



Respectful homage to Legendary freedom fighters **Veer Surendra Sai & Netaji Subash Chandra Bose** on their Birth anniversary.

First Dry Ash Rake flagged from NTPC Kaniha



Kaniha (KCN): In a significant move towards bulk movement of Fly ash, NTPC Kaniha has, for the first time started transportation of Dry Ash filled rake from its 3010 MW Plant at Kaniha. The Indian Railway rake containing 59 Box N wagons and carrying around 3300

MT of fly ash was flagged off today from the Dry Ash Extract Transportation System (DAETS) loading facility of the Plant by Shri K S Sundarum, Executive Director, NTPC Kaniha in presence of senior officials. The ash rake is bound for Ms Dalmia Cement plant near Cuttack.

Prez to confer national award to 11 children Monday

New Delhi (KCN): President Droupadi Murmu on Monday will confer the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2023 on 11 children for their exceptional achievements. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with the awardees on Tuesday. Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani will also interact with the children and congratulate them in the presence of Minister of State for Women and Child Development Munjpara Mahendrabhai, according to an official statement. There are six boys and five girls among the awardees from 11 states and UTs. Each awardee of the PMRBP will be given a

medal, a cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh and a certificate.



The Union government the PMRBP award to children for their exceptional achievements. The award is conferred on children in the age group 5-18 for their excellence in six categories, viz art and culture, bravery, innovation, scholastic, social service and sports, which deserve national recognition. This year, the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar will be conferred on 11 children selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievement in the field of art and culture (4), bravery (1), innovation (2), social service (1), and sports (3), the statement said.

Building collapse in war-damaged Syria city kills 16

ALEPPO (KCN): A building collapsed on Sunday in Syria's war-damaged second city of Aleppo, killing 16 people including children, authorities and media reported. Much of Aleppo was destroyed during Syria's conflict that began nearly 12 years ago and left many of the remaining structures in a decrepit state. "The number of victims of the residential building collapse... has risen to 16 dead", said state news agency SANA. CONTINUED ON: P-7

Bharat Jodo Yatra resumes amid tight security in J-K's Kathua

Kathua/Jammu (KCN): The Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi resumed



Sunday from Hiranagar in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district amid heightened security in the wake of twin blasts in Jammu. After a day-long break, the foot march started as per schedule around 7 am from Hiranagar near the International Border along the Jammu-Pathankot highway which was sealed by police and other security forces. Accompanied by J-K Pradesh Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani, working president Raman Bhalla and hundreds of volunteers carrying

the tricolour, Gandhi entered Samba district's Tapyal-Gagwal after crossing Londi check point at around 8 am and was greeted by enthusiastic workers and supporters waiting on both sides of the road. After covering about 25-km distance, the march will have a night halt at Chak Nanak before restarting from Samba's Vijaypur for Jammu, where it will reach on Monday.

Officials said adequate security arrangements are in place for Gandhi with police, CRPF and other security agencies keeping a tight vigil to ensure a peaceful march. Security has been further beefed up across Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of twin bomb blasts in Narwal area on the outskirts of Jammu city on Saturday, that left nine people injured. Police suspect that IEDs were used to carry out the twin explosions. CONTINUED ON: P-7

Politics over Awas

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha has witnessed a lot of politics over Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Even allegations of murders have been reported over raising voices on the alleged irregularities in the distribution of house units among the poor people. Both the Governing BJD and the Opposition BJP are in a constant fight with each other over the beneficiary selection for the Awas Yojana. While, BJD as the governing party claims that all the processes in the Awas Yojana were transparent, the BJP protests citing instances of poorest of the poor being denied a house. The process continues and it is also seen now after the Centre sanctioned 9.5

lakh additional houses including 1.5 lakh houses for the cyclone Fani affected people in the coastal belt. This has led to bitter quarrels and caused social division in peaceful villages. The list should be prepared in a format where the poorest of the poor get the first priority followed by the poor, lower income group, lower middle class and then the middle class. The local administration must have the statistics to identify the beneficiaries according to economic categories.



like food ration under different schemes or house distribution, most people claim themselves as poor and even the middle-class people pose as the poorest of the poor to grab a free of cost house unit. In the process, the actual poorest of the poor or CONTINUED ON: P-7

KISS Organises Mega Guardians' Meet

1 lakh Gathering of Parents and Students



Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) organised a mega Guardians' meet here on Sunday, with the Founder of KIIT-KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta expressing his heartfelt gratitude to them for their support and affection that has made it renowned the world over. The event was attended by 60,000 parents, 30,000 students along with proud alumni. Dr Samanta said the gathering witnessed was 20,000 more than the previous event. "We started KISS with only 125 tribal students from Mayurbhanj district way back in 1992-93. Today 30,000 students have passed out from the institute and another 30,000 students are pursuing their education. Each of the students passing out from here is inspiring the entire village to seek education. All the students passing out are becoming good citizens of the country," Dr Samanta said in



his address. On the occasion, he felicitated two proud alumni for their achievements. They are Sadhak Karjee who has cleared the Odisha Judicial Service Examination and sportsperson Ajay Oram who is leaving for Japan this month as Rugby coach. Expressing his thanks to all the parents who came from across Odisha and from Assam, Jharkhand and West Bengal, Dr Samanta said he would visit the Koraput district soon to lay the foundation stone for the upcoming hospital and school. The Guardians' meet gave a perfect occasion for the parents to meet their children, staff and be apprised about the latest developments in the campus. KISS has made elaborate arrangements for the parents to attend the meeting. Hailing the Founder's commitment to the



cause of tribal education from an early age, the parents said that he showed the courage to establish KISS and mainstream the tribal communities. President of KIIT and KISS Saswati Bal called upon the students to always look after their parents and never forget their roots, their village and become good human beings. Rajya Sabha MP Niranjana Bishi said Dr Samanta is an inspiration for all who could realise at an early age the need to empower the tribal community through education-led socio-economic development. CEO of KISS Dr. Prashant Kumar Routray said the Founder has realised the dreams of the tribal communities for the education of the children. He said 10,000 students are studying in satellite centres through five district-level schools and more would be coming up.

Union Education Minister to join padayatra at Veer Surendra Sai birthplace in Sambalpur

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will visit Sambalpur on January 23 to celebrate the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Veer

Pradhan will also pay his respects to Maa Samaleswari and later attend a Dhanuyatra programme organised by the Regional Dhanuyatra Mahotsav Committee at Sasan Paramanpur under Maneswar block

Surendra Sai. Pradhan will join a padayatra (foot march) at Khinda, the ancestral village of Veer Surendra Sai under Rengali block in



Sambalpur district where he was born on January 23, 1809. After the padayatra, the union minister will attend a seminar jointly organised by Indian Institute of Management, Sambalpur and Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Surendra Sai. He will also pay his respects to Maa Samaleswari and later attend a Dhanuyatra programme organised by the Regional Dhanuyatra Mahotsav Committee at Sasan Paramanpur under Maneswar block.

World Odisha Society Celebrates 85th Birthday of Pranab Pattnaik

Bhubaneswar(KCN): World Odisha Society (WOS) celebrated 85th Birthday of Legend-



ary Singer Pranab Pattnaik in virtual platform. Hosted around midnight of 20th and 21st January, the online musical session was attended by members and well wishers of WOS across the Globe. Many fans and followers of Shri Pattnaik among the attendees offered their Birthday wishes in form of recitals of his songs. When the entire atmosphere was reverberating with the soul soothing sound of Shri Pattnaik's ever memorable and much popular numbers like "He Atman Nidra Parihari", "Maa Tume Jagatara Saha Bharasha", "Majhire Karide Paari", unusual enthusiasm and unprecedented enchantment were witnessed among the participants.

Chairing the Ceremony, Chairman of WOS Kishore Dwibedi described Pranab Pattnaik as the best Odia vocalist of the century. His massive contribution to Odia music industry since more than five decades is amazing and astounding, Shri Dwibedi narrated. Addressing the gathering as Chief Guest, wife of Pranab Pattnaik, Kasturika Pattnaik observed that her family was overwhelmed by the affection and honour showered on Shri Pattnaik by the members of WOS during the Birthday

23 no's Cataract surgery successfully conducted by Rotary Club, Barbil

Barbil(KCN): Rotary Club, Barbil organised a Eye Check up camp Camp which



was inaugurated by Forest Range Officer, Barbil on 5th January where 254

CM on Cow care

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday visited the Goshala under

cows sheltered in the Goshala. Secretary to CM V K Pandian graced the occasion.

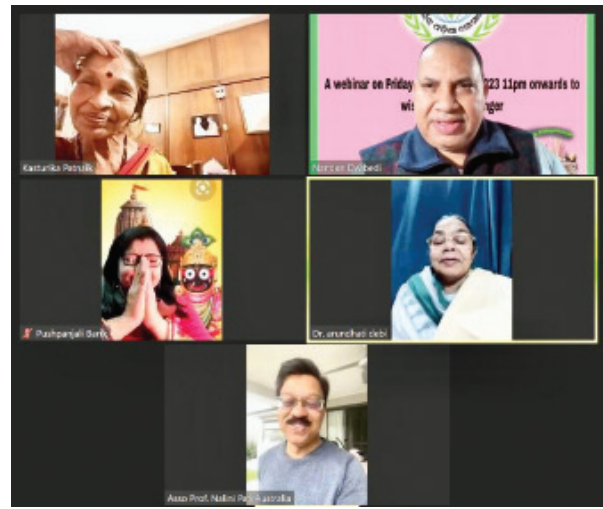


Bhubaneswar Metropolitan Corporation in Jamukoli area of Jatni and saw the arrangements for cattle. He advised the staff to take proper care of the

He looked around the various arrangements for the cows, the food being given and also fed fruits and vegetables to some cows. The Chief Minister

celebration. Delivering her speech, the Founder of WOS Dr Arundhati Debi, underlined that the extraordinary talent, astounding excellence and awesome creativity of Pranab Pattnaik is uncommon and incomparable.

At the outset of the meeting the President of Russia Odia Samaj and WOS's International Convenor Santosh Mishra presented his Birthday greetings to Pranab Pattnaik by singing his epoch making immortal song, "Indradhanura Saptaranga". Other prominent personalities, who conveyed their Birthday messages during the occasion include WOS's adviser Dharendra Kar and International co-ordinator Akshaya Mohanty from U.S.A, WOS's Vice - Chairman Dr Nalini Pati from Australia, Barada Prasanna Das, Abhijit Majumdar, Pushpanjali Barik, Khirabdi



Tanaya Jena, Reeta Patra and Shrimant Biswal. Cultural General Secretary of WOS Kaveri Behera presented vote of thanks.

Distinguished dignitaries present include Dr Jayashree Nanda from London, Sreemarani Das from Ireland, Hrudanand Prusty, Krupanidhi Biswal, Swetanka Rajguru, Sanjay Kumar Panda, Anish Puja Panda, Asish Kumar Dash and Umakant Jena. WOS's youth wing member Nandan Dwibedi well managed the digital control room.

beneficiaries were screened and 54 patient were identified for cataract surgery. In the 1st phase 23 patients were referred to Rotary hospital, Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar. The boarding, lodging, medicines and other related facilities were provided free of cost in the Camp by the Rotary club. Cataract surgeries, which have been held up since the beginning of the coronavirus lockdown in March, are resuming followed by Union health ministry guidelines said Ashok Thakar. There will be more camp in coming days said Manoj Manek to resume screening of patients for cataract and other eye diseases, identify and perform required surgeries.

christened a calf as Krishna. Notably, the Goshala was set up in Jamukoli

provides shelter to 906 cows. The bull herds of the city are mainly kept here.

in 2018 on 5.5 acre land by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. It has been proposed to expand it to 20.5 acre. The Goshala at present

Susanta Rout, MLA North, former MLA and Municipal Commissioner VA Kulange were present during the CM's visit.

Hailing Netaji as Royal Bengal Tiger, Governor, West Bengal Remarks, Youths as Future of our Nation

Kolkata(KCN):The Governor West Bengal, Dr C V Ananda Bose today hailed Netaji as the Royal Bengal tiger and recalled that on December 30, 1943, Netaji hoisted the Indian National Flag for

Netaji and his 126th birth anniversary. Recalling the valours of the numerous freedom fighters of the country, the Governor saluted the youth power and stated that youths are the future of the na-

Lake, rescue and relief demonstrations, band display of synchronised tunes of INA, discussion programmes and cultural events to mark the occasion. In the Yoga session some 400 people participated and in the walkathon programme nearly 950 people including the personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), students of the Kendriya Vidyalaya (Salt Lake I & II), Lady Queen School participated.

To honour Netaji and to celebrate the 75 years of India's independence, various organisations under

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah will be the Chief Guest at a grand culmination event to be held in Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands on January 23, 2023.

In today's programme at EZCC, the other dignitaries present included Shri Paresch Saxena, IG (Trg.), SSB, Shri R K Bumbala, IG, SSB, Shri Amit Kumar, IG, SSB, Shri M S Padda, DIG, SSB, Shri Rakesh Kumar Pandey, Director, MHA, Shri Ashish Giri, Director, EZCC, Smt Piyali Sharma, Sr. Commandant, CISF, Shri



the first time at Gymkhana Ground in Port Blair announcing that the island was the first Indian Territory independent of British rule. He was addressing the celebration of day-long Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Events Week' organised by the various wings of the Union Home Ministry, like National Security Guard (NSG), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Sashastha Seema Bal (SSB) and Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) in the city to honour

tion. He appreciated the effort of blood donation camp organised on this occasion and stated that it is Netaji, who encouraged the youths of the yester years to donate blood, so that he might offer them independence. This apart, he also thanked his father for adding 'Bose' after his name and expressed pride of being a part of Netaji whose title was also Bose.

In the morning today, the celebration started with a yoga session, followed by walkathon, blood donation camp, garlanding of Netaji statue at Central Park, Salt



the Union Home Ministry are organising Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Events Week from January 17 which is going to continue till January 23, 2023 in various locations across the country.

Gambhir Singh Chauhan, DIG, NDRF, Shri Ashok Biswas, Commandant, SSB, Col. Monesh Thakur, Sena Mandal, NSG and many other senior officials of the armed forces were present.

BBC documentary an attack on India, not PM Modi: Dharmendra Pradhan

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Slamming the latest BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan termed the production an attack on India.

In a freewheeling chat with the editorial team of The New Indian Express, Odisha, as part of 'Express Dialogues', Pradhan said the fast-paced growth and progress of India under Modi has not gone down well with many sections.

"I feel the documentary is not against Prime Minister Modi. It is against India. A lot of people are unable to digest the fact that India has become fifth largest economy in the world. It is creating a ripple in their mind as to how India, despite several challenges, is managing its economy, keeping inflation in control and maintaining the growth trajectory, which is around seven per cent," he said.

Dharmendra Pradhan speaks during Toeing the government line on the documentary exposing a "biased and blatant colonial mindset", the minister said, "How those who have ruled us for centuries, creating discrimination, can accept India's emergence."

"However, the faith of people is enough for us (When faith is there. It is sufficient). The entire globe has accepted India's empowerment under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he added. He also dismissed the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra of former Congress president and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi saying it was an effort to hold his own base and stay relevant.

"I feel that with all these exercises he may enrich himself with experience. But the kind of behaviour, words and narrative he has developed in this process, I don't see any substantial outcome from his Yatra. It is just a vacuum," he said.

Pradhan said, the people of the country are standing in solidarity with Prime Minister



Narendra Modi. His welfare politics, sensitive approach and the way he has envisioned India's progress in the next 25 years is inspiring citizens, especially the youth and women.

On the issues concerning his education ministry, Pradhan spoke about the NEP implementation and reiterated that corrected history will be taught to students and new books on history and other related subjects will be introduced from the next academic session.

The education minister though clarified that the objective of the government was not to rewrite history, but to expand the canvas. "We don't want to offend anyone or curtail anything. We want to draw a bigger line of history. The unsung heroes of our society have to be brought to the limelight in the 21st century, which is the recommendation of NEP. We want to create global citizens, but at the same time, we cannot forget our glorious past," he asserted.

Stay of Disputed Tax Demand

Section 156 provides that when any tax, interest, penalty, fine or any other sum is payable in consequence of any order passed under Income Tax Act, Assessing Officer shall serve upon assessee a notice of demand.

1. Provisions regarding issue of Notice of demand: Section 156 provides that when any tax, interest, penalty, fine or any other sum is payable in consequence of any order passed, Assessing Officer shall serve upon the assessee a notice of demand in Form No. 7. The demand



is generally payable within 30 days of service of such notice. However, period of 30 days can be reduced by the AO if it is found that the period would be detrimental to the revenue - **Farrukhabad Gramin Bank v. ACIT**

(2005) 277 ITR 320 (All); (2005) Sony India Ltd. v. CIT 276 ITR 278 (Del). Where any sum is determined to be payable by the assessee or the deductor or the collector under section 143(1) or section 200A(1) or section 206CB(1), intimation under those sections shall be deemed to be notice of demand.

2. If the taxpayer has preferred an appeal before Commissioner (Appeal) against the assessment order, he should write to his Jurisdictional A.O. for granting Stay of Demand.

3. CBDT Guidelines for granting of stay of demand: CBDT vide its Office Memorandum No. F.NO.404/72/93-ITCC, dated 31-7-2017 has modified its earlier Instruction and directed that under normal circumstances, stay should be granted till the disposal of first appeal on payment of 20% [Earlier it was 15% vide Inst dated 29-02-2016] of the total demand.

4. Time limit for payment of tax after receipt of a demand notice from A.O.: Generally, tax is payable within 30 days of service of the notice of demand u/s 156, but A.O. may direct for payment even within a period of less than 30 days with the prior approval of the DCIT to protect the interest of revenue. However, assessee may request for instalments or in case an appeal has been filed he can request for keeping the demand in abeyance.

Narayan Jain

- 5. Interest under sec. 220(2) in case of delay in payment of tax:** The assessee shall be liable to pay simple interest u/s 220(2) @1% for every month or part thereof, which shall be calculated from the day immediately following the end of the period allowed for payment in the notice u/s 156 and ending with the day on which the amount is paid. First proviso to section 220(2) provides that, where as a result of an order u/s 154, or section 155, or section 250, or section 254, or section 260, or sec. 262, or sec. 264 or an order of Settlement Commission u/s 245D(4), the amount on which interest was payable under this section had been reduced, the interest shall be reduced accordingly and the excess interest paid, if any, shall be refunded. Second proviso to sec. 220(2) provides that where as a result of an order specified in the first proviso, the amount on which interest was payable u/s 220 had been reduced and subsequently, as a result of an order under the said sections or section 263, the amount on which the interest was payable u/s 220 is increased, the assessee shall be liable to pay interest u/s 220(2) from the day immediately following the end of the period mentioned in the first notice of demand, referred to in section 220(1) and ending with the date on which the amount is paid.
- 6. Some decisions:** Calcutta High Court in **Birla Cotton Spg. & Wvg. Mills. Ltd. v. ITO and others [1995] 211 ITR 610 (Cal.)** has held that if an amount specified in the notice of demand is not recoverable and enforceable, the assessee cannot be held responsible for non-payment of the said amount during the period it is not recoverable and enforceable. Liability to pay interest would arise u/s 220(2) only in cases where the amount specified in the notice of demand is not paid within the period specified u/s 220(1). Liability to pay interest u/s 220(2) will commence from the end of the period mentioned in section 220(1). There is no liability to pay interest from the date of service of notice of demand for the marginal period of 30 days as specified in sec. 220(1). Sec. 220(2) necessarily assumes that the amount specified in the notice of demand remains

outstanding and payable by the assessee even after the expiry of the period mentioned in section 220(1). Where the amount specified in the notice of demand is either already paid or no longer payable or subsisting, no liability to pay interest u/s 220(2) can arise.

If assessment order does not specify charging of interest under a specific section, then it cannot be charged or levied under section 156 - **CIT v. Jagan & Co. [2014] 369 ITR 635 (All.)**, **Uday Mistanna Bhandar and Complex v. CIT [1996] 222 ITR 44 (Patna)** [Affirmed by Supreme Court in **CIT v. Ranchi Club Ltd. [2001] 247 ITR 209 (SC)**]; **CIT v. Dehradun Club Ltd. 351 ITR 396**, **CIT v. Gold Tex Furnishing Industries 276 ITR 164**.

In **SMS Schloemann Siemag v. Dy. CIT [2001] 250 ITR 97 (AP) (FB)** that condition precedent for invoking section 220(2) is satisfied only if there is a demand under a notice by revenue within time stipulated therein and if such a demand is not satisfied, then section 220(2) can be invoked.

Interest cannot be charged prior to date of issue of notice of Demand Notice u/s 156 - **CIT v. Sir Shadi Lal Enterprises Ltd. [2009] 310 ITR 283 (All.)**.

The Court's power u/s 446(2)(b) of the Companies Act, 1956 are overriding of any other law and the Company Court may disallow department's claim for interest u/s 220(2) in appropriate cases - **ITO v. Official Liquidator 138 ITR 136 (Cal.)**.

In **CIT v. Golcha Properties (P.) Ltd. [1987] 167 ITR 737 (Raj.)** it was held that provisions of section 220(1) and 220(2) are inoperative in the case of a company which was in liquidation by the orders of the winding-up by the Court.

Further, penalty may be imposed u/s 221(1) which may be equivalent to the amount of tax in arrears.

- 7. Opportunity of being heard before levy of interest u/s 220:** In **J. Jayalalitha v. CIT & Ors. [2004] 244 ITR 74 (Mad.)** it was held that it is not necessary to give opportunity of being heard before levy of interest u/s 220.
- 8. If tax demanded originally is reduced due to rectification etc.:** In case tax demanded originally is reduced due to rectification or relief in appeal or due to order of Settlement

Commission, in such case the interest will also be reduced as provided in proviso to sec. 220(2).

9. Whether interest u/s 220 is payable even on interest u/s 234B: Where the assessee has not paid interest u/s 234B which is included in the demand notice issued u/s 156, the assessee is liable to pay interest u/s 220(2) even on interest levied u/s 234B - **Shriram Chits & Investments (P) Ltd. v. CIT [2005] 2 SOT 838 (Chen)**.

10. Where interest u/s 201(1A) has been charged, whether interest u/s 220(2) can be charged for same period on same amount: The Finance Act, 2012 has amended section 220 w.e.f. 1.7.2012 to provide that when interest is charged u/s 201(1A) on the amount specified in the intimation issued u/s 200A(1), then no interest will be charged for the same amount for the same period u/s 220(2).

11. Whether a company Court can waive the recovery of interest levied u/s 220(2): Madras High Court in the case of **Catholic Centre v. Pilot Pen Co. (India) (P) Ltd. (in Liquidation) [2003] 259 ITR 252 (Mad.)** held that powers of Company Court u/s 446(2)(b) of the Companies Act, 1956, override all other Acts, particularly section 220(2) of IT Act, 1961 as the payment of interest/penal interest for liability under the IT Act would cause hardship, grave miscarriage and injuries to contributories. Claim of I.T. authorities for interest/penal interest was rejected and the official liquidator directed to pay admitted liability towards income-tax proper only.

12. Where assessment made originally by A.O. is either varied or set aside by one appellate authority but on further appeal, the original order of the A.O. is restored either in part or wholly: In such case interest u/s 220(2) will be computed with reference to the due date reckoned from original demand notice and with reference to the tax finally determined. The fact that during intervening period, there was no tax payable by the assessee under any operative order would make no difference to this position - **Circular No. 334 [F. No. 400/3/81-ITCC]**, dated 3.4.1982, 135 ITR (St.) 10. (Contd.)

(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).

Want Fabulous Skin This Winter? Overnight Masks Works While You Sleep

During these harshest winter months, your 10-minute morning skincare routine may not be cutting it. The combination of lower temperatures and humidity, harsh winter winds, and indoor heat can result in **dry, dull, and irritated skin** that may need a little extra TLC. One such solution that can help? Overnight masks



Sleep masks are the latest **skin-care obsession**. Overnight masks are like a super-charged, extra-potent serum or face cream that helps to provide deep hydration and nutrients to your face while you are sleeping. **Overnight masks** are formulated to deeply penetrate your skin giving you better-looking skin, a healthier complexion, decreased fine lines and wrinkles, a softer texture, and less dryness or redness.

• They're lighter on the skin than your regular moisturizer, so you can actually wear them overnight without creating a mess on your pillowcase. Designed to be applied before bed and rinsed off in the morning, the common goal of the different formulas is to moisturize skin, relax your muscles and help you sleep better. Our skin regenerates, or restores, naturally at night. So, adding a little extra help with actives in an overnight mask may nudge the process along.

If you have any skin problems that you need to target, overnight face masks are a great idea for intense skin hydration, brightening, and calming. They're water-based, and easily ab-

sorbable which can penetrate deeper into the skin and have more time to be absorbed into the skin.

Skin can lose a lot of water during sleep, and the AC or heater can exacerbate the problem even further. Skin cells replicate and reproduce during the night. Wearing an overnight mask works both as a barrier and sealant. A light coating of this product prevents dirt and dust from closing in on your pores and locks in your other active products, letting all the good work more effectively without evaporating away.--you will probably wake up with a more healthy, glowing, flake-free, and even-toned face.

We love using the ingredients provided by nature. So, here are some overnight face masks that you can easily prepare at home:

1 Tomato Masks ----Take one tomato and 2 tablespoons of raw milk and blend both to make a paste. Apply the mask evenly on your face and exposed areas like the neck, hands, etc . Leave it overnight and rinse it with cold water in the Morning.

Take a tomato and cut it into two halves. Take about 6 tablespoons of raw milk in a bowl. Now, dip the tomato into the milk bowl and apply it all over your face. Once the layer is dried up, repeat it again and apply the second layer and so on till you feel it is OK . Leave it on overnight and rinse it off with cold water in the morning.

Mix 3 tablespoons fresh tomato juice and 1 tablespoon honey in a bowl and apply

Shahnaz Husain

the mixture on the face and leave it overnight. Wash your face in the morning

with fresh water .You can use it twice in a week

This face mask is also an excellent cure for sunburn due to its cooling properties. Tomato overnight mask being a natural astringent works best for Acne-prone skin. It also helps in re-viving the glow on dull skin and is an excellent remedy for sunburn.

2 Turmeric and Milk Mask

Mix 2 tablespoons Milk with 1 tablespoon turmeric powder in bowl . Apply the mixture on the face neck and open areas and leave it overnight .Wash with normal water in the Morning.Raw milk is an excellent anti-tan agent. It proves to be an excellent natural remedy to treat sun tan at home

Lactic acid present in milk easily penetrates into the skin, hydrating it and giving it a radiant glow. Turmeric's antiseptic and antibacterial properties help kill any unhealthy bacteria and help remove any scars.

3 Almond and Milk Mask

• Soak 10 raw almonds in water overnight and peel them the next morning. Crush the almonds in a blender. Add 5 tablespoons of milk and blend the mixture again. Apply it on your face with a cotton ball before going to bed and leave it on overnight.Wash your face in the morning with cold water.

• This overnight mask is rich in folic acid

and Vitamin E. This mask will make your skin soft. Just make sure to use this remedy twice a week for better results.

4 Cucumber, Green Tea, and Potato Juice Take half potato and half cucumber, grate them and squeeze their juice. Then mix the juices of potato and cucumber with a half cup of green tea juice . Apply it on your face using a cotton ball.

• Let the mixture stay on your face overnight, and then rinse off with cold water the following day. Using cucumber on the skin has proven best as it cools the skin and treats sunburn problems.

• It nourishes the skin, provides intense hydration and fights the signs of ageing alongside acting as an effective moisturiser. At the same time, the presence of antibacterial properties of cucumber help lower the scars present on the skin and reduces acne issues.

• Do this three times a week.

5 Coconut Oil Mask

• Mix one teaspoon of coconut oil with three drops of tree oil in a bowl. Wash your face and apply on face and leave it overnight and rinse off with cold water the next morning.

• Coconut oil cleanses the skin while you are asleep. Tea tree oil is an antibacterial ingredient that can help in reducing scars and is a great ingredient to use in any face pack for acne

• The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

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Silence makes life come true

Silence is the absence of words. But the body has its own language which reflects the emotions. Emotions can express their best only



when words are not coming out of the mouth. It is silence that gives birth to the best creation. Deep sadness, sorrow, guilt, ego, anger all we get from outside and mostly through the use of words but love, compassion, joy lies

in our silence. The deeper the silence, the more clear, calm, blissful life will be. Just as speaking is an art, so being silent is also an art. Human life has to remain artistic. Where art is left out, disorderliness and indiscipline enters, which acts as a distortion for the society and the country. Together these perversions increase the number of jails, hospitals, police stations, courts and increasing their number in any civilized society is a sign of decadence.

In the era of lack of time, haste, haste, common people do not know the purpose of life properly and in such a situation, our culture leads us to believe that the main purpose of life is joy, love, compassion. That's why every other day some or the other festival is at

our doorstep which tells us that there are short breaks in life

which introduce us to our inner personality. Mauni Amavasya, which falls in the month of Magha, is also a part of this symbol. Mauni Amavasya is the festival of worship of Shri Hari on the lines of Hari Anant, Hari Katha Anant. Bathing, pranayama, meditation and silence are the only mediums when one can worship Shri Hari on this festival coming in the winter season. As much as the importance of reciting mantras by speaking words is many times that of reciting them in the mind. That's why there is mention of easy samadhi in the scriptures. Some mantras that were meant only for silence and they help us reach our consciousness are suitable for Sahaj Samadhi. Everything becomes conscious only in the state of samadhi. Where there is deep silence and consciousness is also in its supreme state, only then there is an interview with Prakriti, Guru, Hari.

The purpose of all the words in the world is also that we can understand ourselves better. When we pass through a lot of noise, the mind automatically seeks silence, seeks peace. Silence is therefore associated with salvation. Moksha literally means free. Salvation from whom? Free from whatever is or is happening. Be it life, any work, running,

Dr. Lokendra Singh Kot

noise, most free. Silence is the end of everything, so it is the

way to salvation. Meditation is also because there is silence and why silence, I tried to talk a lot, but did not get what I wanted. After meditating a little, when I became silent, I felt that the path is clear, the destination is also here. Whenever we get angry, shout and after that we calm down, someone inside spontaneously says, why did you get so angry. Silence gives meaning to life. Archimedes was also engrossed in his research and when he sat quietly the invention was done, Newton sat quietly under the apple tree only then he got the theory of gravitation. Many sages used to do penance in a quiet place to acquire knowledge from various scriptures, lived in silence, only then practical knowledge came to their mind automatically. It is said that much of Indian wisdom was revealed to him in the state of meditation, silence which he passed on to his disciples.

The development or beginning of the universe has happened from silence only. A human being is also born in silence and finally merges in silence. Silence comes in the Shri category of divinity, then talkativeness or noise represents demonism. The answer to many questions is also silent, but when the answers are given words, then a huge illusion

of logic, argument, sophistry arises from which it is impossible to get out. Silence often echoes for centuries, while words are short-lived due to the need to listen and read. Words hurt, while silence is disinterested, non-violent, sattvic. Words represent the world and silence represents disinterest. Words demand cultivation whereas silence is spontaneous, it does not need any support. It is said that when the Buddha attained enlightenment, he remained silent for a whole week. He didn't even say a word. Legend has it that all the angels in heaven were horrified by this. He knew that only once in a millennium does someone blossom like a Buddha and now he was silent! Then the angels requested him to say something. Buddha said, 'Those who know, they know even without my saying and those who do not know, they will not know even if I say. No description of light is useful to the blind. There is no point in talking to those who have not tasted the nectar of life, and therefore I am silent. How can one even express such an intimate and personal experience? Words cannot express this and as revealed by many scriptures in the past, words end where truth begins.'

The author is a Freelance Writer and Faculty in Community Medicine Department Govt. Medical College, Ratlam-457001 MP

Odisha: Nod for inclusion of 22 communities in OBC list

BHUBANESWAR: The state cabinet on Saturday approved the proposal of the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes development, mi-



norities and backward classes welfare department for inclusion of 22 communities in the list of other backward classes.

Briefing mediapersons of the cabinet decision, development commissioner Pradeep Jena said the Centre has already notified 22 castes along with their synonyms as OBCs for Odisha. However, they have not been included in the list of the socially and economically backward classes (SEBCs) of the state. "The cabinet has approved the proposed amendment of the Odisha State Commission

for Backward Classes (OSBC) Act, 1993 by inserting sub-section 3 under section-9, enabling the state government to include such backward classes in the state list of SEBCs, if the said backward classes have been specified in the Central list of OBCs for the state of Odisha," he said.

He said that Article 15(4) of the Constitution enables the state to make any special provisions for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens. Further, Article 46 provides that, the state will promote, with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

In view of the social and educational backwardness of these 22 castes/communities along with their synonyms, they are required to be included in the list of SEBCs for extending all social welfare measures and benefits, thereby bringing them to the mainstream of development, he added.

Keep Bhubaneswar clean and green, Naveen urges people

BHUBANESWAR: With the state capital undergoing a massive makeover in the recent days, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday appealed to the citizens and other stakeholders to keep the city clean, green and beautiful through the 'Bhubaneswar First' drive and make it an ideal city in the country.

In his message during the launch of 'Bhubaneswar First' drive of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Naveen appealed all stakeholders including citizens, public representatives and government agencies of the city to come together to ensure proper sanitation. BMC officials, during the formal launch of the drive and its official logo, said the

aim of 'Bhubaneswar First' is to keep Bhubaneswar's interest first. The drive strives to engage all the stakeholders including the citizens



to share responsibility with authorities and also develop a sense of civic ownership towards the city's assets and civic conditions, said Mayor Sulochana Das.

As part of the drive, the civic body has planned to unveil a sustained campaign to promote citizen ownership towards sanitation and city development initiatives. Participation,

involvement, ownership and pride will be the key triggers of this joint initiative, said Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) VC

Balwant Singh. BMC commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said the drive is also intended at achieving inter-departmental partnership for convergence and beautification of the city in coming months.

"Many unique developmental efforts are being taken to improve sanitation, living condition, aesthetics and beauty of the city. To

strengthen and sustain the efforts the citizens must act consciously with a notion that every action they take shall have an impact on the city," Kulange said.

The collective measure of BMC, BDA, police and all stakeholders of the city will help in speeding up city development including sanitation, infrastructure development, traffic, transportation, healthcare, city amenities among others, said additional CP Umashankar Dash. BMC officials said the drive is also expected to help the state capital in improving its Swachhata ranking in Swachh Survekshan. MLA Ananta Narayan Jena and deputy mayor Manjulata Kanhar also spoke.

Three Naxals wanted by NIA now active in Andhra-Odisha border

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Three of the four Naxals wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) are reportedly active in Andhra Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee (AOBSZC) of the outlawed CPI (Maoist), said police sources.

The NIA released posters of Gajarla Ravi alias Uday, Jalumuri Srinu, Metturu Joga Rao alias Tech Shankar and Khillo Ranju alias Chanti. Uday is a native of Warangal district in Telangana, Srinu hails from Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district, Shankar is from Srikakulam district and Chanti is from Malkangiri district.

In the posters released in Koraput on Friday, NIA's Kolkata branch office announced Rs 10 lakh cash reward for information on Uday, Rs 5 lakh each for Srinu and Tech Shankar and Rs 3 lakh for Chanti. Sources said Uday was promoted as a central committee member of the banned outfit and he is currently the secretary of AOBSZC. Srinu is reportedly Uday's protection squad in-charge while Tech Shankar heads the technical wing.

Tech Shankar has expertise in manufacturing bombs and repairing guns. Police sources said Uday, Srinu and Tech Shankar are operating under AOBSZC, Chanti is reportedly not very active since the last few years. The NIA

Book on Mahanadi's heritage released by INTACH

BHUBANESWAR: A book documenting the heritage of river Mahanadi was released by the Odisha chapter of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage at Cuttack on Saturday. Released by academician and



Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee Priyambada Mohanty Hejmadi and INTACH chairman Major Gen LK Gupta, the book titled 'Heritage of the Mahanadi Valley in Odisha' is the result of the exhaustive documentation drive that began in 2018. Details of as many as 500 monuments and intangible heritage along the Mahanadi have been presented in the book. Convenor of state chapter of INTACH Amiya Bhusan Tripathy said five teams of heritage enthusiasts were formed which covered

has said that the identities of the informants sharing the details regarding the whereabouts of the four Naxals will not be revealed.

The police said the four Maoists were involved in the ambush of Border Security Force's (BSF) commandant JR Khaswan, his second-in-command Rajesh Sharan, inspector Ashok Yadav and assistant sub-inspector Jitendra Kumar, where the four were killed.



Commandant Khaswan and others were returning after carrying out an inspection at Tunnel Camp in Malkangiri district when the red ultras opened indiscriminate firing on them on February 10, 2012.

The BSF squad was targeted within Chittrakonda police limits. The jungles in the region are a Naxal hotbed as it touches the borders of two other states - Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, making it a corridor for Maoists. The incident had taken place just ahead of the panchayat polls in the state. Malkangiri police launched a probe into ambush of the BSF personnel but later NIA took over investigation and registered a separate case. "The four Naxals are also wanted in different cases registered against them by Odisha Police. We are also making efforts to nab them," said a senior officer.

nearly 450 km of the river covering Sambalpur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, parts of Angul, Subarnapur, Nayagarh, parts of Cuttack and Jagatsinghpur. "We had decided to list and document monuments, ancient structures within 5 km of both sides of the river. We had started the project from Sambalpur," he said. The project team members included Anil Dhir, Deepak Kumar Naik, Neha Sharma, Bisweswar Prusty, Sarat Satpathy, Tarini Prasad Panda, Deepak Panda and late Abhay Padhi. Tangible heritage like temples, palaces and forts had come up along Mahanadi while intangible heritage like folklore, songs and dances, tribal art and craft had also thrived along the river.

Tripathy said all important heritage sites have been photographed, videographed and documented with details. The book will serve as a road map for those into conservation, history and research, he added.

On the occasion, the second edition of the book 'Conservation, the Odissan Way' authored by Director of INTACH Conservation Centre Mallika Mitra was also released.

.FEST Generates Enthusiasm

Bhubaneswar: It's been a week since .FEST started in Bhubaneswar but its enthusiasm in people continues to grow. The same was true for Day 7, which saw over twenty thousand citizens and visitors turn up for various programs as Bollywood music director and composer, Amit Trivedi lights up Bhubaneswar with a night full of romantic songs. Highlights of the day also included musical performances by Odia heartthrob Swayam Padhi. Litti Chokha, Dal Bhati and Kolkata Style Gup-Chup won the hearts of foodies as it was widely bought by the visitors. The Night Bazaar/Flea Market gave local artists, start-ups, performers, craftsmen, and innovators an excellent stage on which to display their products. Visitors will get to witness the regional dance forms of Odisha like Dhuduki, Dhap

and Jodisankha as performers take over the 3 stages at Night Flea Market. Some of the stalls that witnessed overwhelming response from the visitors are, Simple Crazy's, Urbanomad, Punjab Jutti Store, Tanveer from Himachal, Traditional Aura-Varanasi, Red Ochre. The Flea Market, which was founded with the intention of displaying the handicrafts and textiles of Odisha, proved to be a wonderful crowd-puller and a shopping experience for visitors with more than 120 locally made goods on display. Heading into its second week, .FEST is expected to become bigger and better in the coming days. Day 8 i.e. 22nd January will host the theme 'Suhana Safar', with classical and legendary musicians namely Unit Narayan, Alka Yagini and Satyajeet Jena taking the stage for their solo performances.

Odisha attracts WB investors

Kolkata(KCN): After the massive success achieved in the Make in Odisha (MIO) Conclave 2022, the State Government in collaboration with the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) hosted Odisha Investors' Meet at Kolkata.

The event further shows the government's commitment towards drawing more investment from neighbouring states like Bengal. The meeting was led by a delegation comprising the Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra and Principal Secretary, Industries, Hemant Kumar Sharma who met some of the corporate captains from Kolkata during G2B meetings held in Kolkata today.

Prior to the MIO Conclave, the government had organized roadshows in Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad and other cities where they had witnessed impressive participation. The delegates were welcomed by Pradeep Sureka, Immediate Past President – ICC.

The meeting powered by the presence of the Minister as well as his bureaucrats ensured response from at least 320 delegates from Kolkata and around 70 closed-door (G2B) meetings with clear investment intent in Odisha. A video on Industrial Ecosystem of Odisha was screened for all the participating industrialists. Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries Department, took the attendees through a presentation on the business ecosystem of Odisha.

Odisha has taken proactive measures to broaden the industrial ecosystem in the State. The State has many marquee companies like IOCL, IFFCO, Aditya Birla Fashion, Jockey, Parle Agro, Britannia, and ITC among others, who have set up large manufacturing and service units in the State, attracted by the availability of raw materials, trained and skilled manpower and low of cost of doing business in the State, the Minister further said.

Stating that Odisha is India's Best Kept Secret, he said, "I can see that as the secret is being revealed gradually, the Tourism Industry is going to expand manifolds. This is a great opportunity for businesses to establish Hotels, Resorts, Hospitality Facilities and other Infrastructure at tourist locations across Odisha."

The food-processing sector is also a focus sector for the State. In terms of logistics and connectivity, with a 480-km long coastline, and 3 large ports at Paradeep, Gopalpur and Dhamra, Odisha is connected to the global shipping lanes and is the gateway to new markets in South and East Asia.

He informed the investors that Odisha is also a power-surplus State and has an abundance of water resources. "In terms of the provision of utilities for investors, we can claim we are one of the best in the country. So, once again, I would like to invite all the industry leaders to come to Odisha, the land of Lord Jagannath and the emerging Industrial hub of

India. We invite you to be our partner in this glorious and inclusive development story," added Shri Deb.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said, from a predominantly agrarian economy to

being the Industrial Hub of the East, the past two decades have been the story of the rise of Odisha, a rise that's yet to hit its peak.

The State, with continuous support from its industry partners, has been able to build a robust industrial infrastructure and a flourishing industry setup.

"Today we are joined by leaders and entrepreneurs from sectors like Metals, Chemicals, Plastics, Petrochemicals, Textile & Apparel, and Tourism among others. These traditional sectors, along with multiple New Age Sectors are being actively promoted by my government," Mahapatra said.

He said that the State is taking further steps for value addition in these sectors. One such initiative is the Skilled in Odisha program, which has become a brand in itself.

The Chief Secretary said the state is looking at broad-basing the industrial presence and driving sustainability of the industrial landscape. As many as 20 sectors have been identified under priority and thrust sector categories in the IPR 2022, which means the State is ready to host and accommodate all futuristic industrial establishments.

Also, he added, the government is taking pioneering policy measures for promoting Green Industrial Practices and Decarbonization of the Manufacturing processes by polluting industries.

Kalyan Charan Mohanty, Executive Director –IPICOL urged everyone to explore Odisha for future investment and expansion plans. He also assured all of the continuous hand-holding support from the State Government, from allocation of land to getting necessary clearances to providing factory gate availability of power and water, and also ensuring a successful operation post setting up in Odisha.

Bhalla Lauds IREDA Efforts

New Delhi: Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), visited IREDA's corporate office in Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi, on January 20, 2023.

Shri Bhalla reviewed the performance and the future roadmap of IREDA, followed by an interactive session with all employees of the

ance by MNRE.

A detailed presentation was also made by CMD, IREDA Shri Das.

All the employees took part in the discussion through virtual mode, and Head of the Departments joined the conversation in person. Further, Secretary, MNRE interacted with each official in person and motivated

them to contribute to the nation's sustainable development.

In his interaction, the Secretary, MNRE, appreciated IREDA for being a pioneer in the field and supporting the RE sector since last 35 years. He also complimented

IREDA's historic performance in the last two fiscal years, which was accomplished amid the worst business environment ever owing

to the COVID pandemic. He also appreciated IREDA's initiatives towards holistic growth of its Human Resources specially through activities like yoga, meditation, sports, and trainings, etc.

Secretary, MNRE commended IREDA for reducing the net NPA from 5.61% to 2.72% in just 1.5 years. He advised IREDA to devise a suitable mechanism for funding Rooftop Solar, PM-KUSUM, and other RE technologies. As part of the Government of India's goal to have 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, he also urged IREDA to develop an action plan for financing RE projects in the country.



company.

Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA, welcomed the Secretary, MNRE, Dinesh Jagdale, Joint Secretary, MNRE, and other officials from MNRE and shared IREDA's journey over the previous 35 years as well as the future plans.

The Secretary was also appraised on sectoral performance, resource mobilization strategies, initiatives, and diversification plan for future growth of the organization.

The challenges being faced by the company to meet the huge demand for funding for the RE sector were also discussed, for which the Secretary has assured full support and guid-



Alongside ministers and government officials, the meet was also graced by industrialists who had previously invested in Odisha and have reaped favorable results.

Illustrious industrialists like Ashish Anupam, Managing Director, Tata Steel Long Products Ltd (TSPL), Dhnananjay Sahoo, General Manager – Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Shishir Jalan, President – Indian Plastic Federation, projected three completely different industry testimonials.

Addressing the esteemed guests, Minister – Industries, MSME & Energy, Pratap Keshari Deb said he was pleased to visit Kolkata and be amongst the most vibrant and entrepreneurial businessmen and women in the country. The city has been the motherland of trade and commerce for generations and has always been a hub of Industrial Manufacturing and Services, he said.


The people of Odisha have been migrating across borders for jobs, education, healthcare, tourism, trade, and other purposes forever. He invited all to come and explore Odisha from an investment perspective.

"I would like to reinforce the fact that Odisha is now ready, our Juggernaut is now flagged-off and we have taken off on a journey towards excellence. Under the visionary leadership and pro-industry approach of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Odisha is becoming a major industrial hub in India, by mastering the art of dovetailing economic prosperity with inclusive growth," the Industries Minister said.

He said Odisha is today becoming a destination of choice for investors across the country. While the metal sector has been an inherent strength of Odisha, owing to our natural resource advantage, the Government of



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Petroleum Minister asks oil companies to reduce petrol-diesel prices

VARANASI: Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Sunday asked Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to cut the retail prices of petrol and diesel if the crude oil prices in the international market come down and also if OMCs under recovery come down. Puri was talking to

are stabilised and they have managed to recover under-recovery," he said. In layman's parlance, under-recovery refers to selling fuel below the cost prices. Oil Marketing Companies incurred a loss of Rs 21,200 crore on account of selling petrol and diesel below the cost price. Though Oil

volatile prices of the Indian crude basket. Puri said, "One reason for keeping prices of petrol and diesel under check is the reduction in taxes. The central government revised the taxes twice between November 2021 and May 2022. Prices of petrol and diesel have not been revised since May 22, 2022, when the

USD 88 a barrel now from a high of USD 139 in March, on the other hand, India is increasing imports from Russia. Both of these have a combined impact on the overall fuel import bill, but losses are still there which seems to be the reason why oil marketing companies are not able to cut the prices."

A senior Oil Marketing company said, "We are earning a gross profit on petrol and it is in single digits. However, during the last 15 days, due to cracks, petrol profitability has been affected. However, diesel sale is still on gross loss and it is in double-digit."

ALSO READ | We now have major discoveries, and not just in oil and gas: Union Minister of Petroleum

The gross amount of loss or profit for the third quarter will be known, once the oil market companies will declare their result in the coming days.

Maksoud neighbourhood, had collapsed "due to a water leak" in the foundations. The neighbourhood is predominantly inhabited by Syrian Kurds who are under the authority of the People's Protection Units (YPG) militia, part of the Kurds' de facto army. Aleppo itself is, however, under the control of the government which took it back from rebels during devastating urban combat.

Saved from death at sea, Syrian refugees face deportation. The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that among the victims were displaced people from Afrin, further north, where neighbouring Turkey carried out an offensive in 2018.

Nearly half a million people have been killed in Syria's conflict which began in 2011 and displaced about half of the country's pre-war population. Many of those forced from their homes had to move into buildings that are



the media during a function to flag wave a CNG-driven boat race on the river Ganga here. This function was organized as a run-up to India Energy week which will take place next month in Bengaluru. "Oil marketing companies should cut down prices once international prices

Marketing Companies are free to revise product prices based on economics, in practical terms political considerations are also important in the revision of prices. Hardeep Singh Puri also claimed that prices of petrol and diesel have been under check, despite

Finance Ministry cut Central Excise duty followed by a reduction in sales tax by many States." ALSO READ | Ethanol blending in petrol saved Rs 41,500 crore in 8 years: Union Petroleum Minister "However, during this period, on one hand, prices of brent crude have come down to

Building collapse in war-damaged Syria city kills 16

Continued from page-1

Only one person had been rescued alive from the rubble of the five-storey building which was home to seven families, Syria's interior ministry said. It was not immediately clear if anyone else had survived the tragedy in the



city which was Syria's pre-war commercial hub.

Earlier Sunday SANA gave an initial death toll of 10, which rose throughout the day as search operations continued. A Kurdish news agency said five children were among the dead.

The victims included Syrians who had been displaced during the country's years of fighting, a war monitor said. Locals said that about 35 people lived in the building. Civil defense workers and civilians work on the rubble of a destroyed building in the Sheikh Maksoud neighborhood in Aleppo, Syria | AP

Video footage shared on state television showed dozens of rescue workers at the site, where some used their bare hands to dig into the grey rubble. Earth movers scooped up the pieces of building material, sending dust into the air.

SANA quoted a police source as saying earlier that the building, in Aleppo's Sheikh



structurally unsound, resulting in relatively frequent collapses.

Alabama woman who joined IS hopes to return from Syria camp

Last September, a building collapse in the Ferdaws neighbourhood of Aleppo killed 10 people, including three children. A war-damaged block of flats also crumbled in the city in February 2019, leaving 11 people dead with four children among them.

India's forex reserves rose over USD 10 billion to hit five-month high

NEW DELHI: India's foreign exchange reserves rose by USD whopping USD 10.417 billion to USD 572.0 billion in the week ending on January 13, Reserve Bank of India's Bulletin Weekly Statistical Supplement data showed. With this sharp jump, the reserves

forex reserves drop by USD 1.268 billion to USD 561.583 billion. The forex reserves had been intermittently falling for months now, barring the latest jump, largely because of the RBI's intervention in the market to defend the depreciating rupee against a surging US



hit over a five-month high. During the week that ended on January 6, the country's forex reserves were at USD 561.583 billion, earlier data showed.

According to RBI's latest data, India's foreign currency assets, the biggest component of the forex reserves, rose by USD 9.078 billion to USD 505.519 billion. Gold reserves rose by USD 1.106 to USD 42.890 billion.

Notably, at the start of last year -- 2022, the overall forex reserves were at about USD 633 billion. Much of the decline can be attributed to RBI's intervention and a rise in the cost of imported goods. In October 2021, the country's foreign exchange reserves reportedly touched an all-time high of about USD 645 billion.

ALSO READ | India's

FPIs pull out Rs 15,236 crore from equities in Jan as China reopens

NEW DELHI: Foreign investors pulled out a net amount of Rs 15,236 crore this month so far on attractive Chinese markets and concerns about the US economy entering a recession.

However, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have turned buyers in the last four trading sessions.

The outflow in the month of January came following a net inflow of Rs 11,119 crore in December and Rs 36,239 crore in November.

Overall, FPIs pulled out Rs 1.21 lakh crore from the Indian equity markets in 2022 on aggressive rate hikes by the central banks globally, particularly the US Federal Reserve, volatile crude, rising commodity prices along with Russia and Ukraine conflict.

The year 2022 was the worst year for FPIs in terms of flow and withdrawal from equities comes following a net investment in the preceding three years.

According to the data with the depositories, FPIs have made a net withdrawal of Rs 15,236 crore this month (till January 20).

The latest FPI sell-off was largely driven by the aggressive reopening of the Chinese markets after the lockdown.

Bharat Jodo Yatra resumes amid tight security in J-K's Kathua

Continued from page-1

in an SUV parked in a repair shop and in a vehicle at a nearby junkyard at Transport Nagar area of Narwal.

The terror attack comes at a time when security agencies in the region are on high alert in the wake of the Yatra of the Congress and the upcoming Republic Day celebrations.

The march started from Kanyakumari on September 7 and entered Jammu and Kashmir from Punjab on Thursday.

The yatra is scheduled to end in Srinagar on January 30 with hoisting of national flag at Congress headquarters by Gandhi.

Politics over Awas

Continued from page-1

the poor are left out. As it is, the poor persons fail to convince the panchayat functionaries who play a major role in selection of beneficiaries for the Awas Yojana. An old, disabled or impoverished person cannot reach the panchayat heads and therefore remain outside the list of beneficiaries.

This apart, the panchayat functionaries who were elected in February 2022 to the office by spending lakhs of rupees, also find the Awas beneficiary selection as a golden opportunity to recoup their money. In many cases, the beneficiaries are asked to pay bribes for selection. While the eligible and needy persons find it difficult to arrange money to give to the panchayat functionaries, the ineligible people get their names enlisted, because they can pay.

The government is no stranger to the problem. Everybody knows what actually happens in the beneficiaries' selection of Awas Yojana. But, all prefer to remain silent and the practice continues. This is also not the case of Odisha alone. Similar practice is also adopted in other states including BJP ruled states.

The sanction of 9.5 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, ahead of the 2024 general elections for Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly, has also created an opportunity for both the BJD and the BJP. While local BJD leaders try to provide houses to their supporters, the BJP people also try to ensure that saffron supported residents get the facility and help the party in coming elections.

The PMAY is a sharing scheme where the Centre contributes 60 per cent of the cost of the House while the state takes the burden of the remaining 40 per cent of the expenses.

BJD Vice President Debi Prasad Mishra claimed that the State Government's share is almost 50 per cent as the State Administration has made provision of incentives for early completion of houses. Therefore, the State Government has equal rights over the scheme though it is named after the Prime Minister. Let the Centre take the burden of 100 per cent cost of housing and then only BJP people can make claims that it is a central scheme, the BJD leaders pointed out. There is also a dispute between the BJD and the BJP over fixation of Logo in these houses. Both the parties demand that the size of their Logo should be bigger than the other. The dispute also creates a division among the people in villages.

Recently, senior BJP leader and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan called for transparency in the PMAY allocation. While claiming that the Centre has done a lot for the poor people of Odisha, the Union Minister pointed out that the Narendra Modi Government has sanctioned 27.5 lakh houses for the state against the projected requirement of 26 to 27 lakh houses. He gave a clear message that Modi is committed to the development of the poor people of Odisha. He said the state should allocate houses among the poor people without coming under the pressure of the ruling party.

Anyway, the house quarrel continues in the state and the poorest of the poor people suffer while corruption dominates the process.

However, the State Administration is trying to deal with matters in an impartial way. Sushil Kumar Lohani, Principal Secretary Panchayati Raj recently sought cooperation from people of all walks of the society for implementation of PMAY. He said the houses will be allocated under two categories like 8.17 lakhs PMAY (G)-Normal Houses and 1.42 lakh PMAY (G)-Special Houses for the cyclone Fani affected people. Selection of eligible beneficiaries has emerged as a major challenge and an important aspect in successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen). The unit cost of the scheme is Rs. 1,20,000 and Rs. 1,30,000 for plain (Non-IAP districts) and hilly areas (IAP districts) respectively.

This is high time for the middle class to give an opportunity to the poor people and let them avail the house. The middle class is already entitled to get free of cost food grain and they were among the 3.26 crore people. Though poor people also get the benefit, the middle class should come forward and ensure that the poor get the houses. In many cases, it is found that the people in government jobs get the PMAY house in the name of their spouses or sons or daughters. The people doing such activities should not deny the poor of their rights out of self-respect, if not for anything else.

'Not myself' with hijab, says exiled Iranian chess player Sara Khadem

MADRID: An Iranian chess player who fled to Spain after she took part in an international tournament without the mandatory hijab said Sunday she is "not myself" when she wears the headscarf.

In December Sara Khadem, 25, appeared without a hijab -- which is compulsory for women under Iranian law -- at the International Chess Federation (FIDE) World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Her action was seen by some as a show of support for the protests that have gripped Iran since the September 16 death in custody of Mahsa Amini, 22. Amini had been arrested by Tehran morality police for an alleged breach of the country's strict dress code for women.

READ HERE | Iran hands ex-president's daughter jail time for 'propaganda' in Mahsa Amini protest Khadem, who is also known as Sarasadat Khademalsharieh, moved to Spain in early January with her husband, film director Ardeshtir Ahmadi, and their 10-month-old son Sam.

In an interview published on Sunday in the Spanish newspaper El Pais, Khadem said that before the tournament in Almaty, she would only wear the hijab

"if there were cameras because I was representing Iran." "But with the veil, I am not myself, I don't feel well, and therefore I wanted to put an end to that situation. And I decided not to wear it anymore," she said in her first public comments since moving to Spain.

The newspaper said the interview was carried out at a "secret location for security reasons." Iranian female athletes are required to abide by the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women, mainly by covering their heads, when representing their country at international events.

Khadem said she hoped her relatives in Iran do not "suffer reprisals because if anyone should give explanations for my actions, it is me, not them since the decision was mine alone."

She said she started thinking of moving abroad after the birth of her son. "I started to appreciate living in a place where Sam could go out in the streets and play without us being worried, and many things like that. Spain emerged as the best option, thinking of Sam," she said. Khadem said she would like to continue to represent Iran at chess tournaments and plans to become an online streamer, presenting chess programmes.

"I have had that idea for years, but I did not want to do it from Iran with the veil," she said.



Hockey World Cup 2023: Sam Ward, the man in the black mask

BHUBANESWAR: Sam Ward likes to sell things. Even before he became a regular England international, he was a car salesman. He considered giving up the sport after earning a livelihood in that field. But the 32-year-old is still selling things and

Many people never get that chance. Having tasted the honour of representing the country, I wanted to do it again. It was what kept me inspired." These days, Ward, who plays with a Bane-like mask to ensure against further injury to the skull, is inspiring



you can see he's a great salesman. Before the World Cup began, he caught the eye of the Indian media thanks to an interview he had given to the London Times. He had said the team would bring in a style of hockey full of energy, style and fearlessness. Of course, he called it 'Baz-ball'. The first few days at the World Cup saw multiple mediapersons speak to him about it.

To be fair to Ward, they have showcased traits that aren't too dissimilar to the style Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum have brought to the cricket field. They have been full of energy, have taken enough attacking chances and looked very fluid while doing so. One only had to look at their games against Spain and India. They looked sharp in attack and had midfield runners trying to join forwards at every opportunity. That they stand joint second for penalty corners earned (23, three behind Argentina and level with The Netherlands) is a testament to their approach. That Ward has also contributed by winning the most number of corners (seven) just goes to show his importance to this side that's highly vertical.

It sort of completes a remarkable three years or so for the midfielder who was told his career was effectively over. During the two-legged Olympic qualifier against Malaysia in 2019, Ward lost sight in his eye after he caught a stray ball. The result was seven facial fractures, a torn retina and a shattered eye socket. A maxillofacial surgery was performed. 31 staples, as many screws and four plates were put in his head to begin the process of healing the wound. He put up the initial pictures on his official Instagram page (consider this a warning, do not look it up even if you are a strong-willed individual because it's gruesome, some outlets called it one of the worst sports injuries in recent times). Even as initial reports suggested his playing career was done, Ward's personality won out.

"I did think about giving up after considering all the pros and cons," he said after a training session on Saturday. "But at the end of the day, not everyone is honoured enough to represent their country.

others. "I give a fair few motivational speeches over in England," he said. "It's nice to share your story with others going through a difficult phase. You never know how it inspires them and helps them get over a tough phase."

Ward playing hockey is an exercise in a superhuman effort, pushing the boundaries of what's possible. Not when he

admits that the injury permanently damaged his left eye and no amount of modern medicine can fix it. "The vision is very limited. I only have peripheral vision," he said. "I don't have full central vision in



my left eye because there was a slice through the back of my retina and there's no way of fixing it." Considering his condition, he knows he will have to keep putting in the extra yards to merit a place in the side. "Basically I'll be doing everything I can to continue working harder and getting better at my craft. I know I have my limitations but considering what I went through this is nothing. Like I said, you have to go through hard times to enjoy the good times. And I'm prepared to go through hell to taste success."

He did have some trouble getting used to seeing through peripheral vision but it was just a matter of adjusting and adapting to it. He now calls it the 'new normal'. "My eyes have adjusted. I'm kinda used to the new normal. I just keep cracking on instead of moaning about it." Once he was over that initial phase, he got reacquainted to the hockey stick, and started defying those early predictions about his career before making the Olympic squad for the Tokyo Games. Fifteen months later, Ward will be one of England's key men in a World Cup quarterfinal against one of Germany or France. And, yes, they will look to Bazball their way, with the man in the black mask playing a pivotal role.

Australian Open: Sania Mirza suffers defeat in second round of women's doubles

MELBOURNE: India tennis ace Sania Mirza's women's doubles career at the Grand Slam came to a disappointing end after she suffered a Round 2 defeat in the ongoing Australian Open 2023 on Sunday.

month, this was her final appearance in a women's doubles Grand Slam match.

Earlier in the day, the all-French duo of Jeremy Chardy and Fabrice Martin defeated the event's alternates, N

Earlier, Sania Mirza and Anna Danilina overpowered the Hungarian-American team of Dalma Galfi and Bernarda Pera to advance to the second round of women's doubles.

hour and 14 minutes. The Indian pair suffered an early setback in the match, having been broken in the fourth game. After a prompt retort, Mirza and Bopanna took six of the next eight games to capture the



Sania and her women's doubles partner Anna Danilina lost to the unseeded duo of Anhelina Kalinina and Alison Van Uytvanck. Playing at Court 7, Mirza and Danilina lost by a margin of 4-6, 6-4, 2-6 at Melbourne Park.

Given that Mirza, a six-time Major champion, will retire after the Dubai Open next

Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan in a straight set 6-4, 6-4.

In the opening set of the match, Mirza-Danilina nearly had an ideal start as they contested the Van Uytvanck serve. Five break points were available during the 11-minute match, but none were converted since the Belgian was able to hold serve.

On the other hand, the Indian ace mixed doubles pair of Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna breezed into the second round at the Australian Open 2023 at Melbourne Park on Saturday. The semi-finalists from Rio 2016 Saina Mirza and Rohan Bopanna defeated Australian wild card entry Jaimee Fourlis and Luke Saville 7-5, 6-3 in an

opening set. As they gained momentum, Mirza and Bopanna maintained their hold on the second set and defeated Jaimee Fourlis and Luke Saville in the seventh and ninth games to win the set and the match.

Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi won the Australian Open mixed doubles championship in 2009.

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