

## Calcutta High Court quashes Notices issued under section 148

Kolkata (KCN): Calcutta High Court in its Judgment on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 in the case of Bagaria Properties & Investment Pvt. Ltd and others has resolved the reassessment controversy in favour of the taxpayers and quashed reassessment notices issued on or after 1 April 2021 without following the procedure as laid down by Section

148A as introduced by Finance Act, 2021. Calcutta High Court passed the judgment agreeing with the reasonings, and views taken by the Allahabad, Rajasthan and the Delhi High Court Narayan Jain, Chairman DTPA Representation Committee said that this judgement has come as a breather to the taxpayers who had challenged the

reassessment notices before the High Court. Highlighting the High Court Order, Jain, explained that Reassessment notices pertaining to any assessment year issued after 31 March 2021 had to comply with the substituted provisions of section 147 to 151. The Court also held that Explanations to Notification No. 20 dated 31 March 2021 and Notification No.

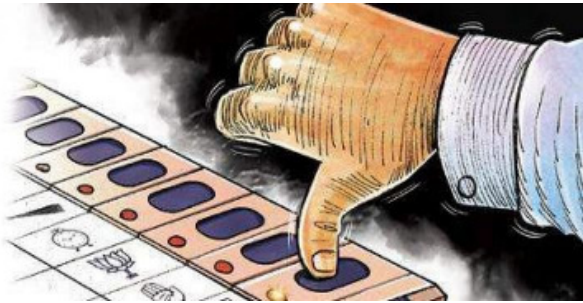
38 dated 27 April 2021 to the extent that they extend the applicability of provisions of section 147 to 151 beyond 31 March 2021 are ultra vires the Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation and Amendment of Certain Provisions) Act, 2020 and are therefore bad in law, null and void. All the notices under Section 148 of

CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Odisha Election Commission revises ex-gratia to Rs 30 lakh for kin of poll personnel who die on duty

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Ahead of the panchayat elections scheduled next month, the State Election Commission (SEC) on Tuesday revised the ex-gratia compensation for polling personnel.

According to a notification issued by the SEC, compensation of Rs 30 lakh will be provided to families of polling personnel who die due to any violent act of extremism or anti-social elements in road mines, bomb blasts and armed attacks. In case of death due to other reasons, the compensation amount



will be Rs 15 lakh.

Besides, those who die due to COVID-19 will be compensated with Rs 30 lakh and cashless medical treatment facility would be provided to those infected with the virus while on poll duty. A certificate specifying the reason for death has to be issued by the medical officer and countersigned by the chief district medical officer (CDMO) concerned specifically stating COVID-19 to be the cause of death.

Compensation for permanent CONTINUED ON: P-7

## COVID situation under control in state: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on

drive to prevent fresh cases. He also directed them

third wave has so far proceeded on the right path, Naveen

should remain cautious and abide by the guidelines.

Informing that the State government's policy of announcing micro-containment zones and strict implementation of guidelines will continue, Naveen said that patients in home isolation will also be monitored regularly. He said that the State government has taken steps to contain the situation keeping the livelihood options of people in view. "If people cooperate, we can fight the situation without affecting livelihood," he added. He also asked Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra to launch awareness campaigns among the people as cases still remain very high and assure

CONTINUED ON: P-7



Tuesday maintained that the COVID-19 situation in the State is under control and advised people not to panic.

Reviewing the COVID-19 situation virtually, the Chief Minister emphasised on complete adherence to COVID guidelines to keep the pandemic in check. However, he asked the officials to intensify the vaccination

to expedite administration of booster doses to medical staff, police, government officials and persons with comorbidity. Similarly, as mediapersons are frontline workers in the fight against Covid, provision of booster dose to them should also be given priority, he added. Stating that COVID management in the

said that the number of fresh cases has also stabilised during the last couple of days. The number of active cases has also started decreasing in some big cities of the country, he said and added that hospitalisation of patients is also very less as patients are having mild symptoms. However, he said that though these signs are encouraging, everybody

## Screening Panel for MCC Violation

Bhubaneswar(MCN): As the political atmosphere in the State hots up for Panchayat poll, the State Election Commission (SEC) is receiving a lot of petition from political parties on violation of Model Code of Conduct

department has been appointed as a member of the panel while another member will be ACS or secretary of the concerned Department of which the proposal is related.

After examining the proposal, the panel will

send it to the SEC for necessary action. No proposal shall be forwarded to the Commission directly without the prior approval of the Screening Committee.

Meanwhile, the SEC has asked the Excise Department to impose ban on sale and distribution of liquor dur-



(MCC).

So, the SEC has formed a Screening Committee headed by Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra to examine proposals relating to MCC. Principal Secretary GA and PG De-

ing the polling days

SEC Secretary RN Sahu has written a letter to the Principal Secretary, Excise Department, for this purpose.

In the interest of free CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Tata reopens Covid Hospital

Dhenkanal(KCN): Tata Steel located at Meramandali in Dhenkanal district has reopened the tempo-

tems apart from other medical equipment necessary for providing secondary level care to Covid-19

hospital will add strength to the Covid-19 health care infrastructure of the area helping patients from

took the necessary structural modifications at the site.

Besides, two prefabricated structures were also added to serve as an administration block, chambers for doctors and paramedics, donning and doffing rooms and toilets. Earlier, during the second wave of the pandemic, the Tata Steel had also started a temporary Covid hospital at Karagrasad Regional Higher Secondary School in Dhenkanal district. Dhenkanal Sub-Collector, Snigdharani Dhal, Odapada BDO Dasarathi Jena and other senior officials of Tata Steel Meramandali and Nava Bharat Ventures Ltd., were present on this occasion.



rary 50 bedded Covid-19 hospital at Nava Bharat Ventures Skill Development Centre, Kharagrasad in Odapada block of the district today for the community. The hospital has 50 beds equipped with oxygen support sys-

patients. Dhenkanal District Collector Saroj Kumar Sethi and Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO), Dr Ashok Das visited the hospital today.

Commending Tata Steel Meramandali for re-opening the hospital, Mr.Sethi said, the

the local villages and will be of great help to the community.

Four doctors, 15 nurses and 15 house-keeping staff have been appointed to manage the hospital. In making the hospital functional, Tata Steel Meramandali under-

## Center Infuses 1500 Cr In IREDA

New Delhi(KCN): The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister,

jobs-year and CO2 equivalent emission reduction of approximately 7.49 Million Tonnes CO2/year.

4000 MW. And to enhance its net worth which will help it in additional RE financing, thus

pany under the administrative control of MNRE was set up in 1987 to work as a specialized non-banking finance agency for the Renewable Energy (RE) sector.

IREDA with more than 34 years of techno-commercial expertise, plays a catalytic role in the RE project financing which gives confidence to the Financial Institutions and Banks to lend in the sector.

IREDA is headed by Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, an honest and hard working Honcho, who is spearheading the expansion in Renewable Energy Sector.



Narendra Modi, today approved the equity infusion of Rs.1500 crore in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA).

This equity infusion will help in employment generation of approximately 10200

Additional equity infusion of Rs.1500 crore by Government of India will enable IREDA to lend Rs.12000 crore approximately to the RE sector, thus facilitate the debt requirement of RE of additional capacity of approximately 3500-

contributing better to the Government of India targets for RE. It will facilitate IREDA to improve the capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) to facilitate its lending and borrowing operations. IREDA, a Mini Ratna (Category-1) com-

## Beauty

Sanjib Kumar Dash

People often fear at, a gravy blue sea's vastness, the sagacious master of utter mystery, Still, lumpish tides dance awesome, along lovely beach of colored pebbles, That's the beauty.

It's hot loos that blow on summer parched grey valleys, tearing eyes with sight of holocaust, evaporates joyous zeal, Wait, there's a rainy ahead, to upset all dryness, to gear nature's vicissitudes to a smily greenery thereby, That's the beauty .



Demons of all hatreds perform on earth their habitual rampage, with mishmash of devilry, days come, they fade, their's mind of mishap retire, peace flourish, emission of ethical light once again begins. That's the beauty .

History turns, it repeats too, jewellery bulks, king's treasure, majestic crown either, nobody cares, nevertheless, all miss moments, those of passionate love n sacrifice, worldly ever setting crossborder legends, timeless, priceless. That's the beauty.

Reader in Physics, Deogarh College

# Guiding the Guide

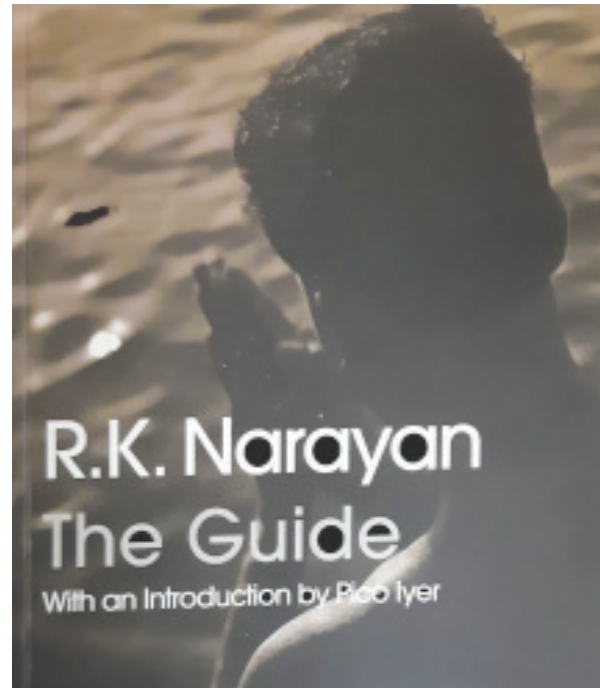
Aniket Mohapatra

R. K. Narayan's 'The Guide' (1958) centres around three themes: (i) study of human nature; (ii) a typical Indian psyche of getting attracted to holy persons and their miraculous powers; and (iii) the spirit of selflessness.



The novel has masterfully blended satire, flashbacks, superstition, and suspense. Raju- the central character in the novel, represents the common human nature of selfishness and self-centredness, which get rectified with realization. His sources of income were a shop near Malgudi railway station and his remuneration as a tourist guide. One day he met Marco- an archaeological researcher. He helped Marco find a hidden cave for his research but, in the process, developed acquaintance with his wife Rosie. He fell in love and became mad after her despite his mother's warnings that she was a snake-woman who would ruin him. Finally, Rosie was trapped and came to Raju's house for good. Raju accepted her against his mother's wishes, for which his mother had to leave her house. Raju gave a new name to Rosie and promoted her as a dancer. She earned a lot, and Raju managed the earnings in a bank account opened in her name. Realizing his self-centred and greedy nature; and to take revenge, Marco plotted a plan where Rosie could secure a box of jewellery by putting a signature on an application paper. Raju did not inform her and

made a forgery of Rosie's signature. Now Marco took revenge, and Raju got imprisonment for



two years. Thus, the superstitious believe of Raju's mother came true.

After getting released from jail, he decided not to go back to Malgudi as he was ashamed of his jail sentence. He then went to an unknown place and sat near an abandoned temple on the banks of Sarayu River. His posture and appearance were such that a passer-by Velan mistook him as a saint (Swami). And, he spread the news in his village called Mangal that a Swami had come. It was a rumour, but people believed that and started coming to Raju's place. Raju used his intelligence in solving the problems of

## Quote of the Day



“The Future depends on what you do Today.”

people. Thus, the popularity of Raju grew as a saint, and his followers supplied all essential goods for his living. In the meanwhile, the area got affected by drought and famine. His followers also rumoured that the Swami would remain in fast until it rained to end drought and famine. It caused embarrassment to Raju. Therefore, he revealed his real identity to Velan through flashbacks to escape from the ordeal. But Velan did not believe that and affirmed his trust in the Swami. Raju now changed his mind and thought he would do something for others for the first time in his life. He pledged to do something selflessly and remained in fast for many days till the symptoms of rain appeared. However, he ended his life in hunger.

It is published by Penguin Random House India Pvt. Ltd. in 2010. The paperback edition contains 224-pages, and it costs INR 299.

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# Famous works of art from 30 countries around the world

born in Moravia but spent his early career in Paris creating celebrated art posters. In 1910 he returned to what is now the Czech Republic for the express purpose of painting 20 monumental canvases celebrating the history and folklore of the Slavic people. His monumental work was finished in 1928 and presented by the artist to the city of Prague.

This iconic image of the Bodhisattva Padmapani (an incarnation embodying the compassion of all Buddhas) is part of an elaborate series of paintings covering the walls of a cave complex in Maharashtra. A former Buddhist monastery, the Ajanta Caves are now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Born Moishe Shagal, modernist Marc Chagall received his artistic training in Paris and St. Petersburg, yet never forgot his roots on a Belarussian shtetl. "I and the Village," a mesmerizing evocation of Chagall's homeland, employs the artist's trademark primary hued palette.

Also known as the "Venus de Milo," this graceful marble sculpture was produced during the Hellenistic period. One of the most recognizable images in the canon of Western art, the sinuous sculpture's identity nevertheless remains a mystery. She may represent Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, or Amphitrite, a sea goddess worshipped on the island of Melos.

In 1974, a group of farmers digging a well stumbled upon a lifesize, clay figure. Subsequent archaeological excavations uncovered a cache of more than 8,000 individualized terra cotta soldiers, created to guard Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor, in the afterlife.

Popularly known as "The Scream," Munch's surrealist icon was originally titled "The Shriek of Nature" and was inspired by a disturbing vision the artist experienced while walking in the Norwegian countryside. Munch executed several versions of "The Scream," two of which were stolen and subsequently recovered.

Contemporary artist Fernando Botero is famous for his corpulent subjects, including the colorful cast of characters depicted in "Dancing in Colombia." In addition to scenes of everyday life, Botero is also well known for his zaftig renderings of the "Mona Lisa" and Pablo Escobar. In 2000, Botero bequeathed over 200 works of art—including 123 of his own—to the Banco de la República, which are now housed in the Museo Botero in Bogotá.

A titan of German Romanticism, Caspar David

Friedrich specialized in allegorical landscapes populated by pensive youths. "Two Men Contemplating the Moon" is a joint portrait of the artist and his friend and disciple, August Heinrich. Friedrich painted the scene three times, twice during Heinrich's lifetime, and later this work, executed after his death in 1824.

This mask represents Inti, the Incan sun god, believed by worshippers to sweat gold. Now in the National Museum of Ecuador, it displays the easily recognizable block-like geometric forms characteristic of Incan art.

Aptly located in the dining hall of a Milanese convent, Da Vinci's "Last Supper" is one of the most famous images in Western art, yet survives only thanks to intense restoration. Art aficionados wishing to get a glimpse of the 15-by-29-foot wall painting in person should book well in advance; admission is limited to small groups with viewings capped at just 15 minutes.

Persian miniature master Sultan Muhammad is known for his exquisite manuscript illustrations, including this miniature depicting the Prophet Muhammad's journey to heaven. Although the representation of human and animal forms was prohibited by Islam, exceptions were made for a small number of literary works. This remarkable manuscript was commissioned by Shah Tahmasp, who was also the artist's pupil.

A glittering jewel in the Art Nouveau crown, Secessionist master Gustav Klimt unveiled his celebrated painting of the entwined lovers during the height of his "Golden Period." Although prudish Edwardian audiences initially denounced the painting for its unapologetic eroticism, it fetched a record price for an Aus-



trian painting at the time.

After spending almost a decade in Europe, Grant Wood returned to America's heartland

Erin Joslyn

where he completed his Depression era masterpiece. The term "American Gothic" refers not only to the poker-faced couple, but also the arched windows behind the couple, an architectural element popularized in the latter half of the 19th century.

One of 27 versions painted by Surrealist legend Rene Magritte, "The Empire of Light II" juxtaposes a sleepy row of traditional homes with a blue sky suggestive of midday. It has been suggested that the street scene was modeled on Magritte's own address in Brussels.

You may also like: 10 toxic cleaning products and their natural alternatives Andrei Rublev's "Holy Trinity" is, quite literally, the most iconic of all extant Russian icons—a tradition of diminutive, portable religious painting. The Russian Orthodox



Church canonized Rublev, a member of the monastic community of St. Sergius outside Moscow, in 1988.

Korea's most influential "true-view" painter, Jeong Seon was a government official who traveled frequently, capturing local landscapes

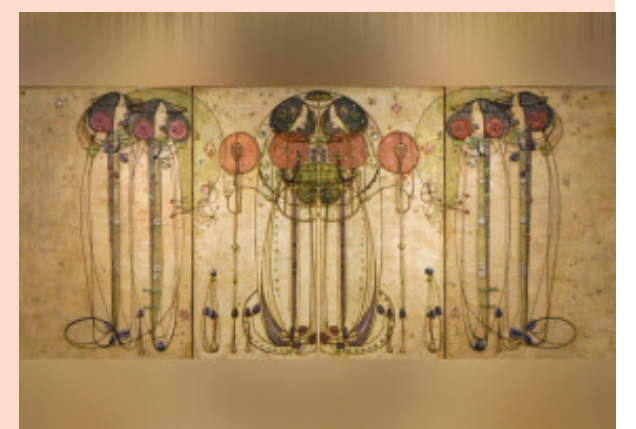


in ink and watercolor. His breezy, lyrical style rejected the pre-existing stylized aesthetic, influencing Korean artists for generations.

This elaborate manuscript was illustrated in the scriptorium of the Gunda Gunde Monas-

tery, known for its distinctive palette and stylized figures with large, expressive eyes. The text is written in Ge'ez—a liturgical language unique to the Ethiopian Christianity.

This delicate gesso wall panel, designed by



Scottish Art Nouveau phenomenon Charles Rennie Mackintosh, depicts the ancient tradition of wassailing—originally a pagan fertility ritual. The frieze originally graced the Ladies' Luncheon Room in Glasgow's Miss Cranston's Ingram Street Tearooms, and was part of a larger remodel of the premises by Mackintosh and his future wife, Margaret Macdonald.

This mosaic from the south gallery of



Istanbul's magnificent Hagia Sophia commemorates an important political alliance between East and West—the union of Emperor Komnenos and his redheaded Hungarian bride, Irene. Created from tiny, glittering glass tesserae, the image depicts the imperial couple presenting gifts to the central figures of the Virgin Mary and the infant Christ. (Concluded)

Erin is a contributing writer and photo editor for Stacker. A native New Yorker, today she makes her home in Milwaukee with her husband and son. When Erin's not working, she can be found in her studio experimenting with various inks.

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## Signing 'Indian 2' has been a step up in my career, says Kajal Aggarwal



**CHENNAI (KCN):** Actress Kajal Aggarwal, who teams up with actor-filmmaker Kamal Haasan for the first time in the upcoming Tamil film "Indian 2", says signing the project has been a step up in

her over a decade-long career.

Last seen on screen in Telugu film "Kavacham", Kajal has already begun prepping for her role in "Indian 2".

"I'm really thrilled to be part of

the project. I'm quite excited about my role and the skills I will get to learn on the job. I see signing 'Indian 2' as a step up in my career," Kajal told IANS along the sidelines of the launch of beverage brand 7Up's

new campaign, 7Up Ponneram.

Ponneram translates to golden times in English. Kajal said her career's golden times started when she signed S.S. Rajamouli's "Magadheera".

"My golden times started when I signed 'Magadheera'. I have seen many ups and downs in my profession but it was only after I did 'Magadheera' did my career catapult to the next league. It earned me a lot of recognition which I enjoy even today," she said.

Talking about what excited her most about the association with 7Up, Kajal said: "It's a brand a lot of us can easily identify and relate with. I like the fact that it's a very clear beverage. It's also a drink that lets you take a step back and chill. I treat success or failure by taking a step back and I believe it gives you a lot of clarity."

On the career front, Kajal is keenly looking forward to the release of "Paris Paris", the Tamil remake of Kangana Ranaut's "Queen".

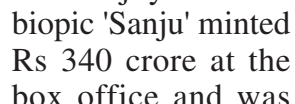
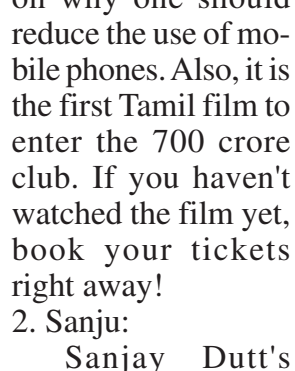
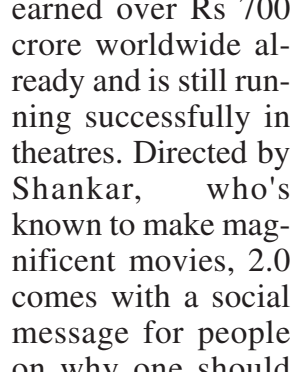
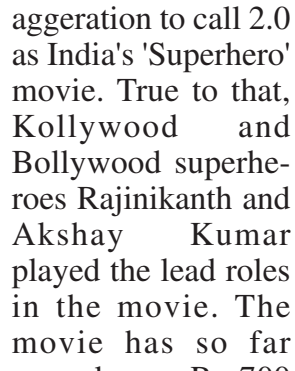
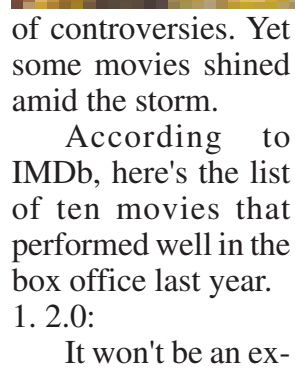
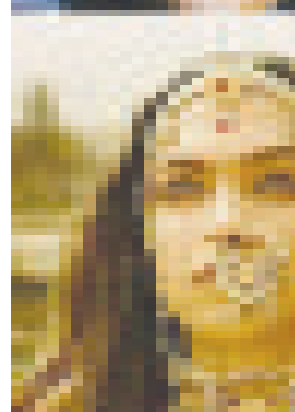
"Paris Paris" will be Kajal's first release of 2019.

"When I was offered the 'Queen' remake, I saw it as a story that can be explored in many languages. It's a simple story of a simple girl that I could connect with on many levels. I'm sure there are a lot of girls across different parts of Tamil Nadu who will relate to this story and I'd be glad if this film empowers them," she added.

## From 2.0 to Raazi, top 10 Indian movies based on worldwide gross

2018 has been an eventful year for Indian cinema. From Sanju to Sarkar, the industry faced a row

of controversies. Yet some movies shined amid the storm.



declared as 'double blockbuster' film. The movie showed the different phases of the controversial

ing Rs 293 crore. 4. Race 3:

'Our business is our business, none of your business' line

and the government freebie schemes.. A few scenes were deleted from the movie too. The matter was

ceived hilarious reactions on social media as well. Later, Aamir Khan apologised for failing to entertain

but it leaves you with a thought to ponder. 9. Rangasthalam:

With the right mix of content for a commercial flick, Rangasthalam made it big in the box office by collecting Rs 151 crore. The story is about how a young man with hearing impairment and his brother decide to dethrone their village's president who's been ruling the village for 30 years.

10. Raazi:

An adaptation of Harinder Sikka's 'Calling Sehmat' novel, Raazi is based on the true story of an Indian spy, who gets married into a Pakistani family of military officials to spy on Pakistan during the Indo-Pak war of 1971. It's easily Alia Bhatt's career best. The movie minted Rs 121 crore in the box office against the budget of Rs 30 crore.

It's been a great year for Indian cinema which took us on a journey of emotions, from laughter to tears, sometimes of joy. Though a lot of films didn't make it to this list, good films silently made it into the hearts of the audience.

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

**MUMBAI (KCN):** Actor Adil Hussain has offered support to the growing group of female artistes who are asking the reason for women's absence

from the Bollywood delegation of producers and actors that recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues faced by the film industry.

On Tuesday, an 18-member panel, including Akshay Kumar, Karan Johar, Ajay Devgn, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Ritesh Sidhwani and CBFC chief Praso

Joshi, met Modi to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage.

The meeting of the delegation came under fire on Wednesday for its exclusion of female representation with some activists and filmmakers pointing out that it was 2018 and asking, "Where are the women?" Adil took to Twitter to criticise the panel that met the prime minister, saying it has become the habit to exclude women from the decision making process.

later settled in Madras HC. It was much hyped that actor Vijay may begin his political career after this movie. Sarkar was well received by the Tamil audience and it made Rs 151 crore in the box office.

6. Baaghi 2:

This Tiger Shroff-Disha Patani starrer failed to impress audience due to its poor storyline line. Despite that, the movie minted Rs 161 crore in the box office and became a blockbuster. The story is about an army man trying to save his ex-lover's kidnapped daughter. The Baaghi series will have a third part 'Baaghi 3,' which will be out on March 6, 2020.

7. Thugs of Hindostan:

The film set in the 18th century earned Rs 130 crore in the box office against the 275 crore budget ending up a huge disaster at the box office despite having strong star cast including Aamir Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, Katrina Kaif. The film re-

actor Sanjay Dutt, which really didn't go well with some organisations. RSS openly criticised the movie in their mouth-piece 'Panchjanya.'

However, the movie became a huge hit in no time. It's definitely Ranbir Kapoor's best work ever. The movie was a comeback for both the reel and real Sanjus.

3. Padmaavat:

Initially scheduled to be released in 2017, the movie was caught in a row of controversies and finally got released early this year in January. Set in medieval Rajasthan, the story revolves around the life of Queen Padmavathi, which drew the flak from right-wing groups. Unlike the claims by the religious fanatics, the movie actually portrayed queen Padmavati in the best light. However, the film's team was asked to remove a few scenes from the movie before its release. Despite the fuss, the movie became a blockbuster at the box office, earn-

ing Rs 293 crore. 4. Race 3: 'Our business is our business, none of your business' line

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## We must not forget Major Hari Pal Singh Ahluwalia, the great mountaineer and a friend of the specially-abled

Major Hari Pal Singh Ahluwalia was a man who wore many hats. He was an exceptional mountaineer, a warrior of the battlefield, a renowned writer, a friend of the disabled, but he was also no less than a hero for the country's 60-plus generation. Major HPS Ahluwalia was a member of the mountaineering team that scaled the summit of Mount Everest on 20th May 1965. He was a part of the mountaineering contingent of the Indian Army.

The Indian team successfully climbed Mt. Everest after six years of the historic ascension by Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary, therefore implying that Major Ahluwalia was among the first Indians to do so. In 1965, Major Ahluwalia also fought in the war against Pakistan and taught the enemy army an unforgettable lesson on the battlefield. He passed away last Friday at the age of 85. During the war against Pakistan, a portion of his body was paralyzed. However, that did not deter him from going after his vision. Throughout his life, he worked in favor of those with disabilities. He founded the Indian Spinal Injury Center in New Delhi, where diseases related to the spinal cord are treated. It is the best hospital of its kind in India. Major Ahluwalia's life was legendary and awe-inspiring. He was a soldier, mountaineer, writer and founded a hospital. We need to

change our insensitive mentality about the interests of the disabled people of our country. Persons with disabilities should also be treated as equals as they do not need undue favors. In India, people with mental and physical disabilities face discrimination every day. Are homes or commercial buildings being built for the disabled in our country? The answer to this question is disheartening.

The reason is that we have an unsympathetic attitude towards the specially-abled right from the government to the society. There are numerous aware citizens like Major HPS Ahluwalia who keep opening the eyes of the government and society, telling them that they cannot be left to fend for themselves.

There are 16 types of disabilities in India. Major Ahluwalia himself used the aid of a wheelchair. He believed that the wheelchair-bound population should have the same facilities to get out of their homes, take a bus to college or the office, and go to shopping complexes or other public buildings like the ordinary public. But the situation is such that people with disabilities cannot move effortlessly in most places. We are failing to plan enough to provide adequate facilities in high-rise buildings and homes for them. The same is the case with the elderly. In India, the elderly and the disabled face blatant neglect. In a few days, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget. If, in this budget proposal, she grants tax relief to those builders who are helping the differently-abled in any manner, then in a way it will be an honest and fair tribute to Major

**R.K.Sinha**

HPS Ahluwalia and other specially-abled.

The real estate sector in India has taken a quantum leap in the last few decades, but those real estate companies are scarce which are building their projects, keeping in mind the convenience of the specially-abled and elderly. Even today, one will rarely find such residential and commercial buildings in which wheelchairs of the disabled can fit inside the lift. There is so little space in the lifts that it is not only difficult but next to impossible to carry a wheelchair inside them. Cabinets in bathrooms and kitchens are so high that it is extremely difficult for a disabled person to use them.

Under the pretext of Major HPS Ahluwalia, it is also significant that we promote and encourage other climbers. Those climbers who have had commendable achievements must be their due share of recognition and reward. Roads in the capital are named after the two climbers who first scaled Mount Everest on 29 May 1953. There is a road named after Sir Edmund Hillary in the Chanakyapuri area of New Delhi. He was the High Commissioner of New Zealand to India from 1985-1989. The doors of Edmund Hillary's office were always open to mountaineers, sportsmen, writers, etc. He was a very popular diplomat. There is also the Tenzing Norgay Road in Chanakyapuri. It is wishful-thinking to see a road or institution named after Major HPS Ahluwalia in different parts of the capital.

Everyone knows that Bachendri Pal Ji was the first Indian female mountaineer to surmount the treacherous slopes of Mt. Everest. Having

been impressed by her, Anita Kundu from Haryana has also scaled Mount Everest. The tricolor has been proudly waved thrice at the top of Mt. Everest and on the remaining highest peaks of the seven continents. The Indian couple Vikas Kaushik and his wife Sushma Kaushik have accomplished the distinction of being the youngest couple to climb Everest. At 45, Premlata Aggarwal had set the record for the oldest person to climb Everest. He had also scaled the summit of Everest along with the Kaushik couple.

It is of utmost significance that one understands that mountaineering will gain momentum only when the government, public sector, and private sector collectively bear the expenses of these mountaineers' trips as mountaineering costs are exorbitant. One must remember, that in India from the 1960s to the 1990s, the army used to bear all the expenses for the mountaineers of the army to conquer Mount Everest or other peaks. The Army has a sufficient budget for its mountaineers.

But there is an urgent need to think about those climbers who are not from the Army. Care has to be taken to rehabilitate those who get injured during these expeditions. Mountaineering is the only adventure sport in which the climber risks facing death every moment. One minor carelessness bears life-taking costs and could lead to being buried alive in the deadly cracks of ice.

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

## Artificial boosting of consumption-led demand will be misplaced choice for India

From successfully implementing electrical turnkey jobs to setting up and running of cement manufacturing units and subsequently running iron ore beneficiation plant-he has seen and done it all. But R P Gupta,

the export incentives. That will be revenue neutral, as estimated in my book. In today's crisis, boosting export is a prudent choice instead of relying upon the domestic demand alone.

RM: There has always been a debate on what should be India's priority- investment or consumption-led demand? What's your take on this?

Gupta: For a developing economy, investment led demand with an austerity in consumption is a right choice to arrest further decline of savings; that will affect investment damaging long term prospects. The consumption should grow along with the income. Artificial boosting of consumption led demand through bank loans or by government consumption spending is a misplaced choice. By this, there might be some

**Ritwik Mukherjee**

they will prefer financial investment instead of engaging in productive activities.

If so, who will drive Indian economy and generate jobs?

Financial investor and entrepreneur are the two wheels of economy; that must be acknowledged. Business risks must be shared among both wheels. Regulatory norms in the financial sector must match with Indian condition instead of importing from other countries.

In this context, I must add that India needs major ease of the business and taxation laws. Currently, these laws are not encouraging the entrepreneurs for expanding their business. Even minor non-compliance or delay in compliance has caused the criminal prosecution. At this juncture, it is very crucial to inspire entrepreneurs and craft motivational spirit among them. India must surmount the past legacy of Colonial laws and resign from the syndrome of excess and tough regulation. That has adversely affected India's ranking on the front of "economic freedom" and it must be improved. The complete compliance of existing laws is not feasible even by a large corporate and hence; the simplification of laws is a right choice. By this, the abundance of law shall progress and the respect for law and institutions shall succeed. Several studies have concluded that; the business laws and regulations must prevail but those must be simple and compliant by the majority and those must result in to developmental outcome. Legislature intent must be disclosed in the pre-amble of each law. Facilitation must co-exist along with the regulation.

RM: So far you have discussed issues pertaining to the organised sector. But what about India's large unorganised sector? Gupta: I'm glad you raised the topic. The role of unorganized sector in India is not recognized so far. Hence, it lacks policy support. This sector contributes more than 45 per cent of GDP and employs about 84 per cent of work force. Those are majorly engaged in the trade, transportation, construction, restaurants and such other services besides manufacturing. They are managed by large numbers of self-employed entrepreneurs. Their contribution to GDP, exports and job creation is very high. Any Nation, in its developing phase, needs such unorganized sector; which will graduate along with the growth of Nation. Past history of Asian

countries particularly Japan, will reveal similar stories.

As per fifth employment survey on September 15, 2016 by the Labour Ministry, about 47 per cent of the workforce is self-employed. They don't have a proper platform for expressing their grievances. Normally they don't resort to any agitation. The problems are somewhat enlarged after the recent



an engineering graduate by training from NIIT, Rourkella (Odisha), has always found more joys and satisfaction in finding viable solutions for achieving higher growth of public income through his studies, research and insightful writing. His recent book "Turn Around India" was released by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, giving acknowledgement to his insights and vision. Speaking to Ritwik Mukherjee, R P Gupta, Non-Executive Director of Shiva Cement Ltd. and Advisor of Shivom Minerals Ltd and entrepreneur-turned author, shares his thoughts on a wide range of issues facing Indian economy and India's socio-economic structure.

Excerpts: RM: What does India need for consistent growth?

Gupta: While building new capacities for production, there might be intermittent supply overhang causing loss to producers. For which, regular export is the only answer. But India is globally not so competitive. The global competitiveness doesn't depend upon the producers alone but upon the whole gambit of policies and regulation. Those must facilitate exports to grow at the rate of 15-20 per cent every year. India's share of exports in the world is barely 1.7 per cent; that must increase to 3.5 per cent in the next 5 years. Failing which, the GDP growth may not be consistent.

Radical changes in the policies and regulations might take some time. Hence, during the interim period, India must extend export incentives in the selective sectors so that; the incremental export is 4/5 times of



temporary push to GDP growth but it will invite inflation causing miseries to public. Right choice is boosting the investment in productive assets and infrastructures. In recent years, the investment rate has declined from 38 per cent of GDP to below 28 per cent. That must be restored for consistent high growth. For this, private investment must be rekindled through a series of structural reforms.

RM: Many a times in your book, you have mentioned that 'financial economy must compliment real economy'. What did you actually mean by that?

Gupta: Financial sector must supplement and not disrupt "real economy" for the growth and development of Nation. Current regulations protect banks and financial investors but not the entrepreneurs; they have invested the seed and risk capital. In future,



lockdown. A dedicated annual survey may be conducted not only to measure GDP but also to diagnose the problems enabling to make pro-active policy. This is the right antidote for resolving the job crisis.

RM: You have also strongly advocated corporatisation of Indian railways. Could you please throw some more light on this?

Gupta: Investment in the capital assets by Railway is lesser than 20 per cent of the investments in Road transport. Hence, the share of Railway in goods traffic has reduced from 86 per cent in 1950-51 to barely 25 per cent. Road transport of goods is obviously costlier. Hence, the average logistic cost in India is 2-3 times compared to peer nations. By this, cost of goods and services are inflated and India is loser on the export front. So as to overcome, Railway needs about Rs. 30-35 trillion in next 5 years for capacity building and efficiency improvement. For mobilizing such huge resources, Railway must be split in to six corporates. Those must be listed on stock exchange. Each corporate shall raise funds from banks and capital market. At a later date, the entry of private sector may be allowed, as done in the Aviation Industry.

## Activist Sarah Gill becomes Pakistan's first transgender doctor



ISLAMABAD(KCN): Leading activist Sarah Gill has become Pakistan's first transgender doctor after clearing the MBBS (Final) examination from Karachi's Jinnah Medical and Dental College. Gill, 23, is also associated with an NGO working for the welfare of the transgender community in Pakistan. "I am proud to be Pakistan's first

[transgender] doctor. I will work for the welfare of my community," Gill told The News International newspaper. "No one can stop you from achieving something if you're passionate about it. There are difficulties in life. I wanted to make Pakistan famous and my parents have also accepted me after I became a doctor," Dunya News quoted Gill as saying. The activist also

talked about how parents in Pakistan throw their transgender children out of their houses because of the pressure from society. "Stop throwing your children out of the houses because of the pressure of society. It's just the start, things will get better in the future," Gill said. Pakistan in recent years has taken steps to empower its transgender popula-

tion, including allowing them to get registered as transgender citizens. A special act was passed on in 2018 to protect their right and outlaw discrimination against them. Last year in July, members of the transgender community attended the first day of school after a special institute was opened for them in Multan, which offers classes from nursery till intermediate.

## Influential fashion journalist André Leon Talley dies at 73

NEW YORK: André Leon Talley, the towering former creative director and editor at large of Vogue magazine, has died. He was 73. Talley's literary agent David Vigliano confirmed Talley's death to USA Today late Tuesday, but no additional details were immediately available. Talley was an influential fashion journalist who worked at Women's Wear Daily and Vogue and was a regular in the front row of fashion shows in New York and Europe. At 6-feet-6 inches tall, Talley cut an imposing figure wherever he went, with his stature, his considerable influence on the fashion world, and his bold looks. In a 2013 Vanity Fair spread titled "The Eyeful Tower," Talley was described as "perhaps the industry's most important link to the past." Designer Tom Ford told the magazine Talley was "one of the last great fashion editors who has an incredible sense of fashion history. ... He can see through everything you do to the original reference, predict what was on your inspiration board." Designer Diane von Furstenberg praised Talley on Instagram, writing: "no one saw the world in a more

glamorous way than you did ... no one was grander and more soulful than you were." In his 2003 memoir, "A.L.T.: A Memoir," Talley focused on two of the most important women in his life: his maternal grandmother, Bennie Frances Davis and the late fashion editor Diana Vreeland. "Bennie Frances Davis may have looked like a typical, African American domestic worker to many of the people who saw her on an ordinary day, but I, who could see her soul, could also see her secret: that even while she wore a hair net and work clothes to scrub toilets and floors, she wore an invisible diadem," he wrote. His relationship with Vogue started at Duke University, where his grandmother cleaned dorms; Talley would walk to campus in his youth to read the magazine. Talley was also a familiar figure to TV audiences, serving as a judge on "America's Top Model" and appearing on "Sex and the City" and "Empire." Raised in Durham, North Carolina, Talley worked assorted jobs before arriving in New York in the 1970s, soon meeting Vreeland striking up a friendship that lasted until her death in 1989.

## Odisha Gets OmiSure Kits

Bhubaneswar: The Omicron cases in the State have made a long jump with the

which Omicron strain was found in 145 samples. All the samples were sent for

official said. The OmiSure kits have arrived. There are many variants of

son to other places of the State, he informed. The Indian Council



detection of another 145 fresh cases on Wednesday. The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar has informed the Health and Family Welfare Department about the detection of 145 cases of the highly contagious variant of the SARS-CoV-2. With this, the total number of cases in the State increased to 347. The ILS conducted genome sequencing of 249 samples from

genome sequencing between January 9 and 16, the ILS informed. Meanwhile, the State has received 30,000 OmiSure testing kits, which will be used on a trial run basis in four towns of the State to detect Omicron variants. Odisha is the first State in India to place an order for the OmiSure kits. It had placed orders to procure 5 lakh kits, of which 30,000 kits have arrived, the of-

Covid-19. Omicron is one among them, which is highly transmissible. The OmiSure kits will be sent to places having high case load for an internal study, said State director of health services, Bijay Mohapatra. Preliminary, the kits will be sent to Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Cuttack and Rourkela where a high number of Covid cases are being detected in compari-

of Medical Research (ICMR) had recently approved the OmiSure kit developed by the Tata Medical and Diagnostics Ltd. (Tata MD) for RT-PCR detection of the Omicron variant. At present, the State government is sending samples to Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar for genome sequencing to detect the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV2.

## CJ Favors Collective Efforts

Cuttack: Chief Justice Orissa High Court Dr S Muralidhar Wednesday said that the collective efforts of Judges Judicial Officers, members of the Bar, local administration and police play a key role in the success of the justice delivery system. He said that opening of the Court of Civil Judge-cum-J M F C at Kudumuluguma in the District of Malkangiri is an acknowledgement of the existence of particularly vulnerable tribal groups in the Judicial map of Odisha and also acknowledged them as part of the diverse population of Indian Citizens and Protect their rights guaranteed under Indian Constitution. He said that the blend of the prevalent legal system and their traditional Dispute Redressal system would offer the Judge

The Judge can also adopt the best practices prevailing in the traditional system to

spoke about the long cherished demand of the local people and local Bar Association



adorn the newly inaugurated Court a different learning experience. Justice S K Panigrahi

settle the disputes through alternative dispute redressal mechanisms, he said. Justice Muralidhar expressed hope that establishment of the two Women's Courts at Bhawanipatna and Keonjhar would ensure protection of dignity of women litigants and provide them speedy and efficient Justice. Justice S K Panigrahi

having been fulfilled by the inauguration of the Court of Civil Judge-cum-JMFC at Kudumuluguma in the District of Malkangiri. He said that the inauguration of this Court is another steppingstone to make Justice available at door steps. Justice Panigrahi said that the Quality of dispensation of Jus-

stice is dependent upon joint efforts and mutual cooperation between Bench and Bar. Among others, officers from the High Court Registry, District & Sessions Judges of these districts and Presiding Officers of the newly inaugurated courts, Bar members of those Courts and other high dignitaries were also present through Video Conferencing. The Chief Justice inaugurated six new Courts- Court of Civil Judge-cum-JMFC at Kudumuluguma in Malkangiri, Court of Senior Civil Judge-cum-Asst. Sessions Judge (Women's Court) at Bhawanipatna, Court of Senior Civil Judge (LR & LTV) at Kendrapara, Court of Senior Civil Judge (LR & LTV) at Jajpur, Court of Senior Civil Judge (LR & LTV) at Bolangir and Court of Senior Civil Judge-cum-Asst Sessions Judge (Women's Court) at Keonjhar.

## Maharashtra: BJP emerges as single largest party in nagar panchayat polls

MUMBAI: The BJP on Wednesday emerged as the single largest party after winning 384 out of 1,649 seats in the recently-held nagar panchayat elections in Maharashtra. Earlier in the day, state BJP president Chandrakant Patil

The vote count of nine nagar panchayats from Gadchiroli district will be held on Thursday, the SEC said. Speaking to reporters here earlier in the day, Patil claimed, "The elections were held for 106 nagar panchayats in the state, where the BJP has

the third or fourth position in these elections," Patil said. "Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray seems to be content with his post. He cares less for his party or party leaders, as they are losing ground across the state. The situation has benefitted the NCP," he

Munde said, "The MVA government's flip-flops on the OBC quota ahead of these polls has upset people. The three parties suffered a setback because they did not fight strongly for the OBCs. Despite having no official quota for the OBCs, the BJP gave tickets to leaders from the community, which benefited us in the polls." Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra minister Anil Parab on Wednesday claimed the results of the nagar panchayat elections showed that people favoured the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).



claimed that his party has emerged as the single largest political force in the state and can lead 24 nagar panchayats. The state election commission (SEC) on Wednesday evening declared the results stating that the BJP had won 384 seats, followed by the NCP with 344 seats. As per the SEC's data, the Congress has won 316 seats, while the Shiv Sena, which currently has the chief minister post, managed to bag only 284 seats. As many as 206 Independent candidates have also won in this election, it was stated.

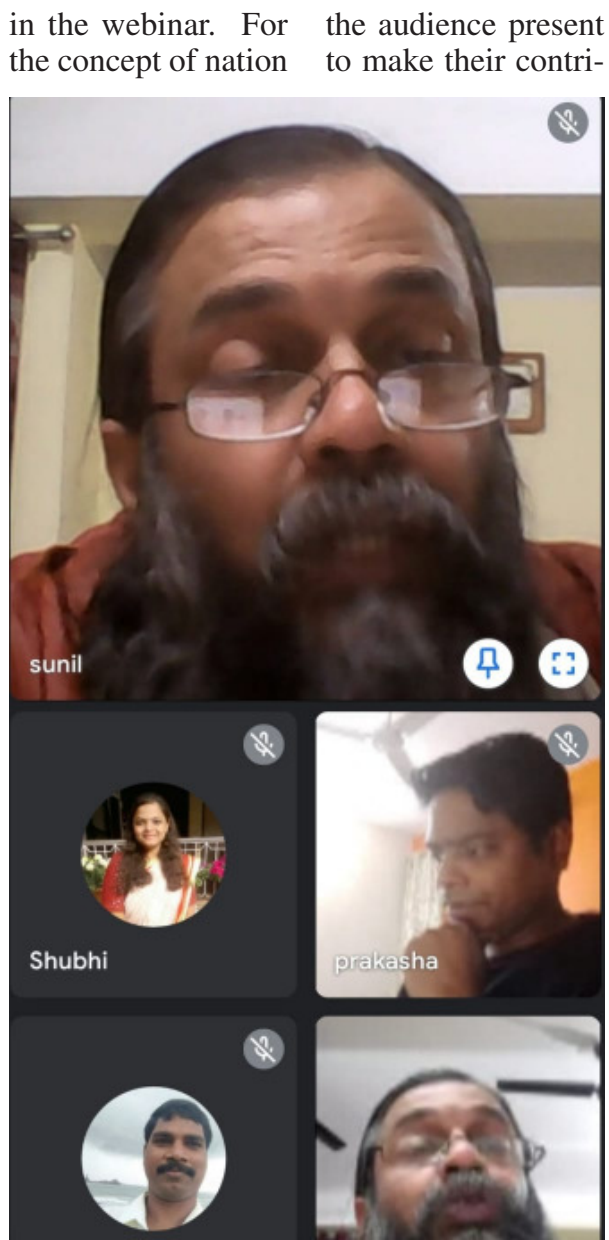
won more than 400 seats. We are in a strong position to lead 24 local bodies and we need the support of a couple of corporators to stake claim in another six towns." Despite being out of power in the state for nearly 26 months, the BJP has managed to record such success, he said. "This shows that our network of party workers and local leaders can deliver good results without the support of any government power or resources. The Shiv Sena got the chief minister's post, but it is struggling to remain in

said. The BJP leader further claimed that the discontent among leaders of the Maha Vikas Aghadi was visible, and hence, they have suffered in these local polls. "The BJP has benefited to some extent. Some of our leaders will hold meetings in various parts of the state to introspect," he said. The party will hold meetings in all the districts ahead of elections to 20 municipal corporations and 282 local bodies in the next two months, Patil said. Former state minister and BJP leader from Beed district Pankaja

Numbers were important in democracy and the ruling MVA alliance of the Sena, NCP and Congress won the highest number of seats collectively, he told reporters here after the results were announced. It did not matter which MVA constituent won how many seats, Parab said, adding that the result was a victory of the alliance. The Sena also did well in the coastal Konkan region, its traditional bastion, he claimed. Of 1,649 seats in 97 nagar panchayats (local government bodies for small towns), the BJP bagged 384, NCP 344, Congress 316 and Shiv Sena 284.

# Webinar on the occasion of Foundation Day celebrations of Anandam Foundation

Bhubaneswar (KC-N): Taking forward the sequence of the foundation day celebrations of the socio-spiritual organization 'Anandam Foundation', a webinar was organized on Google Meet on 18th January. The theme of this webinar was "Relevance of Swami Vivekananda's ideas in the current global context". The keynote speaker of the program Dr. Sunil Mohanty ji (Kshetra Prachar Pramukh, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, North-East India) expressed his views on the topic. The program was started by Shubhangi Upadhyay, Social Media Coordinator of Anandam Foundation with the Om chanting and Shanti Path. After this, Shri Manoj Das ji, the General Secretary of the organisation, explained the functions and purpose of the foundation in detail to the people present



in the webinar. For the concept of nation the audience present to make their contribution in this sacred work. In his statement, Dr. Sunil Mohanty ji said that, "In those times, every person was in-

spired by the thoughts of Swami Vivekananda, whether he was a writer, or a revolutionary, a philosopher, a historian or an industrialist, a resident of India or a foreigner. There is a profound effect to be seen." He further said that, "India's Sanatan culture will lead the world and will take the world out of the darkness and take it towards the light." In the program, Shubhangi Upadhyay presented the song and Prof. Jitendra Sangwai of IIT Madras while giving the vote of thanks said that everyone will have to work in the thread of unity for propagating the ideas of Swami Vivekananda. The program was conducted by Prakash Sahu, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University. More than 52 people from across the country participated in this webinar.

# Six Candidates Of Congress Party File Nomination of ZP Members

Khordha (KC-N): Even as the filing of nomination papers will begin on Monday the ruling BJD and Opposition BJP are yet to finalise their candidates for 30 Zilla Parishad Members seat in Khordha District. The situation for the ruling party is the presence of a large number of aspirants. Interested candidates are trying for ticket from a ZP zone. Putting the MLA and others in-charge of ticket distribution is great difficulty. In

tickets are being distributed by District President in consultation with the Pradesh Congress Committee. Today, Six numbers of Congress Party 3, Lakshmi Priya Khuntia, Zone no-9, Chandra Kanta



candidates in Maharathi, Zone no-



Khordha Assembly Constituency file their nomination in 10, Prasanta Kumar Srichandan, Zone no-11, Renubala Behera

and Zone no-12, Purna Chandra Jena in the presence of Khordha District Congress Committee President Suresh Kumar Routray, former Khordha District Congress Committee President Janaki Ballabha Pattnaik (Junior), Khordha town Congress Committee President Ranjit Mohapatra, Khordha Block Congress Committee President Biswa Bhusan Chhotray, Khordha Spokesperson Amit Mohanty, Vice-president Siladitya Pattnaik, Padma Charan Ray, Pradosh Harichandan, Pradosh Sahoo, Kishore Baral and other party workers were present. "Congress does not have any problem in this regard and this time the party will field candidates in a majority of seats "Khordha District Congress Committee President Suresh Kumar Routray said.

# STF raided and arrested wildlife criminal

Rourkela (KC-N): On the basis of reliable information, a

incriminating articles were recovered from his pos-

and handed over to Bolangir Forest Officials for legal action at their end. The Live Pangolin was also handed over to DFO, Bolangir for safe custody. Investigation is on. Since 2020, Special drive against the wildlife criminals/ poachers have been launched. STF has seized as many as 25 numbers of leopard skins, 13 numbers of elephant tasks, 7 numbers of deer skins, 10 numbers of live pangolin



team of STF conducted raid with the help Bolangir Forest Officials on the road near Baragoan Chhaka under Deogoan PS of Bolangir District on Tuesday, as a result of which one wildlife criminal namely Ajit Kumar Budek S/o. Biranchi Kumar Budek of Tamian PS, Larambha Dist. Bolangir was apprehended. During search, One Live Pangolin and other

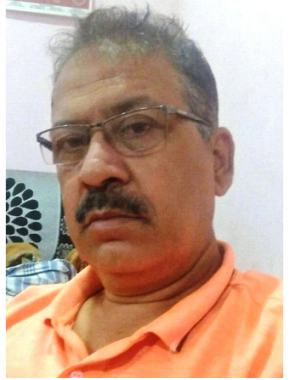
session. The accused person could not produce any author-



ity in support of possession of the Live Pangolin, for which he has been detained

and more than 16 kg pangolin scales with arrest of as many as 56 numbers of wildlife criminals.

Appoint advocate MD Zia Ul Haque as chairperson of Odisha Pradesh Minority Department Bhubaneswar(KCN): All India Congress Committee (AICC) has approved the proposal of the appointment of chairperson/ working chairman of minority department of Pradesh congress committee with immediate effect from today says General Secretary of AICC Shri K.C Venugopal.



In this connection, Advocate Md. Zia Ul Haque appoint as chairperson of Odisha Pradesh Minority Department. Apart from that, Shri Hafiz Ahamed Alli and John Robert Babu appoints as chairpersons of Chandigarh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands along with Md Zakir Hussain appoint as working chairman of Manipur.

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## Rupee clocks 1st gain in four days, up by 14 paise against USD

MUMBAI: The Indian rupee snapped its three-day losing streak to settle 14 paise higher at 74.44 against the US dollar on Wednesday, in line with positive Asian peers against the greenback. The rupee gain, however, was restricted by a host of factors including weak domestic

equities, surging crude oil prices, and sustained selling by FIIs in domestic markets. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened lower at 74.70 a dollar, registering a decline of 12 paise from the last close. During the day, it pared losses and witnessed

an intra-day high of 74.32. The domestic unit finally settled at 74.44 against the American currency, up 14 paise over its last close. On Tuesday, the rupee slumped by 33 paise to close at a two-week low of 74.58 against the US dollar. "The Indian rupee gained the most in a week following stronger regional currencies. Domestic bond markets saw a recovery on suspected intervention by the central bank, which helped in rupee recovery," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

"Also, the relentless selling of dollars from corporates caused speculative unwinding of positions," Parmar said. "Spot USD/INR is expected to consolidate within the 74.25 to 74.80 band in the coming days," he added.

"Rupee traded volatile with weak opening trend in the morning session and picked up strength later, taking support near 74.60; and thereafter rallied towards 74.40 on the back of weakness in the dollar." Jateen Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at LKP Securities, said.

"Technical resistance for USD/INR also supported rupee from 74.60 where it has shown resistance to cross earlier in Jan 2022 start, and going ahead market shall be in the range of 74.25-74.60," he added. Meanwhile, the US dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against the basket of six currencies, fell 0.11 per cent to 95.62. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, jumped 0.94 per cent to USD 88.33 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers in the capital market on Tuesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,254.95 crore, as per stock exchange data. On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 656.04 points or 1.08 per cent lower at 60,098.82, while the broader NSE Nifty declined 174.65 points or 0.96 per cent to 17,938.40.

### Odisha Election Commission revises ex-gratia to Rs 30 lakh for kin of poll personnel who die on duty

Continued from page-1

disability, loss of limb or eyesight, caused due to any violent act of extremism or anti-social elements during poll duty has been fixed at Rs 15 lakh. Similarly, persons with permanent disability due to accident or any other cause in the course of election duty will be provided Rs 7.5 lakh.

A compensation of Rs 2 lakh will be provided to persons sustaining grievous injuries or multiple fractures caused by accident or any other cause during poll duty. The notification said that a person is to be treated on poll duty as soon as he/she leaves residence to report to any election related duty including training and returns to his/her residence after completion of work.

Any mishap which takes place during this period will be treated as having occurred on election duty subject to the condition that there should be a causal connection between the occurrence of death/injury and the election duty, it added.

BJD demands removal of Central government posters

BHUBANESWAR: The BJD on Tuesday demanded that all hoardings, banners and posters found at public places promoting Central government schemes should be removed immediately.

In a memorandum submitted to State Election Commissioner (SEC) AP Padhi, the BJD alleged that a large number of hoardings, banners, posters can still be found at petrol pumps, highways, railway stations, airports, other Central government installations promoting the Centre's schemes in violation of the model code of conduct.

The BJD urged the SEC to take necessary steps for the removal of all such hoardings, banners and posters.

### COVID situation under control in state: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik

Continued from page-1

them that there is nothing to be afraid of.

The Chief Secretary said that COVID hospitals have been operationalised with all provisions including medicines. Additional Chief Secretary in the Health department RK Sharma said that 11, 291 beds are available in COVID hospitals, out of which only 11 per cent are occupied by patients.

Sharma informed that 92.7 per cent people of the State have received the first dose vaccination while 70.7 per cent have taken the second dose. He said that 45.5 per cent in the 15 years to 18 years age group have been vaccinated while 14 per cent have taken the booster dose.

### Screening Panel for MCC Violation

Continued from page-1

and fair election, the Commission directed that no spirituous, fermented or intoxicating liquors or other substances of like nature shall be sold, given or transported to or distributed at hotels, eating houses, tavern, shops or any other place, public or private within the respective wards during the period of 48 hours preceding the poll up to the day following the poll day.

The Excise Department was asked to issue necessary orders in this regard to the field level officials. The Commission expects that the above restrictions shall be vigorously enforced by concerned authorities.

No arms and fatal weapons will be allowed to the booths, people carrying licenced guns and other weapons are prohibited from moving around near those places from February 14 (5PM) to March 1 (5PM), the Commission ordered the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Home Department.

However, the election officers, polling officers, police officers and any other person appointed to maintain law and order at a polling station, who is on duty at polling station can go armed as defined in the Arms Act, 1959 of any kind within the neighbourhood of the polling station set up in every ward. The SEC has warned of stern action against the persons who would violate its orders.

In order to facilitate the voters in these areas to exercise their franchise, the SEC asked the State Government to grant paid holiday to all Government employees and those working in Government Undertakings/Boards, Corporations, Apex Bodies etc. on the day of poll for their respective local area.

The Government employees who desire to exercise their franchise at a place away from their headquarters on the date of poll will be allowed Special Casual Leave for maximum period of 3 (three) days i.e. on the day preceding poll, one day after poll and on the date of poll.

The leave to be granted may be treated as Special Casual Leave in addition to normal Casual Leave admissible to them during the Calendar Year, 2022.

Moreover, the SEC has also written to the Labour and ESI Department to ensure that every person employed in any business, trade, industrial undertaking or any other establishment and desiring to vote at the said election shall be granted paid holiday on the date of poll.

The Panchayat polls will be held in five phases on February 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24. The counting of votes and declaration of results will be done at all the block levels on February 26, 27, and 28.

### Calcutta High Court quashes Notices issued under section 148

Continued from page-1

Income Tax Act have been quashed with liberty to the Assessing Officers concerned to initiate fresh re-assessment proceedings in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act as amended by Finance Act, 2021 and after making compliance of the formalities as required by the law.

Jainsaid that the Calcutta High Court has made very appropriate decision by quashing Notices issued by Income Tax Department under section 148 on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 ignoring the provisions of section 147 to 151 substituted by the Parliament with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021. Jain pointed out that the High Court has followed the decision of Delhi High Court in the case of Man Mohan Kohli and noted para 103 of Order that Executive cannot use the administrative power to undermine the expression of Parliamentary Supremacy in the form of an Act of Parliament and it cannot frustrate the purpose of substituted statutory provisions like sec 147 to 151 by emptying it of content or impeding or postponing their effectual operation.

KK Jain, President DTPA suggested the CBDT that it should honour the decisions of various High Courts and should issue instructions declaring the notices issued on or after 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 in contravention of the substituted provisions of sec. 147, 148 and 148A. Accordingly the officials should withdraw the notices in the interest of justice. RD Kakra, Chairman, Legal Relief Society said that Taxpayers, who have not challenged the notices, may still have to file the petitions in High Court or go through the long process of reassessment proceedings and appellate proceedings.

## FM charges Congress of fraud in entering into Antrix-Devas deal; cites SC judgment

NEW DELHI: Hailing the Supreme Court's verdict on

parties for a pittance by the UPA government.

in international courts against the scam committed dur-

signed during the UPA government and it took six full



the Devas-Antrix deal, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said that the scandal was a "fraud on people of India, fraud against the country by the Congress". The minister alleged that the S-band spectrum which should have been reserved for the defence forces was being given to private

"Rs 579 crore was brought in by Devas but almost 85% of it was siphoned out of India. So, you bring in investment, take it away and fight arbitration outside with that money, and call that investment made in India?" said Sitharaman, adding that the government is protecting the money of the taxpayers by fighting cases

ing the UPA government.

"Antrix-Devas deal was a fraud by the Congress, of Congress, for (the) Congress," charged Sitharaman. She added that in a 2011 interview, the then Telecom Minister had said the Cabinet was not aware of the details of the deal. "The Antrix-Devas agreement was

years for the UPA to cancel the agreement in 2011," added Sitharaman. The minister stated that the apex court in a verdict delivered on January 17 maintained the NCLAT order on liquidation of the Devas multimedia company on the grounds that the entity had been incorporated for fraudulent purposes

## Unreasonable 21 per cent indirect taxes resulting in chronically ill civil aviation industry: IndiGo CEO

NEW DELHI: The civil aviation industry has to pay 21 per cent of its revenues as indirect taxes and this "unreasonable proposition" is

unable to live up to its true potential of boosting commerce and employment," he said. On January 17, rating agency Crisil said in a



resulting in a chronically ill sector, IndiGo CEO Ronojoy Dutta said on Wednesday.

Dutta requested the Ministry of Finance to reduce central excise taxes on fuel from 11 to 5 per cent and eliminate custom duties on aircraft repair parts.

Civil aviation provides efficient infrastructure, critical for economic growth and employment in our country, he said in a statement.

"Yet civil aviation pays 21 per cent of its revenues to the government in indirect taxes with very little input credit," Dutta said.

It is an unreasonable proposition to expect that the industry should earn a 21 per cent margin just to pay taxes to the government, India's largest airline's CEO noted.

"This unreasonable proposition is resulting in an industry that is chronically ill and is

report that Indian carriers are likely to incur a massive loss of approximately Rs 20,000 crore in 2021-22 due to third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and rising fuel prices. Dutta requested the Ministry of Finance to take immediate action to address the long festering problem.

"Central excise taxes on fuel should be reduced from 11 per cent to 5 per cent, ATF (aviation turbine fuel) should be brought under the GST, custom duties on repair parts should be eliminated," said Dutta, who is also the Whole Time Director of the airline.

A rationalisation of taxes will result in explosive growth for aviation, which will have multiplier effects throughout the economy, stimulating commerce and employment and integrating the different regions of our diverse country closer together, he said.

## Mexico threatens fans with 5-year bans for homophobic chant

MEXICO CITY: The Mexican Football Federation says any fan caught screaming a homophobic chant at its matches will face a five-year ban from national team games.

Federation President Yon de Luisa said fans

buying tickets will have to register their personal information and present a QR Code and identification at stadium entrances.

The security presence at national team matches will be increased in an attempt to ensure any-

one heard making the offensive chant will be expelled and face a ban.

The measures are the latest move in the Mexican federation's efforts to eliminate the chant, which has been directed at opposing goalkeepers and led to sanctions by

FIFA, soccer's governing body.

"We can't tolerate discriminatory acts. We can't play in empty stadiums. We invite our fans to adopt these measures," De Luisa said Monday during a news conference.

"It is not a measure designed to avoid the resale, but without a doubt will have an effect on that because now fans, even though they have a



fans and fined the federation 100,000 Swiss francs (\$110,000) as punishment for homophobic chants during October qualifiers

## Defending champion Naomi Osaka, Ash Barty advance toward Australian Open showdown

MELBOURNE: For the first set, Naomi Osaka's rediscovered love of the game meant it was anything but fun for Madison Brengle in the third round of the Australian Open.

The defending champion conceded only four points in the first four games Wednesday and rifled forehand winners seemingly at will as she breezed to 6-0 in a mere 20 minutes.

The second set started with Brengle celebrat-

"Rafael Nadal didn't get it all his own way in the subsequent match on Rod Laver Arena, needing five match points before beating 126th-ranked German qualifier Yannick Hanfmann 6-2, 6-3, 6-4. The sixth-seeded Nadal, aiming for a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title, had two match points on Hanfmann's serve and two more on his own in the next game before finally clinching a spot in the third round when his rival sent a forehand long.

Nadal converted only four of his 16 break-point chances, including one of eight in the third set, but only faced two break points on his own serve and fended them both off.

For the 35-year-old Nadal, after fatigue and injuries curtailed his 2021 season following the French Open, time on court is



ing a service hold like she'd finished a long-distance race, but gradually the No.54-ranked American ground down Osaka to a stage in the seventh game where she finally converted a break-point opportunity — after missing her first nine chances.

That triggered a change in the former No.1-ranked Osaka, who responded by breaking back immediately and winning the last nine points to complete a 6-0, 6-4 victory.

She will next face Amanda Anisimova, a 20-year-old American who beat Olympic gold medalist Belinda Bencic 6-2, 7-5.

The winner of that is likely to face top-ranked Ash Barty in the fourth round.

Osaka won the Australian Open last year, her fourth Grand Slam title, but then withdrew from the French Open and skipped Wimbledon as she took a break for her mental health.

She then was ousted early at the U.S. Open. After a long off-season to reset, she's unbeaten in five matches in Australia this year.

Asked how she rated her form, Osaka said that's not how she's approaching things.

"Honestly I'm trying not to do that," she said in an on-court TV interview.

"I'm a bit of a perfectionist. If I compare myself with the past, I'll never be satisfied. The goal for me is just to have fun. I think we're accomplishing that," she said.

"Since the draw for the first major of the year was made, a big focus has been on a potential encounter between Osaka and Barty, the 2021 Wimbledon and 2019 French Open champion who is aiming to be the first Australian woman since 1978 to win her home championship. Barty was front and centre when the tournament celebrated its inaugural First Nations Day, albeit only for 52 minutes as she beat 142nd-ranked qualifier Lucia Bronzetti 6-1, 6-1.

"It was nice for me to be a part of it in a way that I feel most comfortable," Barty, who has Indigenous heritage, said of the day dedicated to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia. Out on the tennis court is how I express myself as an athlete, it's how I'm able to express myself as a person as well. "On a day we're bringing cultures together, bringing people together. It was great for me to be able to play a small role doing what I love," she said.

more important than anything else.

"I said here before the tournament started, things are not going to be perfect, but every day that I'm going to spend on court, the chances to play better are higher. "After two matches is the moment to make a step forward. I'm excited about it," he said.

Nadal shares the men's record of 20 singles titles with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, and he doesn't have either of them in the draw this time.

Federer is skipping the Australian Open while he continues his recovery from injury.

Djokovic, a nine-time champion at Melbourne Park, was deported after an 11-day saga that he ultimately lost because he didn't meet Australia's strict COVID-19 vaccination regulations.

Miomir Kecmanovic, who was originally drawn to meet Djokovic on the opening night, advanced to the third round with a 7-6 (7), 7-5, 7-6 (8) win over Tommy Paul of the United States.

Wimbledon finalist Matteo Berrettini and No.23 Reilly Opelka advanced in straight sets, while No.19 Pablo Carreno Busta beat Tallon Griekspoor 6-3, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-4.

In two marathon five-setters, No.14 Denis Shapovalov held off Kwon Soon-woo 7-6 (6), 6-7 (3), 6-7 (6), 7-5, 6-2 in 4 hours, 25 minutes on Margaret Court Arena, and Sebastian Korda edged Corentin Moutet 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (2), 7-5, 7-6 (6) in 4:47.

In the women's draw, French Open champion and fourth-seeded Barbora Krejcikova beat Wang Xiyu 6-2, 6-3 to move into a third-round match against No.26 Jelena Ostapenko.

Eighth-seeded Paula Badosa advanced in straight sets and two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka moved into a third-round match against 15th-seeded Elina Svitolina, who was leading 6-3, 5-7, 5-1 when Harmony Tan retired from their second-round match.

Svitolina waited on court at Margaret Court Arena until Tan, who had received treatment on her lower left leg, was removed in a wheelchair.

"It's always horrible when any athlete gets injured in competition. She played really well and she made it not easy for me. "It's tough to see a player going out like this," Svitolina said.

ticket, must have registered to be able to enter." FIFA's disciplinary committee announced a two-match ban on fans and a 60,000 Swiss francs (\$65,000) fine in June following anti-gay chants heard during Olympic qualifying matches in March against the Dominican Republic and the U.S. at Guadalajara. The penalty was reduced to one-game in August following an appeal, and El Tri opened World Cup qualifying at an empty Estadio Azteca in Mexico City with a 2-1 win over Jamaica on Sept.2.

FIFA's disciplinary committee on Nov.1 ordered Mexico's team to play its next two home World Cup qualifiers without

against Honduras and Canada in Mexico City. Mexico hosts Costa Rica on Jan.30 and Panama on Feb.2 at Azteca.

The federation says it plans to invite about 2,000 people to the games, a group of team relatives and federation employees.

The federation hopes to have the new measures in place for its March 24 home qualifier against the United States.

The chant emerged in 2003 during a pre-Olympic tournament in Guadalajara.

It spread during the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and since then has cost the

Mexican federation more than a dozen sanctions, despite campaigns urging fans to stop.

## Ash Barty breezes into 3rd round at Australian Open

MELBOURNE: Top-ranked Ash Barty is breezing through the Australian Open draw so far. Things could get a lot more interesting soon enough.

Barty extended her streak of service holds to 48 games and moved into the third round at Melbourne Park for the sixth consecutive year by beating 142nd-ranked qualifier Lucia Bronzetti 6-1, 6-1 in under an hour Tuesday in Rod Laver Arena.

Barty dropped just one game in her first-round match, which also took less than an hour, as she bids to become the first Australian woman since 1978 to win the country's Grand Slam tournament.

She is already a two-time major champion, with trophies at the French Open in 2019 and Wimbledon last year.

Next up for Barty will be a matchup against another Italian, 30th-seeded Camila Giorgi.

Win that, and Barty could end up in a fourth-round showdown against defending champion Naomi Osaka.

Eighth-seeded Paula Badosa has moved into the third round of the Australian Open with a 6-0, 6-3 win over Italian qualifier Martina Trevisan in Rod Laver Arena.

Badosa won the title at a Sydney tuneup tournament last week, when she put together back-to-back match wins in Australia for the first time.

In other early second-round results on Day 3 of the year's first tennis Grand Slam event, two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka beat Jil Teichmann 6-1, 6-2, and No.30 Camila Giorgi beat Tereza Martincova 6-2, 7-6 (2).

Top-ranked Ash Barty, aiming to be the first Australian woman to win the home championship since 1978, was playing Lucia Bronzetti on the main court at Melbourne Park.




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