

## Amit Shah's genius behind BJP poll successes: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday credited party senior and Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah for taking the BJP to new heights and hailed his untiring efforts to build a strong and secure nation.



Releasing the a book titled 'Amit Shah O BJP ra Yatra', the Odia translation of 'Amit Shah and the March of BJP' authored by Anirban Ganguli and Shivananda Dwivedi, at a function here, Pradhan described Shah as an organisation man, a strategist par excellence and the architect behind BJP's historic electoral victories in 2019.

Sharing some of his personal experience with Shah, Pradhan said the former has a nerve of steel which he displayed by repealing the contentious Article 370 of the Constitution. Narrating the incidents prior to the modification of the controversial Article 370, Pradhan said Prime Minister Narendra Modi

advised Shah to consult noted Constitutional lawyer and former Minister Arun Jaitely on the matter.

"I accompanied Shah to meet Jaitely who was hospitalised then. On hearing the subject from Shah, he said are you mad?" You don't have the requisite two-third majority. How it will be possible," Pradhan recounted. A determined Shah told Jaitely that a subsection of the Article allows suspension of special provisions and this can be possible with simple majority.

Pradhan who has been aggressively propounding to recognise the Paika rebellion in 1817 as the first war of Independence said Shah has assured to do the needful and all requisite historical records and evidence have been provided to him in this connection.

BJD MLA and Sambad Editor Soumya Ranjan Patnaik said the book on Shah is a fitting tribute to the man who changed the political landscape by making politics a 24x7 job. Eminent journalist and former MP Swapan Dasgupta, authors Ganguly and Dwivedi and publisher of the book Praveen Tiwari also gave insights into the book.

## Tributes paid to deceased Odia photojournalist Ashok Panda

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Panda who died in a road accident when



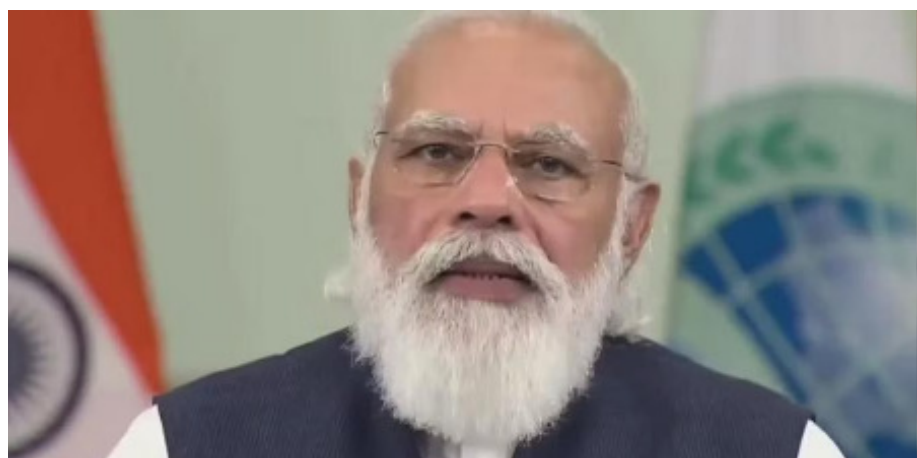
ent political parties and media fraternity on Monday paid rich tributes to photojournalist Ashok

'Samaya'. Speaking on the occasion, chairman of Samaya management committee Chiranjib Biswal said Panda was a skilled, dedicated and honest photojournalist. Biswal also announced all support to Panda's family on behalf of Samaya.

Mayor Sulochana Das who paid tribute to the veteran photojournalist raised apprehensions over the rising road accidents in the State. She also assured possible government support for his family. BJP state unit president Samir Mohanty, former minister Panchanan Kanungo, MLA Amar Satpathy and former MLA Prabhat Tripathy were also present at the memorial service.

## 'Short-cut politics can result in short-circuit of nation': PM Modi attacks Opposition

DEOGHAR(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday cautioned against "short-cut politics" based on populist measures, which he said



can lead to "short-circuit" of a nation. Addressing a rally of the BJP here after inaugurating and laying foundation stones of projects worth over Rs 16,800 crore, the PM said there is no alternative for hard work and those who indulge in "short-cut politics" would not have got such projects done.

Modi also said India is a land of faith and spirituality, and pilgrimages shaped "us as a better society and country", as he spoke at the public meeting, held ahead of the auspicious 'Shravani Mela'.

"The government is making investments to provide modern infrastructure at the places associated with faith, spirituality and historical importance," he said, referring to Ayodhya, Kashi Vishwanath and Baba Baidyanath temple here.

Urging people to refrain from politics based on populist measures, Modi said it is a challenge before the country.

"The country faces a major challenge of short-cut politics, but it is a big truth that the country whose politics is based on it can have short-circuit. It can destroy a

country," Modi said. "It is very easy to get votes from people by taking populist measures, adopting short-cut politics without thinking about far-reaching consequences," the PM said.

Underlining that countrymen have to take India to newer heights as it approaches 100 years of Independence, Modi said it can be achieved by hard work alone.

He said those who practice "short-cut politics" would not work hard to

## Bhubaneswar to host Odisha FoodPro meet on July 21

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): In the run up to the third edition of Make-in-Odisha, the State government is going to host Odisha FoodPro 2022 on July 21 to draw more investments, new skills and technologies into the food processing ecosystem.

The unique gathering of investors, manufacturers, producers, food processors, startups and policy makers will extend better exposure to SHGs, Farmer Producer

scale investments from various sources, which will lead to inclusive growth of the sector as well as generate more employment. Principal Secretary of MSME department Ranjana Chopra highlighted the roadmap of the food processing sector the State is going to adopt in the upcoming years. She showed optimism on Odisha becoming a key hub in the country in food processing in near future and a destined global hub in the eastern part of the world.

Seeking private investments for development of food processing infrastructure in the State, Agriculture Production Commissioner-cum-ACS Sanjeev Chopra said Odisha has the potential to become one of the best states for large scale food



Organisations (FPOs), cooperatives and individual units involved in food processing activities.

Launching the teaser video of Odisha FoodPro 2022, Minister for Industries and MSME Pratap Keshari Deb stressed on the continuous effort of the government to foster the food processing sector in the State. "We have been successful in creating a hunger free society and doubling farm income. Now we want to create a chain from the ground to promote farm produce globally and uplift farmers and women SHGs through events like FoodPro," he said.

The Minister emphasised on bringing in large

processing units.

"But surprisingly only around 650 units have been set up under Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana in last four years, which is not a good sign for a State like Odisha," he said and urged local entrepreneurs to take the advantage of the scheme and different agro policies. A brief interactive session was held among entrepreneurs from all categories like micro entrepreneurs, prominent industrialists and SHGs. Executive Chairman of Startup Odisha Dr Omkar Rai, Principal Secretary of Industries department Hemant Sharma and IPICOL MD Bhupendra Singh Poonia were also present.

## Maha Lakshmi Offered Rasagolla

Puri(KCN):Rasagolla Lakshmi though al- Lord Balabhadra and Subhadra and Lord Sudarshana into the temple, she closed the main gate for Lord Jagannath.



On Niladri Bije, according to legends, MahaLakshmi, the consort of Lord Jagannath, gets angry as she was left out in the 12th century shrine alone and was not taken on Rath Jatra to the Shri Gundicha temple.

An angry Maha lowed elder brother sister-in-law Devi

He said: "In earlier

Mr.Mohanty, who was also instrumental in collecting evidence supporting Rasogolla's origin in the Puri Temple as the sweet dish is offered to the deities as "bhog" since centuries.

Maha Lakshmi

## 2.65L Cr Budget by 2025-26

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The annual budget size of the State is estimated to reach around Rs 2.65 lakh crore in the financial year 2025-26, as per a medium-term fiscal framework (MTFF) developed by the Department of Finance. The Department of Finance (DoF), in consultation with the IMF's South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center, has developed the MTFF to support annual budget formulation and medium-term fiscal

planning to strengthen Odisha's public finances and the credibility of the budget process.

economic and fiscal projections for a three-year period. These projections are based on assump-

The Fiscal Strategy Paper submitted to the Odisha Legislative Assembly recently points out that



MTFF is a set of forecasting and analytical processes that enable the State to prepare macro-

tions concerning global, national and local conditions, said a senior official of the State Government.

the framework takes into account variables such as global economic growth, CONTINUED ON: P-7



# Hundreds of Patents attended the clinic to take first hand information from the doctors

Kolkata(KCN): Manipal Hospital Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore organized a



Healthcare Clinic for the people of Berhampore, Murshidabad. The Clinic was held at Murshidabad Information Centre, Care Point, Gorabazar in Berhampore. This is yet another patient-centric initiative taken by Manipal Hospital Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore to empower patients with access to quality healthcare services in Murshidabad.

The Clinic was led by Dr. Raghuram G, MBBS, DNB from Neuro & Spine Surgery Department, Dr. Girish PV, MBBS, MD, DM from Gastroenterology Department and Dr. Md. Basheeruddin, MBBS, MS, MCH from Oncology Department of Manipal Hospital Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore. Hundreds of Patents attended the clinic to take first hand information from the expert doctors.

The Doctors also organized an awareness session on healthy lifestyle, nutrition and dif-

## Odisha government sets October 1 deadline for online transaction of PACS and LAMPS

BHUBANESWAR: Five years after the launch of an integrated core banking solution (CBS) project covering all three tiers of short-term cooperative credit structure, a few Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society (PACS) and Large Area Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS) have not been able to on-boarded to CBS platform. The State government has directed the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) to complete the process of on-boarding of PACS and LAMPS to the CBS platform by September 30, 2022, so that real-

## Journalists can enter schools but not talk to students: Dhenkanal Collector Saroj Sethi

DHENKANAL(KCN): A day after an order on entry ban for media on school cam-



pusers sparked a furor, Dhenkanal Collector Saroj Sethi clarified that journalists can enter the premises but not interact with students while classes are underway.

If journalists have any query, they can put it across to the school managing committee but not to students, he informed.

The order, issued by the district education

officers (DEO) of Dhenkanal and Kendrapara and subsequently by block education officer (BEO) of Kankadahada, snowballed into a controversy with the government defending the move and Opposition demanding its immediate rollback.

On July 8, Dhenkanal DEO Nibedita Pani issued a letter to BEOs directing them to ask headmasters to restrict media entry on campuses. Acting on the order, Kankadahada BEO

had written to school headmasters and stated that FIR should be lodged

against the mediaperson in case of any 'unauthorised' entry. On Sunday, the Collector in response stated that it was 'unethical' of journalists to enter school campuses holding cameras and questioning students about their performances which are humiliating and discouraging. Justifying the DEO's letter, Sethi said students can take any

However, after backlash from different quarters, Kankadahada BEO issued a letter once again to all school headmasters informing them that media entry ban order has been withdrawn. The order was withdrawn as per the instruction of the Collector during a joint public grievance redressal meeting held at Kankadahada Panchayat Samiti Office, he informed.

# Monalisa Ghosh: Welcome to Kalajyoti- A Traditional oddisi Gurukul

Kolkata (KCN): In the backdrop of several mega programmes that occur across the South 24 Parganas, Rajpur, west Bengal. An Indian traditional 'kul' (home) of the 'guru'



globe, in India, and closer near home ---- at (teacher), was built



close to the city of Kolkata, the City of Joy so that students are trained in-house in natural surroundings on Dance, Vocal, Percussion, Sanskrit Language, Yoga, and Aesthetics irrespective of Creed, Caste or Religion .

Sharing her kalajyoti dream Oddissi dance guru Ms Monalisa Ghosh (who has been promoting Oddissi in India and in Foreign lands for several decades) said, "These children have no opportunity to learn Indian Classical dance Today it was a great joy to do a lecture demonstration and teach dance to the

and near Kolkata, some small silent revolutions also take shape.

Such as the dynamic and conscious humane cultural foundations being laid by Oddissi dance guru Ms Monalisa Ghosh.

These aim at positive transformations of the moral, social, and cultural faculties of mankind in general in a world of disharmony !

Kalajyoti is one such effort unique in its category.

Kalajyoti was established in the year 2000 in

children of financially deprived school in our locality.: You will be surprised to know when I saw the shine in their eyes and asked them why don't you learn, you are such beautiful girls, I will give you opportunity to learn without any fees doon-gi, doongi 75 percent said our father thinks dance is for bad women.

??????? : Every year I organise in several local schools where children from lower middle class families come. : So I realise I have a huge task on my shoulder."

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# Odisha to approach Centre seeking free precaution COVID dose for 18-59 age group

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): With resurgence in COVID cases and low booster vaccine offtake among adults in the State, the Odisha government is mulling to approach the Centre for implementing free precaution dose for 18-59 years age group to ensure inoculation compliance.

said that COVID testing was ramped up to 15,000 samples a day from 10,000 about a month ago and now the plans are afoot to augment it to 25,000 tests per day. Meanwhile, the State reported over 500 cases for the third consecutive day on Monday, pushing the active cases to cross 3,031.



Principal Secretary of Health and Family Welfare department NB Dhal on Monday said that a high level meeting on the COVID situation and vaccination status in the State will be held soon and if needed, the issue of free precaution dose to all adults will be taken up with the Centre. "Now the precaution dose is being administered to healthcare and frontline workers and senior citizens free of cost. The Ministry of Health has to take a decision whether the precaution dose will be administered free to the 18-59 years age group," he told mediapersons. On the rising infections, Dhal said, though the cases are on the upward spiral in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela and Puri, the symptoms in most patients were mild. Around one per cent (pc) of the cases were in hospital and the remaining 99 per cent were recovering in home isolation, he said. In view of the rising trend, the Health Secretary

The test positivity rate jumped to 4.25 per cent from 3.7 per cent a day before. Of the 572 fresh cases, 69 were of the 0-18 years age group. While the infection spread to 25 districts, Khurda topped with 219 cases, followed by 68 from Cuttack, 63 from Sundargarh, 41 from Sambalpur, 14 from Mayurbhanj, 14 from Angul and 12 each from Balasore and Puri.

Odisha to move Centre for free booster for 18-59 group The TPR was 11.17 per cent in Khurda, 9.42 per cent in Cuttack, 8.41 pc in Sundargarh and 6.38 pc in Puri. Health officials said that the current wave appears to be less severe compared to the previous waves of the pandemic. Director of Public Health Dr Niranjana Mishra said the rate of hospitalisation at present is extremely low compared to the last three waves. Of around 3,000 active cases, only 28 required institutional care and in most cases either people are asymptomatic or the symptoms are not severe as the infection is mostly driven by Omicron variant, he added. Around 50 samples from different clusters have been sent for genome sequencing and the result is expected on Tuesday.



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## Appealing to fans' inner writers, Anupam Kher offers autographed



**NEW DELHI:** Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable

caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book #YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the cation, he noted "Hindi or

English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon. Within a few hours of being posted, fans of

the former Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India started coming up with innovative captions and showcased their creative skills. A day ago, the 65-year-old star shared a clip of his mother lauding PM Modi and scientist's efforts for the new COVID-19 vaccines.

## SC grants Ekta Kapoor interim protection from arrest in FIR over web series

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** The Supreme

leged objectionable content in her web

Kapoor. She had moved the apex court after the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in November this year, dismissed her petition seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be quashed. The High Court had dismissed a petition of Kapoor seeking quashing of a case registered against her for alleged obscenity in a web series produced by her.

The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.



Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for al-

series "XXX season 2". A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted interim protection to

## Phenomenal experience: Riteish Deshmukh praises Anil Kapoor, Anurag Kashyap's 'AK vs AK'

**NEW DELHI(K-CN):** Actor Riteish Deshmukh lauded Vikramaditya Motwane's 'AK vs AK' and termed the

blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted

only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor\_has outdone your entire performance in one

around the story of a movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kid-



Netflix based film "a phenomenal experience". Deshmukh took to Twitter to share a poster of the movie, which features Anurag Kashyap and Anil Kapoor in lead roles. "Mind has been

Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir,

scene," the 'Housefull' actor's tweet further read. While Kapoor essays the role of a yesterday actor, Kashyap plays the role of a disgraced film director in the film. 'AK vs AK,' revolves

napping the actor's daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

## Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

Ajay Devgn's Mayday has been creating a massive buzz because of its interest-

the icing on the cake is that Ajay Sir is directing the film. It's actually happening!



ing star cast, which includes Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh and Angira Dhar. Talented actress, Aakanksha Singh has now joined the team.

It's an important role and I am lucky that the first muhurat shot of the film had me in it." Ajay Devgn took to social media to announce that the shoot had begun yesterday. "Happy to officially begin Mayday in a start-to-finish shooting schedule. Seek blessings from the Almighty and my parents. Nothing is complete without the support of all my fans, family and well-wishers. Releases on 29th April 2022 (sic)" he posted.

## 'Wanted to make a film on Indian Army with Shah Rukh Khan', says Director Kabir Khan

**MUMBAI(KCN):** Filmmaker Kabir Khan, who is gearing up for the release of his web series "The Forgotten Army: Azaadi Ke Liye", based on Indian National Army (INA), says he wanted to make a film on the subject starring Shah Rukh Khan. He added that Shah Rukh didn't charged a fee for the voiceover he gave for the series.

Shah Rukh didn't charge a single paisa for his voiceover assignment. "When I was making this series, I thought I should ask Shah Rukh (to be the narrator) because Shah Rukh's father had involvement with this army. His father knew General Shahnawaz Khan, who was an important part of INA. So, I knew he (Shah Rukh Khan) has sympathy and attachment with Azad Hind Fauj and I called him up. It's not an easy task to ask a superstar for a voiceover but Shah Rukh instantly agreed to do it. Usually, when you discuss a film with Shah Rukh, it's a long process, but in this case Shah Rukh literally did the voiceover for us on the second day. I don't know whether he would like me to reveal this, but he didn't take a fee from us. I think the kind of attachment he has with Azad Hind Fauj reflects in his act." Incidentally, Shah Rukh did a cameo in Kabir Khan's 2017 release "Tubelight", starring Salman Khan.

"Shah Rukh has very graciously given the voiceover. The series is based on a true story, so there is an introduction of a few minutes before every episode along with real footage, where he has lent his voice. I talked about it with Shah Rukh earlier as well, when this was a film script. Back then, I wanted Shah Rukh to do the film. We even had a few meetings but we couldn't take it forward," said Kabir while promoting the series along with its lead actors Sunny Kaushal and Sharvari Wagh. Kabir added that



# Hate-Mongering in the name of Freedom of Speech

Post Udaipur-Amravati killings, India witnessed a studied silence among its celebrated intellectuals



who seem to have taken an intellectual asylum in their own dens of hypocrisy, who otherwise, were known to be the upright tongues screaming louder for the preservation of the country's democratic values. The violence that flashed across the country after the brutal bloodshed of the shopkeepers subsided to the level of insignificance. We should be happy that we have plenty of issues pouring in on a daily basis that anything including the madness of men in the name of beliefs gets easily evaporated and as a society, we spin back to the same organic self of insensibility and insanity. Prime time shows on TV channels hunt for new topics and spokespersons, having learned lessons from the Nupur Sharma episode seem to have been putting a brave face of maturity and acceptance. The media slugfest and the subsequent bloodshed had taken India further to a realm of understanding- a realisation, that as a country we have ripped ourselves off the democratic principles that we have been chest-thumping since independence. Nobody thought that the quantum of filth that we have accumulated would amount to the level of arrogance and hatred barricading all the possibilities of cordiality. What next? Things seemed to be rolling back to normal but then landed the fiery Mahua Moitra, the Trinamool Congress MP from West Bengal with her most denigrating remark on Goddess Kaali. For her, Kaali is a meat-eating and alcohol accepting goddess. And she said she had the complete right to exercise her imagination to whichever god or goddess she worshipped. Except BJP no political party was seen with hammer and tongs against Moitra. People often

stoop into idiotic terrains of intellectual incarcerations and get

vocal about the stupidity that they market as intellectual audacity. The irony of India's present political discourse is that exercising your right to imagine, interpret and ignobly indoctrinate religious ideas for gaining political mileage is legitimised. Most of such attempts go unquestioned if you shoot your arrows from the quiver of a liberal bandwagon and of course it should be directed to a still insensitive majority and what you gain in return is a victimhood ornamented with sympathy. Vituperation on anything except a minority sentiment is legitimized and nobody, not even the judiciary will hold you responsible for it. This never comes under hate speech and you are free to challenge and spit more venom with complete security guaranteed. West Bengal's history without pages dedicated to Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda remains incomplete. It was goddess Kaali by worshipping whom, an illiterate Brahmin in Ramakrishna could elevate himself to the greatness of a Paramahansa. There have never been questions put against his holy gesticulations. His greatness unfolded to its complete glory when he transformed an ordinary boy into a spiritual giant who later came to be known as Swami Vivekananda. Both had in-depth devotion for the divinity in the form of a ferocious, terrifying but adorable feminine energy manifested in Kaali. Bengal owes much to its spiritual heritage that it inherited from the penance of these spiritual gurus and calumniating the feminine energy in Kaali as a meat-eater is nothing but slitting the very idea of spiritual inheritance that the state of Bengal nourished for ages. Moitra's argument of vehemence in the name of spiritual intelligence and liberty was accentuated by Shashi Tharoor. For him, it was a well-known case for all the Hindus that the black goddess with blood dripping tongue and skull

**M. R. LALU**

garland around her neck was a meat-eater. Same was the case with Nupur

Sharma. Everybody in the media discourse and the Islamic religious fraternity knew that whatever she spoke in defence of her views were well codified in Islamic scriptures and what she did was to reproduce the textual content when she was repeatedly perforated by the man sitting at the opposite side. But outcries for her head are still heard from across the country. Things did not stop there. The entire Muslim world began to put pressure on India against the remarks of a single lady and we witnessed what followed next. The ruling party successfully isolated a person for defending her beliefs when provoked. Evidently, there are two forces incessantly working to split the society. Religion and politics have so far been able to set narratives in this direction and Moitra was one among those politicians who enjoyed the support of the left-liberal coercive mindset which often found inadequacies with the majority. Terming the saffron upsurge by the BJP as a monolithic patriarchal brahminical enterprise, Moitra went on affirming that she would hate to live in an ecosystem that the BJP is creating throughout the country. When she spoke her demeaning words to an audience in a media conclave, she wilfully erred with an ease of conviction that nothing of that sort compared to the effect in the case of Nupur Sharma would happen. The country has already stooped to a new low after the beheading of the Udaipur tailor and efforts to throw acid on the wounds of a particular community is the plan of politicians and Moitra took the lead this time. Who spreads hatred in a society that has already gone to the brim of an ideological collapse? Today, an existential threat to a civilization that survived in amity for generations despite being diverse is a reality. Narratives to set the stage of harmony ablaze began long ago. The idea of a

potential "Hindu Terror" was an attempt to create lab rats of radicalization to draw parallels to Islamic jihad. "Islamophobia" has been the recent trendsetting narrative catching headlines. Hatred, disseminated in a thousand ways, is reaping a great harvest. Not only political, but academic forums from inside the country and abroad are also actively growing claws to throttle the idea of a living system that survived centuries of invasion and horror. "Dismantling Hindutva" was one such effort to malign the system of plurality living in unison in India and paint it as an outrageous cohort and thus finding reasons to thwart it from growing further. Imagine, what would be the outcome, if the government with Modi at the centre, tried to push reforms to curb radicalization with full force. Reactions from the South Asian countries should be a reminder for India when it plans to cement the holes of religious militancy and we should not be forgetful of our past in the landscape of the Indian subcontinent. Hinduism is an open book that anybody could read from whichever page he feels to begin with. Interpretations can be drawn in various ways and it gives the freedom to deduce its principles. This liberty often turns out to be an argumentative overreach by many people and narratives to humiliate the essential practices of Hinduism gets justified as an act of liberal interpretation. Moitra was loudmouthed about this freedom and she said that she had been exercising it in the media conclave, deliberately denying the effect of insult that she was further exacerbating on the blisters that Udaipur and Amravati killings caused. In a democracy, freedom of speech cannot be a burdensome exercise on one community, when others are authorised to weaponize their beliefs as a shield of self defence.

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# Rising Hunger & Thoughtless governance policies

In the latest United Nations Global Food Security



Report, the situation of hunger in the world is more dire than before, a stigma on the picture of all development. The increase in the number of hungry people among the emerging economic superpowers, systems and development in the world is a serious question on the development of the world and the structure of a balanced

society. Somewhere there is a flaw in the development model of the world or there is a difference between the words and deeds of the present governments. It seems that the tempting nature of development is being considered as success, but keeping its basic aspects at the centre, necessary

## Letter to Editor

### It's Time For Metaverse

Banks are already at our fingertips via smart phones. Even tough present digital banking services are functionally mutualists and inclusive, it's usually seen as emotionally detached to customers. As banking world is moving swiftly in adopting advanced technologies. Our national banks should also go in line with advancements rapidly. Now it's time for metaverse (highly interactive three-dimensional virtual world) which is the next leap in technology which promises to bring a human touch to the digital experience of virtual interactions. Government banks are getting slowly into metaverse (for example Union Bank of India did on last week). With the assistance of metaverse customers can access the bank without actually going to the bank. Also they can get into digital avatar, enter the bank lounge and access the available banking services along with information on social security services, loans and other banking products without any hassle using laptops or desktops from their homes. Therefore all banks across the nation should get into metaverse as soon as possible to come out of lacunae which are present in current digital banking.

Yours,  
Vijaykumar H.K.  
Raichur

steps have not been taken or they have not been implemented, only then the ironic conditions

of hunger and hungry people are increasing like never before. What an insensitivity and neglectful mentality it is that no new report on the tragic and horrifying issue of hunger does not come as a surprise, but it



certainly shows that there is no balanced approach to the formulation and implementation of policies around the world. This only shows the flaw in the policy and intention of the governance systems. About two billion and thirty crore people in the world are facing hunger and scarcity. The difficulties, crises and tragic situations that this population is facing in order to collect food for two times, proves the statements of the development of the governments and systems of the world to be meaningless. According to this UN report, the Corona epidemic and the subsequent Russo-Ukraine war have played an important role in worsening hunger. The report, published jointly by several UN agencies, says that the world is moving away from its goal of eliminating hunger, food insecurity, health and malnutrition in all forms by 2030. In the latest report of the United Nations, even though the causes of starvation, corona epidemic, war, conflict, violence, climate change, natural disaster etc. have been talked about, for this, on big reasons like neo-imperialism, neoliberalism, free economy and market structure. No attention is paid, the growing gap between rich and poor, etc. is not discussed. One of the major discrepancies in the economies of the world has been that on one side it is poor and on the other hand it is super-rich. There is a big gap between these two. If there is not much noise on this growing gap, one reason for this is also that it is assumed that the goal of poverty alleviation will automatically be achieved through the rise of prosperity of the upper classes or through high growth rate. This expectation is completely misleading and does not seem to be fulfilled.

On the contrary, the World Food Program report states that due to high food prices set by the governments, 75 million people in the world have fallen into the grip of starvation which was earlier than it.

**Lalit Garg**

In this increase in the population going hungry or undernourished, 30 million people belong to India only. Add to this the lack of drinking water, education at least up to secondary level and basic medical facilities, then we can see that India is really a world of the underprivileged even after seven decades of independence. A large section of today's world, riding on development, science and achievements, still lives a suffocating life in poverty, deprivation, hunger, which does not struggle with the cir-

cumstances, but makes compromises. Feels insecure all the time. In which lack of self-confidence teaches to live in darkness. For which justice and authority become meaningless. How much the measures adopted in order to cope with the corona epidemic helped in the prevention of the spread of the virus, is yet to be assessed, but as to its practical effect, if people are faced with a crisis of filling their stomachs, then why this condition persists, we need to think again.

The big question is that when the figures of hunger can be exposed with the help of modern technology and science in the world, then why such systems are not developed which can stop hunger. What is needed is that there are a large number of high-level systems, including institutions, experts, techniques, which are deeply monitoring the issue at the international level, so why are concrete policies not prepared for its far-reaching solution! Why is hunger not controlled? On the contrary, this problem has become more and more serious. In fact, if balanced and sensitive systems-policies are made and serious efforts are made to make better use of the resources on the earth, then ways can be found to deal with the situation of food insecurity and starvation. But due to the spending of all the money on war and other meaningless matters and also the destruction of existing resources, starvation is not shown seriously by the world community, then whose interest is behind it? Concerns have been raised about providing nutritionally balanced meals to the deprivation-stricken population, but the reality is that many people are not getting even the minimum amount of food they need to survive. Our world is full of contradictions and ironies. Hunger on the one hand, and the abundance of expensive feasts and luxuries of the rich class, abundance of junk in big feasts is a stigma on humanity. In this way, food wastage should be curbed, advertisement companies should also be given guidelines,

food should not be wasted in hotels and educational institutions, offices, canteens, meetings, weddings and other functions and other institutions. We can use this food to get rid of poverty, hunger and malnutrition in our society. Such an environment should be created not only by relying on governments, but through public awareness. Finally, we must ask ourselves whether we want or want to change a disturbed, unstable, violent and unhealthy society. Do we want to be citizens of a world of hunger and hungry people or citizens of a world of happy and resourceful citizens?



Is this problem stable over a long period of time because the victims of starvation belong to the very poor and vulnerable communities, which governments do not consider it necessary to care? Why is it that between the inventions of science and the new dimensions of its progress, there is talk of settling the world of space and life on new planets and on the other hand arrangements are not being made to feed the population present on the earth itself! The reason for this is irregularities, corruption and neglect in these poverty alleviation policies, hunger eradication programmes, services and schemes which deal with the weaker sections of the society. A big demand is to curb this corruption. Secondly, at the policy level also, the world's rulers will have to think afresh. Hunger and poverty alleviation programs should not be carried out like distribution of philanthropy, but should be directed in such a way that people living below the poverty line can come above it permanently. This can happen only when these plans are combined with such economic and development plans which emphasize on involving more and more people in the development process.

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## PM, Speaker to come under focus as Sri Lanka prepares for appointment of Rajapaksa's successor

COLOMBO: When embattled Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa resigns on Wednesday as promised, the constitutional provisions will get activated to elect his successor, according to a senior lawyer. "There will be two people who would

assumption of office by the new president, the prime minister shall act in the office of the president." "If the prime minister is unable to act, the Speaker shall act in the office of president." The parliament would then proceed to fill the vacancy by an

says parliament shall elect a president from one of its members who is qualified to be elected to the office of the president. "Such elected person shall hold office only for the unexpired period of the term of office vacating the office."

curred. He shall fix a date and time not earlier than 48 hours and not later than seven days from the date of such meeting." He would act as the returning officer for the election with each member being able to vote. They are able to mark their preferences depending on the number of candidates vying to be elected as president.



come under immediate focus, the sitting prime minister and the speaker of parliament," lawyer Kamal Perera said. He cited the Article 40 (c) of the Sri Lankan Constitution which reads "during the period between the occurrence of such vacancy and the

election among MPs, Perera said. The Article 40 (b) states that such election shall be held as soon as possible after the occurrence of the vacancy and in no case later than one month from the date of occurrence of the vacancy. The Article 40 (1)

Perera said the ballot to appoint the successor in parliament would be held according to the Presidential elections Act no 2 of 1981. In terms of article 5 of the Act, "The Secretary-General of parliament shall inform parliament that a vacancy has oc-

Rajapaksa, whose whereabouts are not known since Friday, has informed both Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe that he will resign on July 13, days after protesters stormed his official residence in rage over the island nation's worst economic crisis. Speaker Abeywardena is expected to publicly announce President Rajapaksa's resignation to the nation on Wednesday.

## Congress accuses Modi government of 'interfering, intimidating, influencing' judiciary

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday attacked the government over its approach towards the judiciary, alleging there was "interference, intimidation and influence", and also an attempt to "sabotage and subjugate" the important pillar of democracy. Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi told a press conference that these have unfortunately become the insignia and spikes of this government, which is deplorable.

"The Modi government's approach towards the judiciary smacks of three 'Is': influence, interference and intimidation. The ruling party in this government can equally be accused of three 'Ss', an attempt to 'sabotage, subjugate and subvert' the judiciary. This deadly combination of 3 Is along with 3 Ss is deplorable," he told reporters.

There was no official comment from the BJP on the charge. Singhvi alleged it is now the worst kept secret for many years in legal circles and outside that "this control freak, micro-management and dossier-loving sarkar" and its ruling party have indulged in several "manipulative tactics" towards the most trusted third organ of governance, the judiciary. The Congress leader said the relevance of the Supreme Court's clear observation that lack of speed in dealing with bails as also hesitation or obstruction in their grant, would make India look "like a police state".

"The Congress believes that this is much-needed guidance from the apex court, especially where the ruling dispensation seeks to rule through fear, control through coercion. We the Congress party intend, using due process of law, in accordance with the Constitution and obviously subject to due legislative process in Congress-ruled states, to create in the near future legislative enactments encapsulating, in letter and spirit, as many as possible of the Supreme Court guidelines through appropriate state amendments," he said. Singhvi alleged that the government has excessively but selectively delayed judicial appointment proposals both to the high courts and to the Supreme Court and Justice Quereshi may be only one out of many such names.

"This government and its ruling component has arbitrarily bifurcated approved judicial appointees' lists to the higher judiciary, again selectively, to allow some from the original common list to be appointed quickly, while selectively appointing others after a considerable time lag, thereby irreversibly prejudicing their inter se seniority," he said, alleging that there are more than one very recent examples in respect of a leading high court of the country. "This government and ruling party has inaugurated an ambiance, an atmosphere of fear, trepidation, anxiety and hesitation in the judicial sector by the misuse of dossier raj and oblique insinuations based thereupon.

It has tried to prevail upon judicial collegia, as they are always anxious to fill up judicial vacancies. To take advantage of this urgency to fill vacancies, they have constantly tried to prevail upon judicial

collegia to do punitive transfers of judicial authorities perceived as inconvenient," he said. "It has attempted illegally and unfairly to interfere, whenever it can and whenever it deems necessary as per its own narrow, party and ideological thinking, with judges and the judiciary in general and the legal process," Singhvi said, alleging that it has attempted to install a section of judicial personnel vetted by it and its supporters, on impermissible tests of loyalty, ideology and commitment to its own norms.

The Congress leader said as far as interference is concerned, there is a non-exhaustive list of "ma-



nipulative tactics", which comes the most startling and shocking example from Karnataka which is symptomatic of this extremely deep-seated malaise.

He quoted reports of a high court judge saying that he had received a call from Delhi talking about the transfer of a judge, handling the case of an ADGP who is considered "very powerful".

He said Justice Sandesh has reported the perceived threat to the authorities concerned and this affects the independence of the judiciary and amounts to direct interference in the judiciary and with the dispensation of justice.

Singhvi also cited the tactic of "intimidation" by trolling or launching an orchestrated attack on social media against the members of the bench making observations against an individual.

He cited the recent example of Supreme Court making strong and pertinent observations regarding the conduct of a BJP spokesperson.

"We saw the three-pronged attack that has become an all too familiar tool of the ruling dispensation. Savage and faceless trolls spewed fake news and propaganda, an orchestrated letter by 'intellectuals' was dispatched and one-sided, and even contemptuous, reporting by sections of the Godi media," he said. Singhvi said a sitting Supreme Court judge Justice Pardiwala, was recently forced to observe that attacks attempted at judges for the judgements will lead to a dangerous scenario where the judges will have to pay greater attention as to what the media thinks rather than what the law actually mandates. This puts the rule of law on the burner ignoring the sanctity of the respect for the courts, he said. "The BJP appears to have empowered its goons with audacity, authority, and recklessness over adventurism to intimidate judges," he said, citing the example of BJP minister Arjun Ram Meghwal making a strong pitch in 2016 in Lok Sabha for putting a stop to the running commentary by the judiciary against other organs of the State.

## 'India mother of all democracies': PM Modi at Bihar assembly centenary celebrations

PATNA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that India was the "mother of all democracies", drawing upon the legacy of ancient

dation stones of a guest house and a library. "India is a democracy because we believe in saamanjasya (harmony). We are of-

that democracy came to India because of western influence. By doing so they undermine the legacy of Bihar," said Modi, recalling events like

mony) which was evident from "better attendance of lawmakers inside Parliament and state assemblies" and "discarding of ob-



republics like Vaishali, and expressed satisfaction over the nation's march towards becoming a "mature democracy". Modi made the remark at a function here organised on the occasion of centenary celebrations of Bihar Assembly as part of which he unveiled a commemorative pillar, planted a sapling of 'Kalpataru' tree and laid foun-

ten told that India is the largest democracy. I would like countrymen to remember that we are not just the largest; India is the mother of all democracies," Modi said. Expressing delight over being "the first prime minister to have visited the Assembly of Bihar", Modi recalled that the state was home to Vaishali, said to be the oldest republic in the world. "Many people say

Champaran Satyagrah of Mahatma Gandhi to make his point. "It is not a mere coincidence that the centenary celebrations of assembly premises are being held simultaneously with the Amrit Mahotsav (75th anniversary) of the Independence," said the PM. He also stated that the nation was "on its way to becoming a mature democ-

solete laws". Modi also spoke of the "glorious past" of the state Assembly, which became the first in the country to bring in a zamindari abolition law and reservation for women in panchayats. The PM's address was preceded by speeches of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha and Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav.

## UK Home Secretary Priti Patel rules herself out of bid to replace Boris Johnson

LONDON: Priti Patel - widely expected to become another Indian-origin candidate in the race for the post of Conservative Party leader and the next British prime minister - on Tuesday ruled out a

for the leadership of the Conservative party. I will not be putting my name forward for the ballot of MPs," she said. As home secretary, Patel said she has always put the security and safety of the coun-



try and the national interest first and her focus is to continue working to get more police on the streets, support the security services to keep the country safe and control its borders. "As a lifelong and committed Conservative, I will always make the case for freedom, enterprise and opportunity and work with colleagues to deliver these values in government. Like all Conservative MPs and party members, I will be listening to cases being put forward by the candidates standing for the leadership of the party and trust the contest will be conducted in a good spirit that brings our party together," Patel said in her statement. It was expected that Patel would become a late entry to the race to challenge former Chancellor and fellow British Indian pro-Brexit Rishi Sunak in the race to replace Boris Johnson as Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister. She is yet to declare which of the candidates she would be throwing her considerable Tory clout behind.

bid, saying she was "grateful" for the encouragement but her focus remains on her current job as Home Secretary. "I will not be putting my name forward for the ballot of MPs," said the 50-year-old Gujarati-origin senior Cabinet minister, just hours before nominations closed. In a statement, Patel said she will not be standing for the Tory leadership. She is not backing any other candidates, but she does not rule out doing so later in the contest. "I am grateful for the encouragement and support colleagues and party members have offered me in recent days in suggesting that I enter the contest



# 'India mother of all democracies': PM Modi Look Out for Liu at Bihar assembly centenary celebrations

Bhubaneswar: The annual budget size of the State is estimated to reach around Rs 2.65 lakh crore in the financial year 2025-26, as per a medium-term fiscal framework (MTFF) developed by the Department of Finance.

The Department of Finance (DoF), in consultation with the IMF's South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center, has developed the MTFF to support annual budget formulation and medium-term fiscal planning to strengthen Odisha's public finances and the credibility of the budget process.

MTFF is a set of forecasting and analytical processes that enable the State to prepare macroeconomic and fiscal projections for a three-year period. These projections are based on assumptions concerning global, national and local conditions, said a senior official of the State Government.

The Fiscal Strategy Paper submitted to the Odisha Legislative Assembly recently points out that the framework takes into account variables such as global economic growth, inflation, volatility in the mining industry and specific fiscal risks, he said.

The objective of developing the MTFF is to use it as a reference for the preparation of the annual budget and fiscal

planning over the subsequent two years. It gives a clear and comprehensive sense of the fiscal strategy within the broad objectives of the FRBM

faster than national GDP growth, and among the fastest-growing State economies in India. As a result, the State's share of the national

environment. Downside risks to the growth projections stem from uncertainty in the global and national economic outlook. Slower



Act, said the official. The annual budget for the financial year 2022-23 is Rs. 2 lakh crore which is 17.6 percent more than the previous year budget estimate.

As per the MTFF, the budget size is projected to reach Rs. 2.25 lakh crore, Rs. 2.45 lakh crore and Rs. 2.65 lakh crore in FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26, respectively. It is estimated that the Programme Expenditure is set to increase from the budget estimate of Rs. 1 lakh crore in FY 2022-23 to Rs 1.45 lakh crore in FY 2025-26.

The Government has estimated that all the fiscal parameters of the State Government will remain within the limits set by the FRBM Act. Over the past eight years, Odisha's economy has grown at an average rate of 8.1 per cent. This has been

economy has grown to 2.5 per cent of GDP. For the period FY 2022-23 to 2024-25, the upward (best-case) scenario growth in GSDP is projected at 11, 9 and 9 per cent respectively. The most likely scenario is projected at 8 per cent each year, as per the Fiscal Strategy Paper.

In the downward (worst-case) scenario, Odisha's economy will grow at 7 per cent in the medium-term during the period from FY 2022-23 to 2024-25. Inflation (and growth in GSDP deflator) is projected at around 5 per cent during FY 2022-23 to 2024-25.

Although Odisha has registered impressive growth in recent years, the economy is vulnerable to natural calamities owing to its geographical location, dependence on natural resources and the exter-

growth in India's economy would reduce GSDP growth in Odisha due to weaker demand for Odisha's mining output and goods and services. Higher energy costs may have a cascading effect on supply chains and hence consumption, amid economic recovery, it said. As per the report, the mining sector accounts for 13 per cent of GSDP. Historically, this sector has driven the economic growth of the State. Its performance is heavily dependent on global metal prices and demand. It is also expected that the recovery "remains uneven across sectors".

High Inflation mostly due to higher energy prices and food articles will impact the private capital formation. If the trend continues, it will affect the GSDP in the medium term.

## 'BJP only national party today, others reduced to families, individuals': Nadda's jibe at Opposition

JAIPUR: The BJP is the only national party in India today as other parties have been reduced to just families and individu-

party and the rest of the parties have been reduced to families, dynasties and individuals. We should not worry about what

spokesperson of the party, Nadda asked public representatives and workers to establish dialogue with the public and

ing victory in the 2023 assembly elections".

BJP state president Satish Poonia, national general secretary and state in-charge Arun Singh, Leader of Opposition Gulabchand Kataria and state organisation general secretary Chandrashekhar were also present in the program.

Poonia said there is a "wave" against the Congress government in Rajasthan.

"People are in our favour. But it is more important that we form the BJP government with a thumping majority in 2023 and also win all 25 seats of Lok Sabha in 2024. We will dedicate this victory to Narendra Modi and JP Nadda." During the event, the Mewar region tribal society praised PM Modi for making Draupadi Murmu the NDA's presidential candidate.



als, BJP president JP Nadda said Tuesday. Being a national party, the BJP works on national interests and fulfilling local aspirations, he told the Rajasthan state BJP training camp at Mount Abu in Sirohi district.

He expressed confidence that the party will form the government in Rajasthan with a thumping majority in the assembly polls next year.

"In India, the BJP is the only national

we got from the party, but we should think about what we have given to the country, and to the party," Nadda told BJP workers.

He said the BJP is the only party which gives priority to 'nation first'.

"Our resolve should be the benefit of the country and the party, which will lead to our betterment. Whatever work is undertaken, should be completed on time." According to a

make efforts to solve their problems.

He said workers are very important for the party as due to their hard work the BJP gets respect and touches newer heights.

"Workers are our strength, our capital." He expressed hope that BJP office-bearers would take the knowledge and guidance from the training camp to workers down the rank "which will prove to be a milestone in achiev-

Bhubaneswar: On the request of Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Crime Branch, the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) has issued a look out circular against a Chinese national Liu Yi, the main accused in a fake mobile loan app scam.

A Look Out circular is generally issued to alert immigration check posts at airports/seaports etc. to alert law enforcement agencies if the wanted person tries to leave the country or arrive inside the country from abroad, said police officials.

The accused used to run many illegal mobile loan apps like KOKO Loan, JOJO Loan, Golden Lightning Loan, Silver Kredit Loan, Gold Cash loan, Little Borrow Loan, Tap Credit Loan, Kredit bear Loan, Speedy rupee Loan, Xpress credit Loan, Kredit Plan loan, etc. In one App alone there are more than 1.5 lakh

downloads. It is suspected that they have cheated/extorted lakhs of people across the country, particularly targeting lower middle-class people in need of small loan especially during the difficult time of Covid-19 pandemic, said the EOW officials.

The Chinese national has started his illegal business in India in 2019 from Bangalore. His parent company was Jianbing Technology in Hangzhou China. He is the director of Omlette technology private limited but indirectly controls/ owns eight other firms including IWT India, Ocean trading, Yellow Tune Technologies private limited and Techlite development private limited, they said.

The EOW officials also suspect that there are at least two more Chinese persons who used to assist him in his scam. They used to make his employees or any needy people directors of the shell

companies but actually used to control the companies and bank accounts.

The accused in support of the other duo also used many Call centers to make abusive calls to loanees. It is suspected that they are running such illegal loan apps in other countries too, especially in Thailand, further informed the officials.

In this case, the EOW has already arrested five accused accomplices of the Chinese mastermind. EOW is in touch with various state police and has conducted raids in Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi and frozen Rs 6.57 crore.

These fake loan apps once downloaded in one's mobile play store, small amounts ranging from Rs.3,000 to Rs.10,000 is credited in the customer's bank account. Once the amount is credited to the customer's bank account,

within a week the customer/borrower is asked to repay the amount with an excessive rate of interest.

On denial to pay the high rate of interest, the concerned customer is humiliated/ bullied in many ways. Obscene messages and indecent pictures along with abusive texts in filthy languages are sent to his/her whatsapp number and as well as to his/her contact list as a coercive measure to recover the loan amount with interest.

This process of recovery is so overbearing and humiliating that there are some instances of the customers committing suicide. There have already been more than 1.5 lakh downloads of KOKO and JOJO loans. EOW has received more than 100 complaints from Odisha related to illegal/ abusive activities of illegal Loan APP.






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## 53-year-old tradition: 'Mr Ballot Box' will travel by air again for presidential polls

NEW DELHI: The passenger manifests of some airlines will have a 'Mr Ballot Box' on the rolls. It's an actual ballot box, not a quirky traveller with a weird name!

The Election Commission has booked a 'Mr Ballot Box' in flights on Tuesday and Wednes-

The boxes and other documents are carried personally in the aircraft cabins -- never out of sight of accompanying officers -- the Commission added. When they reach Delhi, officials are also assisted at the helpdesk at the Delhi Airport, manned by the officials of the



day to send the vote container to different states for the July 18 presidential polls.

According to the Election Commission, a separate air ticket is booked in the name of 'Mr Ballot Box' as it travels on the front row of the aircraft. Seated beside 'Mr Ballot Box' are the assistant returning officers (ARO). The box travels under the personal supervision of the officer.

"The presidential elections involve a fascinating journey of the ballot box to states/union territories and return after polling," said the poll panel.

According to officials, the Commission had got a special permission from the civil aviation department in 1969 to enable the ballot boxes and other election materials to travel as passengers. 'Don't be a rubber stamp Rashtrapati': Yashwant Sinha urges rival Droupadi Murmu

After air travel, 'Mr Ballot Box' will be stored in previously sanitised and properly sealed strong rooms under strict videography in each state and union territory.

Once the poll is over, the sealed 'Mr Ballot Box' and other election material will be transported back to the Office of Returning Officer Rajya Sabha Secretariat by the next available flight.

## 9th incident in 24 days: SpiceJet's Dubai-Madurai flight delayed as nose wheel malfunctions

NEW DELHI: SpiceJet's Dubai-Madurai flight was delayed on Monday after the Boeing B737 Max

in its aircraft since June 19. The aviation regulator said the budget carrier had "failed" to establish

After the aircraft landed, an engineer did a walk-around inspection and found the nose wheel strut was compressed

SpiceJet flight SG23 operating from Dubai to Madurai was delayed due to a last-minute technical issue. Alternate air-



aircraft's nose wheel malfunctioned, Directorate General of Civil Aviation officials said.

Monday's incident is at least the ninth incident of technical malfunction in a SpiceJet aircraft in 24 days. On July 6, the DGCA issued a show-cause notice to SpiceJet following eight incidents of technical malfunction

safe, efficient, and reliable air services. On Monday, the Boeing B737 Max aircraft with registration number VT-SZK operated the Mangaluru-Dubai flight, DGCA officials noted.

SpiceJet director booked for allegedly duping businessman of lakhs, airline calls case 'frivolous'

more than usual, they said. The engineer, therefore, decided to ground the aircraft, the officials noted. The airline sent another aircraft from Mumbai to Dubai to operate the return Dubai-Madurai flight, they stated.

Asked about the matter, a SpiceJet spokesperson said, "On July 11, 2022,

craft was arranged immediately which brought passengers back to India." Some SpiceJet flights held up at Delhi airport briefly due to delay in daily payment to AAI "Flight delays can happen with any airline. There has been no incident or a safety scare on this flight," the spokesperson added.

## Retail inflation eases marginally to 7.01 per cent in June

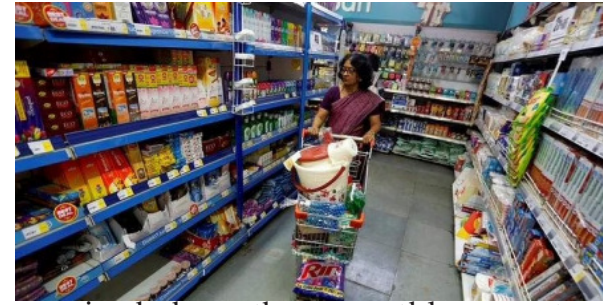
NEW DELHI: Retail inflation dropped marginally to 7.01 per cent in June mainly due to slight easing in prices of vegetables and pulses, though it still

rose to 10.39 per cent as against 9.54 per cent, while that for fruits increased to 3.10 per cent from 2.33 per cent. Last month, the Reserve Bank in its bi-

speaking at the Kautilya Economic Conclave exuded confidence that the price situation will gradually improve in the second half of the current fiscal.

He also said the central bank would continue to take monetary measures to an-

chor inflation with a view to achieving strong and sustainable growth. The Governor said price stability is key to maintaining macro-economic and financial stability and the central bank will undertake necessary measures for the same.



remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level for the sixth month in a row. The consumer price index (CPI) based inflation stood at 7.04 per cent in the preceding month of May and 6.26 per cent in June 2021.

Inflation in the food basket in June 2022 was 7.75 per cent, compared to 7.97 per cent in the previous month, as per the National Statistical Office (NSO) data released on Tuesday.

The RBI has the mandate to ensure that inflation remains at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. However, retail inflation is ruling above the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent since January 2022.

As per the data, the inflation print in vegetables eased to 17.37 per cent during the month from 18.26 per cent in May, while for 'pulses and products' it slowed to (-) 1.02 per cent against (-) 0.42 per cent.

However, the rate of price rise in 'cereals and products' moved up to 5.66 per cent, from 5.33 per cent in the preceding month. Inflation in the 'fuel and light' category

monthly monetary policy review raised the benchmark repo rate -- at which it lends short-term money to banks -- by a sharp 0.50 per cent to 4.90 per cent to rein in spiralling prices. It followed an off-cycle meeting on May 4, when the central bank hiked the repo rate by 0.40 per cent.

Governor Shaktikanta Das had said the global geopolitical situation remains fluid and commodity markets remain on the edge, rendering heightened uncertainty to the domestic inflation outlook.

However, certain positive developments such as expectations of a normal south-west monsoon and kharif agricultural season, recent supply side measures taken by the government as well as lifting of palm oil export ban by Indonesia may help ease the acute price pressures to some extent, he had said.

The RBI also raised its retail inflation forecast for the current financial year to 6.7 per cent from its previous estimate of 5.7 per cent.

On Saturday, the RBI Governor while

## Maha Lakshmi Offered Rasagolla

Continued from page-1

days, the dish was known as 'Khira Mohan' in the temple which is same as Rasagolla."

Mr. Mohanty said: "Our Rasagolla is totally different from that of Bengal. The Rasagolla in Bengal came into existence in 1868 while the same sweet dish dates back to about 500 years ago. There is mention of Rasagolla in Dani Ramayan written by Balaram Das."

"The Rasagolla is there in Odisha as long as Ratha Jatra is there. Lakhs of people have seen on television channels devotees offering Rasagolla to Lord Jagannath on his return from Ratha Jatra. There should not be a debate on the origin of Rasagolla. Let Bengal enjoy its Rasagolla and we ours." Mr. Mohanty pointed out.

The Rasagolla Divas is, however, been celebrated in the state since 2015, the year when Lord Jagannath's Nabakalebara festival was held in that year.

Taking to twitter Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said: "It is a unique tradition in the Jagannath culture where Mahaprabhu offers Rasagolla to Maa Lakshmi in order to convenience her. Rasagolla has a special place in Odia dishes."

Tagging a picture, Mr. Patnaik greeted the people of Odisha on the occasion of Rasagolla Divas.

Padma Shri awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik also took to Twitter and shared the pictures of his beautiful creations on the occasion of Niladri Bije.

"Jai Jagannath... On the pious occasion of #NiladriBije, Mahaprabhu Jagannath while returning to Ratna Singhasan, offers Rasagolla to #MahaLakshmi. My sand art at Puri beach in Odisha for this unique ritual. #RasagollaDibasa," Mr. Patnaik said in his twitter post.

## 2.65L Cr Budget by 2025-26

Continued from page-1

inflation, volatility in the mining industry and specific fiscal risks, he said.

The objective of developing the MTFF is to use it as a reference for the preparation of the annual budget and fiscal planning over the subsequent two years. It gives a clear and comprehensive sense of the fiscal strategy within the broad objectives of the FRBM Act, said the official.

The annual budget for the financial year 2022-23 is Rs. 2 lakh crore which is 17.6 per cent more than the previous year budget estimate. As per the MTFF, the budget size is projected to reach Rs. 2.25 lakh crore, Rs. 2.45 lakh crore and Rs. 2.65 lakh crore in FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26, respectively.

It is estimated that the Programme Expenditure is set to increase from the budget estimate of Rs. 1 lakh crore in FY 2022-23 to Rs 1.45 lakh crore in FY 2025-26.

The Government has estimated that all the fiscal parameters of the State Government will remain within the limits set by the FRBM Act.

Over the past eight years, Odisha's economy has grown at an average rate of 8.1 per cent. This has been faster than national GDP growth, and among the fastest-growing State economies in India. As a result, the State's share of the national economy has grown to 2.5 per cent of GDP.

For the period FY 2022-23 to 2024-25, the upward (best-case) scenario growth in GSDP is projected at 11, 9 and 9 per cent respectively. The most likely scenario is projected at 8 per cent each year, as per the Fiscal Strategy Paper.

In the downward (worst-case) scenario, Odisha's economy will grow at 7 per cent in the medium-term during the period from FY 2022-23 to 2024-25. Inflation (and growth in GSDP deflator) is projected at around 5 per cent during FY 2022-23 to 2024-25.

Although Odisha has registered impressive growth in recent years, the economy is vulnerable to natural calamities owing to its geographical location, dependence on natural resources and the external environment.

Downside risks to the growth projections stem from uncertainty in the global and national economic outlook. Slower growth in India's economy would reduce GSDP growth in Odisha due to weaker demand for Odisha's mining output and goods and services. Higher energy costs may have a cascading effect on supply chains and hence consumption, amid economic recovery, it said.

As per the report, the mining sector accounts for 13 per cent of GSDP. Historically, this sector has driven the economic growth of the State. Its performance is heavily dependent on global metal prices and demand. It is also expected that the recovery "remains uneven across sectors".

High Inflation mostly due to higher energy prices and food articles will impact the private capital formation. If the trend continues, it will affect the GSDP in the medium term.

## 'Short-cut politics can result in short-circuit of nation': PM Modi attacks Opposition

Continued from page-1

build model airports, new highways and medical colleges in various districts.

Discussing the projects unveiled by him, Modi said his government at the Centre ensures that it inaugurates those projects for which foundation stones are laid by it.

This is the BJP's model of governance, he asserted. Earlier, projects were announced by one dispensation, foundation stones were laid by successive governments, and finally those saw light of the day after several regimes.



## ICC Women's ODI rankings: Harmanpreet, Mandhana rises after splendid show in Sri Lanka

DUBAI: Indian women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur climbed one place to 13th



while her deputy Smriti Mandhana placed ninth in the ICC Women's ODI rankings released here on Tuesday.

Harmanpreet scored 119 runs at an average of 59.50 and picked three wickets in India's 3-0 sweep of Sri Lanka in the recently-concluded ODI series. She was also named the Player of the Series for her solid all-around performance.

Mandhana also had a decent show against the Lankans, scoring 104 runs in three matches at an average of 52.

## ENG v IND First ODI: India opts to field against England

LONDON: India captain Rohit Sharma opted to field after winning the toss in

some time. We want to have a score in front of us. Shami, Bumrah - those guys

said, "We would have done the same thing, we would have bowled first. I am

likely to play his 150th ODI match. Teams: India: Rohit Sharma (c), Shikhar



the first ODI against England here on Tuesday.

Former skipper Virat Kohli has pulled out of the match after sustaining a groin strain, and Shreyas Iyer has been picked in his place.

Speaking at the toss, Rohit said, "We are going to bowl first. There is some grass cover and it's overcast as well. I guess the sun will be out in

can swing the ball. It's important to take wickets up front and put brakes on the scoring. We understand the importance of playing overseas, we want to do well outside India. Today is no different. We have five batters and two all-rounders. Kohli is not playing this game, Shreyas will bat at 3." Meanwhile, England skipper Jos Buttler

learning a lot about myself, and about my role. Looking forward to the ODI series, it has been a learning experience. It's great to welcome those guys back. They are few of the best players in the world. There are a lot of selfless guys in the team, that will be exactly the same today."

ALSO READ : Shikhar Dhawan

Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Yuzvendra Chahal and Prasad Krishna. England: Jason Roy, Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler (capt & wk), Liam Livingstone, Moeen Ali, Craig Overton, David Willey, Brydon Carse and Reece Topley.

## The guy is a genius but needs advice from Freud: McEnroe on Kyrgios

Three-time Wimbledon champion John McEnroe said Tuesday that controversial Australian Nick Kyrgios "needs Sigmund Freud" to sort out the "demons" in his game.

Kyrgios carved a sometimes thrilling, often controversial path to the final at the All England Club where he lost in four sets on Sunday to Novak Djokovic.

A series of outbursts saw the 27-year-old fined and he was described as "evil" and "a bully" by third round opponent Stefanos Tsitsipas. But there was some impressive and inventive hitting, not least in the final, where he clattered 30 aces and 62 winners in total.

"The guy is a genius out there the way he plays," McEnroe told the BBC, adding that Kyrgios needed some advice from the father of psychoanalysis.

"He needs Sigmund Freud to come out of the grave and somehow figure out a way to keep this guy

going for a couple of years because we could use him."

"It's unbelievable, he moves the needle for us in tennis. We need this big time but we don't need him to try half the time."

Off court the world number 45, who has admitted to 'tanking' during matches, also faces a court hearing in Canberra next month in relation to an allegation of common assault.

'Demons'

"He's a good kid, the players like him, he's well liked in the locker room, he does a lot of charity work," said McEnroe in mitigation.

"But he's got demons you know, in a way -- we all have this fear of failure and it's a question of how you best deal with it."

McEnroe, a seven-time Grand Slam winner, was himself no stranger to controversy in his career, often lapsing into pantomime histrionics on court in a bid to raise his own game.

The other Indian batters who have progressed in the rankings chart are Shafali Verma (three places to 33rd), Yastika Bhatia (up one place to 45th) and bowling-all rounder Pooja Vastrakar (up eight places to 53rd). Among the bowlers, Rajeshwari Gayakwad was up three places to joint-ninth, Meghna Singh (up four places to 43rd) and Vastrakar (up two places to joint-48th) have also made some progress.

Veteran Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami, who did not feature in the white-ball assignments against Sri Lanka, held on to her sixth position in the bowler's list.

The batting chart is headed by Australian Alyssa Healy followed by England's Natalie Sciver, while Englishwoman Sophie Ecclestone and South African Shabnim Ismail continue to take the first and second spots respectively in bowling.

## FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 Volunteer Programme launched

NAVI MUMBAI: Volunteers are the heart and soul of any tournament was the clarion call from the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 as the Volunteer Programme for India's first-ever FIFA women's competition launched. The FIFA Volunteer programme encourages people from all backgrounds and all walks of life to register to become a part of the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022. The tournament will take place across Bhubaneswar, Goa and Navi Mumbai in India between October 11 and 30.

Labelling the chance to become a volun-

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India

the country, through the volunteer



teer as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, the LOC Project Directors Nandini Arora and Ankush Arora issued a joint statement: "Volunteers are the heart and soul of any tournament, and it gives us great pleasure that the volunteer programme of the

2022™ is officially open. We would like to encourage everyone interested in learning about major sporting events' operations to fill out the application form. India's first-ever FIFA women's competition is creating more opportunities for young women in

programme, and live what will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience." As many as 600 volunteer posts across different functional areas are now available at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 and the deadline to apply for the same is July 31.

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