

## 100 Cr for Community Partners

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Community Partnership is the basis of adding sustainability to any intervention that is launched to empower the poor and vulnerable. It is heartening to add here that Govt of Odisha has provided Rs 100 crore to 26,691 Mission Shakti Groups as supervision charges (Incentives) to strengthen Community Partnership under various Urban Verticals, i.e. MUKTA, A A H A R, JALSATHIs, Solid Waste Management, Shelter for Urban Homeless, Pickle Making Unit etc that are in progress across the state. This move has

solidly affirmed the faith of the people on the visionary leadership of Honorable Chief Minister.

As part of Community empowerment & institution building, nearly 50,000 Mission Shakti Groups have been formed and given priority to get involved in a number of activities and Odisha has emerged as a pioneering State in this regards. To strengthen the initiative further, emphasis has been laid on involving Community at every stage of planning and coordination as it holds the key to ensuring the success of any initiative. Further community participation has been accorded highest priority as it builds an atmosphere of accountability and transparency as part of grassroot governance at the ULB level. To broaden the platform of MSG engagement with focus on accelerating the pace of Urban Transformation, Govt of Odisha has already engaging MSGs in look-

ing after the operation & maintenance of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant, Community Toilet, and Rental Housing Complex, Parks etc as decisive steps forward on enhancing livelihood of poor and vulnerable women in Urban Areas. The Community Participation initiative has indeed set a new bench mark

in setting trends on how to come out of vicious cycle of poverty. The Community Partnership model pioneered by Odisha has been appreciated by National and International agencies across the globe. Further the Odisha Model of Community Driven Empowerment initiatives with focus on gender sensitization by involving Mission Shakti members in the flagship programmes has emerged as a powerful example across the country for other States to initiate similar steps and reap the benefit of involving women at each and every stage of planning and implementation. On the whole, Govt of Odisha model affirms the belief that women, if given the opportunity, can emerge as powerful and equal partners in the entire exercise of sustainable development.

"We are pleased to share that Rs 100 crore incentive has been paid to community partners so far who are engaged in various techno-managerial roles in diverse urban development programmes across all the 115 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). The community partners comprising Mission Shakti Groups are among our most trusted and valuable partners and we are proud of our partnership with them ,H&UD Department"



## Odisha: LoP raps CM for not inviting President, PM to World Cup



BHUBANESWAR (KCN) : As the wordy duel between the BJP and BJD over the missing pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik from the advertisements issued by the state government and SAIL continues, leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra on Sunday targeted the CM for not inviting President Droupadi Murmu and Modi to the hockey World Cup.

When the state government is sending ministers to invite chief ministers of different states to the mega event starting January 13, not inviting the President of India, who is the daughter of the soil, and the prime minister

is inappropriate, said Mishra.

"There is nothing to be surprised about the omission of the PM's photo in the state government advertisement. This is the very characteristic of the BJD government to claim credit for everything where it has the least contribution. It has mastered the art of appropriating Central schemes by stamping its logo," he remarked.

He also criticised state minister Ashok Panda for expecting the chief minister's picture in an advertisement issued by the SAIL, a day after launching the flight service from Bhubaneswar to Rourkela under the UDAN scheme.

## Tourism in Odisha's Deomali hit as amenities elude visitors

JEYPORE(KCN): The lack of basic

of tourists who complained a tourist from West Bengal



amenities in Deomali under Pottangi block of Koraput district has tourists visiting the place crib and crying. Sources said being one of the famous tourist destinations of Odisha, Deomali peak situated at an elevation of 1,672 metres attracts visitors from both within and outside the state all round the year. After the state government initiated several developmental projects in the bordering Kotia panchayat, Deomali too witnessed an increase in the number



get a glimpse of its scenic beauty. However, much to their dismay, there are no appropriate shelters for tourists as yet. Moreover, lack of basic amenities like drinking water and toilets add to their woes. "Visitors have to collect water for drinking and other purposes from the nearby villages which are often as far as 10 km away from the spot. It is strange that despite being a famous tourist destination there are no provisions of drinking water at the spot,"

Amlan Majumdar, the district administration and the Tourism department must make the place tourist-friendly with basic facilities, added another visitor from N a b a r a n g p u r Dhanurjay Rath. Admitting the lack of officer, Koraput, Talina Pradhani said the spot will be developed soon. "The state tourism department has already sanctioned around ₹ 16 crore for the purpose and the developmental works will commence shortly," she added.

## Advisory for TV Channels

New Delhi(KCN): Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has today



issued an advisory to all television channels against reporting incidents of accidents, deaths, and violence including violence against women, children and elderly in manners which grossly compromises

on "good taste and decency". The advisory has been issued after several instances of lack of discretion by television channels were noticed by the Ministry.

The Ministry has said that television channels have shown dead bodies of individuals and images/videos of injured persons with blood splattered around, people, including women, children and elderly being beaten mercilessly in close shots, continuous cries and shrieks of a child being beaten by a teacher, shown repeatedly over several minutes including circling the actions thereby making

it even more ghastly, without taking the precaution of blurring the images or showing them from long shots. It has further highlighted that the manner of reporting such incidents is distasteful and distressing for the audience.

The advisory has highlighted the impact such reporting has on various audience. It has stated that such reports can also have an adverse psychological impact on the children. There is also a crucial issue of invasion of privacy which could be potentially maligning and defamatory, the advisory has underlined. Television, being a plat-

form usually watched by families in households with people from all cohorts – old aged, middle aged, small children, etc., and with various socio-economic backgrounds, place certain sense of responsibility and discipline among the broadcasters, which have been enshrined in the Programme Code and the Advertising Code.

The Ministry has observed that in most cases the videos are being taken from social media and broadcast without editorial discretion and modifications to ensure compliance and consistency with the Programme Code.

## Jyotishpeet Shankaracharya sets up 'Dharam Censor Board' to review films, web series on OTT

LUCKNOW(KCN): Shankaracharya of Jyotishpeeth, Swami Avimuktেশwaranand Sarswati has set up a 'Dharam Censor Board'

to review and analyse the content of films and web series on OTT hurting religious sentiments in the name of entertainment.

The board, the constitution of which was announced in Prayagraj, last week, was set up in Haridwar on Sunday.

The seer said that the central office of the 'Dharam Censor Board' also known as 'Dharam Shodhan Sewalaya' would be inau-

gurated in Delhi on January 15. The guidelines would be released on Magh Mela premises of Prayagraj on January 19. The cen-



tor board has come up amid the raging controversy over the song 'Besharam Rang....' of Shahrukh Khan and Deepika Padukone

starrer 'Pathan'. The movie is set for theatrical release on January 25. Significantly, a raging controversy is going on over the Pathan song which features Deepika Padukone in saffron attire. A number of right-wing organisations objected to it while threatening to boycott the film in theatres.

According to sources, the 10-member Dharam Censor Board would have its offices in different states. According to Swami Avimuktেশwaranand, the Dharam Censor Board would delve deep into the content of films, web series, TV serials, and the school curriculum being offered. "It will also look into the characters, their dialogues and delivery, colours being used and sequences being shown in the name of showbiz.

The Board will recommend CONTINUED ON: P-7

MOSCOW(KCN): Moscow claimed on Sunday its army conducted a deadly "retaliatory strike" in the eastern Ukrainian city of



Kramatorsk to avenge the deaths of 89 Russian troops killed in Makiivka.

"More than 600 Ukrainian servicemen were killed" as a result of a strike on Kyiv troops stationed in two buildings in Kramatorsk used as barracks, the Russian

CONTINUED ON: P-7



## OMDC Karmachari Sangh, Thakurani urges for immediate mining operations

Barbil(KCN): OMDC majdoor Sangh staged protest against delay of mining operations. Cores for the next 20 years which means Rs 7500 Crores (Rs 20 crore every Day) every



At present this company is a subsidiary of RINL, whereas RINL is under consideration for disinvestment proposal. Employees too demand to get a separate identity of OMDC to prevent its huge capital reserve and to activate all mines operational. They too urge to involve better mining fraternity with Modi. They company need immediate capital investment of Rs300Crores only in phases for starting and gaining its mining revenue, this can be repaid easily within two years. Presently MDO contract awarded but they have failed to initiate mining activities since last 2 years for the various reasons. They show their discontent on present Managing Directors and and Business Head and raise questions on their competency to make all mines operational. It is to note that OMDC having capital mining reserve of Rs 2,12,000 Crores calculating at present Market value and net of expenses it will be Rs 1,50,000

year. Chandragupta Prasad ,the Former District president Bharatiya Majdoor Sangh told, OMDC will provide lots of employment to tribal people and others of Odisha and neighbouring states. But unfortunately company is now not in a position to pay salary to staffs and interest and EMI to bank. The lease rights of all the six mines have expired and the six mines are inoperative for want of Statutory Clearances, for which necessary actions is taken by the company to start mining. In recent development Lease deed of one mine Bagiaburu Mines has been signed on 06.07.2022. But he expressed his gratitude to Dharmendra Pradhan, Cabinet minister and Mohan Majhi for their efforts to bring some hope for this mines and in the recent future a meeting is likely to organise with central ministry of mines for smooth functioning of mines ,he added.

## 31 cats die of unknown disease in Odisha's Bhograi

BALASORE(KCN): Harish Chandra Das, a resident of Gajipur vil-



At least 31 cats have reportedly died of an unknown disease in Bhograi block of Balasore district in the last couple of days.

dying, he claimed.

Similarly, Bhagirathi Sahu of Jagannathpur village said seven of his cats have died. Srihari Jena of Batsarisha village in Sahabajipur gram panchayat has also lost four of his cats. With the Covid-19 pandemic not yet over, locals are in panic over the deaths. While some believe the cats died due to an intense cold wave, others suspect that the felines may have

succumbed to airborne infection.

Veterinary doctor of Bhograi Tapan Jena said the symptoms suggest that the cats may have died after getting infected by a virus. Jena said he has informed the authorities concerned about the matter. Meanwhile, the local administration advised the owners of the cats to bury the carcasses and not dump those in the open.

## Barbil resident s grand welcome to Satyasai Baba's Divine Paduka Rath



Barbil(KCN): The members of the Barbil Shree Satyasai Samiti welcomed the Divine Paduka Rath in Barbil of Keonjhar district of Odisha. At the arrival of divine Paduka, Residents of Ganesha Batika in Ward No. 15 welcomed Baba's Divine Paduka Chariot by blowing conch shells and worshipped. These yatra accompanied by devotees

followed by various programmes on the way. The chariots marched all around Barbil and reached Rajiv Vihar. The place echoed with devotional kirtan and worship. This programme has been created a holy environment around the city and blessing of Baba would remain ever with us said devotee Dr Manas Ranjan Hota.

## JSP CEO, Saraogi Meets Barbil Wushu & Kickboxing Champions

Joda/Barbil (KCN): The Kickboxing and Wushu players of Joda-Barbil are National assets which must be looked after, groomed and nurtured, said Group CEO, Steel of Jindal Steel and Power (JSP), Sri Dinesh Kumar Saraogi.

life too are being looked after through the suitable programs and projects of the foundation. At the same time, the Foundation will also make further concerted effort to improve opportunities for players to showcase their talent at



Sri Saraogi addressed to the young tribal sportsmen who bagged 9 Gold and 1 Bronze medals in recently concluded National Kickboxing Championship at SOA University, Bhubaneswar, in a special event organized during his visit to the Pellet Plant of JSP at Barbil on 6th January 2023. Also notables present on the occasion were Sri Purushotham Madenahalli Dasappa, Unit Head, Pellet Plant, Sri Sarat Kishore Panda, Head HR & ES, Sri Vargil Lakra, Head CSR and other senior executives of the Pellet Unit. CEO interacted with each and every player present, as well as with the Coach, Sri Pankaj Kumar Mahanta, and received their feedback regarding training facilities, food & nutrition, sports infrastructures etc. as provided by JSP Foundation, the Social Arm of JSP. He also enquired on their welfare & opinion, and assure them for further possible support towards betterment.

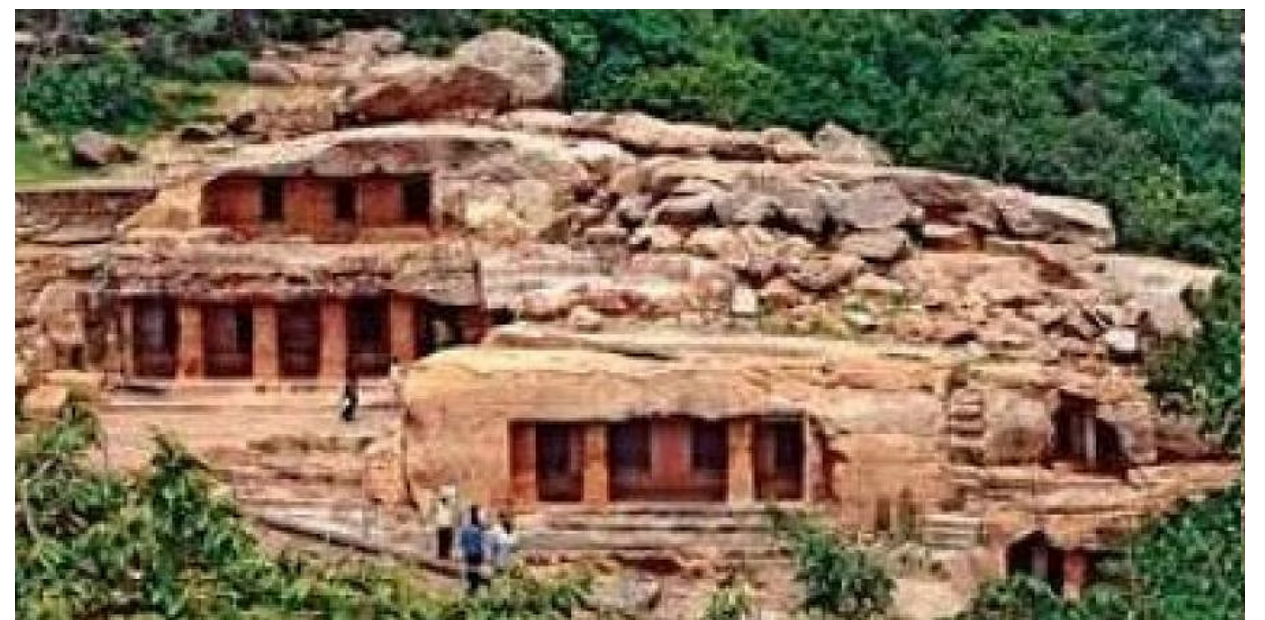
“Our Foundation will make sure that the young sportsmen are taken care of in all aspects. I am sure that JSP Foundation will upgrade its support scale in coming days for our sportsmen. Not just the sports life but the challenges face d by their personal

## Bhubaneswar to host Khandagiri Mela from January 28

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): The famous Khandagiri Mela, also known as ‘Magha Mela’ will be held in the state capital this year between January 28 and February 10. Mayor

tees in this regard.

Officials said the Mela will begin from January 28 while the jatra shows will start from January 30. As per the decision taken in the



Sulochana Das who chaired a preparatory meeting in this regard with the officials of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said all measures will be put in place to ensure the Mela is held smoothly. The event will be organised without any Covid restrictions after two years.

BMC commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said cooperation has been sought from officials from health, electricity, food safety, and water and other line departments along with the members of the puja and jatra commit-

teeing the prices of stalls and jatra pandals are likely to be hiked by 5 to 10 per cent based on their previous price.

A standard operating procedure (SOP) will also be issued for jatra committees and the jatra parties asking them not to show anything which would hurt the sentiment of any person or group. There will be no parking on roadside and any deviation will attract fine, while there will also be sound limit fixed for the shows. Only five jatra pandals will be constructed this year.



## CLASSIFIED

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## 'The Legend of Maula Jatt' ft Fawad, Mahira Khan to release in India

MUMBAI: Pakistani film "The Legend of Maula Jatt", starring Fawad Khan and Mahira Khan, is likely to be released on the big screen in India this Friday, an INOX official said.

This will perhaps be the first film from Pakistan in over a decade to get a theatrical release here.

"It will be played in Punjab and a few theatres in Delhi in INOX where there are Punjabi speaking people," Rajender Singh Jyala, chief programming officer, INOX Leisure Ltd, told PTI.

Multiplex chain PVR Cinemas had shared a release announcement on its official Instagram page but deleted it soon after. "Presenting the official poster of #TheLegendofMaulaJatt! Coming to PVR this Friday," the post read.

The action drama, which has become the highest-grossing Pakistani film of all time amassing USD 10 million, was released in Pakistan on October 13.

Directed by Bilal Lashari, "The Legend of

Maula Jatt" is an adaptation of the 1979 cult classic "Maula Jatt" and producers have said it is neither a remake nor a sequel.



Its stars Mahira and Fawad are familiar to Indian audiences through their popular Pakistani drama "Humsafar" and also through Bollywood -- Fawad, who was most recently seen in the superhero series "Ms Marvel", has featured in "Khoobsurat", "Kapoor & Sons", and "Ae Dil Hai Mushkil" while Mahira appeared in Shah Rukh Khan-starrer "Raees".

The last Pakistani film to get a theatrical release in India was "Bol" starring Mahira in 2011.

Before that was "Ramchand Pakistani" star-

ring Nandita Das and Rashid Farooqi in 2008. "Khuda Kay Liye", which included Fawad in the ensemble cast alongside Naseeruddin Shah, came in 2007.

Pakistani films, however, have been screened at festivals in India.

In November this year, the Dharamshala International Film Festival screened Saim Sadiq's "Joyland", which is Pakistan's official entry in the international film category at the 95th Academy Awards.

ALSO READ | 'Joyland' becomes first Pakistani film to enter Oscars shortlist  
"Khuda Kay Liye" was the first ever Pakistani film to be included in the official selection of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI). "The Legend of Maula Jatt" started production in January 2017 and concluded in June 2019.

The film was initially scheduled for cinema release during multiple dates in 2019-2020, but kept getting delayed due to copyright related issues and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pakistani actors stopped being cast in Indian productions following the 2016 terror attack in Uri in which 19 Indian Army personnel were martyred.

The decision came amid demands by various political outfits to ban Pakistani artistes from Indian films and from performing here.

## Salman Khan turns 57; police lathicharge unruly fans outside actor's home

MUMBAI: Salman Khan turned 57 on Tuesday and his fans, it seemed, were in full party mode with hundreds of people gathering outside his Bandra home through the day, waiting patiently for their 'bhaijaan' to come out to acknowledge their greetings.

Around 6 pm, just before dusk set in, he obliged, stepping out in his balcony, folding his hands to say 'namaste', doing a 'salaam' and then waving much to the delight of the crowds, some who were carrying life-size cut-outs and others who breached barricades in their excitement.

The actor's admirers started assembling outside Galaxy Apartments from early hours of the day and by evening the swelling crowd transformed into a sea of people waiting to catch a glimpse of the superstar.

Fans, who welcomed their favourite star with loud cheers, carried his life-size cut-outs, while others held up 'Happy Birthday' posters. To add to the celebratory mood, they also released red-coloured balloons.

Police personnel were stationed outside the building for crowd control as fans waited behind the barricades. After the star left, some of the fans breached the barricades following which the police resorted to lathicharge. Dressed in powder blue T-shirt and denims, Salman greeted an ecstatic crowd as he asked them to maintain order.

He was accompanied by his father, veteran screenwriter Salim Khan, who also waved at the public.

"Thank you all," the superstar posted on

Instagram alongside a photograph of him greeting the crowd.



Salman rang in his birthday with close family and friends on Monday night at a party hosted by his sister Arpita Khan Sharma and brother-



in-law Aayush Sharma at the Khar residence. Bollywood actor Salman Khan during his 57th birthday party celebration hosted by his sister Arpita Khan Sharma, at her residence,

celebration for their daughter Ayat Sharma, who turned three, and the Bollywood star.

The party was attended by superstar Shah Rukh Khan, Tabu, Kartik Aaryan, Suniel Shetty, Pooja Hegde, Riteish Deshmukh, Genelia D'Souza, Sangeeta Birlani, Sonakshi Sinha, Sajid Nadiadwala and wife Warda Nadiadwala, Ramesh Taurani and Iulia Vantur. Shah Rukh Khan with Salman Khan at the birthday party hosted

by Arpita Khan and her husband Aayush Sharma. (Photos | ANI/PTI)

The star-studded night was lit up by the visuals of "Karan Arjun" co-stars Salman and Shah Rukh sharing a warm hug as the latter left the party in the early hours of Tuesday.

Family members, including Arbaaz Khan, Sohail Khan, Atul Agnihotri and Alvira Khan Agnihotri were present.

Salman also celebrated his special day with the paparazzi stationed outside the party venue by cutting a cake.

On the work front, Salman will make a special appearance in Marathi film "Ved", starring Riteish and Genelia.

He will also make a cameo in Shah Rukh's much-anticipated spy movie "Pathaan", set to arrive in theatres on January 25.

Salman's first major standalone release in over two years will be "Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan", scheduled to come out on Eid next year. He will follow it up with the third installment

in his "Tiger" franchise slated to hit the cinemas on Diwali.

According to trade analyst Akshaye Rathi, industry insiders are hopeful both "Tiger 3" and "Kisi Ka Bhai" will give a much-needed boost to the Hindi film exhibition sector.

"I have a lot of confidence in 'Tiger 3'. It's an urban action film," Rathi told PTI, adding that producers Yash Raj Films will do a "great job" with the franchise. Salman

Khan on his day with the right kind of film is one of the biggest stars we have at the box office," he said.



The couple had organised a combined cel-



# Taxpayers hope for relief in Budget 2023-24

The NDA Government is going to present its full Budget, before general elections, on February 1, 2023.



Here are some expectations from the Union Finance Minister.

1. We expect some relief to the salaried class and middle class through the rationalisation of rates and tax slabs so that they can have sufficient money to lead their day to day life and can cope up with increasing household, education of children and medical expenses. A reduction in the rates of personal income tax in the government's next push for reform will increase disposable income and revive the demand cycle.
2. The highest marginal rate for individuals has gone up to 42.74 per cent for taxpayers having Income in excess of Rs. 5 crore against the normal corporate tax rate of 25.17 per cent in case of domestic companies which do not claim certain exemptions and deductions. The huge gap needs to be bridged and highest marginal rate in case of individuals and non-corporates should be reduced to 25 per cent. Surcharge may be revisited and abolished for the sake of simplification.
3. With the twin tax regimes in place, income tax for individual assesseees has become very complicated. The two tax regime has rather complicated the personal income filing process. The Government should go in for a simplified tax structure and lower tax rates as the government data itself indicated that lower taxes resulted in higher compliance and more collection.

Narayan Jain, tax advocate and president, Calcutta Citizen's Initiative, said.

**Narayan Jain**

4. Consider increasing limit for deduction to encourage housing and Savings: Since the country does not have a social security net, the tax incentives for savings instruments should rather be increased upwards. The interest allowed on borrowed capital for residential flats also needs to be enhanced. The limit was last revised to Rs.2 Lakhs with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015.
5. **Review of the personal income tax rate:** We suggest a review of the normal personal income tax rates. It may be nil tax up to Rs 2.5 lakh and a lowering of the rates between Rs 2.5 lakh and Rs 5 lakh to 3 per cent from 5 per cent. The rate should be cut to 10 per cent from 20 per cent for income between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh. Similar reduction is desirable in the Rs 10-Rs 15 lakh range and thereafter, maximum marginal rate may be 25 per cent for income above Rs 20 lakh. We also urge further reduction of rates under the concessional / Alternate tax regime. The reduction in tax rates will provide relief to middle-classes and increase their disposal incomes.
6. **Presumptive Income in case of professionals under sec. 44ADA:** The Presumptive Income in case of professionals is considered under section 44ADA at the rate of 50 per cent of gross receipts which is quite excessive even while we compare with the presumptive income of 8 per cent or 6 per cent, as the case may be, for computing profit and gains of business, as prescribed under section 44AD. The presumptive income in case of

- professionals should be at the rate of 30 per cent of gross receipts. It may be noted that RV Easwar Committee had suggested the rate of one third of gross receipt of professional receipts. The realistic presumptive rate will encourage more and more professional to opt for the scheme under section 44ADA. Other professions like Journalism, Authors, Writers etc. should be included in the definition of permitted professions for this purpose in addition to professions referred to in sec. 44AA(1).
7. **Consider and allow deduction for corporate social responsibility expenditure Sec. 37:** At present the Income Tax Act provides that the expenses incurred by the taxpayer on the activities relating to CSR referred to in Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 shall not be deemed to be incurred for the purpose of business and hence, shall not be allowed as a deduction for computation of income. **The corporate sector spending on CSR is for laudable purposes and effectively assisting the Government in undertaking social projects for the country.** Therefore, the deduction must be allowed for expenses on CSR for the purpose of Income tax. **It is recommended that a deduction of CSR expenses incurred by the taxpayers pursuant to the policy of the Central Government and provisions of the Companies Act should be allowed in computing business income.**
  8. **The incentives should be provided for encouraging small and MSME industries so that more jobs may be created.**

9. **Allow deduction for corporate social responsibility expenditure Sec. 37:** At present the Income Tax Act provides that the expenses incurred by the taxpayer on the activities relating to CSR referred to in Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 shall not be deemed to be incurred for the purpose of business and hence, shall not be allowed as a deduction for computation of income. **The corporate sector spending on CSR is for laudable purposes and effectively assisting the Government in undertaking social projects for the country.** Therefore, the deduction must be allowed for expenses on CSR for the purpose of Income tax. **It is recommended that a deduction of CSR expenses incurred by the taxpayers pursuant to the policy of the Central Government and provisions of the Companies Act should be allowed in computing business income.**
10. **Alternate Minimum Tax under sec. 115JC for non-corporate taxpayers:** The present rate is 18.5 per cent of adjusted total income (ignoring the deductions under chapter VIA-C). The rate should be lowered to 12 per cent and the adjusted total income should be computed after allowing deductions under chapter VIA.

**Lower taxes bring higher revenue collections and simpler procedures will boost better tax compliance. There is need for another disclosure scheme as well as Vivad Se Viswas Scheme to get rid of tax disputes lingering in appeals. Therefore the Finance Minister will do well in considering the above suggestions**

(Narayan Jain is former Secretary General of AIFTP and author of the books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" and "Income Tax Pleading & Practice" with CA DilipLoyalka).

# Pravasi Bhartiya Divas :Should Indian Diaspora stop cheering India?

As the 17th edition of the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) is going on in Indore from



8th-10 JANUARY 2023), once again the question is being asked: Should Indian Diaspora avoid cheering India or Indian teams of various sports? Well-known Indian origin Radio jockey in Kenya, Kamal Kaur was shocked to find a tweet couple of years ago, "We know where your heart is" after PM Narendra Modi's address to sell out over 25 thousand Indian origin crowd at the Nairobi's Kasarani Stadium in 2017. They came up there at Kasarani Stadium in traditional Indian dresses. Yet, that particular tweet "We know where your heart is" has spoiled the mood of Muhindis (Indian are called as Muhindis in East Africa). And understandably so. After all, their forefathers spent their blood, sweat, tear and toil to build Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. It was in 1896 when about 32,000 Indians, mainly from Punjab, reached Kenya to build the Kenya-Uganda Railway. They took on jobs as skilled labourers, artisans, bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers, tailors, motor mechanics and electrical fitters.

They came in search of work, opportunity and food for their families, and they worked under very hostile conditions. Many fell sick. Many were injured. Many died. But in enduring the hardship and harrows of their work, they also left a lasting legacy. When Richards was so unfair As that was not enough, many-many year ago Cricket great Viv Richards too mocked at Indian origin people for supporting the

Indian side when it plays in Port of

**Vivek Shukla**

Spain, Trinidad or at Georgetown, Guyana. That particular statement had created tremendous amount of protests from Indian origin people whose forefathers were mainly from Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and went there to work in sugar fields. And with sheer hard work, they have created niche for themselves thousands of miles away from India. Protests and anger apart, it is an undeniable fact that both Trinidad and Guyana are like home away from home for Indian cricket teams. Nevertheless, the West Indies Cricket has been well-served by the likes of Rohan Kanhai, Sonny Ramadhin, Alvin Kallicharran and Shivnarine Chanderpaul. Though a great cricketer Richards perhaps didn't know that Indian origin people have been becoming presidents and prime ministers of various Caribbean countries since early 60s. Chedi Jagan was the first Indian origin president of Guyana. He became president in early 60s. Can an unpatriotic person become president or a prime minister of a country? Arguably even after several generations away from your own land, you do not forget your roots. For instance, if former US President Barack Obama proudly talks about his Kenyan background, does he become less patriotic American? No, not at all. Same way, if Indians in Caribbean islands cheer Indian side or if Indians go all out to welcome their leader in Dubai to New York and Sydney to Nairobi, what is so bad about it? And the guy who tweeted and all those who share his thoughts in Kenya perhaps learn some lessons of history of his country's

deep and long standing relations with India. While welcoming Prime Minister Modi, President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta admits rather honestly, "The Indian influence in Kenya is implicit in our food: in Chapatis, Samosas, Chai and Bhujia." It is worthwhile to scan the pages of history of Kenya, when the Railway project was finished in 1902, about 7,000 of those workers stayed behind to build a future in East Africa. Many of them set up small shops along the railway line. While working hard to eke out a living, these individuals passed on an inspiring dogma of discipline and diligence which still defines the Indian-Kenyan community even today. And for several decades, the hockey teams of Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania used to have Sikh players. And who can forget Avtar Singh Sohal Tari, considered to be the greatest Sikh Sportsmen outside India. He represented Kenya in Rome 1960 Olympic Games. He captained Kenya at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, Mexico (1968) and Munich (1972) and was also captain at the 1st World Cup in Barcelona in 1971 where Kenya finished fourth. Entering parliaments Well, those who suspect the loyalty of Indian Diaspora for their adopted countries remember that these over 2 crore Indian brand ambassadors are there in the parliament of over two dozen countries. They would not have reached to dizzy heights without sheer hard work, honesty and love for their adopted countries. In the backdrop of these facts, earth would not fall if they remain emotionally attached to India. Meanwhile, it is said that largest numbers of Indians outside India live in South Af-

rica. Indians have made a huge statement in politics and other fields. The likes of Yusuf Dadoo, Pregs Govender, Ronnie Govender, Ahmed Kathrada, Monty Naicker, Amma Naidoo, Indira Naidoo, Naransamy Roy Naidoo, Shanti Naidoo, Thambi Naidoo, Xavier Naidoo, Radhakrishna Padayachi are some of the better political known leaders of Indian origin in South Africa. Padayachi was also a Deputy Minister for Communication till couple of years ago. And you cannot ignore Mac Maharaj, the anti apartheid crusader and comrade of Nelson Mandela. They won't be visible in PBD. And what is the big idea of holding PBD if we cannot ensure the presence of the likes of Vikas Dhorasoo and Vijay Singh. Both are acclaimed sports personalities. Vikas was member of French Football team that won the World cup under the captainship of Zinedine Zidane in 2006. Vikas is a midfielder. And it is most unlikely that we would ever see the gracious presence of one of the top golfer Vijay Singh. He was born in Lautoka, Fiji. He learned the game of golf from his father, an avid golfer. He turned professional in 1982 and joined the PGA Tour in 1993. He has won 58 tournaments in his career, including 34 on the PGA Tour. He won the 1998 and 2004 PGA Championships and the 2000 Masters. In 2004, Vijay became the top golfer in the world, a position he would hold for a total of 32 weeks. It goes without saying that unless we see legends' like Avtar Singh Sohal Tari, Vijay Singh and Vikas Dhorasoo, it would remain a boring annual conference of Indian origin people. -----

The Author is a columnist and former Editor



# 'Can't keep up': Pandemic cooking boom sharpens Japan knife sales

SEKI, (Japan): In a Japanese city once famous for forging samurai swords, craftsmen sharpen and polish kitchen knives, but even at full tilt their small factory can't keep up with global demand. The export value of knives and other bladed tools like scissors hit a record high in Japan last year, partly thanks to a home-cooking boom sparked by the pandemic. Japanese knives are also winning

more converts among aspiring and professional chefs, who prize their delicate precision, sleek finish and long lifespan.

Katsumi Sumikama, head of Sumikama Cutlery in the central city of Seki, puts the popularity down to a "combination of technology and traditional craftsmanship." To achieve the formidably sharp edge needed to make perfect sushi or cut precise

slices of Wagyu beef, the company uses machines that guarantee accuracy to one-thousandth of a millimetre, then artisans finish the job by hand. But even at full capacity, "we can't keep up," Sumikama told AFP.

"We're seeing demand stronger than pre-pandemic levels in all countries."



Seki's renowned blade expertise dates back to the 14th century when the city became a major producer of swords thanks to its rich natural environment. "The clean water, charcoal and raw materials were ideal for sword-making," Sumikama said. High-quality iron made from iron sand was forged

cost up to several hundred dollars each. To emphasise their made-in-Japan pedigree, his company adds a wavy two-tone finish to the metal that evokes the traditional appearance of samurai blades, and a kanji-character logo. Despite their elegant appearance, Sumikama said he faced scepticism from both within and outside the company that his expensive knives would sell.

"We were trapped in the idea that Japanese products... would not be accepted by consumers unless they were cheaper than German products," he said. But the line was a success and the company now sells their luxury knives in more than 50 countries. The export value of kitchen-bladed tools hit a record 12 billion yen (\$90 million) in 2021, a 30 per cent jump from around nine billion yen the previous year, according to Japan Customs.

French chef Olivier Oddos, whose Tokyo restaurant boasted a Michelin star between 2014 and 2021, has been a devotee for more than two decades. Japanese kitchen knives now have a "truly worldwide" reputation, he told AFP in his restaurant's small kitchen. "I know a lot of French chefs who have come to Japan, and every time they

buy Japanese knives. Sometimes they even buy them for their whole team," he said.

'Essence of the knife'  
This picture taken on November 18, 2022, shows French chef Olivier Oddos, whose Tokyo restaurant boasted a Michelin star between 2014 and 2021, cleaning a knife with a whetstone at his restaurant's kitchen in Tokyo. (File Photo | AFP)

Oddos says the formidable sharpness of the Japanese blades makes



into a tough sword by folding red-hot metal multiple times and moulded into a curved shape by plunging it into cool water. When samurai were ordered to abandon their swords in 1876, the industry faltered, but after World War II the city began producing pocket knives for export. Business boomed at first, with the fixed yen-to-dollar rate a boon for mass exports to the United States. But when that policy ended in the 1970s and China began making cheaper products, Japan could no longer compete.

This picture taken on September 2, 2022, shows a demonstration to test the sharpness of a knife with a tomato at a factory of Sumikama Cutlery in Seki, Gifu prefecture. (File Photo | AFP)

"Truly worldwide"  
"There were difficult times," Sumikama said. "Seki's blade-makers decided they needed a new direction."

At the time, German products, including knives by Zwilling, dominated the market for high-end knife ware, and luxury Japanese offerings were few and far between.

In the 1990s, Sumikama went all in -- launching a full line-up of top-of-the-range kitchen knives that

all the difference. "It cuts perfectly. It cuts straight. It's regular," he said, adding it "changes the quality of the cooking." Japanese knives have to be maintained regularly with sharpening stones, but "if you take good care of them, they have a pretty exceptional lifespan", Oddos said. Daisuke Kumazawa owns Kama-Asa, a shop that has operated on Tokyo's famous Kappabashi kitchenware street for over a century. He says Japanese knives have exploded in popularity overseas in the last decade along with a growing interest in Japanese food. Chefs want quality blades to do "delicate work", he said.

The products are so popular that he opened a Paris branch four years ago. But he has also noted a pandemic rise in interest. "Probably because they were at home more often, more people wanted to take time to cook, and cook better," he said. At Kama-Asa, assistants explain dozens of different knives to a steady stream of Japanese and foreign customers. Kumazawa wants buyers to think about Japanese knives as more than a simple kitchen tool. "We want them to know why they are good - the essence of the knife, the thoughts of the craftspeople behind the knife."

## Ayushman on Value Care

New Delhi: With an objective to shift the focus of measuring performance of hospitals from volume of services provided to the value of healthcare services, National Health Authority (NHA) is introducing a new system to measure and grade hospital performance under the flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

Traditionally, from the payer's perspective, the healthcare model has been focussed on

health outcomes and higher satisfaction out of the services they receive, providers stand to get better care efficiencies. Similarly, payers will be able to maximize the health benefits generated out of the spending incurred. Speaking on the initiative R S Sharma, CEO, National Health Authority said, "To ensure PM-JAY beneficiaries receive both cashless healthcare benefits and high-quality care at every empanelled hospital, NHA has implemented various measures. These measures include standardizing the cost of treatment under the scheme and adding new and advanced treatment procedures. Additionally, NHA has made a provision to incentivize best performing hospitals that provide quality care to patients."

In a value-based healthcare system, the payers can also exercise strong cost controls. A healthier population with fewer claims translates into less drain on payers' premium pools and investments. Suppliers would benefit from being able to align their products and services with positive patient outcomes and reduced cost. Altogether, value-based care promises to significantly improve healthcare landscape in India by incentivizing and encouraging healthcare providers to focus more on delivering patient centric services.

Under value-based care, the performance of AB PM-JAY empanelled hospitals will be measured based on five performance indicators such as: 1. Beneficiary Satisfaction; 2. Hospital Readmission Rate; 3. The extent of Out-of-Pocket Expenditure; 4. Confirmed Grievances and 5. Improvement in-patient's Health-Related Quality of Life.

The performance of the hospitals based on the above indicators shall also be made available on a public dashboard that will help the beneficiaries to make an informed decision. In this way, the hospital performance shall not only determine the financial incentive of the hospital but also create a demand for quality treatment of beneficiaries under PMJAY. Collectively these interventions of performance assessment and value-based incentives, use of health technology assessment, and use of digital tools to monitor the quality of care will transform AB PM-JAY and the Indian health system from a volume-based to a value-based health care delivery system.



the quantity of services delivered, where case-based bundled payment is made on the basis of the number of services provided. The new initiative will introduce the concept of 'value-based care', where payment will be outcome based and providers will be rewarded according to the quality of the treatment delivered. Under the new model, the providers will be rewarded for helping the patients improve their health, which consequently will reduce the effects of disease in the population in the long term.

The step promises significant increase in the overall health gains and is expected to be a win-win for all concerned stakeholders from patients to healthcare providers, payers and suppliers. While the patients will get better

# Odisha Excise Gets India Gold

New Delhi(KCN): e-Abkari, one of the major 5T Initiatives of Government of Odisha has bagged National Award for Digital Excellence.

Shrimati Droupadi Murmu, President of India conferred the prestigious Digital India Gold Award to the top officials of Department of Excise, Odisha Government here at Vigyan Bhawan in a special ceremony on 7 January. Union Minister Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw graced the occasion.

Ace Administrator Sushil Kumar Lohani, who spearheaded the innovative digital initiative along with Commissioner of Excise Ashish Singh received the prestigious award from the President of India.

While Shri Lohani is at present Principal Secretary Panchayati Raj and Chief Electoral Officer of Odisha, his contributions during his days of Principal Secretary Excise for digital transformation has been recognized.

With the presence of Excise Field Marshal, Ashish Kumar Singh, Department of Excise did a marvelous job in digital transformation making the excise operations transparent, time bound and creditable.

Among others Rama Chandra Palata, Additional Commissioner Excise, Saidutta

Biplab Keshari Pradhan, Additional Secretary, Excise and Nihar Ranjan Biswal, Senior Technical Director, NIC, Bhubaneswar joined the Team Excise to receive the National Award.

It is pertinent to mention that in tune with



5T initiatives of Government of Odisha, Department of Excise has switched over to the digital work place 'eAbkari'.

Technical support was extended by NIC since 2019-20 developing and implementing more than 30 online modules like e-Lottery, Instant issue & renewal of Excise Licenses, Brand Label Registrations with 100% online payment, DPR, CCIS, SIR and

free, real time, seamless and timely service delivery eliminating physical touch points, reducing discretion and providing faceless service at door steps. This has led to proper monitoring and strengthening of enforcement activities, curbing of illicit & spurious liquor, timely service delivery at different levels, proper supply chain management with regulation of production and manufacture and above all, change of public perception and transformation in the Department of Excise. During 2022, record 45541 number of cases have been detected till December against that of 29038 in the last year till December with an increase of 56%, thanks to overdrive of Tough Cop, Ashish Kumar Singh, Commissioner of Excise. Further, 1310 cases have been detected under NDPS Act this year till December against 575 cases in the last year during the same period with an increase of 127%. Similarly, this year till December 6197.54 Crores have been collected including VAT against that of 5023.92 Crores last year with an increase of 23%. The Department of Excise has done a lot of efforts to implement 5T initiatives of State Government to transform the Department in all aspects including use of technology.

mobile app development for tracking of raid spots and excise shops etc. As on date bringing transparent, hassles

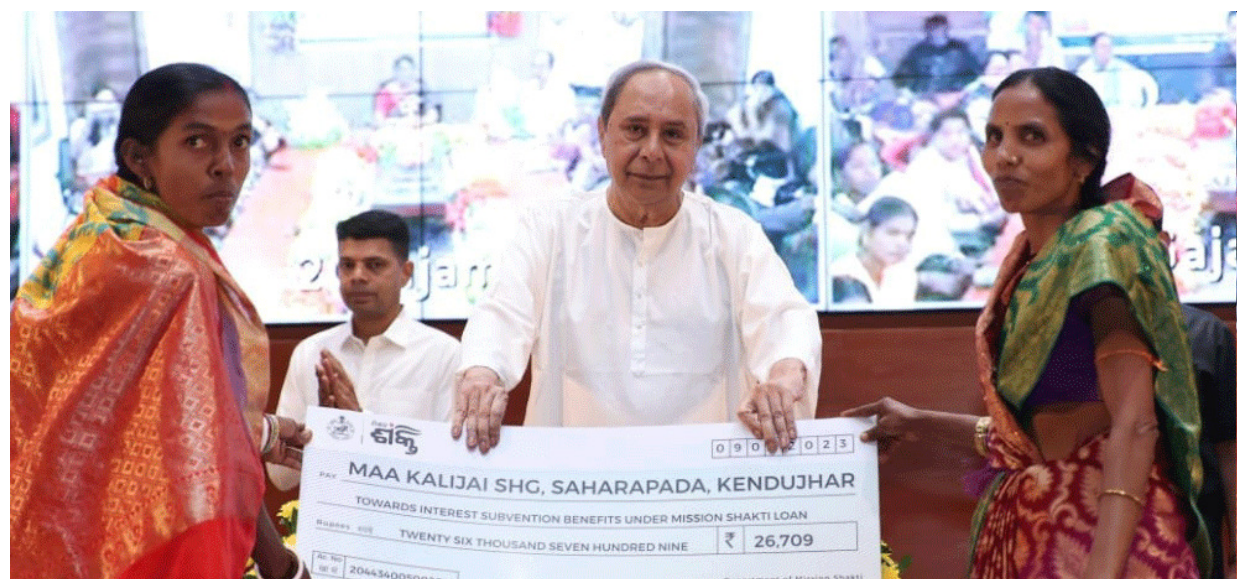


# Interest Sop for SHGs

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday launched distribution of interest subvention benefits for the first two quarters of financial year 2022-23 worth Rs.125 crore to more than 2,50,000 self-help groups (SHGs).

The interest subvention benefits of Rs 125 crore for the first two quarters of the current 2022-23 financial year was extended directly to SHG accounts through a technology plat-

form. level federations and establishment of Micro & Mini Industrial parks in all 30 districts. Stating that he wants to see transformation of SHGs into SMEs (small and medium enterprises), Patnaik said his Government has also increased the interest subvention benefit on SHG loans from Rs.3 lakh to Rs.5 lakh making it 0 percent effective annual rate of interest under Mission Shakti loan -state interest subvention scheme w.e.f. April, 2022.



As part of the launch, the Chief Minister handed over cheques to members of five Mission Shakti SHGs, who were present at the programme at the Lok Seva Bhawan here. Members of many self-help groups from various districts joined the programme through video conference.

On this occasion, Shri Patnaik said for his government, women's empowerment is not a slogan, but a non-negotiable code. Launched in 2001, Mission Shakti has helped transform the landscape of women's empowerment and autonomy in the state, he said.

Under the programme, a total interest amount of Rs 125 crore on loans taken by the SHGs will be reimbursed. Shri Patnaik also lauded steps taken by women in different businesses and productive activities.

Noting that women are now playing a major role in the decision-making process, the Chief Minister said they have the responsibility to transform Odisha and ensure overall development in the state.

To nurture entrepreneurship among women, during the Make in Odisha Conclave 2022, the Chief Minister had announced a revolving fund of Rs. 1 crore for all District Level Federations, Revolving Fund of Rs.50 lakh for all Block Level Federations, office building with market complex for all panchayat

## Union Education minister slams Odisha govt over law and order

CUTTACK / BHUBANESWAR: The political atmosphere in Nischintakoili block under Mahanga Assem-

Centre. "Envious of the massive popularity of Prime Minister Modi, the BJD government is continu-

Meher murder case, was killed inside the Kantabanji sub-jail to save a senior leader of the party who happened

take advantage of development and welfare programmes of the Central government under the leadership of our



bly constituency was surcharged on Sunday as BJP and BJD held parallel meetings in the area to showcase their strength. Union Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan took part in a rally and accused the state government of taking every possible step to derail all central projects and welfare schemes to discredit the Narendra Modi government at

ously hatching conspiracy to stall the implementation of popular welfare programmes like Ayushman Bharat," he alleged. Pradhan attacked the government for the deteriorating law and order situation, rising crime against women and political murder in the state. He said Gobinda Sahu, the main accused in the Mamita

to be a former minister. Dharmendra Pradhan at BJP rally Earlier, two BJP leaders from Mahanga were eliminated by BJD goons as they unmasked the then minister of Panchayati Raj in the P M A Y scam. "Sideline democracy, the state government is exploiting people of Odisha. It is now time for Odisha to opt for a change and

popular Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said Pradhan, who also participated in the 'sankalp sobhayatra' with party's state unit general secretary Prithviraj Harichandan. The party will undertake a massive movement against the BJD and tell the people how the state government is working against their interest by refusing to implement the Central schemes in right earnest, he said.

## Andhra Pradesh may take over Kotia: Jeypore MLA Bahinipati



JEYPORE: The faulty policy of Odisha government may enable Andhra Pradesh to take over the disputed Kotia panchayat in Koraput district, said Jeypore MLA and senior Congress leader Tara Prasad Bahinipati on Sunday. The MLA expressed concern over frequent entry of offi-

cial from Andhra Pradesh to the panchayat to woo locals by offering them lucrative schemes. Odisha government has developed infrastructure in Kotia villages but the need of the hour is a proper policy to win the hearts of locals, he said. "Andhra Pradesh government has de-

clared old-age pension of `2,750 per month while Odisha gives only `500 under the scheme. Implementation of such schemes by Andhra government in Kotia is attracting villagers towards the neighbouring state. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik should announce a special package for people of the

panchayat so that they do not favour Andhra Pradesh," said Bahinipati. Bahinipati said entry of AP officials into the panchayat can be stopped only if the government comes out with a proper policy for Kotia. "I would stand with the government on the issue for the greater interest of the state," he added.

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## Satsang system a social, cultural movement: Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik

PURI: Satsang system of life initiated by Thakur Anukulchandra has transformed into a social and cultural movement, said Chief



Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday. Addressing a massive gathering of Satsang followers at Talabania Sports Complex here on the occasion of the centenary celebration of the spiritual leader's arrival at Puri, Naveen said Thakur Anukulchandra dedicated his life to social service.

Beginning his address with the chants of 'Jai Jagannath' and 'Jaiguru', the CM said Thakur Anukulchandra came to Puri with his disciples at the request of freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose's parents. There are millions of his disciples not only in the country but also Odisha.

Satsang members attending the conference

## 'Don't make statements': Jet Airways' monitoring panel bars 'CEO' Kapoor from representing airline

BENGALURU(KCN): Amid growing scepticism over Jet Airways' revival, its new CEO Sanjiv Kapoor has been barred by the Monitoring Committee from representing the airline. The Committee has

the to-be revived Jet Airways in April 2022, after agreement and clearance from all relevant stakeholders. The Monitoring Committee has equal representation from the JKC and the erstwhile creditors

in Puri on Sunday | Express  
Among others, former Chief Justice of Supreme Court Dipak Mishra and senior BJD leader Debi Prasad Mishra spoke on the occasion. Thousands of Satsang members



from various parts of the country and state attended the celebration.

Earlier on the day, a procession was taken out to mark the occasion. A complex set of rituals was also performed by senior devotees before the commencement of the event. Thakur Anukulchandra had arrived at Puri on January 2, 1923 from Bengal. During his stay in the pilgrim town, he preached spiritual philosophy to many locals.

ownership of Jet Airways is transferred to JKC, Kapoor remains CEO-Designate and his mandate is to lead 'Jet 2.0' post-handover, and he has been focused on the preparation for that. The NCLT-appointed resolution at a time when the ongoing tension between the JKC and Jet Airways' lenders over the transfer of the airline's ownership has raised questions on the survival of the brand. In March 2022, JKC had announced the appointment of Kapoor as its CEO. Kapoor was previously associated with Vistara and SpiceJet. Post taking the charge, Kapoor had said launching flight operations by October 2022. Add to it, workers of Jet Airways have been demanding to clear their dues and one partner in the consortium is facing investigation by regulatory agencies in Europe. The JKC, a partnership of U A E - b a s e d businessmen Murari Lal Jalan and Fritsch of Kalrock Capital, had won the bid for Jet Airways way back in October 2020.



reportedly objected to the 'CEO' designation of Kapoor and asked the aviation veteran to not make any statements on behalf of Jet Airways. "Sanjiv Kapoor was appointed by Jalan Karlock Consortium (JKC) as the designated CEO of

Jet Airways. As a US citizen, Kapoor also received the required security clearance from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Home Affairs earlier in 2022," said Spokesperson, JKC. The spokesperson added that until the

professional of Jet Airways, Ashish Chhawchharia, has asked the airline not use the 'CEO' designation till the new owners- the Jalan Kalrock Consortium- gets the ownership of the airline. The fresh development comes

## Market benchmarks settle with gains in volatile trade

MUMBAI: Equity benchmarks ended with gains on Tuesday amid a largely firm trend in global markets after facing



bouts of volatility during the session. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 126.41 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 61,294.20.

During the day, it hit a high of 61,343.96 and a low of 61,004.04.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 35.10 points or 0.19 per cent to end at 18,232.55.

From the Sensex pack, Axis Bank, Titan,

Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, Wipro, Nestle and Bajaj Finance were among the major winners.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever and Tata Steel were the main laggards.

Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Shanghai and Hong Kong logged gains, while Seoul ended lower.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading in the green in mid-session deals.

Markets in the US were closed on Monday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.34 per cent to USD 86.20 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth a net Rs 212.57 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

## Cash still king: Currency circulation doubles since demonetisation in 2016

NEW DELHI: As the Supreme Court validates the government's decision to demonetize Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes in 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data shows currency in circulation has almost doubled in the six years since demonetization. Just ahead of the demonetization, currency in circulation was valued at Rs 17 lakh crore. As on December 23, 2022, the currency in circulation stood at Rs 32.4 lakh crore, according to the RBI data.

In a bid to put a halt on black money circulation and promote digital payments, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2016 had banned old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes. It may be recalled that the currency in circulation (CIC) had plummeted massively to Rs 9 lakh

However, since then it has steadily gone up, even touching 14.4% in 2020-21, when cash in circulation (CIC) increased by Rs 4 lakh crore.

Though, the growth in circulation of currency has slowed down with only Rs 2.8 lakh crore added in 2021-22. By the end of 2021-22, the cash in circulation was 13.27%.

What is more astonishing is the fact that digital payments since demonetisation have jumped multiple times. From a mere Rs 100 crore worth of monthly transactions in October 2016, monthly UPI transactions in December 2022 had reached Rs 11.90 lakh crore. Vivek Kumar, an economist with research firm QuantEco, tries to explain the 'anomaly'. He says that the cash in circulation rose sharply in 2020-21 because of the lockdown as people



crore following demonetization on January 6 in 2017. This was a 50% decline from Rs 17 lakh crore as recorded on November 4, 2016.

Use of cash remain high It remains a mystery, though, why use of cash is still high in the economy despite digital payments going through the roof and measures to discourage the use of cash.

When asked the same question, Deputy RBI governor T Rabi Shankar in one of the post-monetary policy press briefings had said that cash continues to be a major instrument for very small transactions of below Rs 500.

"There is also a store of value demand for currencies," the deputy governor reasoned. Lekha Chakraborty, professor of economics, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), attributes the high digital divide in the country to the high use of cash in the economy.

"The behavioural change to switch onto cashless payments also takes time as many transactions still insist on 'cash' and not digital payments. The digital divide in India is a matter of concern, and strengthening digital infrastructure as prelude to digitised currency is so crucial," says Chakraborty.

The currency in circulation to GDP ratio at the time of Demonetisation was around 11.5%, which fell 8.67% by the end of March 2017 due to demonetisation.

withdrew money as a precautionary measure. "The CIC/GDP ratio also increased in 2020-21 because the GDP contracted during the year. However, ever since the situation is getting back to normal and the cash/GDP ratio is coming off," explains Vivek Kumar. Currently, it stands at 12.2% compared to its peak of 14.5% in Q3 FY21.

He says that 11-12% has been the normal range for cash/GDP ratio in India, and it may take another couple of years of growth in UPI payments to have any meaningful impact on the cash economy. The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the Centre's decision to demonetize 86% of the country's cash in circulation. It said the decision was taken in consultation with the RBI and followed the proper decision-making process.

Subhash Chandra Garg, former economic affairs secretary said, "The judgement today has upheld the legality and constitutionality of the demonetisation. However, its economic, social and security impact were quite different. There was no reduction in black money, corruption or cash though there was a good impact on control of fake currency and terrorist activity for some time."

When contacted, Sanjeev Sanyal, member, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, refused to make any comment on the court's verdict.

## Swiggy FY22 loss doubles to Rs 3,629 crore

BENGALURU: Food delivery giant Swiggy's FY22 losses more than doubled to Rs 3,629 crore in FY22 compared to Rs 1,612 crore in FY21.

According to its filings with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Swiggy's revenues spiked to Rs 6,120 crore from Rs 2,675.9 crore in the previous fiscal. Its revenues in FY20 stood at Rs 3,727.7 crore. The food delivery company said its business has shown strong growth throughout the year and has grown by 1.6x from March 2021 level with a strong focus on customer acquisition and retention and supply improvements, among others.

It reported expenses of Rs 9,574 crore in FY22 as against Rs 4,139 crore in the year-ago period. "We continued to focus on growth post business recovery from COVID, particularly on the expansion of our quick commerce offering," it said.

## Russia claims deadly 'retaliatory strike' in Kramatorsk; says over 600 Ukrainian soldiers killed

Continued from page-1  
defence ministry claimed in a statement, calling the attacks a "retaliatory strike."

Ukraine's armed forces rejected the claim.

"This information is as true as the data that they have destroyed all of our HIMARS," Sergiy Cherevaty, spokesman for the Eastern group of the Ukrainian armed forces, told the Suspilne media outlet, referring to US-supplied rocket systems. He said Russia could not deliver high-precision strikes.

AFP could not independently verify the report.

On Saturday, AFP journalists in Kramatorsk, which is located in the eastern region of Donetsk, heard at least four explosions before midnight.

Both countries marked Orthodox Christmas on Saturday.

The Russian defence ministry did not say when exactly the strike had taken place but said that Russian intelligence had "over the past 24 hours" confirmed the points of temporary deployment of Ukraine's armed forces in Kramatorsk.

More than 1,300 Ukrainian troops were housed in two buildings, Moscow claimed.

Earlier Sunday, Pavlo Kyrylenko, the head of the Donetsk regional administration, said Russians launched seven rocket attacks on Kramatorsk.

He said that "an educational institution, an industrial facility and a garage cooperative" had been damaged and that there were no casualties.

In a New Year's attack, Ukraine struck a building in the occupied eastern Ukrainian town of Makiivka being used as a barracks.

Russia conceded 89 troops had died, in what was the worst single reported loss from a Ukrainian strike.

Russian President Vladimir Putin had ordered a 36-hour ceasefire to allow Orthodox Christians to mark Christmas which is celebrated on January 7 in Russia and Ukraine. The unilateral ceasefire ended at 11:00 pm in Kyiv (2100 GMT) on Saturday.

## Jyotishpeet Shankaracharya sets up 'Dharm Censor Board' to review films, web series on OTT

Continued from page-1  
action on finding the distortion of content related to Hinduism, Vedas and Puranas in the films and serials," said the seer. He added that the board would also act under the ambit of law against those found mocking the Sanatan way of life or chanting the mantras wrong.

The seer said that the board would also help the filmmakers, who will be interested in making religion-based films, with content and script. Swami Avimukteshwaranand has been appointed the patron of the Dharm Censor Board and Suresh Manchanda its media in charge.

The other Board members include a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court Dr PN Mishra, Sanatan Dharm preacher Swami Chakrapani, litterateur Dr Neerja Madhav, actor Mansi Pandey, vice president, UP Film Development Corporation, Tarun Rathi, social activist Capt Arvind Singh Bhadauria, Sanskrit litterateur Preeti Shukla, an expert on Sanatan Dharm, Dr Gargi Pundit and former director of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Dr Dharmveer.

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## Messi vs. Mbappé Part II: World Cup stars chase Ballon d'Or

PARIS: Lionel Messi finally has something Kylian Mbappé already had with a World Cup winners' medal. Now Mbappé wants what Messi has won many times: the Ballon d'Or. After their fascinating duel in a wild World Cup final, the tournament's best player Messi and its top scorer Mbappé are firm front-runners to win the next men's Ballon d'Or.

Call it Messi vs. Mbappé part II, and it continues Wednesday when the Paris Saint-Germain teammates face Angers in a French league game. Messi was given an extended break back home in Argentina after the World Cup but has resumed full training and PSG coach Christophe Galtier hopes he'll be ready to play.

Because they play for the same team, their rivalry could intensify over the rest of this season.

The 35-year-old Messi has won a record seven Ballon d'Or trophies given to the best player in Europe. Only five Frenchmen — including Zinedine Zidane and Karim Benzema — have won it but the 24-year-old Mbappé has never been on the podium.

Mbappé made his goals clear while at the ceremony when Benzema won: "For me, of course, it's an objective to win one or many of them. But of course, there's a process to reach that. I think I'm on the right track."

A challenger this time could be prolific Manchester City striker Erling Haaland, but he didn't play at the World Cup — let alone star in it — after Norway failed to qualify. Mbappé won the 2018 World Cup with France when he was just 19. Messi waited agonizingly long to get his hands on the Jules Rimet trophy, losing in the 2014 final. He did so in



style last month when Argentina beat France to win its third World Cup title in arguably the most intense final in the tournament's 92-year history.

Messi's two goals in the final capped a remarkable tournament where he scored seven times, finished as the best player and reached a whopping 98 goals overall for Argentina. The good news for Argentina fans is that he

wants to play a little while longer wearing the Albiceleste jersey.

Mbappé, meanwhile, became only the second player to score a hat trick in a World Cup final and finished one ahead of Messi on eight goals as the tournament's top scorer — the first to reach that haul since Brazil's Ronaldo in 2002.

Mbappé's overall tally of 12 World Cup goals puts him level with Brazil great Pelé — and one behind Messi and Frenchman Just Fontaine, the single-tournament record holder with 13 in 1958. Former West Germany striker Gerd Mueller (14),

Ronaldo (15) and record holder Miroslav Klose of Germany (16) are well within Mbappé's sights considering the young Frenchman may have three more World Cups ahead of him.

By the 2026 World Cup, Mbappé should also be well in front as France's all-time leading men's scorer. He currently has 36 goals and World Cup teammate Olivier Giroud leads Les Bleus with 53. By the time the next World Cup comes around, Messi will be nearly 39 and perhaps retired from soccer altogether.

So the coast is clear for Mbappé to pulverize World Cup scoring records.

But before he starts thinking about that he has the pressing matter of the first Ballon d'Or to win, and it's a tall order with Messi as his main rival. But what a treat in store for French soccer fans if they both keep raising their game. Mbappé played for PSG 10 days after losing the final in Qatar, showing great determination to put that defeat behind him. The Ballon d'Or race has the makings of a classic contest between the teammates since they were both in fine form for PSG before heading to the World Cup.

Mbappé tops the league scoring charts with 13 goals and Messi is tied with PSG teammate Neymar for the most assists (10). Mbappé is the co-top scorer in the Champions League with seven goals, while Messi again heads the assists chart with four.

Messi won the Champions League four times with his former club Barcelona, where he became a superstar and scored 672 goals before joining PSG last season.

PSG has never won the Champions League and this could prove a key factor in Ballon d'Or consideration — especially if Mbappé leads the French giant to the European title. If Messi doesn't play Wednesday at home, PSG's next game is at Rennes on Sunday. "He had an extraordinary World Cup with a lot of physical effort and challenges," Galtier said. "We hope he's ready for (Angers)."

## Hockey Conclave on 10 Jan

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha is hosting the FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela for the second consecutive time and this mega event is being organized in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29.

The buzz around the Odisha Hockey Men's

ing style over the years, what are the changes that have happened and how the game has changed overall, among other topics," the HI President added.

Speaking about the Conclave, Joint Secretary, Sports & Youth Services Department, Shailendra Jena, said, "We look forward to



World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela has already gripped the people of the state with excitement.

Now, with a vision to further develop Indian Hockey, the Hockey Association of Odisha in association with the Sports & Youth Services Department is organizing the National Hockey Conclave 2023, at the Eco-Retreat Konark on January 10.

The Conclave will provide a platform to various stakeholders from more than 20 States and Union Territories around the country for discussing ways to develop Indian hockey holistically starting from player performance, coaching, grassroots talent identification, administration as well as global emerging trends, opportunities and challenges.

President Hockey India, Dilip Tirkey is looking forward to the National Hockey Conclave. "This is the first time it is taking place in the State with support from the Hockey Association of Odisha and the Government. The conclave will witness participation from more than 50 distinguished delegates consisting of senior-level government officials, former hockey legends, presidents and secretaries of various state associations, and other esteemed dignitaries," he said.


"The Conclave will see discussion on development of hockey in India, transition of play-

this National Hockey Conclave and welcoming the delegates. The Conclave is aimed at bringing the hockey fraternity together and will be first of a kind that the State is spearheading for the development of a national-level sport."


It is being organized on the occasion of the state hosting the FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup 2023. The Odisha Government has taken a number of steps to promote hockey and its players, Jena said.

It has also constructed the world's largest seated hockey stadium in Rourkela, as a tribute to the hockey players of the nation which will play a pivotal role in the development of Indian Hockey, he said, adding, "We look forward to showing them around and making them a part of this World Cup."

Members have appreciated the Government of Odisha for making them a part of its sporting journey and the Hockey World Cup celebrations. Following the Conclave, the representatives of Hockey India Member units will also get to experience the Hockey World Cup celebrations in Cuttack, witness the World Cup matches and visit the Panposh Sports Hostel in Rourkela. Notably, last week, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the World Cup Village and the Birsra Munda Hockey Stadium Complex in Rourkela.



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