



Dr. Pradeep Kumar Panda receiving Best IEC Activity Award from Hon'ble Minister of FE&CC, PR&DW, I&PR Shri Pradeep Amat, PR&DW Principal Secretary Shri Lohani and ORMAS CEO Smt. Tapas Punam Guha in Sisir Saras Mela 2023, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Odisha health minister Naba Kishore Das dies after shot at by policeman

BHUBANESHWAR(KCN): Odisha's Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das died of bullet injuries on Sunday, Apollo



Hospital officials said. Earlier in the day, Das was shot and grievously injured when he got out of his car, allegedly by a police officer who was captured. "The injuries were repaired, and steps were taken to improve the pumping of the heart. He was given urgent ICU care. But, despite best of efforts, he could not be revived and succumbed to his injuries," a statement issued by the hospital said.

Naba Kishore Das was shot at by an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police near Gandhi Chowk in Jharsuguda district's Brajrajnagar at about 12:15 pm on Sunday.

He was stepping out of his vehicle when bullets hit the left side of the minister's chest. He immediately collapsed into the seat of his vehicle. A police inspector and a youth who were standing near the minister sustained minor injuries.

Sources said the accused ASI Gopal Das who was posted at Gandhi Chowk police outpost fired at least four rounds at Naba Das when he stepped out of his car to attend a party function in Brajarajnagar.

Bharat Jodo Yatra: Rahul Gandhi unfurls national flag at Srinagar's Lal Chowk

Srinagar(KCN): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday unfurled the national flag at the historic clock tower of Lal Chowk here as part of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', amid strin-



gent security measures usually reserved for a prime ministerial visit.

Taking a 30-minute break from the Kanyakumari to Kashmir foot march at Sonawar, Gandhi drove to the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) headquarters on Maulana Azad Road before heading to the clock tower, locally known as 'Ghanta Ghar', to unfurl the tricolour. Gandhi was accompanied by his sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and party leaders from the Union Ter-

India to have comprehensive look at global debt situation in G20 Working Group meeting

CHANDIGARH(KCN): The first G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting under India's presidency will be held on Janu-



ary 30 and 31 where participants will have a comprehensive look at the **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Naba Das was immediately rushed to District Headquarters Hospital in Jharsuguda and was later airlifted to Bhubaneswar for further treatment.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik condemned the attack and ordered a Crime Branch inquiry. A Crime Branch team is expected to reach the crime scene soon. Unconfirmed reports said that ASI Gopal Das had been posted

as the personal security officer of the health minister earlier but was later transferred to Jharsuguda district. Naba Das was reportedly supposed to attend a party programme scheduled near Gandhi Chowk. Police sources said that the health minister was stepping out of his car at Gandhi Chowk when the accused shot him from a close range. Videos of Naba Das being shot and the accused being overpowered have gone viral. The minister is seen bleeding from the chest with people trying to lift him, and place him on the front seat of a car.

Brajrajnagar SDPO, Gupteswar Das confirmed that the accused ASI had shot the minister with his issued weapon. "However, the motive behind the shooting is not clear yet. An investigation has been launched into the incident," he added. The minister, a strongman in the mining hub of Jharsuguda, had switched over to the BJD from the Congress ahead of the 2019 elections. He is known to have business interests in coal mining, transportation and hospital-ity sectors.

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ritory for the flag hoisting. All India Congress Committee general secretary, in-charge communications, Jairam Ramesh on Twitter said the flag unfurling was planned for Monday but had to be done a day earlier.

@RahulGandhi was supposed to unfurl national flag on Jan 30th in PCC office, since permission to do so elsewhere wasn't given. Last evening, state administration allowed him to do so in Lal Chowk, but under condition that it should be done today on 29th at end of

#BharatJodoYatra," Ramesh tweeted.

The security for the 10-minute event was at its peak as all roads in a one-kilometre radius leading to Lal Chowk had been sealed off from Saturday night and no vehicular movement was allowed.

Barricades were set up and concertina wires installed at all entry points with a heavy deployment of security personnel.

Shops, business establishments and the weekly flea market were closed as part of the security exercise for the **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Renowned litterateur Hussain Rabi Gandhi passes away at 75

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Eminent Odia writer, former president of Odisha Sahitya Akademi and politician Hussain Rabi Gandhi passed away at Cuttack on Saturday. He was 75 and undergoing treatment for old age-related ailments at SCB Medical College and Hospital.

Author of several Odia books including 'Mukta Purbasa', 'Hajijaitiba Manisa' and 'Punsacha Salabega', Hussain had also translated the Hindi novel 'Rani Laxmi Bai' into Odia which was later published by the National Book Trust in 2012. His story 'Galpa Samaraha' was included in the Odia syllabus of Plus II.

At the Odisha Sahitya Akademi, he served as the vice-president from 2005 to 2008 and then as the president of Akademi from 2008 to 2010. Hussain was also the former editor of the state government's 'Utkal Prasanga'. Inspired by the legendary Biju Patnaik, Hussain had joined the undivided Janata Dal in 1988 and was appointed its general secretary. He served as the general secretary of Biju Janata Dal from 1998 till 2005 and the ruling party's observer for Deogarh and

Union min in BJP first list for Tripura

GUWAHATI(KCN): Without showing signs of anxiety following tribal parties' tactic to join hands for Tripura



polls, the BJP on Saturday released the first list of its 48 candidates for the February 16 elections. The list has names of 11 women, including Union minister Pratima Bhowmik, and two Muslim candidates. Some 15 candidates are first-timers. The party's central leadership **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Sambalpur elections. He was conferred the title of Biplabi Loka Kabi by the mayor of Cuttack in 1994. He was also awarded Utkala Jyoti and Gangadhar Meher Kabita awards for his notable contributions to the field of Odia poetry. People from all walks of life con- doloed his death. Expressing grief at Husain's demise, Governor of Odisha Prof Ganeshi Lal said Odia literature will forever be in debt for his contributions. Mourning his death, Chief Minister

Naveen Patnaik said Gandhi had a long association with Biju Patnaik and later with BJD. "He has contributed immensely in strengthening the Biju Janata Dal and promoted the values of Biju Babu and BJD." An established writer, who contributed immensely to Odia literature, his death is a great loss to the state, Naveen added. "I am saddened to hear the news of the passing away of Hussain Rabi Gandhi, a prominent literary figure of Odisha and former president of the Odisha Sahitya Akademi. May the immortal soul rest in peace," Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan tweeted.

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PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE UDYAN UTSAV 2023

Gardens to open for general public from January 31

New Delhi (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the Udyan Utsav 2023 - opening of the Gardens of Rashtrapati Bhavan



for general public today January 29, 2023.

Amrit Udyan will remain open for visitors from January 31, 2023 to March 26, 2023 (except on Mondays which are maintenance days and on March 8 on account of Holi) between 1000 hrs to 1600 hrs. From March 28 to 31, the Gardens will be open for special categories on the following days:

-For farmers on March 28,
-For differently abled persons on

March 29,



-For personnel of Defence Forces, Paramilitary Forces and Police on March 30, and
-For women including tribal women's SHGs on March 31.

PM Modi cautions against attempts to create divisions amid controversy over BBC film

New Delhi(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday cautioned against attempts to sow differences and create divisions in the country and asserted that such efforts will not succeed.

Addressing a rally of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) at the Cariappa Ground in Delhi Cantonment, Modi said the mantra of unity was the only way for India to achieve grandeur.

The prime minister said that the entire world was looking towards India because of the youth of the country. Modi said his government had unleashed digital, start-up and innovation revolutions which are benefiting the youth.

"This is the time of new opportunities for the youth of India. Everywhere it is evident that India's time has arrived," he said addressing the NCC cadets who took part in the Republic Day celebrations.

At the same time, the prime minister urged caution against attempts to divide the coun-

try. "Desh ko todne ke kai bahane dhoonde jaate hein. Bhaanti, bhaanti ki baatein nikaal kar, Maa Bharti ki santaano ke beech main doodh mein daraar karne ki koshishe ho rahi hein (Several pretexts are being raised to break the country. Several issues are raked up to create divisions among the children of Mother India)," the prime minister said.

"Despite such efforts, there will never be differences among the people of India," he said. "Maa ke doodh main kabhi darar nahi ho sakti," Modi said.

"The mantra of unity is the ultimate antidote. The mantra of unity is a pledge as well as India's strength. This is the only way India will achieve grandeur," the prime minister said. The prime minister's remarks came against the backdrop of the raging controversy over a BBC documentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots that has been banned in India.

Modi lauded the NCC **CONTINUED ON: P-7**



SER's freight loading performance creates a record

Kolkata(KCN): The 74th Republic Day was celebrated at South Eastern Railway (SER)'s Headquarters, Garden Reach with great enthusiasm on Thursday. Ms. Archana Joshi, General Manager, SER unfurled the National Flag and took salute at the ceremonial parade presented by the contingents of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Civil Defence and St John Ambulance.

Highlighting the achievements of SER in recent times, General Manager said that SER, popularly known as the Blue Chip Railway, is among the top three highest freight loading zones of Indian Railways. During the period from April to December 2022, SER achieved a commendable loading of 149.23 million tonnes of freight which is about 4.1% higher than the corresponding period of 2021-22. To ensure availability of coal for power plants, the best ever coal loading was achieved by SER this year with a loading of 41.24 million tonnes of coal which is an increase of 24.78% over last year.

The General Manager added that in order to increase operational capacity, 114.05 km of doubling / third line work has been completed so far this year, including the super critical project of Kharagpur-Narayanganr and Coal Link Project of Rourkela-Jharsuguda. Keeping in view the importance of road safety, altogether eight Road Over Bridges have been commissioned this year. In addition, the work of one Road Over Bridge at Jugsalai, Tatanagar has been completed and is ready to be commissioned.

General Manager said, with a view to provide more amenities to the passengers, 11 lifts and three escalators have been commissioned at various stations during the current financial year. Moreover,

to ensure safety and convenience of the passengers, the work of 16 Foot Over Bridges have been completed this year so far. These apart, 22 platforms at 21 stations have been raised and 32 new toilets have been provided where facilities are also available for Divyangjan. During the current financial year, 155 special trains have been run to clear the extra rush of the passengers. Till December 2022 of the current fiscal, 150 coaches have been permanently augmented and 4568 coaches have been temporarily augmented in 83 trains.

Mentioning the special efforts of RPF, General Manager stated that this year under "Operation Nanhe Farishte and Dignity" total 501 minor boys, 482 minor girls and 187 women have been rescued from train and station premises and handed over to Child Line or their family members. RPF personnel of South Eastern Railway in "Operation Jeevan Raksha" saved the precious lives of 31 male and 26 female passengers by risking their own lives. On the occasion of Republic Day, an Intensive Cardiac Care Unit with Invasive Cardiac Lab was inaugurated by the General Manager at SER Central Hospital, Garden Reach. Ms Joshi also inaugurated a Renovated Haemodialysis Unit at SER Central Hospital.

A cultural programme on patriotic theme was organised on the occasion. The programme was presented by the Personnel Department and members of SER Bharat Scouts and Guides. A special Dog Show by RPF Dog Squad was also organised on the occasion. Republic Day was also celebrated at the Divisional Offices at Kharagpur, Adra, Chakradharpur and Ranchi.

Shri Jagannath Yatra train reaches Puri with fanfare

PURI(KCN): Days after being flagged off by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw from Safdarjung station in New Delhi, the Shri Jagannath Yatra tourist train



arrived at Puri railway station on Saturday. The 550 pilgrims who reached the town in the train were accorded a rousing welcome amid chants of 'Jai Jagannath' at the railway station. The pilgrims were taken to Sri Jagannath Temple where they had darshan of the Trinity.

They also visited Sun Temple at Konark. They will return to Bhubaneswar and are scheduled to visit Lingaraj temple, Khandagiri and Udayagiri caves and other historical sites on Sunday, said joint manager of IRCTC Kranti Sabarkar.

Before reaching Puri for darshan at Jagannath temple and other sites, the pilgrims visited the ancient holy city of Varanasi and the Baidyanath Dham temple in Jharkhand's Deoghar. At the first stop at Varanasi, tourists visited the Kashi

Vishwanath Temple, the corridor connecting it and witnessed the 'aarti' performed on the banks of the Ganga.

Railway staff welcoming pilgrims; the train at Puri railway station Express

They also went to Jasidih in Jharkhand and visited the Baidyanath Dham Temple. The special train has been conceptualised by the



railway minister to facilitate devotees' visit to important shrines situated in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha.

Gaya in Bihar will be the last destination, where the tourists will visit the Vishnupad temple. The train will return to Delhi on the eighth day of its journey after covering around 4,000 km. Sources said, freshly-cooked vegetarian meals are being served on board.

The train has also been fitted with an infotainment system for the entertainment of the passengers as well as for public announcements along with a prayer hall. It also has enhanced security features of CCTV cameras while guards are deployed in each coach.

Scholarship For Bright Students

Paradip(KCN): Economically backward but meritorious students have been awarded scholarship by Dr Satyananda Panda Memorial Trust on the occasion of fifth death anniversary of Dr Panda at Janata Nodal School, established by him in his native village Jhimani under Kujang block of Jagatsinghpur district.

noted educationist, social worker and writer of Jagatsinghpur district. Dr Banaprabha Parida,



Principal of Narayan Birabar Samanta College its lecturer Kishore Jena, teachers of Janata Nodal School Sagarika Dhal, former headmistress of the school Kalpana Sutar, awarded the students trophy and cheques after paying glowing tribute to the departed soul, the first to have doctoral degree of the state in

Anthropology with research on fishermen community of Odisha. Besides staff of both the



institutions, members of the Trust Nimanin Chaudhury, Prakash Panda, Subhansu Panda, other dignitaries were present on the occasion and paid homage to Dr Panda. Till date 21 economically backward meritorious students of the area have been given scholarships by the trust. A life devoted to the

cause of the society, Dr. Pandahad given up his career as a faculty from Utkal University and established and mentored many educational institutes in and around his village, worked with the displaced land losers in the industrial belt of Paradip and was associated with many such organisations.

A gifted scholar, he had edited more than 10 magazines, and written articles in many journals, newspapers and produced two books. His last book History of Paradip depicting the socio-anthropological life of the coastal region around the port city, was released after his demise in 2019 by the trust.

Odia Guests at President's ATHOME Reception

New Delhi(KCN): President Draupadi Murmu hoisted ATHOME Reception at the courtyard of Rashtrapati Bhawan with pomp



and splendour. The invited Guests were personally greeted by Smt Murmu and her



Daughter Itishree Murmu. She recited Jai Jagannath replying the greetings from Media persons from Odisha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also warmly accepted the greetings of Jai Jagannath. In the elites gathering at the decked up lawn of picturesque Raisina Hill many prominent Odias found their place. Among the invitees of President include Central Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Ashwini Vaishnaw, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Pramod Kumar Mishra, Comptroller auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu, Additional Press Secretary to President Bijay Nayak, Sonal Mansingh, M.P., Senior Bureaucrat Sandip Nayak, S.N.Tripathy, Sumitra Tripathy, Odissi Dancer Alpana Nayak, Senior Technical Director at Rashtrapti Bhawan Gyana Ranjan Nanda, Jayashree Nanda, Group Captain Deepak Kumar Prusty and Jyotsna Prusty. Other prominent personalities present during the Mega Get-Together include Press Asso-

ciation of India's Chairman Chhayakant Nayak, World Odisha Society's Chairman Kishore Dwivedi, Vice - Chairman of WOS's Ladies wing Reeta Patra, Delhi Bu-



reau Head of Prameya Nigamanand Prusti, Group Editor of Uday India Deepak Kumar Rath, OTV's Bureau Chief Sibanand Rout, Senior Journalists Sriram Dash, Bibhudatt Pradhan, Delhi Bureau head of News 7



Sabnam Adeni, Jai Prakash Pandey, Editor of Orissa Diary Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Delhi Bureau Head of Argus TV Gagan Biswal, Delhi Bureau Head of Nandighosha TV Lipika Mahanta, Delhi Bureau Head of Odisha Express Santosh Pradhan and Ramesh Pal. The President's Guests were served with delicious vegetarian snacks prepared specially for the occasion at the Kitchen of Rashtrapati Bhawan. The items include veg Biryani Arancini, Bajra Kachori, Veg Puffs, Bhajji Pakora, assorted Pastries, Gulkand Laddoo, tea and coffee.

Afjal hailed for his noble initiative

Jharkhand(KCN): Vishnu Karmakar has received a call from Bollywood actor and social worker Sonu Sood. He has left for Gujarat to meet him. It is expected to reach there by Tuesday late



evening. Actually, the liver of Shiv Karmakar, the five-month-old son of Vishnu Karmakar, is bad. He has to get transplanted. 20 to 25 lakh rupees will be spent on this. It is impossible for MNREGA worker Vishnu to arrange such a huge amount. Social worker Afzal Khan had requested Sonu Sood for help, taking cognizance of which Sonu Sood has called him.

Bhima Bhoi Chair at CUO soon: Dharmendra Pradhan

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Union Education

soon.Pradhan made this announcement

University and Guru G h a s i d a s



Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday announced here that a Bhima Bhoi Chair will be set up at the Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput. The University Grants Commission (UGC) will approve it

while addressing a function after inaugurating Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi mandap and library at Kalarahanga. Addressing a gathering of seers belonging to Mahima Panth, Pradhan said the Centre has opened Bhima Bhoi chairs in Delhi

Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh. These Chairs have started research works. With the approval of the University Grants Commission, another Bhima Bhoi Chair will be set up at CUO, Koraput to encourage higher

studies and research on the humanitarian philosophy of the great saint of Mahima Dharma. Describing Mahima Gosain and Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi visionaries, Pradhan said the latter played a stellar role in re-kindling the cultural and literary consciousness in society. Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Bhubaneswar and Gangadhar Meher University (GMU), Sambalpur have also set up a Bhima Bhoi Chair and Research Centre to promote higher studies and research on the life and works of this saint poet.

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15 years of 'Welcome': Anil Kapoor on his iconic character Majnu bhai



Anil Kapoor's art-enthusiast gangster Majnu Bhai became an iconic character since Welcome was released in 2007. Anees Bazmee's family-comedy, even after over a decade, retains its hilarity and can serve as a lesson for contemporary writers in slapstick. Sharing why Majnu is one of his favourite characters, Anil Kapoor said, "Majnu bhai's character was indeed fun to portray. I didn't

feel like I was acting and it came to me naturally. With Anees Bhai's writing and direction and with Nana being the perfect co-star, the role became easy and lots of fun." Talking about the fandom Majnu bhai has among members and Gen Z, Anil said, "I see so many recreations on social media of his dialogues and it's amazing how he is still relatable even to Gen Z. The character will in-

stantly lift your mood with his dialogues and swag." Welcome was released on December 21, 2007. The film was directed by Anees Bazmee and had an ensemble cast consisting of Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar, Katrina Kaif, Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal, Malaika Sherawat, Feroz Khan, among others.

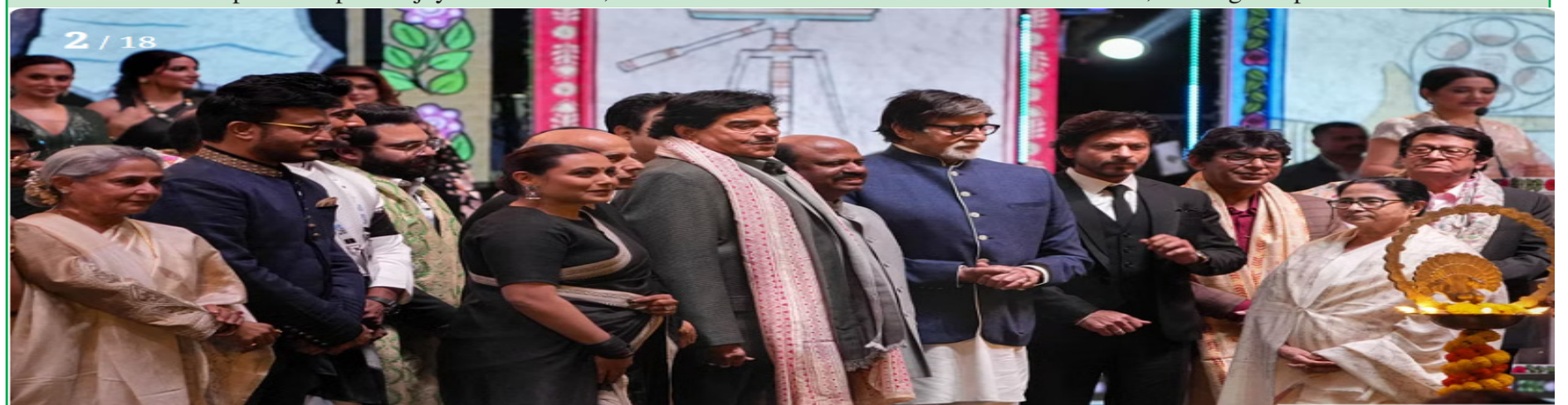
Ajay Devgn's 'Bholaa' gets release date



Ajay Devgn on Tuesday dropped a new motion poster for his upcoming directorial, Bholaa. The film will release on March 30, 2023. Directed by and starring Ajay, Bholaa is an action drama about one man's quest to reunite with his daughter. The film is a remake of the 2019 Tamil film Kaithi. The motion poster depicts Ajay as a

menacing convict. His face is smeared in sacred ash. The three horizontal lines on his forehead (also known as the 'tripundra') is a mark of Shiva devotees. According to a press communiqué, Bholaa has been styled as 'the story of a one-man army, set in one night, fighting a multitude of enemies in various forms, human and otherwise.' It follows

Ajay's character as he 'sets out to combat drug-lords, corrupt forces and a multitude of setbacks that crop up in his 24-hour rough-ride.' "Ek Chat taan, Sau Shaitaan Iss kalyug mein aa raha hai #Bholaa (one rock, hundred demons In this age #Bholaa is arriving) 30th March 2023," #BholaaIn3D #Tabu," Ajay tweeted, sharing the poster.



A total of 183 movies will be screened in 10 theatres across Kolkata from December 16-22. An exhibition on Amitabh Bachchan's life and works will be showcased during the film festival, with the inaugural movie being 'Abhimaan'.

Waiver or reduction of Interest u/s 220(2A)- Narayan Jain

(Contd from 23rd Jan 2023)

13. Whether interest u/s 220(2) may be waived or reduced u/s 220(2A): As per section 220(2A) such interest may be reduced or waived by the Chief Commissioner or Commissioner if he is satisfied that -



(i) payment of such amount has caused or would cause genuine hardship to the assessee,

(ii) default in the payment of the amount was due to circumstances beyond the control of the assessee, and

(iii) the assessee has co-operated in any enquiry relating to the assessment or any proceeding for the recovery of any amount due from him. Calcutta High Court in the case of Apeejay Industries Ltd. v. CIT [2002] 120 Taxman 440 (Cal.) held that section 220(2A) gives the assessee the right to apply for waiver and further to get the interest amount waived if the conditions mentioned therein are fulfilled. All the trappings of substantive law are to be found, therein. Therefore, it cannot have retrospective operation.

Kerala High Court in the case of G.T.N. Textiles Ltd. v. Dy. CIT 217 ITR 653 (Ker.), Patna High Court in the case of Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd. v. CIT & Ors. [2000] 242 ITR 547 (Pat.) and Kerala High Court in N. Gopalakrishnan v. CIT & Another [2006] 280 ITR 592 (Ker.) have held that interest payable u/s 220(2) cannot be waived/reduced unless all the three conditions mentioned in section 220(2A) are satisfied.

The Apex Court in **Kishan Lal v. Union of India 97 Taxman 556 (SC): 230 ITR 85 (SC)** held that when an application is filed u/s 220(2A) the authority concerned is called upon to take a quasi-judicial decision. If it is satisfied that the reasons contained in the application would bring the case under clauses (i), (ii) and (iii) of section 220(2A), then it has the power either to reduce or waive the amount of interest. Mere fact that the assessee is a wealth tax assessee is not a relevant

consideration at all for providing that payment of interest would not cause any genuine hardship to assessee - **J. Jayalalitha v. CIT & Ors. [2000] 244 ITR 74 (Mad.)**.

Even though in the said sub-section, it is not stated that any reasons are to be recorded in the order deciding such an application, it is implicit that whenever such an application is filed, the same should be decided by a speaking order and a proper application of mind - **J. Jayalalitha v. CIT & Ors. [2000] 244 ITR 74 (Mad.); Auro Food Ltd. v. CIT [2005] 276 ITR 658 (Mad.); Mani v. CIT [2010] 320 ITR 472 (Mad); World Vision India v. CIT (Exemptions), Chennai [2018] 89 taxmann.com 193 (Madras)**.

Principles of natural justice in this regard would be clearly applicable. A decision which is taken by the authority u/s 220(2A) can be subjected to judicial review, as was sought to be done in the instant case by filing a petition under article 226; this being so and where the decision of the application may have repercussions with regard to the amount of interest which an assessee is required to pay, it would be imperative that some reasons are given by the authority while disposing of the application. The application for waiver of interest should be construed liberally. Partial waiver may also be given. An application for stay of recovery proceedings cannot be construed as non-cooperation by the assessee - **Arun Sunny v. CCIT [2013] 350 ITR 147 (Ker.)**.

14. Whether an application for waiver of interest can be rejected only on the ground that assessee owns large assets and it can pay tax by selling those assets, therefore question of genuine hardship does not arise: The condition that the delay should have occurred because of "genuine hardship" is crucial. It is difficult to conceive of non-genuine hardship, since a hardship, if not genuine, is not a hardship at all. The expression "genuine hardship" displays the anxiety of the Legislature to spare penalty only in cases of real hardship. In the case before the Supreme Court in **B.M. Malani v. CIT [2008] 306 ITR 196 (SC)**, reversing the decision of the High Court had appreciated

Narayan Jain

the expression "genuine hardship" to mean genuine difficulty on the part of the assessee in payment of tax. **The fact that the assessee has large liquid assets by itself, does not mean that there is no difficulty in selling the assets and paying the tax and interest levied.** What is meant by genuine hardship is to be understood primarily in the sense that a person cannot take advantage of his own wrong as decided in a number of precedents from the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court allowed the waiver of interest.

15. Time limit for disposal of application u/s 220(2A) for waiver or reduction of interest: As per section 220(2A) w.e.f. **June 1, 2016**, an application for waiver or reduction of interest u/s 220 has to be disposed off by the Principal Chief Commissioner, Chief Commissioner, Principal Commissioner or the Commissioner within 12 months from the end of the month in which application is made. All the pending applications as on June 1, 2016 are also to be disposed of on or before May 31, 2017. It is further provided that before rejecting such application, an opportunity of being heard to the assessee is to be granted. It may be noted that upto 31.5.2016 there was no time limit for disposing of application 220(2A) for waiver or deduction of interest u/s 220.

16. Whether TRO can go ahead with the sale of property pending application for waiver of interest u/s 220(2A): Where only interest is outstanding and assessee makes an application for waiver of the same u/s 220(2A), sale of property pending such application will vitiate the object and spirit of sec. 220(2A) - **Kings Infra Ventures Ltd. v. TRO [2019] 107 taxmann.com 132 (Mad)**.

17. Request for extension of time for payment of demand: As per section 220(3), assessee can make an application to A.O. before the due date for the payment of demand for extension of time or he can also apply for payment of demand in instalments. On receipt of such application A.O. may grant the extension of time for payment of demand or he may allow the payment of demand in

instalments subject to the conditions as he may deem fit. In case the relief is to be denied, the principles of natural justice would require that an opportunity of hearing be given to the assessee - **Kuku Rice Mills v. Assessing Authority-cum-I.T. Authority [1992] 196 ITR 326 (P&H)**.

18. Steps for stay of payment of disputed tax demand: Assessee should write to the A.O. in case he has filed an appeal, requesting him not to treat him in default. The petition for stay u/s 220(6) should be well formulated keeping in mind the following points:

- The petition should state the prima facie merits of the appeal. The test of merit of appeal lies much upon the grounds of appeal, which should be strong enough.
- The hardship involved in the recovery of the disputed demand should be clearly and precisely stated. The petition should state why and how the balance of convenience is in favour of the stay, e.g., bad effect on the liquidity position of the business, jeopardy of the employment of workmen through possible closure of business and possibility of deadlock in wage payment etc. as the case may be.
- Copy of the grounds of appeal as well as statement of facts and acknowledge of filing Appeal should accompany the petition to show the prima facie merit of the appeal. Further this petition should be submitted before the A.O. within 30 days of receipt of demand notice.

Section 220(6) empowers the A.O. not to treat the assessee in default and allow stay for payment subject to the conditions, which he may impose. For example, he may ask for part payment of disputed demand or may allow payment by instalments.

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% as per Office Memorandum dated 29-02-2016] of the total demand.

(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).

Those who pray at all-religion prayer at Rajghat

The tender looking diminutive Katsu Saan,



85, has not missed even a single all religion prayer since she was first asked to join it way back in 1969. She recites Buddhist prayer on 2 October and on 30 January at the Raj ghat and later at Tees January Marg. Japanese by birth, Katsu Saan came to India in 1959 to study Buddhism in the land of Buddha. In the process, she studied both Hindi and Gandhi and his thoughts as well. "While exploring Buddhism here I started loving India deeply. That has forced to me to stay here for rest of my life. I learnt Hindi and the life and times Gandhi ji from Kaka saheb Kalkekar in Delhi," informs Katsu Saan, who looks after the affairs of the Vishay Shanti Stupa, also known as the World Peace Pagoda, located in the heart of Delhi.

Father George Soloman has also participated in all faith prayer umpteen numbers of times in various places. He recites from Bible during the prayer. "Very honestly, it gives great joy and happiness when you take part in all faith

prayers. It gives a strong message that we all have to live together to make India as a truly a secular country. Gandhi ji's came to know about Christian religion while he was in South Africa. There he met Christian missionary Joseph Duke, who wrote his first biography, and C.F. Andrews, a teacher in Delhi's St. Stephen's college," informs George Solomon, who is a priest in one of the Churches of Delhi and closely associated with Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS) that had established St. Stephen's College and St. Stephen's hospital. Well, Rabbi Ezekiel Isaac Malekar is perhaps the second senior most members of those who are part of the all religion prayer. Head of the Jewish community in New Delhi, he is the Secretary of the Judah Hyam Synagogue at Humayun Road. "I have been praying the Jew prayer since 1985. I don't think any other county in the world has anything similar to our all religion prayer. Surely, only Gandhi ji could think of such a prayer. When I reach the venue for the prayer, I get tremendous amount of happiness and sense of fulfillment that I am sitting with scholars of other religions".

When it was started While staying at Valmiki Basti in New Delhi from (1 April, 1947 to 10 June, 1947, Mahatma Gandhi had started an all religion prayer every

evening at 5pm. During those days, only Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christian scholars recite the prayers from the holy books of their respective religions. When he moved to Birla House (later known as

Vivek Shukla

mentalist Sunder Lal Bahuguna was also there on that day. "I was there and M.S. Subbalakshmi was at her very best on that day.

"The purpose of prayer in the Baha'i faith is to grow closer to God and his Manifestation and to help better one's own conduct and to request



Tees January Marg), all religion prayer was started there. Those were the days when All India Radio (AIR) used to broadcast the prayer and his speech at prime time - 8.30 pm -- on its national network ahead of the national news which followed at 9 pm. AIR played the recordings of his post prayer speeches at Birla House from the third week of September, 1947 till January 29 th, 1948, a day before he was assassinated. Venerable singer M. S. Subbulakshmi sang bhajans like Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram, Vaishnava Jana To, and Hari Tum Haro on 29 January, 1948 at the Birla House. Environ-

She enthralled all of us with her melodious bhajans. I couldn't attend the next day prayer as I was struck up somewhere else," Bahuguna told this writer many years ago. Alas, Gandhi ji was shot day by the monster when he reached the venue of the prayer. When other prayers are included And with the passage of time, prayers of Jain, Bahai, Parsi and Buddhist faiths were also included in the all religion prayer. The Bahai prayer was introduced thanks to the efforts of noted Gandhian Nirmala Deshpande in 1985. Dr. A.K. Merchant, who recites the Bahai prayers, says

divine assistance. Merchant is also associated with Lotus temple in capital. Dr. Merchant has also prayed with others when Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pranab Kumar Mukherjee were passed away. Sanskrit scholar and newsreader in both AIR and Doordarshan, Dr. Baldev Anand Sagar is a senior member of all religion prayer group. As he himself says that three dates are very important in his life. "I consider 2 October, 30 January and 21 August, 1994 are defining dates in my life. First two days are for the obvious reasons and the third date when I read the first ever Sanskrit news bulletin on Doordarshan

though I have been reading it on AIR since 1974." Dr. Sagar got a chance to pray from the Hindu scriptures at Rajghat and Tees January Marg as the gentleman who used to read was in Canada. He suggested his name to the officials of Department of Cultural that handles both the events. An alumnus of Hindu college of Delhi University, Dr. Sagar says that he had seen various presidents and prime ministers on 2 October and 30 January. Atal Behari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi stand out from others. They meet all of us briefly and exchange pleasantries. He recites Shalokas from Geeta and Panchdev mantra. It is dedicated to five gods in Hinduism - Ganesha, Shiva, Vishnu, Devi (Durga) and Surya. Panchdev Mantra is a collection of five mantras and it should be chanted with Ganesha ending with Surya.

A Science teacher, Maqsood Ahmad, has been praying from Quran from time to time in all faith prayers. "The serene mood of both Rajghat and Tees January Marg on 2 October and 30 January cannot be described in words. One feels so good and connected to almighty while praying," says Maqsood Ahmad. He has also prayed when Atal Behari Vajpayee left for heavenly abode.

Well, all those who pray are given maximum 5-6 minutes to recite. They are also called

when some important personality is died. In that situation, they have to pray at the residence of the deceased person.

conflict-resolving principle of relativism," says Dr. Indu Jain, who is a teacher and Motivational speaker. Accord-



For their efforts, they get some token remuneration. When the Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the New Parliament in 2020, all faith prayers were held too. Christian, Muslim, Jain and Parsi prayers were also recited. According to Dr. Indu Jain, who has been reciting Jain faith prayer, says, "I am really honoured that I have been part of the group of people who are invited to pray. "Gandhi was not a Jain from the viewpoint of his birth and what he considered himself to be. On the other hand, he could be called a Jain if one considers his actions and beliefs. An example from Gandhi's life illustrates this wonderful.

ing to her, The central tenet of Jainism is Ahimsa (Non-violence) and Gandhi's philosophy rested upon it. He developed a method of political activism called Satyagraha which was wholly based upon truth and non-violence. It has been translated as 'non-cooperation' and 'passive resistance'. And D. Bali, the Paris priest in Parsi Anjuman in Delhi, and Jaspal Kaul, a Music teacher in West Delhi school, would also join their friends from others faith during the all religion prayer on Gandhi Jaynithi. While Bagli recite from Avesta, the religious Book of Parsi religion, Jaspal Kaur to pray from the scriptures of Sikh religion.

The Author is a columnist and former Editor

It is truer to say that martyrs create faith more than faith creates martyrs

Martyrs' Day is commemorated on January 30 to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi who was assassinated on 30 January 1948 by Nathuram Godse and his death was followed by epic public

outpourings of grief. The entire country is celebrating the 75th death anniversary of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi. India is the country among the other 15 countries of the world where Martyrs Day is celebrated every year to pay homage to the freedom fighters. He was one such great and enthusiastic freedom fighter who always regarded humanity as his religion. The Day marks the melancholic day in India's history of freedom struggle. Martyr's Day also signifies the contributions of three heroes Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar, who was executed by the British for events such as rally against the assassination of Lala Lajpat Rai and for bombing the Central Legislative Assembly on April 1929.

There is no greater sacrifice known to a man than giving up his life to defend the integrity and sovereignty of the nation. This day marks the saddest day in the history of India's Independence Struggle. It is a day observed to remember Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to India and his sacrifices during the freedom struggle. He led the struggle for

Independence that culminated in India getting freedom

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit



from British rule on August 15, 1947. After India became independent in 1947,

Gandhi continued to promote peace and brotherhood in the nation and carried on his work to preach nonviolence as a means towards political and social progress. Mahatma Gandhi played an important role to free India from the British rule. He used peaceful and non-violent ways to achieve freedom. On January 13, 1948, he began a fast unto death in Calcutta to maintain Hindu-Muslim unity and against communal turmoil. It was the last fast of his life. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on January 30, 1948, exactly 11 days after ending his fast on January 18, 1948. On 13 January, beginning what would prove to be his last fast, the Mahatma said: 'Death for me would

be a glorious deliverance rather than that I should be a helpless witness of the destruction of India, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam', and explained that his dream was for the Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Muslims of all India to live together in amity". He was a visionary leader, social emancipator, messiah for farmers, crusader of the downtrodden and the voice of rural India. **Gandhiji's fight for freedom and peace gave voice to many landmark movements in India and South Africa as well.** Millions of people, political leaders had supported his principles, ideology, thoughts and followed his footsteps. He and his principles is loved and followed by the millions of people all over the globe. Mahatma Gandhi, who adopted non-violent ways to fight Britishers, inspired many nationalist and civil rights movements across the world and worked for national unity. He instilled in the heart of every Indian the spirit of Swadeshi, Swabhasha, and Swaraj. His ideas and ideals will always inspire every Indian to serve the nation. This earned him the title of 'Father of the Nation' and he became famous for his peaceful policies across the world. He had led several agitations which helped India achieve independence. Let us all pledge together to follow the path of truth and non-violence and make our father of the nation proud and pray for his soul. Let us also salute the martyrs for the sacrifice they made and thank them for giving us our today.

B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra, Satellite, Ahmedabad

'Operation Lotus' in Tripura: BJP revives alliance with IPFT, checkmates TIPRA Motha

GUWAHATI: The BJP managed to revive its alliance with the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT), thereby staving off TIPRA Motha's bid to forge an alliance with

understanding, the BJP will contest 55 seats and the IPFT 5. Even in 2018, they had fought the election together and formed a coalition government but their ties strained in due

served for the STs in tribal areas where the tribe-based parties TIPRA Motha and IPFT hold sway. But the TIPRA Motha is attempting to make it a pan-Tripura party. It released its first

he failed to qualify because of a prison sentence. Since being elected,

Maldives president Solih to run again after winning primary

MALE, Maldives : Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih won a party primary and will run for a second term in the September elections. Solih defeated Mohamed Nasheed, the parliament speaker and a former president, in the Maldivian Democratic Party primary held Saturday night. Nasheed played a key role in transforming the Indian Ocean archipelago state into a multiparty democracy after a 30-year autocracy. But Solih was named the party's presidential candidate in 2018 in place of the more charismatic Nasheed after

protests. He contested for the presidency again in 2013 and lost, and became

tion attempt allegedly by a local group sympathetic to the Islamic State in

2021. Solih is the only one running for president so far. His main rival, former President Abdulla Yameen, is serving a prison term on charges of corruption and money laundering.



Solih has largely stabilized the nation despite political upheaval. Nasheed was elected president in the country's first multiparty election in 2008 but resigned in 2012 amid public

disqualified for the race five years later. Nasheed is known for liberal, pro-Western views in the largely Sunni Muslim nation, famous for its high-end island resorts. He escaped an assassina-

2021. Solih is the only one running for president so far. His main rival, former President Abdulla Yameen, is serving a prison term on charges of corruption and money laundering.



IPFT. Elections for the 60-member Tripura assembly are scheduled for February 16. "The BJP has trumped tribal party Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (TIPRA), also known as 'Tipra Motha' by dramatically resurrecting its ties with the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT)," website of right-wing magazine Swarajya reported. It may be recalled that to avoid the divi-

closed-door meeting with the IPFT leadership, reportedly in Guwahati. Later in a video message, he said the two parties agreed to start a process of becoming a "singular" party and fight the election with a "singular flag and symbol" against anyone opposed to the "Constitutional demand" of "Greater Tripaland" state. The BJP, which is facing a tough contest, however, forged a pre-poll alliance with the IPFT. As per their

course which saw three of the 8 IPFT MLAs embracing TIPRA Motha. The BJP and the IPFT announced their pre-poll alignment at a joint media briefing on Saturday night. In a last-ditch attempt, Debbarma tried to stall the alliance. He called almost all IPFT leaders but none of them responded. "...Looks like Operation lotus is on!" Debbarma later tweeted. Tripura has 60 seats - 20 of them re-

list of 20 candidates on Saturday night. Twelve of them have been fielded in ST-reserved seats, 2 in SC-reserved seats and 6 in the general seats. The party is going it alone. The BJP was interested in stitching an alliance with the party but it sought a written assurance that the Centre would grant Greater Tripaland to the Tiprasa (Tripura's ethnic communities). The BJP refused to give anything in writing.

Chill weather hits late night, early morning flights

Chennai: The bone-chilling cold, persisting even after January has come almost to a close, has started affecting flight services in Chennai and other places as air passengers were not prepared to travel in the early morning and late night hours in the inclement weather conditions, impelling airlines to cancel flights citing low occupancy. Between late Friday night and early Saturday morning alone, six flights were cancelled at the Chennai airport. The Indigo Airlines flights to Hyderabad (9 pm) and Kolkata (10 pm) were suddenly cancelled on Friday night and similarly Indigo Airlines services to Chennai from Hyderabad, which was to land at 1.15 am, and the Sri Lankan Airlines flight from Colombo, which normally lands and 2 am and then leaves for Colombo at 3.30 am, were cancelled. Since large-bodied aircraft with seating capacity of 168 passengers are operated in these sectors, the airlines are reluctant to fly just 20 or 30 passengers in a trip. So they make alternative arrangements for the booked passengers to reach their destinations and cancel the scheduled flights, sources

said. When asked if they could switch to smaller aircraft like the ATR variety on the days when the passengers were few, airlines authorities claimed that it was easily said than done as several agencies like the Directorate General Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) would have to clear such moves. Besides, operating small aircraft at night that too in misty weather conditions was not safe, they said. However, sources in the weather office said that the weather recorded in Chennai was 22 degrees Celsius on Friday night and 23 degrees Celsius on Saturday early morning, when the visibility was four km. Flights could land and take off without any hitch in such weather conditions but it was only because of passengers' perception that many avoid travelling in those hours. In other airports like Hyderabad, Colombo and Kolkata, too, the weather has dropped of late putting off people from venturing out of their homes during the cold spell and that had contributed to the many flight cancellations.

BJD to corner BJP over PMAY, other issues

BHUBANESWAR: As the war of words between the BJP and BJD over implementation of the rural housing scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana intensified, the regional party on Saturday resolved to corner the saffron party in the parliament on the issue for depriving

party supremo Naveen Patnaik here. The other issues the party decided to rake up during the upcoming budget session commencing from December 31, included special status for the state, passage of women reservation bill, inclusion of 169 communities in the list of Scheduled

state in both houses of parliament. There are many important issues for which the BJD is fighting for a long time. The BJP has been unnecessarily blaming the BJD on several Central schemes to divert the attention of the people from the real issues. The party will put the record

health assurance scheme in Odisha, the BJD has planned to counter the Centre on the issue by showing the success rate of the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY). As the BJP has been crying foul over alleged irregularities in selection of PMAY beneficiaries and accusing the regional party for hijacking the Central scheme under Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana, the BJD has planned to counter the saffron party by terming it as anti-poor.

With the Centre sitting over the state government proposal for financial assistance to build cyclone resilient infrastructure, the BJD will demand for speedier approval of the scheme which is estimated to cost nearly Rs 20,000 crore.



nearly seven lakh poor people from the flagship programme. This is one of the several agenda discussed at the BJD parliamentary party meeting chaired by Chief Minister and

Tribes and lifting of more parboiled rice from the state by the Food Corporation of India. "The chief minister has advised us to raise issues concerning the interest of the

straight in the parliament," said BJD MP Pinaki Mishra. As union ministers visiting the state have been constantly harping on the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat

CM Naveen Patnaik lays foundation stone of Centre for Judicial Archives

CUTTACK: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday hailed Orissa High Court's Centre for Judicial Archives as a unique project which will preserve the judicial history of the state. Laying the foundation of the project, Patnaik said

ing the judicial history and promoting judicial heritage of Odisha," the chief minister said. The objective of the `24 crore project is documentation of the judicial history of Odisha by facilitating research on the century-old judicial

came across a wonderfully preserved stack of documents dating back to 1814. "That suggested there were other very old important documents in the court record rooms that need to be preserved and digitised to make them available for

of India, Chief Justice Muralidhar added. The CM also laid the foundation stone of the high court employees residential complex which will constitute of 550 quarters sprawling over a 10 acre area at Sector 13 of



the first-of-its-kind initiative will preserve over 50,000 archival records of both high court and district courts which are a treasure in the legal arena. "The project will be immensely beneficial to all the historians and the legal luminaries for a meaningful reconstruction of history," Patnaik said. "Archives not only collect the documentary evidence of a nation but also the collective memory of the institution and a passive witness to history. By embarking upon the project, the Orissa High Court has done a commendable job for preserv-

records. The ground work started a year ago. The project is headed by a director-cum-OSD of archives having experience in the preservation and retrieval of old records. He is being assisted by a law consultant and two law researchers apart from two law interns. It has also been planned to come up record room digitisation centre, one km away from the high court building. In his address, Chief Justice S Muralidhar said the project was born during his visits to the record rooms of the high court and the district courts. He said in Ganjam he

research. Consequently, the project took form", he said. The Centre for Judicial Archives will be a wonderful resource for historians, sociologists and anyone interested in studying the evolution of legal system not only in Odisha, but also rest

Delay in filing business plans casts shadow on new power tariff for financial year 2024

BHUBANESWAR: With only three days left for the power distribution companies for filing of long-term business plan for determination of multi-year tariff (MYT) - none of the four utilities managed by Tata Power has complied with the new regulations of the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) - leaving consumers of the state unsure of the new tariff order for 2023-24. As per the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Wheeling Tariff and Retail Supply Tariff) Regulations, 2022, the distribution licensee is required to file business plan not less than 120 days before the commencement of the first year for approval of commission and determination of MYT for a period of five years commencing from 2023-24.

Odisha to feature on ten postage stamps

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha will feature on 10 postage stamps that will be released India Post this year. In the meeting of the philatelic Advisory Committee held last year, 243 proposals for issuing commemorative postage stamps were received out of which 45 were approved. These include stamps on Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Sucheta Kripalani, Dada Vaswani, Gen. Thimayya, Minoo Masani among others. Odisha personalities and themes have been approved for ten stamps which include: Akshaya Mohanty, Kelucharan Mohapatra, Pandit Nilakantha Das, and Parbati Ghose. Besides these, a stamp on the Eram Martyrs and a five-set stamps on Sambalpuri


Bandha, Sambalpuri Folk Dance, Sital Sasthi Jatra, Nuakhai and Dhanu Jatra Mahostav too will be issued.

This is a bumper issue for the state, as never before had Odisha had so many stamp issues. Philatelists from Odisha have been demanding the issuing of stamps on various personalities and sites of Odisha. According to Kashinath Sahoo, a philatelist of the state, Odisha has always figured the least in the commemorative stamps issues. Anil Dhir, another eminent philatelist, and author, said that postage stamps showcase the history and culture of a State and that this is a welcome move by India Post. Odisha has a vast repertoire of personalities, places, natural heritage,

flora and fauna, historical events, etc. which should find a place in stamp issues. Dhir also lauded the efforts of the Eastern India Philatelic Association and the Orissa Philatelic Association for listing these issues for the release of stamps. Anil Dhir said that Odisha is now the Philatelic Capital of the country, with some of the best philatelists who have won awards both at the national and international levels. He once again reiterated that Philately should be made a co-curricular subject in schools. There are ten independent stamp clubs and societies in the state, founded by eminent philatelists like the Late Major Mohanty, Late Bijayshree Routray and Sahadev Sahoo.

Youth held for killing minor boy in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: A 25-year-old youth was arrested for allegedly killing a 17-year-old minor boy in Khurda district late on Monday night. The accused, Ashirbad Pradhan of Khamar Sahi in Badahantwad had pre-planned the murder of his friend Ashutosh Mohapatra of the locality, said the police. Mohapatra, who was a Plus II second year science student of Godavari Mahavidyalaya, used to reportedly blackmail Pradhan over his relationships with several women. Sources said Mohapatra threatened Pradhan to reveal his relationships and demanded money from him. The police, however, did not confirm the claims and said more details will emerge while questioning the accused who has been brought on a two-day remand starting Friday. Police said Pradhan is a BSc graduate but was not employed. He had invited Mohapatra to his under-construction house in Dikhitpada within Banpur police limits on Monday. Pradhan offered alcohol to Mohapatra and strangled him to death using a rope when he was in an inebriated state.



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Adani confident of FPO sailing through; SEBI, other regulatory bodies probing sell-off

NEW DELHI: Richest Asian Gautam Adani's group on Sunday expressed confidence that the Rs 20,000 crore follow-on share sale of its flagship firm will sail through despite a massive hammering of the conglomerate's stocks following a scathing report by a US-based short seller.

Group CFO Jugeshinder Singh said no change in offering price or schedule is being considered due to temporary volatility in the market as the follow-

projects it is doing, in the data centre business and in the mining business. All these businesses are performing very well."

AEL currently houses new businesses such as hydrogen, where the group plans to invest USD 50 billion over the next 10 years across the value chain, flourishing airport operations, mining, data centre and roads and logistics.

These businesses are planned to be demerged between 2025 and 2028 after they achieve a basic investment profile and maturity.

"Investors investing in AEL will get those businesses as well. They see long-term value is still there. So short-term volatility in price doesn't make a difference to the value of airports business, to the value of

roads business, to the value of new energy ventures and to the value of data centres. For long-term investors who want chunky positions, this (FPO) is the best option," he said.

The group is looking to become one of the lowest-cost producers of hydrogen -- a fuel of the future that has zero carbon footprint. It is also betting big on its airport business with an aim to become the largest service base in the country in the coming years, outside of government services.

Adani, 60, started as a trader and has been on a rapid diversification spree, expanding an empire centred on ports and coal mining to include airports, data centres and cement as well as green energy. He now owns a media company too.

Singh said the follow-on share sale is aimed at widening the shareholder base by bringing in more retail, high-net-worth and institutional investors.

This would also address concerns of liquidity by increasing the free float, he said, adding the company wants to increase the participation of retail investors and that is why it chose a primary issue instead of a rights issue.

AEL will use the money raised to fund green

hydrogen projects, airport facilities and greenfield expressways, besides paring some of its debt.

On the sell-off in group stocks, he said the group is concerned about the impact it will have on minority small investors and hoped regulatory authorities will "look into" the "deliberate" attempt to create "excess volatility".

"That (sell-off) is something that should be looked into," he said without elaborating. Irrespective of that, "we are confident that the offer will go through," he added.

Asked if the retail portion too will be fully-subscribed, he evaded a direct reply, saying, "We are confident that the issue will be fully subscribed." On Friday, retail investors put in bids for close to 4 lakh shares against 2.29 crore shares reserved for

India to have comprehensive look at global debt situation in G20 Working Group meeting

Continued from page-1
global debt situation.

The meeting will discuss ways to enhance the stability and cohesion of international financial architecture, as well as address the global challenges of the 21st century. The meeting will also focus on exploring ways to provide maximum support to poor and vulnerable countries.

Talking to the media Anu P Mathai Adviser, Trade Policy Division, Department of Commerce said, "this working group deals with issues related to international financial architecture such as global financial safety net (GFSN), matters related to development finance, managing debt vulnerabilities and enhancing debt transparency, capital flow management and promoting local currency bond markets."

"Debt is a big part of the agenda of this working group and especially with the pandemic the debt distress has got aggravated so during the pandemic one major step that was taken so to defer the debt re-payment of the very poor countries so that was something called the debt suspension service initiative so that was intimated during the Saudi Arabia presidency of the G-20 in 2020 from that it moved on to the common treatment of debt repayment that was extended and it was attempted how to restructure the debt of the very poor countries along with it the transparency of debt has also become very important that is another aspect which is being looked into," she said.

She added, "Under the Indian presidency how to deal with debt and how to handle debt treatment in a better way, some of these initiatives have not worked well as they were supposed to. So under the Indian presidency, there will be a comprehensive look at the global debt situation and the idea is to bring out a report on what has worked and what has not worked and how it can be improved. Debt continues to be a major part of the agenda."

"The International Financial Architecture Working Group is one of the important work streams under the G20 Finance Track with a focus on strengthening international financial architecture. It also aims to address multiple challenges faced by vulnerable countries. Approximately 100 delegates from across the G20 membership, invitee countries and International Organizations will be arriving in Chandigarh to participate in the two-day meeting," said Mathai. She said, "During the course of India's G20 Presidency, this Working Group will meet again in March, June, and September to continue discussions on the priorities set under the Indian Presidency. Discussions from the International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting will further inform the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) on the key deliberations on related priorities under India's G20 Finance Track. The first meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors is scheduled to be held on February 24 and 25 in Bengaluru."

On the sidelines of this meeting, on January 30 a G20 side event titled 'Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs): Opportunities and Challenges' will also be held. The event is aimed at sharing country experiences and developing a deeper understanding of the macroprudential implications of CBDCs.

In the run-up to this meeting, a number of events have been held across the city of Chandigarh for increasing 'Jan-Bhagidari' and generating interest in the G20 events under the Indian Presidency. A seminar on "Central Bank Digital Currencies: The Indian Story" was also held on January 25, 2023, in Chandigarh. These events are aimed at creating awareness of the G20 Indian Presidency in 2023 and its theme "VasudhaivaKutumbakam" or "One Earth - One Family - One Future."

The meeting will be inaugurated by Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, and Minister of Food Processing Industries, Pashupati Kumar Paras.

The discussions during the two-day meeting will be jointly steered by the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India along with France and Korea who are the Co-chairs of the International Financial Architecture Working Group.

them, while qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) sought just 2,656 shares against 1.28 crore reserved for them. Non-institutional investors sought 60,456 shares against an offer of 96.16 lakh shares. On the response that the company will bring out on the Hindenburg report, Singh said the group has put together a comprehensive response in 3 days' time to a report that purportedly took 2 years to prepare. Regarding taking legal action against the US firm, he said, "We have now discovered one part which is that this report is a misrepresentation. The second part will be to understand the deliberate intent to harm Indian shareholders and businesses. That will be a legal review and once it is over a view will be taken."

Bharat Jodo Yatra: Rahul Gandhi unfurls national flag at Srinagar's Lal Chowk

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flag unfurling by the former Congress president.

The 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', which was launched on September 7 last year in Kanyakumari, has traversed 12 states and two Union Territories -- Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

On Friday, the yatra was cancelled for the day in Anantnag district after the party alleged security lapse, saying police arrangements by the Jammu and Kashmir administration "completely collapsed".

The administration had said pressure on security resources due to the size of the crowd, larger than planned, may have created an impression of lack of security arrangements during the Rahul Gandhi-led march.

It resumed in Pulwama district's Awantipora on Saturday and Gandhi was joined PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, her daughter Iltija Mufti and a large number of workers in the march. Priyanka Gandhi also joined her brother in the yatra later.

PM Modi cautions against attempts to create divisions amid controversy over BBC film

Continued from page-1

cadets who participated in the Republic Day celebration and said the priority for the country would always be the young people who are brimming with energy and enthusiasm.

He said the youngsters have immense opportunities as his government was encouraging private participation in space and defence sectors where start-ups were making huge strides.

He highlighted the reforms in the defence sector, saying assault rifles that were imported earlier were now being manufactured within the country.

The prime minister said fast-paced border infrastructure work was taking place and it would open a new world of opportunities and possibilities for the youth.

Modi said it was also a time of great possibilities for the daughters of the country.

Police and paramilitary forces have witnessed the number of women doubling in the last eight years. The path has been paved for the deployment of women on the frontiers of all three armed, he said.

He said women have been recruited as sailors in the Navy and have also started entering combat roles in the armed forces.

First batch of women cadets has started training at the National Defence Academy in Pune and 1500 girl students have been admitted in Sainik Schools which were thrown open for the girl students for the first time, Modi said. The prime minister said the National Cadet Corps too has seen a consistent rise in women participation in the last decade.

Earlier, the prime minister released a special Day Cover and a commemorative specially minted coin of Rs 75 denomination, commemorating 75 years of NCC.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NCC Director General Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh, Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan, Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pande, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Harikumar, Chief of Air Staff V R Chaudhari and Defence Secretary Girdhar Armaane were present on occasion.



on public offer (FPO) of Adani Enterprises Ltd is the best vehicle for strategic institutional investors to own a pie of the conglomerate's fast expanding airports, mining, roads, new energy and data centre businesses.

All seven Adani group companies' stocks fell sharply over the last two trading sessions, wiping out Rs 10.7 lakh crore of investor wealth after Hindenburg Research alleged that the ports-to-energy-to-cement conglomerate had engaged in "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud" for decades.

The sell-off is being looked into by market regulator SEBI and stock exchanges.

In an interview with PTL, Singh said the group will release a comprehensive response to the Hindenburg report, "providing documentary evidence" to "clearly outline that there was no research done and that there wasn't any investigating reporting. Only pure baseless misrepresentation of factual situations, if not lies."

He cited an example of the Hindenburg report alleging that inflation in revenue was visible from an asset transferred to a private company and the private company immediately writing down that asset.

"That is a pure misrepresentation of our disclosures. Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) had already written down that asset and AEL had already booked a loss, after which that asset went over to the private side. It was disclosed as a related party transaction. They (Hindenburg) simply took half of it and therefore it is deliberate misrepresentation and falsehood. And the (Hindenburg) report is full of such points," he said.

"They deliberately misled."

The FPO of AEL will go on as scheduled, he said, expressing confidence that it will be fully subscribed by the end of the offer period on January 31.

The share sale -- the second largest in India -- got subscribed just 1 per cent on the opening day on Friday. Against an offer of 4.55 crore shares of AEL, only 4.7 lakh were subscribed, according to information available from the BSE.

AEL fell almost 20 per cent to trade below the offer price of its secondary sale as all the seven listed companies of the conglomerate took a beating in the aftermath of the Hindenburg report.

The firm is selling shares in a price band of Rs 3,112 to Rs 3,276.

On Friday, its share price closed at Rs 2,762.15 on the BSE.

"All our stakeholders including bankers and investors have full faith in the FPO. We are extremely confident about the success of the FPO," he said.

On Wednesday, Adani Enterprises raised Rs 5,985 crore from anchor investors.

Asked why would an investor subscribe to the FPO when the same share is available in the open market at a lower price, Singh said AEL has a very limited free float and so while retail investors looking for 50-100 shares can buy from the market, a strategic institutional investor would not find the chunk of shares they need.

"For an institutional investor who likes larger chunky holding, that option is not available as the free float is not there," he said.

"One of the primary aims of the FPO is to increase the liquidity of shares and increase the free float." He further said strategic long-term institutional investors are not investing in AEL for just the value of its shares.

"They are investing in AEL as an incubator. The value of AEL sits more in the airports business it holds, in the road business it is doing, in new energy

Union min in BJP first list for Tripura

Continued from page-1

finalised the names, sources said.

The list does not have the names of six MLAs -- Arun Chandra Bhowmik (Belonia), Biplab Ghosh (Matabari), Subhash Das (Nalchar), Mimi Majumder (Badharghat) Birendra Kishore Debbarma (Golaghati) and Parimal Debbarma (Ambasa). The state has 60 seats and it remains to be seen if they are fielded from other constituencies.

Chief Minister Manik Saha, a dental surgeon, and Bhowmik, who is the Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, are two prominent candidates. Saha will contest from the Town Bordowali seat. In May last year, the BJP had replaced the then chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb with Saha, who was serving as a Rajya Sabha member. Subsequently, he got elected to the Assembly after winning a by-election.

Bhowmik, who rose through the ranks in the party, will contest from the Dhanpur seat. She had lost the last election to the then Chief Minister Manik Sarkar. The CPI-M veteran is not contesting this time. CPI-M legislator Moboshar Ali, who joined the BJP in New Delhi on Friday, has been fielded from his pet Kailasahar seat in northern Tripura. State BJP chief Rajib Bhattacharjee will contest from Banamalipur. Former CM Deb, who is now a Rajya Sabha member, was elected from here in the 2018 polls.

Bhattacharjee said the BJP's second list of 12 candidates would be announced soon. He said the party was holding talks with ally Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT). The state is ruled by the BJP-IPFT coalition. In the past year, the two parties lost around 10 MLAs to other parties, including tribe-based TIPRA Motha which is influential in the 20 seats reserved for the tribals.

Manik Saha, Chief Minister
Pratima Bhowmik, Union minister
Jishnu Debbarma, Deputy Chief Minister
Rajib Bhattacharjee, State BJP president
Ratan Lal Nath -- Minister of Higher Education and Law

Sushanta Chowdhury -- Minister of Information & Cultural Affairs

Ram Pada Jamatia -- Minister of Tribal Welfare
Pranajit Singha Roy -- Minister of Transport

Santana Chakma -- Minister of Social Welfare

6 more names out, pact with IPFT 'continues'
Late Saturday, the BJP released the second list of its six candidates for Tripura elections. In Agartala, the leaders of BJP and its ally the IPFT announced that the alliance between them would continue.

India win inaugural Women's U-19 T20 World Cup with thumping win over England

POTCHEFSTROOM: India on Sunday won their maiden ICC title in women's cricket as a bunch of sprightly and talented teenagers lifted the inaugural U-19 World Cup with an emphatic seven-wicket victory over England. The Shafali Verma-led India U-19 squad managed to do what their seniors could not do by clearing the final hurdle in a global event. India first bundled out England for 68 in 17.1 overs and then returned to knock off the paltry target in 14 overs to lift the coveted trophy.

"It is just a proud moment, its our first world cup," said Trisha with stumps in hand after the memorable win.

The win on Sunday also reaffirms India's dominance at the U-19 level with the boys winning the world title in the Caribbean last year.

India's bowling attack, led by pacer Titas

Sadhu and supported by leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra, set up the comprehensive win on Sunday as they blew England away with a clinical display at Senwes Park.

While Sadhu showed that Indian women pace bowling is in safe hands following the retirement of Jhulan Goswami with impressive figures of 4-0-6-2, Chopra too continued her dream run as she snapped two for 13.

Archana Devi also scalped 2 for 17, while Mannat Kashyap (1/13), Shafali(1/16) and Sonam Yadav (1/3) accounted for one wicket each as England were all at sea after being asked to take first strike.

Following a pep talk from India's Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, India came out with a specific plan and executed it perfectly as England's innings never really took off after being reduced to 16 for three

in four overs.

Chasing 69, Shafali started with a boundary off Hannah Baker before launching Sophia Smale for a maximum.



But Baker came back to get rid of the India skipper, who was caught by Alexa Stonehouse in the 3rd over.

Her opening and team's best batter in the tournament, Shweta Sehrawat, also was back in the hut after giving a simple catch to Baker off Grace Scrivens in the fourth over.

Soumya Tiwari (24 not out) and Gongadi Trisha (24) then dug their heels in with a 46-run partnership.

With four runs needed, Trisha was cleaned up by Stonehouse, as Tiwari knocked off the winning runs.

Besides Shafali, Richa Ghosh was the other international cricketer in the U-19 squad.

Earlier, Sadhu bowled 20 dot balls in her quota of four overs.

She struck in the fourth ball of the innings with a superb caught and bowled effort to get rid of Liberty Heap (0).

Spinner Archana then cleaned up Niamh Fiona Holland (10), while Gongadi Trisha pulled off a sensational catch to get rid of

Grace Scrivens (4) to hand Archana her second wicket.

Sadhu could have added another wicket to her name but senior pro

Richa dropped a regulation catch of Ryana Macdonald Gay, who had edged an away going ball.

The Bengal pacer, however, didn't have to wait longer as she went through the gates of Seren Smale (3) next.

Macdonald Gay played a couple of

hits to the fence to ease the pressure but inform leg-spinner Parshavi Chopra then got into the act, trapping Charis Pavely (2) in front of wicket as England lost half their side for 39 in 10 overs.

Left-arm spinner Kashyap also kept things tight at the other end as Chopra removed Macdonald Gay with Archana taking a superb one-handed catch with a full dive at extra cover.

India's fielding was exemplary in the big game.

With England at 46 for 6 in 12 overs, skipper Shafali brought herself in but Alexa Stonehouse hit her for a rare boundary.

Soumya was then in action as her direct hit found Josephine Groves short by a big margin, leaving England at 53 for 7.

Shafali and Richa then combined to pile further misery on England with the latter producing a stumping effort.

Kashyap then removed Stonehouse with Sonam taking a dolly at cover.

PM Modi addresses first 'Mann Ki Baat' of 2023

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged the citizens of the country to read about the lives and stories of people who have been conferred with the prestigious 'Padma' Awards.

PM Modi was addressing the 97th Edition and the first 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme of 2023.

Modi underlined that a sizeable number of Padma awardees came from tribal communities and people associated with tribal society.

"Various people from tribal areas - painters, musicians, farmers, artisans - have been conferred the Padma awards. I urge all countrymen to read their inspiring stories. Many dignitaries who have worked on tribal languages like Toto, Ho, Kui, Kuvi and Manda have received these awards," PM Modi said during the 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme.

"The tribal life is different from city life, it has the challenges of its own. Despite all this, tribal societies are always eager to preserve their traditions," he said.

Modi further added that many great personalities who have worked on tribal languages like Toto, Ho, Kui, Kuvi and Manda have received Padma Awards.

"It is a matter of pride for all of us and the fact that now the world would know them. People working with Siddi, Jarwa and Onge tribes have also been awarded this time," PM Modi pointed out.

"This time among Padma awardees are those people who have expertise in spreading melody of our traditional musical instruments



like Santoor, Bamhum, Dwitara. Ghulam Mohd Zaz, Moa Su-Pong, Ri-Singhbor Kurka-Long, Muni-Venkatappa and Mangal Kanti Rai are being discussed all around," he said.

He also underlined the efforts of the North east people who are continuously thriving to preserve their culture and have been awarded with the Padma awards.

Padma Awards - the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

The Awards are given, every year on the Republic Day, in various disciplines and fields of activities such as art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service.

'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.

Earlier, on December 25, 2022, PM Modi addressed the 96th episode of Mann Ki Baat. In his last Mann Ki Baat of 2022, PM Modi said the country had become the world's fifth-largest economy in 2022.

"The year 2022 was wonderful, India completed 75 years of Independence while 'Amrit Kaal' began. India progressed rapidly and became the world's fifth-largest economy, and achieved the unbelievable record of 220 crore vaccines and crossed the USD 400 billion mark in exports," he said.

Barcelona winger Dembele could miss Manchester United clashes after left thigh injury

BARCELONA: Barca winger Ousmane Dembélé will be sidelined for an undetermined time after he injured a muscle in his left leg on Saturday in the 1-0 win at Girona in the Spanish league.

Dembélé has been enjoying his best season at Barcelona. The France forward, who was part of the runner-up team at the World Cup, has scored eight times for Barcelona and is its fastest one-on-one player in open space. He pulled up

after a sprint and soon asked to be substituted. Dembélé walked off



the field in the 25th minute and watched the rest of the match, which included his replacement Pedri scoring the winner. The 25-year-old Dembélé joined Barcelona in 2017

when the club broke its own club record for transfers to acquire him from

level of play that Barcelona expected - until last season when he started playing well on a consistent basis.

The club did not give an estimate on how long he would be out. Barcelona leads the Spanish league. It has league games against Real Betis, Sevilla and Villarreal and the first leg of the Copa del Rey semifinals (rival to be determined) before it plays Manchester United in the Europa League on February 16.

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