. The court also ordered Asaram to pay Rs 50,000 compensation to the victim.

Asaram is currently lodged in a Jodhpur jail, where

he is serving a life sentence in another case of raping a minor girl at his ashram in Rajasthan in 2013.

After hearing prosecution and defence lawyers, Additional District Sessions Judge D.K. Son announced the quantum of punishment, during the hearing, Special Public Prosecutor



R.C. Kodekar had CONTINUED ON: P-7

India's Budget will be 'ray of hope' for the world, says PM Modi

NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that amidst the global economic turmoil, India's Budget will attempt to meet the hopes and aspirations of ordinary citizens and be a "ray of hope for the world". Mr Modi also said that the BJP-led NDA government has always worked with a singular aim of putting "India First" and "Citizens First" and the same spirit will be seen during the Budget Session.

Addressing the media ahead of the Budget Session of Parliament, the Prime Minister said recognised voices in the world economy were bringing positive messages from all sides. He noted that the Budget, to be presented by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on Wednesday, will strive to fulfil the people's hopes, aspirations and also boost the hopes with which the world was looking at India.

"The ray of hope being seen by the world will glow brighter for this, I firmly believe the finance minister will make all efforts to meet these aspirations," Mr Modi said. He also noted President Droupadi Murmu was delivering her maiden address to the joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the Budget Session. "The President's speech is the pride of the Constitution of India, the pride

of India's parliamentary system, and also an opportunity to respect women and the great tribal traditions of the country," Mr Modi said. He mentioned that according to the parliamentary traditions evolved over the past six to seven decades, a parliamentarian speaking for the first time in the House, belonging to any political party, was extended respect and a conducive atmosphere is created to enhance



his/her confidence.

"This is a rich and best tradition. It is the responsibility of parliamentarians to ensure that this moment of the President's first address to Parliament is full of enthusiasm, warmth and energy. I am sure our parliamentarians will pass this test," Mr Modi said. "There will be arguments as well during the Budget Session and I hope that the Opposition will articulate them well by studying issues closely. The House will deliberate on the formulation of policy which will benefit the nation," the Prime Minister said.

SER surpasses annual scrap sale target of Rs. 330 crore

Kolkata(KCN): Making South Eastern Railway (SER) a "Zero Scrap" Railway is one of the mission areas of this zone. Necessary steps are being taken by all the Divisions and Workshops to

realise value from sale of unserviceable materials. SER has surpassed the annual scrap sale target of Rs 330 crore for financial year 2022-23 in January, 2023 itself, by selling scrap

worth Rs. 336.56 crore. This is 29.68% higher than the scrap sale achieved during the corresponding period of the previous year. This has been achieved through the sale of various kinds

of scrap which includes scrap rails, condemned locos, wagons & coaches, ferrous and non-ferrous materials, miscellaneous scrap, abandoned masonry and other structures etc.

State Produces more KL

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Reviewing the progress of kendu leaf operations in the State on Monday, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra

Kendu Leaf Co-ordination Committee, here today. As per the available data, a total of 2.775 lakh quintals of kendu leaves were

produced in the year 2022 against the target of 2.782 lakh quintals, thus achieving 99.8 per cent of the post-collection target. The Committee was apprised that Rs.409.16 crore has already been spent and Rs.12.94 crore more is likely to be spent during Febru-

ary-March 2023. On sale of 2022 KL Crop, 2.19 lakh quintals have already been sold fetching Rs.509.98 crore. The expected Sale Value

of 2022 KL Crop is Rs.570 crore and Trade Surplus is Rs.90 crore, it was told. PCCF, Kendu Leaf Pusa Zhule Mekro appraised that Rs.133.60 crore has already been disbursed to Kendu leaf beneficiaries during 2022 towards various welfare mea-

sures out of Trade Surplus of 2021 KL Crop. Besides, Rs.83.16 crore has been disbursed to 8.12 lakh pluckers, binders and seasonal staff as financial assistance towards a special package declared by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik recently. An App 'KL Anukampa' with the help of ORSAC will be launched within a month for filling of death claim cases, she informed, adding that a coffee table book would also be launched soon highlighting the activities both at departmental level and by KL workers. Forest, Environment & Climate Change Additional Chief Secretary Mona Sharma, Water Resources Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg, Principal Secretary for Finance Vishal kumar Dev along with other senior officers from Forest & Environment Department participated in the discussion.



Mahapatra asked officials to adopt a mechanism for quick disbursal of claims of kendu leaf workers. A technology-based faster mechanism needs to be adopted at the earliest for claim settlement if any, he said while chairing the second meeting of the

produced in the year 2022 against the target of 2.782 lakh quintals, thus achieving 99.8 per cent of the post-collection target. The Committee was apprised that Rs.409.16 crore has already been spent and Rs.12.94 crore more is likely to be spent during Febru-

for 2022 KL Crop is Rs.570 crore and Trade Surplus is Rs.90 crore, it was told. PCCF, Kendu Leaf Pusa Zhule Mekro appraised that Rs.133.60 crore has already been disbursed to Kendu leaf beneficiaries during 2022 towards various welfare mea-

ASI Gopal Das had "clear intention" to kill minister: FIR

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Odisha Police in its FIR in the killing of Health minister Naba Kishore Das said the accused assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Gopal Das had "clear intention" to kill the minister. This was stated by Brajrajnagar Police Station inspector-in-charge (IIC) Pradumnya Kumar Swain, who was present at the site when the ASI allegedly opened fire at the 60-year-old minister, leading to his death after some hours during treatment on Sunday. "All of a sudden, ASI Gopal Das of Gandhi Chowk Police Outpost, who was deployed for traffic clearance duty for the programme, came close to the minister and opened fire from his service pistol from a very close range aiming at the minister with a clear intention to kill him," the IIC said his complaint at Brajrajnagar Police station.

Swain, who sustained a bullet injury on his ring finger from the second round allegedly fired by the ASI, said that police officers/men of different units were mobilised and deployed on January 29, 2023, from 10.30 am onwards to discharge their duties in traffic arrangement, law and order, escort and pilot duty and others for the minister's programme. "At about 12.15 pm the car of minister Naba Kishore Das stopped near the building and he got down from the vehicle after opening the front side passenger door of the vehicle. All of a sudden, ASI Das who was deployed for traffic clearance duty for the programme, came close to the minister and opened fire from his service pistol from a very close range aiming at the minister". Swain said that the bullet hit the chest of the minister and he fell down. There was profuse bleeding from the bullet wound on the body of the minister, the IIC said, adding that he along with constable



KC Pradhan caught hold of the accused ASI. "During push and pull the ASI fired two more rounds of bullets from his 9 mm pistol. From his second fire, I received injury on my ring finger," IIC Swain said. Apart from minister, the IIC wrote in the FIR that another man namely Jibanlal Nayak@Rintu of Kalinagar also received injury. After some struggle, Swain and constable Pradhan overpowered the accused Das and disarmed him. Meanwhile, ADG Crime Branch, Arun Bothra, who had interrogated the accused ASI said that Das has "confessed" to the crime of opening fire at the minister. The opposition BJP and Congress raised several questions and saw a "conspiracy" behind the minister's killing. Naba Das death: Odisha government requests

High Court to monitor CB probe Former Odisha Law minister and Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha, who is a lawyer by profession said: "As per my reading, it is a part of the deep-rooted conspiracy and needs an impartial probe. It is surprising as to why sufficient police personnel were not deployed and ASI Das engaged in traffic clearance came dangerously close to the minister." Leader of Opposition Jaynarayan Mishra of BJP said he suspects a conspiracy as the accused ASI was issued the pistol a day before the minister's visit to his area. "There should a CBI probe to ascertain the truth behind the cabinet minister's murder," Mishra said. Meanwhile, BJP MP from Kalahandi constituency Basant Panda said he would raise the Odisha minister murder issue in Parliament.

4 by Polls in 1 LS!

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With the assassination senior BJD leader and Cabinet Minister Naba Kishore Das, Jharsuguda Assembly Constituency is likely to witness a By-Poll soon. For the first time in the history of Odisha, a Lok Sabha constituency is going to see a fourth by-poll for Vidhan Sabha. Jharsuguda Assembly segment is coming under the Bargarh Lok Sabha Constituency, which has already witnessed three Assembly by-polls since 2019 general elections. Apart from Jharsuguda, Padampur, Bijepur, Bargarh, Atabira, Bhatli and Brajarajnagar Assembly segments are coming under the Bargarh LS seat.

By-elections for Bijepur, Brajarajnagar and Padampur were held due to vacancy arising following resignation of elected MLA and death of another two sitting MLAs. The by-election for Bijepur Assembly seat in Bargarh district was held in October, 2019, after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik vacated the seat while retaining Hinjili in the last Assembly election after winning from both the seats. BJD candidate Rita Sahu won the seat in the by-poll. Shrimati Sahu is now Minister of State in Naveen Patnaik's Council of Ministers.

Odisha: Special package of Rs 83.16 crore disbursed to 8.12 kendu leaf workers in 2022

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The kendu leaf division of the Forest department will switch over to a technology-based mechanism for quicker disbursal of claims of kendu leaf workers. This was decided at the second meeting of the kendu leaf coordination committee held here under the chairmanship of chief secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra. Principal chief conservator of forest (PCCF), kendu leaf, Pusa Zhule Mekro said that kendu leaf production of 2.77 lakh quintal has been achieved against the target of 2.78 lakh quintal in 2022. The production achieved is 99.8 per cent of the post collection target. On working fund expenditure till January 2023, she apprised the committee that Rs 409.16 crore has already been utilised and another Rs 12.94 crore is likely to be spent during February and March. She further informed that 2.19 lakh quintal has been sold fetching sale value of Rs 509.98 crore. The anticipated

Similarly, the by-poll for Brajarajnagar seat in Jharsuguda was held in May 2022 due to the death of sitting BJD MLA Kishore Kumar Mohanty in December 2021. Late Mohanty's widow BJD Candidate, Alaka was elected from the seat.

The by-election to Padampur Assembly seat in Bargarh district was held last December following the death of sitting BJD MLA Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha. Bijay's daughter Barsha Singh Bariha won the by-poll with a huge margin from BJD ticket.



In all the three by-elections, Naba Das had played a pivotal role and ensured smooth victory for the Governing BJD. Now with his demise situation has arisen for a by-poll. And this will be first time in Odisha where in a Lok Sabha segment four by-elections will happen. Bargarh Lok Sabha MP is Suresh Pujari. While Shri Pujari is from BJP all other seven seats were won by BJD Candidates in 2019. And in all the three by-elections, BJD candidates wrested the seats.

sale value for 2022 kendu leaf crop is Rs 570 crore and anticipated trade surplus is Rs 90 crore. Mekro said that Rs 133.60 crore has been disbursed to kendu leaf beneficiaries during 2022 towards various welfare measures out of trade surplus of 2021 kendu leaf crop. Besides, Rs 83.16 crore has been disbursed to 8.12 lakh pluckers, binders and seasonal staff as financial assistance towards special package announced by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik recently. In 2021, out of 2.65 lakh quintal of kendu leaf procured, 2.63 lakh quintal has been sold with sale value of Rs 596.48 crore out of which Rs 92.18 crore has been disbursed to the beneficiaries. A mobile app 'KL Anukampa' with the help of ORSAC will be launched within a month for filling of death claim cases. A coffee table book will also be unveiled shortly highlighting the activities both at departmental level and by kendu leaf workers, she said.

603 CR for Fishery

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Union Government has sanctioned Odisha Rs.603 Crore for implementation of various fisheries related activities in the State.

Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D) under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) during the last two financial years and current year has accorded approvals to the fisheries development proposals of Government of Odisha.

This funding will boost overall development and welfare of fishermen in the State including livelihood and nutritional support for over 20,000 traditional and socio-economically backward fishermen families during the fishing ban period annually, officials said. As a matter of fact the Fisheries Research Institutes under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have been conducting research regularly for understanding the impacts of climate change in order to develop climate resilient strategies for sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture. The studies on the impact of climate change undertaken by ICAR institutes under "National Innovation in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)" in-

clude vulnerability assessment of the wetland fisheries in Odisha, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, and Kerala.

Studies are taken up on climate trend analysis for major river basins across India; Impact on fish distributional range, catch composition and yield etc. In marine fisheries, studies on climate change modeling, projection on fish catch & marine culture production under climate change scenarios, risk and vulnerability assessment of marine fisheries, wetland mapping, carbon footprint, blue carbon potential, ocean acidification, response of capture and culture species to climate change and adaptive management in response to climate change are carried out under the NICRA Project.

Climate campaigns and awareness programs are also conducted in the states like Odisha, Assam, West Bengal, and Kerala in order to increase preparedness and adaptive capacity of fishers against climate change. PMMSY has taken steps to intensify and diversify inland fisheries and aquaculture with focus on diversification of species, introduction of new species and peg the critical gaps in the demand and supply of quality brood and seed of cultivable species and species-specific feeds. Adequate number of brood banks, hatcheries, seed rearing units, specific pathogen free or resistant seed, genetically improved brood stock, and feed mills.

As a result, inland fisheries and aquaculture has contributed 74.59% of the total fish production of India during 2021-22. Further, the Department of Fisheries under PMMSY is also supporting exposure visits, training and capacity building program of fish farmers and other stakeholders in modern technologies developed in fisheries and aquaculture such as cage culture in reservoir, pen culture in wetlands, biofloc technology, recirculatory aquaculture system, scaling up of freshwater prawn (scampi) culture, promotion of inland saline aquaculture in potential areas to improve farm practices for enhanced production.



CLASSIFIED

CAUTION

Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. The Kalinga chronicle publication does not vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owner of The Kalinga Chronicle Publications shall not be held responsible/ liable for any consequences, in cases such claims are found to be false.



AUTOMOBILE

SALE
Kawasaki Bajaj in tiptop condition for sale. Contact: 2555326

PURCHASE
Required a Marshal/Commandor / Boleo in good condition. Contact 2555763



REAL ESTATE

SALE
Flats ready for possession before Rathayatra at Puri near Seabeach for sale. Contact: 986 1078308

Residential plots at Pahala close to NH-5 and near Pata Railway Station, Bhubaneswar for immediate sale. Contact :0674-2556733
Residential plots at

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

Classified advertisements are released daily. The normal classified advertisement is charged @ Rs. 5/- per word up to maximum number of 50 words. Any extra word will be Rs. 8/- per word. The minimum charges for any classified advertisement is Rs. 100/-. The options for bold lettering and outlining are also available and are charged @ 7/- and 10/- per word respectively. Extra charges for photographs Rs.100/-. For Box No. Rs. 100/-

HIRE

For hiring of Car / Jeep / Bus on monthly basis. Contact : 2555763



BUSINESS

Saving 10,000/- for high return, extra earn and Foreign trip opportunity, 9238904001. Independent business work from home, training in Singapore, 9338014287.



MATRIMONIAL

BRIDE WANTED

Wanted bride for Khandayat Boy, 37plus, Caste no bar, 0674-2555763

GROOM WANTED

Wanted Groom any service / business family for a Bramhin Girl. Contact 2555226

Gohira Chhak in front of CV Raman Engineering College beside NH-5, near Tamardo. Contact : 9238691168

PURCHASE

Simplex / Duplex building at BBSR contact : 9437002509

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required Single / Double / Triple Storiied North/East facing building at Puri . Contact 9437143483



TOURS & TRAVELS

We provide luxury coach buses (16,25,32,41,52 seater) for Picnic, Excursion, Marriage. Maa Santoshi Travels, Contact : 9861079437
For Luxury Passanger vehicle, Contact : Sagasity Tours & Travels, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Ph. 2540219

WANTED

Required Driver/Peon/ Attendant/ Aya

Please Contact-8984600400

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required double/Single/ Multi storied Bungalow type North or East Facing Independent building At-Nayapalli, Jayadev Vihar, V.S.S. Nagar, Mancheswar, Rasulgarh, Sallashree Vihar, Niladri Vihar.

Please Contact- 8338870595

Changed Actor Raja Chaudhary

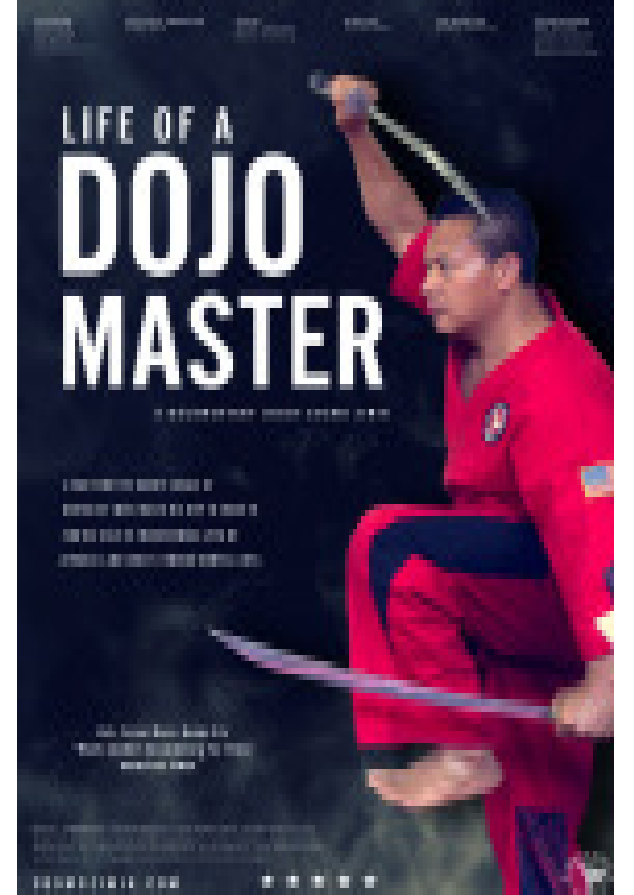
Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma 'Raj): Actor Raja Chaudhary, who has always lived in Con- yoga and gym for fitness and playing games etc. He has stopped drinking alcohol regu- troubles due to my wrong habits and have hurt many people, for which I apologize to those



trovsky, has learned a lot from his mistakes, and has improved himself a lot. Now he is focusing on his career, for which he is doing larly. Now he is working in many web series, people will see him soon. Actor Raja Chaudhary says, "I have caused a lot of people. I will try not to make such mistakes again. Now all my attention is in making my career. I thank those who supported me and are still there with me."

A Kung Fu Master Cosmo Zimik will arrive in India from the US on August 8 and release a documentary film in Mumbai

Mumbai (India) (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): A sent to several film festivals and will be re- his martial arts career in Manipur, Northeast In- adults to become martial artists. He trains them life. He trains them in in Action (India) in



Kung Fu Master leased on all digital plat- dia, and has traveled the to become warriors and helps the community. Chitah Yajnes Shetty, founder of Chitah Jeet Kune Do Global Sports Federation, also conferred an 8th-degree black belt to Master Cosmo Zimik. Master Cosmo Zimik has trained over 5000 kids and over 2000 have been under privileged kids and 'At Risk Youth' in Nampa, Idaho USA. The youth come from various backgrounds and some of these kids are homeless, staying in a homeless shelter with their moms. Their father is gone from their lives. Some kids have parents who are drug addicts and have left them to be raised by grandparents. Some are orphans who are looking for hope in



Cosmo Zimik will arrive in India from the USA on August 8, 2022 and release the documentary film 'Life of a Dojo Master' with Chitah Yajnes Shetty in Mumbai, which will be forms. It's based on the life of Master Cosmo Zimik, a man born in the remote region of Northwest India, who made his way to the USA over twenty years ago. Master Cosmo Zimik started world teaching and training others. He currently resides in Idaho, USA where his dojo, Empty Hand Combat, teaches Burmese Thaing Bando to at-risk youth, youth, and young martial arts and gives them Free Uniforms, Boxing Gloves, and basic needs including shoes and clothing. He also helps them overcome life's hardship and their real-life struggles (including anxiety and depression), by counseling and pointing them in the right direction through Martial Arts. Master Cosmo Zimik also received an award from the Mayor of Nampa City for 'Making a Difference', from the Elk Lodge for 'Citizen of the Year 2022' USA, and Idaho Channel 7 (NBC) Heroes for outstanding work in the community. He is the founder of Martial Arts Sports ministry, Athletes 1995, Chief Instructor and Owner of Empty Hand Combat International LLC, Co-founder of Hong Kong Gospel Martial Arts 1999, 1st place in Power breaking at the 2003 Battle of LA (National Martial arts championship), Khru (Instructor) Muay Thai - Muay Thai Mission since 2009, 6th Degree Black Belt in Burmese Thaing Bando Martial Arts, 7th Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo, International Technical Advisor - Chitah Jeet Kun Do, International Advisor Board Member - World Martial Arts School Federations.

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor
The French Academy of Sciences had the audacity to reject the application of Noble Laureate Marie Curie on January 23rd, 1911. Later the same year she was recognized again with a second Noble Prize. It is quite unfortunate to note that this could happen in a country that is known for freedom, equality and fraternity, and is one of the oldest and the most prominent global epicentre of peace, prosperity, humanity and democracy like France. This has been done in the prominent Democratic western countries many more times after Madam Curie. The story of the discovery of the DNA molecular structure is yet another classical incident of depriving another outstanding lady researcher from being recognized as a Noble Laureate. This outstanding woman scientist was Rosalind Franklin who discovered the X-ray crystallography structure of DNA for the first time. This seminal discovery led to the detection of the helical intertwined structure of two DNA strands oriented opposite to one another, a major milestone in the history of biochemistry, molecular biology, biophysics and led to be one the foundation stone of modern biotechnology. In spite of this monumental discovery and her sincere hard work; Rosalind Franklin was neglected for her monumental contribution due to negative lab politics and clash of egos of bright minds of that time holding high offices, power as well as prestige. How many more such brilliant women have we lost across the globe and deprived them of their due recognition we will possibly never get to know with accuracy. However, the saga of gender based discrimination will continue to haunt human society for generations to come.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

378 Prince Anwar Shah Road
Kolkata 700045 West Bengal India
Mobile: 8697491914

Dear Honorable Railway Minister Shri Vaishnav,

Sub: Sanctioning Junagarh road-Nabarangpur rail line

I hope you are doing fine. I may bring your kind attention that in 1962-63 late Kalahandi MP Maharaja Sri Pratap Keshari Deo had raised in the parliament that Mr. Parkers had done a railway line survey from Kesinga to Nabarangpur to join Kothavalasa-Kirandul (KK) line. Subsequently, in 1991, the Lanjigarh road-Junagarh line was approved to connect with the KK line at Ambagura via Nabarangpur. 56 km of Lanjigarh road-Junagarh line rail line took 25 years to get completed, however, a survey of the Junagarh-Ambagura portion of this route was completed in 2012. This route has a rate of return (RoR) above 14 %, far better than the approved Nabarangpur-Jeypore or Jeypore-Malkangiri route.

Presently Jeypore-Nabarangpur rail line is under progress but the Nabarangpur-Junagarh Road connection has not yet been sanctioned and no budgetary allocation has been made for its construction work. During your visit to Kalahandi, you also promised that this line will pass through Dharamgarh.

For practical purposes, the Nabarangpur-Junagarh Road rail connection would give better service to people of the Nabarangpur district for many practical reasons people in Nabarangpur would use Junagarh road/Kesinga stations to reach Bhubaneswar, western Odisha and major cities in India to save time.

As per the initial Railway's proposal, Junagarh rd-Amagura was supposed to be an extension of the Lanjigarh road-Junagadh road rail line, therefore, the extension work should have started as soon as Lanjigarh rd-Junagarh road rail line was completed in 2012-13. Unfortunately, it did not happen. A decade has passed, no solid action has been made and the process is taking a long time, moving in snails' space.

Kindly seriously look into these matters and sanction Junagarh road-Nabarangpur rail line in the coming budget.

Thanking you
With best regards
Digambara Patra MPhil, PhD
Professor
Department of Chemistry
American University of Beirut
Beirut, Lebanon
Web: <http://myprofile.aub.edu.lb/dp03>

Will budget boost the Realty sector

Nirmala Sitharaman: Spare a thought for the realty sector

Vivek Shukla

With the Union Budget 2023-24 around the corner, the realty sector is hoping for incentives and benefits that will make it easier to run their businesses. Even though the real estate sector had a decent run in 2022, overcoming the pandemic-induced rough time of the previous years, there are many critical demands that the sector has put forward ahead of the Budget presentation scheduled for February 1. Strong healthy consumer demand is the crucial driver of the growth of real estate sector today. The Budget should reflect upon the aspirations of developers who are still tiding over the turbulence caused by the pandemic.



The real estate sector is one of the largest employers of both skilled and unskilled labour. Though it has come out of the challenging impact of Covid, the availability of affordable home loans and the importance of owning a home are still the growth drivers of the sector. Says Amit Modi, President, CREDAI, Western UP, "One of the most crucial demands is to accord 'Industry Status to Real Estate Sector', which will allow the sector to avail legitimate finances and low-cost loans from banks and other financial institutions. The cost benefits could then be transferred to the end users and homebuyers. For the benefit of homebuyers, the input credit regime should be reinstated in the GST regime for the residential real estate at least. This will help in making home-buying an affordable and buyer-friendly process."

Meanwhile, the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman should facilitate a Single Window Clearance to enable faster deliveries and project completions is an age old demand of realty sector. In an effort to provide ease of doing business in the realty sector, there should be some significant changes in the principal repayment of housing loans. To boost the housing markets and bolster realtors' confidence, the deduction for principal repayment of housing loans should be increased from the exist-

ing limit of Rs 1,50,000. This will allow homebuyers who had an askance attitude towards investing in homes due to high mortgage rates will mark a return.

Real estate contributes 6-8% to the GDP and employs more than 5 crore people. It has high hopes from the forthcoming budget. To begin with, there should be a separate deduction for principal repayment as currently clubbed under section 80(c). It should be raised from the existing Rs. 1,50,000 limit. According to Manoj Gaur, CMD Gaur Group- "There is also a need to redefine affordable housing from the current ceiling of 45 lakhs in urban and 30 lakhs in non-urban to take into account the inflationary factors. Further, the carpet area should also be increased to 90 sqm in the metros and 120 sqm in non-metro cities without any price cap. Long-term capital gains on capital assets should also be taxed at 10%. The holding period should be reduced to 12 months in line with the holding period of other capital assets like listed equity shares and equity-oriented mutual funds."

The sector would also like the FM to extend exemption under Section 80C to REIT investments starting with Rs. 50,000. The period of holding for units of REIT should be reduced to 12 months (as applicable for listed shares) to qualify as a long-term capital asset from the current 3 years. The deduction under Section 24 (b) on housing loan interest in the case of individuals with respect to the first self-occupied property should be allowed without any limit or at least capped at Rs 5,00,000 in respect of the self-occupied property. A single window clearance system should also be introduced in real estate as taking approvals from numerous authorities disproportionately increases the cost and time from concept to commissioning. The rising input costs, specifically cement and steel, should also be controlled. Besides, industry status should also be conferred on real estate.

Says Nayan Raheja, Raheja Developers that "The budget Ministry should take stock of the insolvency debts of realtors and delays in project deliveries. The Budget should introduce tax remissions on the interest rates of home loans levied by banks which have been triggered by the all-time high inflation rates in previous quarters. This will provide relaxation to developers and simultaneously pace up the construction activity on ongoing projects."

"The most crucial demand is to give tax relief to developers to expedite the completion of stalled projects and take a compassionate recourse in times of difficulties. The most recurrent demand is to bestow industry status to the real estate sector and allow players to be at the receiving end of many associative benefits," feels Aman Sharma, Director Spaze Group.

"Reducing GST rates and stamp duty will allow the real estate sector to adopt a policy of price moderation in the pricing of housing units and apartments and give real estate a breather from increasing cost valuation of projects," demands Kushagr Ansal, Director Ansal Housing.

The realty sector has made a smooth transition from the pandemic-induced turbulences. We believe the sector should further be stabilised by introducing profound measures in the Union Budget. Says Amit Jain, Director, Mahagun Group, "Reductions in GST, circle rates, and stamp duty would be significant fresh-start policies allowing the housing sector to gain an upper-hand advantage right at the year's outset." The Budget should mirror the aspirations of the realty sector and support growth-inducing factors. GST rates on construction materials like steel, cement, and tiles should be rationalised, keeping in view the overall health of the sector. Deepak Kapoor, Director, Gulshan Group, "Finally, the government should help distressed developers and allocate funds for the completion of stuck projects. The current stand of RBI on the repo rate should also take the views of developers into account. The Budget should offer a premise of agents of development and progress and stamp out hindrances impeding the growth of the sector." One hopes that the Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman would look after the interests of realty world very generously.

The Author is a columnist and former Editor

Prof Harihar Mishra : A phenomenal Creator of odia Literature

Prof Harihar Mishra, as a phenomenal creator of Odia literature, upholds the myth and heritage of lord Jagannath through all his poems. His poems transcend beyond the common man's imagination towards a mystic beauty.



Through experimenting with myriads of imagery, metaphor, and different poetic devices, he stands as an epic bard of Odisha. With a Wordsworthian touch, he paints magical hues to his creations. The genius of his works differentiates him from his contemporary writers because of his unique sense and sensibility and his deep-rooted traditional values. He possesses the eyes of a visionary which is reflected clearly in his poem, "War Sky" (2022).

The translation volume "War Sky and Other Poems" is an exceptionally elegant work of our prolific writer Harihar Mishra that showcases his extraordinary contribution to world literature.

This grand edition is itself a magical amalgamation of the translated works of literary luminaries of contemporary Indian literature.

The poem "War Sky" is translated from "Yudhar Aakash" by Professor Dr. Chittaranjan Mishra which is based on the apprehension and tension between Russia and Ukraine amidst the ongoing war.

"War Sky" is one of the classic creations of our poet Harihar Mishra that embraces the entire humanity. The passion tormented soul of our poet is deeply hurt by witnessing the sufferings of the citizens of the war-ravaged nations. He writes in "War Sky"- "war always does not mean a panoply of superpowers..."

The poem is heavily weighed by allusions to our Hindu mythology. Our poet has employed words like Kalki, Linga, Damru, and Rudra Veena to allude to the glory of our rich Hindu civilization. This poem circles around the despair of the Indian students who were struck during the war.

Not only the distress of the migrants but also the tyranny of absolute rulers find a place in this poem. The fearless voice of our poet trails like a never-ending stream throughout the poem. He penetrates the real sorrow of the citizens of both nations in a highly sensitive tone. The atrocities of the second world war that fed the vultures for years are going to be repeated by the power of the hungry nations. Our poet through his third eye can speculate about the upcoming catastrophe that will swallow the entire world. One can revisit the fragments of Sec-

Dr Sudipta Mishra

ond Coming and Waste Land created by Yeats and Eliot respectively of the twenty-first century in the verses of "War Sky"

In the concluding lines, our poet has acknowledged the fragility of life and the self-destructive character of humans that will ultimately drive us toward the end of this civilization.

This collection also encompasses the most mes-



merizing poetry of this century like "Dearest" which articulates the passionate longing of the protagonist to reunite with his beloved. The void haunts the lover, again and again, to reflect on the childhood memories and he sits on the banks of the lonely rivers and becomes nostalgic by reminiscing her enchanting voice.

The last poem 'Boating on a Water' is an intensely deep poem that resembles the nature poems of the seventeenth century. The entire poem is fraught with personification, metaphor, and various poetic devices.

However, this poem is drenched in a fervour to mingle with the extraterrestrial vastness beyond this material world.

This poem subtly moves to glorify the magic of divine creation.

Like the navigator, our bodies continue to move towards the unconscious from the conscious actions. Like a magician, our supreme power governs the unseen laws of the Universe cunningly like the tools of machinery. With the dawn of the rising Sun, the man performs his mundane chores in the course of this trivial life to merge with the infinite,

one day.

Our poet rather invoked the intense saga of immortality in the concluding lines so profoundly for deriving aesthetic pleasure.

He scribbles, "The infinite like an infant is at play with toy materials ..."

"War Sky and Other Poems" contains one of the most brilliant poems of Harihar Mishra, 'A Divine Discontent' that beholds the unknown desires of our poet to delve deep into the infinite creation of divine energy.

Our artist is queer to crave the reasons behind the rustling of the wind, and even he wants to measure the immeasurable. The cycle of the water even transforms the tears into an elixir of our life. He is deeply moved by such unknown phenomena. He marvels at the wonders of such a phenomenal occurrence. He desires to bask in the glory of the divine creations by offering his heartfelt gratitude to the Almighty only. This poem is brilliantly designed to symbolically express our poet's curiosity to unravel the sublime beauty of this Universe.

His next poem "Sorrow of Poems" is a peculiar piece of his genius, that grabs the attention of the readers from beginning to end because of its irony. The poet is at war with his faith and reason. He thus refuses to attend to his heart and suggests his loath

spirit to wander around the seabeach or to console his singeing beloved.

This poem is painted with vivid concrete images like, 'Chittou', Rakhi, which heightens the mood of the poem. The restless poet mocks the future of a mere poem that could neither even transform the mutilated past into a beautiful present nor does it reduce the agony of the bereaved family members of a martyr. The poem Stone Idols of Konark majestically stands out to portray the hidden quest of unknown artists to merge the concrete with the abstract like love and beauty. Throughout the poem, the writer records the mystery behind this artistic edifice that glorifies our history.

'Lie' is another short but beautifully crafted poem by Harihar Mishra that proudly flaunts its grace and elegance.

The breathless sky mourns the seclusion. The solitary evening sans stars casts a sense of void everywhere. Suddenly, an earthen lamp glows to embrace a smiling star in the blue sky.

With forty wondrously wonderful poems decoded for the next generation of poets, this volume will, for sure, display an exceptional direction for all.

In a nutshell, this volume trails like a mellifluous brook to quench the unquenchable thirst of the readers toward infinity. Posterity will remember this masterpiece as a text of sublime inspiration and an awe-inspiring composition for sure.

Mission Shakti SHGs to manage ward offices in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR: After involving self help groups (SHGs) in managing the Aahar Centres, septage management plant and city beautification and development project, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has decided to engage them to manage ward

ber of Mission Shakti SHGs to be roped in for the purpose will be decided after expressions of interest are received from the stakeholders concerned before January end, an official said.

After selection, he said, one of the members of the selected SHGs will be engaged as ward coordinator and will be tasked with the responsibility of managing the ward office primarily for the dissemination of information regarding various schemes and programmes. Facilitating collection of various user

charges including water, property, trade licence fees and other pending taxes and dues will also be the responsibility of the SHGs. The selected Mission Shakti SHGs will also assist in organising periodical ward level meeting and special meetings and will also mobilise the community for their awareness and active participation in urban governance. The SHGs engaged will be provided an incentive of Rs 12,000 for which Rs 10,000 honorarium will be for the ward coordinator, while Rs 2,000 will be given as service fee.



offices here. The move is intended at encouraging community participation in urban governance and effective functioning of the ward offices, said an official from the corporation. BMC officials said the Mission Shakti SHGs will be picked for this project, purely on voluntary basis with incentives.

Moreover, the corporation will sign MoU with the selected Mission Shakti SHGs and thoroughly train their members in managing the ward offices and assist the ward officer. With the civic body having 67 wards, the num-

Severed head of suicide bomber recovered; Pakistan blames 'security lapse' for mosque blast

PESHAWAR: Pakistani authorities scrambled Tuesday to determine how a suicide bomber was able to carry out one of the country's deadliest militant attacks in years, unleashing an explosion in a crowded mosque inside a highly secured police compound in the city of Peshawar. The death toll from the blast climbed to 100.

Monday morning's bombing, which left at least 225 wounded, raised alarm among officials over a major security breach at a time when the Pakistani Taliban, the main anti-government militant group, has stepped up attacks, particularly targeting the police and the military. Who carried out the bombing was unclear. A commander from the Pakistani Taliban, known by the acronym TTP, claimed responsibility, but a spokesman for the group later distanced the TTP from the carnage, saying it was not its policy to attack mosques.

Rescue officials on Tuesday recovered the severed head of the suspected suicide bomber who they believe blew himself up, causing the roof to collapse on the worshippers, officials said.

Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Peshawar Mohammad Aijaz Khan told Geo TV that the blast appeared to be a suicide attack and the head of the suspected bomber was recovered at the site in Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. More than 300 worshippers were praying in the Sunni mosque, with more approaching, when the bomber set off his explosives vest, officials said. The blast blew off part of the roof, and what was left caved in, injuring many more, according to Zafar Khan, a police officer.

Rescuers worked through the night and into Tuesday morning, removing mounds of debris to reach worshippers still trapped under the rubble. The death toll rose as more bodies were found and several of the critically injured died, said Mohammad Asim, a government hospital spokesman in Peshawar. Most of the victims were police officers, he said. Counter-terrorism police are investigating how the bomber was able to reach the mosque, which is inside a walled-off police headquarters compound called Police Lines. The compound is located in a heavy security district of Peshawar that includes other government buildings.

"Yes, it was a security lapse," said Ghulam Ali, the provincial governor in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, of which Peshawar is the capital. Akhtar Ali Shah, a former regional interior secretary once based in Peshawar, said it "was not a spur-of-the-moment attack."

"It was the handiwork of a well-organised group," he told The Associated Press. He said those behind the attack must have had inside help to gain access to the compound and probably entered it several times for reconnaissance or even to plant explosives ahead of time. 'Pakistan paying the price for suing for peace with terrorist group'

"It's not a security lapse, it's a security breach," he said. "From all entry points, there are multiple layers of security you have to cross" with ID checks. Talat Masood, a retired army general and senior security analyst said Monday's suicide bombing showed "negligence." "When we know that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan is active, and when we know that they have threatened to carry out attacks, there should have been more security at the police compound in Peshawar," he told the AP, using the official name of the Pakistani Taliban.

The military's media wing declined an Associated Press interview request for the chief of army staff. Asim Munir, who took office in November, has yet to do any media appearances. Kamran Bangash, a

provincial secretary-general with the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, called for an investigation and blamed the instability on the government of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

The government "has failed to improve the economy and law and order situation, and it should resign to pave the way for snap parliamentary elections," he said. The party's leader, former Prime Minister Imran Khan, denounced the attack.

The bombing comes as Pakistan is contending with political and economic crises from a disputed election and from unprecedented floods last summer that killed 1,739 people, destroyed more than 2 million homes, and at one point submerged as much as a third of the country. Sharif visited a hospital in Peshawar after the bombing and vowed "stern action" against those behind the attack. On Tuesday he dismissed criticism of his government and called for unity. "My message to all political forces is one of unity against anti-Pakistan elements. We can fight our political fights later," he tweeted.

Shortly after the explosion, Pakistan Taliban commander Sarbakaf Mohmand claimed responsibility for the attack in a post on Twitter. But hours later, TTP spokesperson Mohammad Khurasani said it was not the group's policy to target mosques, seminaries and religious places and

that those taking part in such acts could face punitive action under TTP's policy. His statement did not address why a TTP commander had claimed responsibility for the bombing. Peshawar mosque blast that killed 100 was 'targeted revenge attack':

Pakistan police Pakistan, which is mostly Sunni Muslim, has seen a surge in militant attacks since November when the Pakistani Taliban ended a cease-fire with government forces.

The Pakistani Taliban are the dominant militant group in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and Peshawar has been the scene of frequent attacks. In 2014, a Pakistani Taliban faction attacked an army-run school in Peshawar and killed 154, mostly schoolchildren. But the Islamic State in Khorasan Province, a regional affiliate of the Islamic State group and a rival of the Taliban, has also been behind deadly attacks in Pakistan in recent years. Overall, violence has increased since the Afghan Taliban seized power in neighbouring Afghanistan in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO troops pulled out of the country after 20 years of war.

The TTP is separate from but a close ally of the Afghan Taliban. It has waged an insurgency in Pakistan in the past 15 years, seeking stricter enforcement of Islamic laws, the release of its members in government custody and a reduction in the Pakistani military presence in areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province it has long used as its base. Earlier this month, the Pakistani Taliban claimed one of its members shot and killed two intelligence officers, including the director of the counterterrorism wing of the Inter-Services Intelligence spy agency. Security officials said Monday the gunman was killed in a shootout near the Afghan border.

The Taliban-run Afghan Foreign Ministry said it was "saddened to learn that numerous people lost their lives" in Peshawar and condemned attacks on worshippers as contrary to the teachings of Islam. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is on a visit to the Middle East, tweeted his condolences, saying the bombing in Peshawar was a "horrific attack." "Terrorism for any reason at any place is indefensible," he said.

Boeing bids farewell to an icon, delivers last 747 jumbo jet

SEATTLE: Boeing bids farewell to an icon on Tuesday: It's delivering its final 747 jumbo jet.

Since its first flight in 1969, the giant yet graceful 747 has served as a cargo plane, a commercial aircraft capable of carrying nearly 500 passengers, a transport for NASA's space shuttles, and the Air Force One presidential aircraft. It revolutionized travel, connecting international cities that had never before had direct routes and helping democratize passenger flight.

But over the past 15 years, Boeing and its European rival Airbus have introduced more profitable and fuel-efficient wide-body planes, with only two engines to maintain instead of the 747's four. The final plane is the 1,574th built by Boeing in the Puget Sound region of Washington state.

A big crowd of current and former Boeing workers is expected for the final send-off. The last one is being delivered to cargo carrier Atlas Air.

"If you love this business, you've been dreading this moment," said longtime aviation analyst Richard Aboulafia. "Nobody wants a four-engine airliner anymore, but that doesn't erase the tremendous contribution the aircraft made to the development of the industry or its remarkable legacy."

Boeing set out to build the 747 after losing a contract for a huge military transport, the C-5A. The idea was to take advantage of the new engines developed for transport — high-bypass turbofan engines, which burned less fuel by passing air around the engine core, enabling a farther flight range — and to use them for a newly imagined civilian aircraft. It took more than 50,000 Boeing workers less than 16 months to churn out the first 747 — a Herculean effort that earned them the nickname "The Incredibles." The jumbo jet's production required the construction of a massive factory in Everett, north of Seattle — the world's largest building by volume.

The plane's fuselage was 225 feet (68.5 meters) long and the tail stood as tall as a six-story building. The plane's design included a second deck extending from the cockpit back over the first third of the plane, giving it a distinctive hump and inspiring a nickname, the Whale. More romantically, the 747 became known as the Queen of the Skies.

Some airlines turned the second deck into a first-class cocktail lounge, while even the lower deck sometimes featured lounges or even a piano bar. "It was the first big carrier, the first widebody, so it set a new standard for airlines to figure out what to do with it, and how to fill it," said Guillaume de Syon, a history professor at Pennsylvania's Albright

College who specializes in aviation and mobility. "It became the essence of mass air travel: You couldn't fill it with people paying full price, so you need to lower prices to get people onboard. It contributed to what happened in the late 1970s with the deregulation of air travel."

The first 747 entered service in 1970 on Pan Am's New York-London route, and its timing was terrible, Aboulafia said. It debuted shortly before the oil crisis of 1973, amid a recession that saw Boeing's employment fall from 100,800 employees in 1967 to a low of 38,690 in April 1971. The "Boeing bust" was infamously marked by a billboard near the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport that read, "Will the last person leaving SEATTLE — Turn out the lights."

An updated model — the 747-400 series — arrived in the late 1980s and had much better timing, coinciding with the Asian economic boom of the



early 1990s, Aboulafia said. He recalled taking a Cathay Pacific 747 from Los Angeles to Hong Kong as a twentysomething backpacker in 1991.

"Even people like me could go see Asia," Aboulafia said. "Before, you had to stop for fuel in Alaska or Hawaii and it cost a lot more. This was a straight shot — and reasonably priced."

Delta was the last U.S. airline to use the 747 for passenger flights, which ended in 2017, although some other international carriers continue to fly it, including the German airline Lufthansa.

Atlas Air ordered four 747-8 freighters early last year, with the final one leaving the factory Tuesday. Boeing's roots are in the Seattle area, and it has assembly plants in Washington state and South Carolina. The company announced in May that it would move its headquarters from Chicago to Arlington, Virginia, putting its executives closer to key federal government officials and the Federal Aviation Administration, which certifies Boeing passenger and cargo planes.

Boeing's relationship with the FAA has been strained since deadly crashes of its best-selling plane, the 737 Max, in 2018 and 2019. The FAA took nearly two years — far longer than Boeing expected — to approve design changes and allow the plane back in the air.

Odisha pitches for 'Draper Startup House' in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Billionaire venture capitalist Tim Draper and Startup Odisha executive chairman

big way. During the meeting, he lauded the efforts of the state government in supporting

port the startup ecosystem, we had a discussion regarding establishing a 'Draper Startup

state, the Odisha government has also developed O-Hub, an Incubation centre that sprawls over 3.8 lakh sqft area in Bhubaneswar," he said.

He said a 'Draper Startup House' has already been established in Bengaluru and with the potential that Bhubaneswar holds in the startup ecosystem, the next destination can likely be Odisha's capital, he said. Officials said 'Draper Startup House' supports startup entrepreneurs across the world, with a vision and mission to one million entrepreneurs by 2030.

Draper Startup Houses are in about 25 cities around the world and Draper is expecting to move that to 50 this year. Tim, who admired the efforts of Startup Odisha, also emphasised that giving incubation support to startups is a very important job.



Omkar Rai on Monday met in Cuttack for a discussion on the prospects of escalating the growth of startups and fostering entrepreneurship in the state.

They also discussed the possibility of establishing a 'Draper Startup House' in Odisha. Bitcoin billionaire investor Tim, known for his early bets in breakthrough tech companies like Tesla, SpaceX, Hotmail, Skype, etc., also backs startups in a

the startup ecosystem, while a discussion took place between Draper's team and Startup Odisha on the modalities of how to take it forward.

"The startup ecosystem in Odisha is growing by leaps and bounds capitalising on the strength of both traditional and modern sectors. Odisha is also ranked among the top-performing states as per the Startup Ranking 2021. To further spur the growth and sup-

House' in Odisha. We have received a positive response and have started discussions on how we could work together in this direction," said Rai.

Rai said Startup Odisha has taken several initiatives in the recent past like Startup Odisha Yatra, Startup Xpress to promote grassroots innovations and entrepreneurship among the students. "To extend all support to the startup ecosystem in the

Odisha youth detained for outraging girl's modesty

JAJPUR: Korei police on Monday detained a youth for allegedly outraging the modesty of a 16-year-old girl and assaulting her physically in along with an accomplice at Kadama village of Jajpur district. The girl, who sustained multiple injuries on her face and body in the assault is undergoing treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack. The incident came to fore after the victim's mother filed a complaint with Korei police on the day. As per the complaint, the girl was returning

home from a fair in a nearby village on Sunday night when the two youths, one from Kadama and the other from Routpada molested her. When the girl resisted, the youths assaulted her. After the girl did not return home till midnight, her family members and neighbours started a search and found her at a farm. They rushed her to the district headquarters hospital from where she was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital after her condition deteriorated. Her condition is stable, said police.

Naba Das death: Odisha government requests High Court to monitor CB probe

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha government on Monday moved swiftly and requested the Orissa High Court to monitor the investigation of Naba Kishore Das murder case amid a massive outrage and opposition demand for an impartial probe. In a letter to the registrar of the Orissa High Court, the home department requested the investigation into the killing of the minister should either be monitored by a sitting/retired judge of the High Court or by a district judge.

Currently, the Crime Branch of the state police is probing the sensational incident in which an assistant sub inspector of police (ASI) shot dead the minister at Brajrajnagar in Jharsuguda on Sunday. The home department letter stated that murder of the health minister is a sensitive issue in which a policeman is involved. Hence, there is a need to maintain highest level of transparency in the investigation process.

Meanwhile, accused ASI Gopal Krishna Das confessed to killing the minister before the Crime Branch officers but persisted with the theory that he is suffering from mental health issues. CB sources said his claims are being verified. Fifty-

tainment programmes for three days from January 29 to January 31 throughout the state.

BJP unhappy with CB probe, seeks CBI investigation

With many loose ends and unanswered questions linked to the broad daylight killing of minister Naba Kishore Das by an on-duty police officer, the Opposition parties have demanded a probe into the incident independent of the state police.

Expressing shock over the manner in which a cabinet minister of a state was shot dead, leader of Opposition Jaynarayan Mishra said if the assailant Gopal Das, an assistant sub-inspector of police, was mentally unsound why he was put on minister's duty.

What comes as a surprise that the ASI was issued the service pistol a day before the incident. All these things create suspicion in the mind of the people which required a thorough investigation. The state government should hand over the case to the CBI for an impartial probe and the same cannot be expected from the Crime Branch of Odisha police, Mishra said.

"We don't have faith on the Crime Branch of Odisha



three-year-old Gopal was questioned by Crime Branch ADG Arun Both rain presence of Northern Range IG Deepak Kumar at Reserve Police Line in Sundargarh earlier in the day.

The accused claimed that he is under medication and has even been consulting a psychiatrist. "The claims of the accused are being verified and his medical history under examination. The motive behind the murder is yet to be established and further investigation is continuing," said Bothra. He, however, did not disclose whether the accused has revealed that it was a pre-planned murder or not.

Govt requests HC to monitor CB probe

Interestingly, Gopal who joined Odisha Police in 1992 had received minor punishment only once. His service record was found to be satisfactory. He was always posted in police stations and never in district headquarters or reserve police lines for lack of performance, said a senior police officer. Police also asserted that he was never denied leaves. Gopal had reportedly taken 19 leaves in 2021 and 11 last year against a full sanction of 20 casual leaves. Meanwhile, the investigating team seized a 9 mm pistol and three rounds of live ammunition along with a mobile phone from Gopal.

The firearms and ammunition will be sent for ballistic examination, said CB sources. Another CB team led by DSP Sishir Mishra was present when the inquest and autopsy of Das was performed by a team of doctors of Capital Hospital. Meanwhile, the accused was produced before a court and the CB officers have requested to allow them to take him on seven-day remand.

Governor, CM pay last respects

Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and leaders cutting across party lines paid their last respects to Health Minister Naba Kishore Das at his official residence here on Monday. The minister was accorded state honour at his residence here.

Both the Governor and the chief minister also met the family members of Das and expressed their condolences. Several ministers, MPs, MLAs, former lawmakers, BJP state president Samir Mohanty and Congress leaders visited his residence to pay their last respects.

The body was later taken to the BJD party office where hundreds of people made a beeline to pay their last respects to Das. His mortal remains was then flown to his native place in Jharsuguda where the final rites was held with full state honour, said BJD vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra.

The state government had announced three-day mourning across Odisha as a mark of respect to the departed minister. There will be no official en-

Police which is a puppet in the hands of the ruling BJD. The Crime Branch is like Sankat Mochan (troubleshooter) for the government. Starting from Pari to Mamita Meher case, the CB gave clean chit to ministers involved in the murder cases," Mishra said. Targeting Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik over the deteriorating law and order situation in Odisha,

state BJP general secretary Prithviraj Harichandan said the state government has been claiming that the law and order situation of Odisha is far better than many other BJP ruled states. However, the Sunday incident exposed the government's tall claims, he added.

"If the state government is unable to give protection to its ministers one can imagine the safety of the common people of the state," he said. Harichandan said, "We have been hearing about such incidents in other states. Never before such incident occurred in Odisha which is now turned to be the grazing ground of criminals."

CM should take responsibility for the incident: Congress

Alleging deep-rooted conspiracy behind the murder of minister Naba Kishore Das, the Congress on Monday stepped up its attack on the state government asking Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to take full responsibility for the incident.

Either the government has failed to provide proper security to people's representatives or there was gross negligence, leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Narasingh Mishra said and held the chief minister accountable for the killing.

"The chief minister should now ask his conscience to decide whether he should continue," he said. Stating that the incident has shown that the law and order situation has completely collapsed in the state, Mishra said that people do not feel the presence of police.

"It shows that law and order machinery has completely collapsed and the state is witnessing jungle rule. There is no rule of law. That is why a minister has been killed by a policeman with his service weapon," he added. Demanding an impartial probe into the incident, Mishra said there seems to be a deep-rooted conspiracy behind the killing and it is not a simple murder.

Stating that he does not believe the claim of the government that the ASI was having some mental issues, the Congress leader said if at all it is true, how was he given a weapon. His party colleague Santosh Singh Saluja raised questions on the functioning of the Home department. He asked whether SOP was followed as a minister was touring the place. Saluja said intelligence should have been collected whether anybody is opposing the minister, or there are any plan of showing black flag or any other suspicious activities ahead of the minister's visit. "The way the ASI shot the minister, it clearly shows there is absolutely no law and order in Odisha. People are being killed inside jails and minister on road. Hence, the chief minister should resign," he added.

Illegal hookah parlours flourish in Cuttack

CUTTACK: Despite there being a ban, illegal hookah parlours continue to thrive here with the nexus between owners and police. As per reports, several hookah parlours are running in a clandestine manner at Jail Road, Mahatab Road, Jobra Road, Khapuria Labour Colony and CDA-Sector 10 localities of the city.

In many parlours, hookahs are allegedly laced with tobacco, nicotine, ganja and other narcotic substances. The owners of the hookah parlours are reportedly wooing school and college students through social media, especially on Instagram and Facebook.

Hookah is covered under the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA)-2003,

while section 6 of the Act provides protection of children and youth from tobacco use by restricting easy ac-

'very cool' without realising the dangers of the habit. The hookah parlours are seriously affecting the learning as

parlours were back in business. "We cannot know as to how the hookah parlours are now being run in the city



cess to them. However, instead of checking the ID cards, the owners of the hookah parlours are allegedly giving access to the students and youngsters.

"These hookah parlours are found to have become a trend among students nowadays. Both boys and girls of impressionable age are finding this

well as the health of the students," said a teacher.

According to the locals, after smoking hookah, a girl had reportedly lost her sense inside a parlour at Jail Road following which police in August 2022 had conducted raid and shut down three hookah parlours running inside a mall. But after few months, the hookah

even though there is no provision on the part of either the Excise or the police or the Cuttack Municipal Corporation to give license for doing business. There seems to be a nexus between the owners and police," alleged the locals. However, DCP Pinak Mishra said steps would be taken against the illegal operation of hookah bars in the city.




2023-2024

ADMISSION OPEN

Maharishi Public School, Baripada

STD-NURSERY TO VIII

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY

(Special discount for new admission before 15.03.2023)

- Find the Difference
- Small Classes
- Experienced, trained & loving teachers.
- Individual attention to each child.
- Regular meditation and yoga.
- Unique exam system, evaluation & Principles etc.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL
Baghra Road, Baripada
For details
Contact :
Call-9438102188, 06792-255227
Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon
E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com

 Find us on
Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada

India's economy projected to grow at 6.5 per cent in 2023-24: Economic Survey

India's economy is projected to grow 6.5 per cent in 2023-24, compared to 7 per cent this fiscal and 8.7 per cent in 2021-22, according to India's Economic Survey (2022-23), which was tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The RBI's 6.8% inflation projection for the current fiscal is not high enough to deter private consumption



nor is it low enough to weaken investment, Sitharaman said.

The minister also stated that India's recovery from the pandemic was relatively quick, and that the growth in the next fiscal would be supported by solid domestic demand, and a pick up in capital investment.

Read full text of Economic Survey [HERE](#)

India withstood an extraordinary set of challenges better than most economies, she said, adding that India's economic resilience has helped it withstand the challenge of mitigating external imbalances caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict without losing growth momentum.

Speaking of the inflation problem, the minister said that it did not "creep too far above" the tolerance range compared to several advanced nations.

The Finance Minister warned that the challenge of rupee depreciation persists with the likelihood of further interest rate hikes by the US Fed. However, India has sufficient forex reserves to finance CAD and intervene in forex market to manage rupee volatility, she added.

The Economic Survey document, prepared by the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance and formulated under the supervision of the chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran, gives insights into the state of the economy and various indicators in the current financial year 2022-23 (April-March) and outlook for the next year.

Highlights from the tabled survey:

- India to remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world
- GDP in nominal terms to be 11 pc in next fiscal
- Growth driven by private consumption, higher capex, strengthening corporate balance sheet, credit growth to small businesses and return of migrant workers to cities
- India third largest economy in PPP (purchasing power parity) terms, fifth largest in terms of exchange rate
- Economy has nearly "recouped" what was lost, "renewed" what had paused, and "re-energised" what had slowed during the pandemic and since the conflict in Europe
- Real GDP growth to be in the range of 6-6.8 per cent next fiscal depending on global economic, political developments
- Housing prices firming up after release of pent-up demand, decline in inventories
- Central govt capex grew 63.4 per cent in April-November of current fiscal
- Stock market gave positive returns in calendar year 2022 unfazed by FPI withdrawal

Higher credit growth likely for banks in 2023-24: Economic Survey

MUMBAI: The next financial year is likely to keep banks busy as the demand for loans is expected to be higher.

According to the Economic Survey, the credit growth in the Indian banking sector is expected to be 'brisk' in the next financial year. The accumulation of deposits in the past few years has enabled banks to fund the growing credit demand. The well-capitalised banking system with a low NPA ratio and more robust corporate sector fundamentals will continue to enhance the flow of bank credit into productive investment opportunities, notwithstanding the rising interest rates.

"Increase in the overall bank credit has also been influenced by the shift in borrower's funding choices from volatile bond markets, where yields have increased, and external commercial borrowings, where interest and hedging costs have increased, towards banks. If inflation declines in FY24 and if the real cost of credit does not rise, then credit growth is likely to be brisk in FY24," noted the survey.

The banking sector in India has also responded in equal measure to the demand for credit as the Year-on-Year growth in credit since the January-March quarter of 2022 has moved into double-digits and is rising across most sectors.

- After a dip in FY21, GST paid by small businesses has been rising and now crossed pre-pandemic levels reflecting the effectiveness of targeted government intervention
- Private consumption, capital formation led economic growth in current fiscal has helped generate employment; urban employment rate declined, while Employee Provident Fund registration rose
- Borrowing cost may remain 'higher for longer', entrenched inflation may prolong tightening cycles
- CAD (Current Account Deficit) may continue to widen as global commodity prices remain elevated, economic growth momentum stays strong; If CAD widens further, rupee may come under depreciation pressure
- Elevated downside risks to global economic outlook as inflation persisting in advanced economies and hints of further rate hikes by central bank
- The growth in exports has moderated in second half of current fiscal; the surge in growth rate in 2021-22 and first half of current fiscal led to production processes shifting gears from 'mild acceleration' to 'cruise mode'
- Slowing world growth, shrinking global trade led to loss of export stimulus in the second half of current year
- Schemes like PM KISAN, PM Garib Kalyan Yojana significantly contributed to lessening impoverishment
- Credit disbursal, capital investment cycle, expansion of public digital platform and schemes like PLI, National Logistics Policy and PM Gati Shakti to drive economic growth
- Bank credit growth likely to be brisk in FY24 on back of benign inflation, moderate credit cost
- Credit growth to small businesses remarkably high at over 30
- Medium-Term Outlook of Economy -- Economic Survey 2022-23

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday said it is expecting some slowdown in the Indian economy next fiscal year and projected the growth to 6.1 per cent from 6.8 per cent during the current fiscal ending March 31.

The IMF released the January update of its World Economic Outlook, according to which the global growth is projected to fall from an estimated 3.4 per cent in 2022 to 2.9 per cent in 2023, then rise to 3.1 per cent in 2024.

The Economic Survey tabled in 2022 projected India's GDP growth of 8.0-8.5 per cent in 2022-23, which the government felt will be supported by widespread vaccine coverage, gains from supply-side reforms and easing of regulations, robust export growth, and availability of fiscal space to ramp up capital spending.

The first economic survey reportedly came into existence in 1950-51, when it used to be a part of the budget documents. In the 1960s, it was separated from the Budget documents and presented a day prior to the Union Budget.

Budget 2023, to be presented on Wednesday, is likely to be the last full Budget of the Modi government in its second term with the next Lok Sabha election due in April-May of 2024.

The Budget documents will be available on the 'Union Budget Mobile App' on both the Android and Apple OS platforms after the completion of the Budget Speech by the Finance Minister.

The recovery in economic activity in FY22, along with the enhanced financial soundness of banks and corporates, has bolstered the expansion of non-



food bank credit since June 2021. "The YoY growth in non-food bank credit accelerated to 15.3 per cent in December 2022. This not only shows an acceleration in the growth of current economic activities but also an anticipation of continued momentum in economic activity in future," noted the survey.

Credit growth has been broad-based across sectors, with retail credit driving the growth primarily owing to rising demand for home loans. An increase

UK retail giant Tesco to axe over 2,000 jobs

Supermarket group Tesco, the biggest retailer in Britain, announced Tuesday plans to slash about 2,100 jobs, as sky-high inflation hikes costs.



Tesco plans to cut about 1,750 management roles. It will also axe around 350 jobs with the closure of some pharmacies, all remaining hot food counters and other restructuring. The group said it would do "more of what works and stopping or simplifying where we need to, so that we're running our business as efficiently as possible". The losses will be offset by the creation of 1,800 "leader roles". Tesco recently posted bumper revenue for the key Christmas season, even as customers switched to less expensive rivals as prices soar during a cost-of-living crisis. Tesco has benefitted from passing on some of its own rising costs to consumers, many of whom appear willing to stay loyal to the group even as UK inflation sits around the highest level in decades. At the same time, Tesco is keen to match the prices of some similar goods offered by supermarkets run by German discounters Aldi and Lidl to retain business from cash-strapped shoppers.

TIPRA worries for Left-Congress combine in Tripura

Continued from page-1

Choudhury told this newspaper. State Congress president Birajit Sinha said, "We always had the discussions with TIPRA Motha. If there is an understanding, there will be withdrawal of nominations by some candidates."

TIPRA Motha chief Pradyot Manikya Debbarma dismissed the reported move for a seat-sharing deal as "incorrect". He told this newspaper that the party would go it alone.

"We are not making any alliance, formal or informal," he said.

"However, I have not put up a candidate against Jitendra Choudhury because he is a Tiprasa (belonging to Tripura's ethnic communities). That's a personal gesture. I feel he has a certain amount of commitment as an individual," he said.

"It was the same when Pranab Mukherjee had contested the Presidential election. He was supported by Mamata Banerjee although she was not a part of the UPA. Balasaheb Thakre had supported Pratibha Patil but he was a part of the NDA," Debbarma added.

The TIPRA Motha is going it alone in the polls after its talks with the BJP failed. It had insisted on a written assurance on the creation of a separate "Greater Tripaland" state but the BJP-led central government refused to give anything in writing.

Prez speech: Oppn says key issues remain unaddressed, call it BJP manifesto for 2024

Continued from page-1

dent's Address to both Houses of Parliament is written by GoI. Any line in speech about controlling prices, creating jobs, strengthening (fiscal) federalism, promoting communal harmony, or passing Women's Reservation Bill? Oh and 2 miserly lines about the North East," said Brien.

CPI MP Binoy Viswam alleged the empowerment of women, youths, Dalits and tribals was only on paper.

"The historic Central Hall witnessed the President's address, maybe for the last time. Everything related to freedom struggle and Constitution are being dumped. The address seems to be the first chapter of the ruling party manifesto for 2024. Words are lovely; truths are not..." he said on Twitter.

"Pride of secularism is absent. Hindutva pride of RSS mould was the tone. Empowerment of women, youth, Tribes, Dalits only on paper. Environment and Subhash Bose mentioned. Nicobar is crying..." the CPI MP said in a tweet.

in demand for housing induces greater investment which, in turn, sets off a virtuous cycle of growth and investment.

Credit to agriculture and allied activities gained momentum supported by the Government's concessional institutional credit and higher agricultural credit target.

Industrial credit growth has been buoyed by a pick-up in credit to MSMEs, assisted by the benefits accrued from the effective implementation of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme

(ECLGS) and the support provided by the government's production-linked incentive scheme and improvement in capacity utilisation.

Credit growth in services was driven by a recovery in credit to NBFCs, commercial real estate and trade sectors.

"As funds raised from the primary segment of domestic equity markets declined during FY23, reliance on bank credit for funding regular operations and capacity expansion increased," said the survey.

Gujarat court sentences self-styled godman Asaram to life imprisonment in 2013 rape case

Continued from page-1

submitted that Asaram was a "habitual offender" and so he should be sent to jail for life, while the defence lawyer had sought minimum punishment. Addressing media in Gandhinagar Public Prosecutor R.C. Kodekar said "Asaram has been sentenced to life imprisonment under sections 376 2 (C) (rape), 377 (unnatural offenses), one year under 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 6 months under 342 (wrongful detention), 1 year under 357 (assault) and one year under 506 (criminal intimidation). Apart from this, the court has ordered to pay compensation of 50 thousand to the victim."

Asaram Babu: The rapist preacher who built an empire of Rs 10,000 crore

Asaram's lawyer CB Gupta said "In this case, a total of six co-accused, including Asaram's wife and daughter were acquitted after giving the benefit of the doubt. The case was filed in 2013 while the allegations levelled by the victim date back to 2001."

"Earlier there were 8 accused in this case. Asaram and six others were named accused while one was made was made witness by the prosecution," he added.

He further said, "In the charge sheet which was filed in 2014, seven accused were named in this rape case. Charges were framed (charge frame) in 2016. After a long marathon trial, Asaram has been sentenced by the court, after studying the judgment, we will appeal against this judgment in the High Court."

Two sisters had filed a complaint in 2013 with Surat police against Asaram and his son Narayan Sai, alleging that between 1997 to 2006, that Asaram had raped the older sister between 1997 to 2006 in Ahmedabad, whereas the younger sister had alleged Asaram's son raped her in Surat ashram during the same period.

The elder sister's case was transferred to Ahmedabad police and a trial was conducted in the Gandhinagar court, which found Asaram guilty on Monday. The trial against Asaram's son is underway in a Surat court.

State on action mode

Continued from page-1

gation of the murder case, the BJP leader demanded a CBI probe into the case.

Leader of opposition in Odisha assembly Jayanarayan Mishra (BJP) said, "We are not going to accept the story of the Odisha government that the accused police ASI Gopal Das was mentally unsound. A plot was created to kill the minister."

Shri Mishra also questioned why the Police DG is silent on this case. "As per information available with us, the Minister died on the spot. What was the necessity to airlift him from Jharsuguda to Bhubaneswar. Whether the Jharsuguda hospital authority had certified that Das was fit to be airlifted for further treatment?," he asked.

Claiming that the Crime Branch probe cannot reveal the truth, he demanded a CBI investigation into the incident.

Alleging there is a deep rooted conspiracy behind the killing of Minister Das, Congress spokesperson Sudarshan Das demanded a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the supervision of a sitting judge of Orissa high court.

Though 48 hours passed to the incident, no action has been taken against any official, who is responsible for it, Das said.

"There was a total failure of intelligence. But no action was taken till now. Why is the DGP and Home Minister (CM) not speaking up?" he questioned.

Alleging that a conspiracy is being made to suppress the truth behind the crime, the Congress leader said the Chief Minister should leave his home portfolio on moral ground.

Reacting to the allegations made by the Opposition, senior BJD Vice President and senior Lawmaker Debi Prasad Mishra said, "As questions will be raised if the police will investigate the case in which a cop is the accused, a crime branch probe was ordered. To ensure transparency, the government has requested the Orissa high court to monitor the investigation by a sitting/retired judge."

On the demand for CBI and SIT probe, Shri Mishra said, "Let's wait till the findings of the crime branch investigation has come up." The Health Minister was killed by a bullet fired by dismissed ASI Gopal Krishna Das on January 29. The police ASI fired a single round of bullet from his service revolver at the chest of Das. The Ex Cop was arrested and sent to judicial custody. Crime Branch has sought a seven-day remand of the police official from the local court in Jharsuguda

Hockey World Cup success a massive lift for sport in Rourkela

ROURKELA: After co-hosting the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup-2023 at the spectacular Birsa

investment on setting up the sports infrastructure—wrong, this World Cup has given a renewed con-

ban dwellers. Chaudhary claimed that this marquee event is going to be the stepping stone in

Naveen Patnaik on Sunday said he was thrilled and delighted about it. He also congratulated the people of Odisha. The CM said he was amazed that the Birsa Munda stadium was built in a record 15 months. Officer on special duty for the World Cup in the city and IDCO Managing Director, Bhupendra Singh Poonia, said the world-class stadium is equipped with sophisticated facilities including hydrotherapy, cold and steam bath and modern gymnasium for training and injury recovery. He said the stadium was constructed using mostly steel and aluminium which is symbolic of the Steel City. The World Cup Village, with 225 rooms of star facilities, also exists on the stadium complex which is directly connected to the airport causing no traffic inconvenience, he added.



Munda International Hockey Stadium, Rourkela has all the potential to become one of the prominent sports hub in the country. From January 13 to 19, the stadium hosted at least four matches on most days which drew massive crowds irrespective of India playing or not. While this proved the naysayers—who questioned the wisdom behind the large

confidence to the hockey fraternity. Rourkela can now take the lead and help the game regain its popularity. The Birsa Munda stadium hosted a total of 20 matches during the World Cup. Senior hockey coach Kalu Charan Chaudhary said during India's matches, the stadium, with 20,000-odd capacity, used to be jam-packed indicating the craze for the sport even among ur-

regaining hockey's popularity. Owing to its success, the Odisha government and FIH have decided to organise Hockey Pro League matches at the stadium in March involving India, Germany and Australia. After the Guinness Book of World Records officially recognised the Birsa Munda stadium as the world's largest-seated hockey stadium, Chief Minister

Real Madrid and Barcelona to meet in Copa del Rey semifinals

MADRID: Real Madrid will get a chance for revenge against Barcelona when the Spanish

Madrid lost the Spanish Super Cup final to Barcelona 3-1 in Saudi Arabia on Jan. 15, the same score it

semifinals with a 3-0 win in the second leg at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Madrid will host the

cause Madrid will be participating in the Club World Cup in Morocco. Barcelona is the club with most Copa del Rey titles with 31, eight more than Athletic. Madrid has 19 but none since 2014, while Osasuna's best result was a runner-up finish in 2005 when it lost in the final to Real Betis. Every round until now had been played in single games. Madrid advanced to the last four past city rival Atletico Madrid, while Barcelona eliminated Real Sociedad. The final will be played on May 6 in Seville.



teams meet in the Copa del Rey semifinals. The rivals were paired together in Monday's draw, which also set up a semifinal match between Athletic Bilbao and Osasuna.

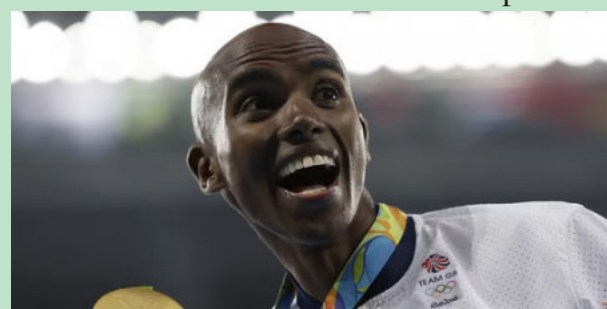
beat the Catalan club in their first "clásico" of the season in the Spanish league. Barcelona also got the best of Madrid the last time they met in the Copa del Rey, advancing to the 2019

first leg this time, with the second at Camp Nou. The first leg of the semifinals this season was set to be played next week, but it will have to be scheduled for about a month from now be-

Farah says 2023 London Marathon will be his last

British athletics great Mo Farah has said this year's London Marathon will likely be his last as he contemplates the end of a brilliant career.

The 40-year-old is best known for his success on the track winning gold in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres at both the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic Games, as well as several world titles across both distances. And while his marathon career has reached nothing like the same heights, Farah is keen to run in London again after missing last year's edition even though he will be 40 by the time of the April 23 race "It's been an amazing career and taking part in the London Marathon is a very big deal," he said in a statement issued by event organisers. "I was gutted not to race last year and I just want to give it one more shot. "It depends on my body. I just want to get to



the start line and see what I can manage. I'm just taking one race at a time." He added: "I'm not a spring chicken any more. You can't keep coming back in the right shape and, for me, I'd love to be able to finish it at home." Farah has ruled out competing at the 2024 Olympics in Paris, but may yet try to finish his time as a British international at this year's World Championships in Budapest. "I'm not going to go to the Olympics and I think 2023 will be my last year," he added. "But if it came down to it towards the end of the year and you did get picked for your country, I'd never turn that down." Farah last ran in London in 2019, coming fifth, having finished third the year before. "So it's been a little while," he said. "But I'll be preparing well, I'll head out to Ethiopia and put in a lot of solid training and see what I can do when it comes to April."

'Still enough pull to play for NZ': Ferguson on players giving up contracts

AHMEDABAD: New Zealand pacer Lockie Ferguson empathised with his fellow players giving up central contracts for lucrative T20 league deals but said there is still enough "pull" to represent the country in big-ticket events, such as the World Cup. Three New Zealand players -- Trent Boult, Martin Guptill and Jimmy Neesham -- gave up their central contracts last year to play in different T20 leagues across the world.

Asked if it would affect the future of T20 cricket in New Zealand, Ferguson said: "I don't think I have the answer. And it's certainly above my pay grade but, from our point of view, you can understand players when they're at the sort of back end of their careers." "But at the same time, I know they will still want to play for New Zealand. So finding the balance, I'm not sure what that might be. Certainly, as I said, people above the chain to me will work that out. But I think, from a player's point of view, we love playing for the Black Caps." "Certainly since I've been playing such a rich history of being very successful, and that's enjoyable to play and seeing the young talent come through and do well as well is very rewarding. So, I think, from a player's point of view, we want to play for New Zealand in World Cups. That's sort of what kids dream of, and I think there's still a lot of pull for that." The 31-year-old, who played under Hardik Pandya as part of the Gujarat Titans side in IPL last year, heaped praise on the India T20 skipper. "Hardik, I have a very high regard certainly from day one, playing underneath him in Gujarat (Titans), he is a clear leader within the group and demands the audience very quickly. But, at the same time, I guess, similar to Kane (Williamson) he has time for everyone in the group," Ferguson said.

"He's done well with India. You can see his body language has been fantastic with the group and I think, he is an exceptional leader for the country. But certainly, I enjoyed my time playing under him." New Zealand suffered a 3-0 loss against India in the ODI series and are currently tied 1-1 in the three-match T20 rubber after losing the second game in Lucknow by six wickets.



The pitches used for the two T20 games favoured the spinners a lot with India skipper Pandya criticising the Lucknow track, which saw New Zealand post just 99 in 20 overs. Ferguson, however, said low-scoring games are good for cricket since T20 is mostly dominated by batters. "I bowled my four (overs) in the first game and I actually enjoyed bowling the cross seamers, sort of sped a little bit, got a bit of an extra pace and carry. To be honest, even Arshdeep bowling to me in the last game, there was a little bit of pace and carry, but clearly spin was the right option." "We play a lot of T20s here in India, and around the world and we have those high-scoring games. And as a bowler, I think sometimes those sort of lower scores, probably not the 100, but lower score games actually are just as exciting and bring a good battle between bat and ball," he added. "So I think for the game, it's great. Certainly, I'm sure fans prefer the big, high-scoring matches but, as a cricket player, that can be pretty exciting."

MAHARISHI PLAY SCHOOL

Nurturing awareness Moulding Future

ADMISSION OPEN FOR

PLAY GROUP (2+) to Onwards

A great Place to grow @ MPS

Laugh
Play
Learn
Share

Call now for Application:

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

N-3 B/14-15, IRC Village,
Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar

PH. 2558884 / 2550786 / 8984600700 (M)

E-mail : maharishipublic13@yahoo.com

Find us on
facebook.com/maharishiplayschool

FOLLOW US
ON TWITTER
twitter.com/maharishiplayschool