

Quick response vehicles for Fire Service



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha Fire Service Directorate has decided to deploy PCR type pre-positioning of quick response unit vehicles for towns and villages where big fire service vehicles cannot move for quick response.

Will start soon PCR type pre-positioning of quick response unit vehicles (207 types) in Odisha cities to attend inaccessible/ narrow approach roads like unit 1,2,4 etc of Bhubaneswar, Chhatra Bazar of Cuttack etc promptly, said SK Upadhyay, DGP, Fire Services.

Bigger vehicles face problems due to constricted access. So, on such routes, the small vehicles can quickly respond. Initially, one unit will be deployed during evening hours from 6 pm to 9:30 PM, Mr.Upadhyay said. It is part of public outreach to provide effective

public service under Mo Sarkar and 5T mandate. Such service has been rolled out in Mumbai, but new in Odisha, informed the DGP Fire Services.

"We will be putting five units exclusively for Kalpana and Secretariat Fire Stations. Similarly, five other units will be deployed in Cuttack city," he added.

According to sources, the quick response multi-purpose vehicles will be fitted with modern fire-fighting equipment including a water mist fire fighting system and with various rescue equipment, a hose reel of 30 meters, breathing apparatus sets and a foam tank.

These vehicles will be stationed at mini fire stations for a quick response especially in case of fire reported in slums or congested areas.

'Situation in India similar to what it was in Sri Lanka few years ago, Centre needs to act': Congress

MUMBAI(KCN): The Maharashtra Congress on Wednesday claimed that the current economic



situation in India is similar to what it was in Sri Lanka three years ago and if corrective steps are not taken by the Centre in time it may become explosive.

The Congress accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led central government of not resolving the serious problems faced by the people and instead raking up religious and communal issues, and also alleged that the Modi dispensation was painting a wrong picture that inflation is under control.

"While inflation is on the rise, the BJP government is misleading the people by presenting a false picture before the country," Congress's state unit chief spokesman Atul Londhe said in a statement.

The prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed in the last four-five years.

In a city like Nagpur, an LPG gas cylinder, which would once cost Rs 410, has gone up to Rs 1,100; the price edible oil has gone up from Rs 70 to Rs 200 a litre, of CNG from Rs 36 to Rs 90 per kg, he said.

The prices of petrol and diesel have crossed the Rs 100-mark a long ago.

Vegetables are also turning costlier.

Inflation is on the rise and the common man is being burdened under it, Londhe added.

The situation in India is similar to what it was in the crisis-hit Sri Lanka three years ago and if steps are not taken in time considering the gravity, it will not take long for the situation in the country to become explosive, he claimed.

"But the government is playing with the numbers to paint a wrong picture that inflation is under control. Attempts are being made to show that inflation has come down by reducing some food grain figures. The government can show a false picture by playing with numbers, but in reality the situation is very different," he said.

Today, India's debt has CONTINUED ON: P-7

Modi to join Biden at I2U2 virtual summit tomorrow

New Delhi/Washington (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the four-nation India-Israel-US-UAE (I2U2) virtual summit to be held on Thursday, New Delhi announced on Tuesday. He will participate in the summit along with US President Joe Biden, Israel's new Prime Minister Yair Lapid and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

President Biden will be hosting the first-ever I2U2 summit during his visit to Israel later this week, which begins on Wednesday. "I2" stands for India and Israel, while "U2" stands for the United States and the UAE. During his Middle East trip, Mr Biden will also visit Saudi Arabia.

The four leaders will discuss "joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security", and the group "intends to mobilise private sector capital and expertise to help modernise the infrastructure, low carbon development pathways for our industries, improve public health and promote the



development of critical emerging and green

Odisha speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha urges members for smooth functioning of Assembly

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Speaker of the Odisha Assembly Bikram Keshari Arukha on Tuesday requested members of all political parties to ensure smooth functioning of the House during the second phase which begins on Wednesday.

The Assembly will be in session till July 30. Besides the General Budget which will be passed by the House on July 30, demand for grants of different departments will also be approved after discussion during the second phase from July 14 to July 28.

The first week of the second phase has gained importance as voting for the Presidential election will be held in the confer-

ence hall of the Assembly on July 18. As the ruling BJD and the main Oppo-



sition BJP will be on the same side till the Presidential election is over, the Congress will try to take advantage from the situation.

Leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Narasingh Mishra told mediapersons that the party will raise several issues including the problems faced by

farmers, distress sale of paddy, growing unemployment in the State

and the police inaction to nab the culprits behind the alleged suicide of a girl student of BJB college here. Mishra condemned the police for forcibly removing the victim's mother who was agitating in front of the college demanding justice for her daughter. Questioning the police move in dragging the

woman from the site, he asked who gave them the right to do so. They could

have spoken to her, calmed her down, Mishra said and added that the issue will be raised in the house. Government chief whip Prashant Muduli said that the House will run as per schedule during the second phase. He said that the ruling party is ready for discussion on each and every issue to be raised by the Opposition members.

'Military crackdown on protesters could worsen situation': Experts on Sri Lanka crisis

NEW DELHI(KCN): The situation in Sri

political phase after President Gotabaya

ity, they said. Rajapaksa and his

the acting President and hours later he ordered military and police to do whatever is required to restore law and order in the country.



"The situation is very uncertain at this point. It is very important that political anarchy is avoided, but at the same time any intervention by military and police through any crackdown could further worsen the situation," Ambassador Ashok K Kantha told. Kantha served as Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka from 2009 to 2013. "The situation is very CONTINUED ON: P-7

Lanka is very fragile and any military crackdown on protesters could further worsen the overall atmosphere, strategic affairs experts warned on Wednesday as the island nation looks at a new

Rajapaksa fled the country following months of protests. It is very important that political anarchy is avoided in Sri Lanka and all the stakeholders must work together to restore political stabil-

wife fled to the Maldives bowing to months of mass protests over the island nation's worst economic crisis in decades. Rajapaksa appointed Prime Minister Wickremesinghe as

technologies", the MEA said.

Briefing reporters in Washington on Monday night, US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the summit will focus on food security and the global food and energy crisis arising out of the Ukraine conflict. Earlier, on Sunday, US secretary of state Antony Blinken had said that Russia's aggression in Ukraine has impacted the entire world, including probably in Sri Lanka. "I think we are seeing that impact around the world, and it may be one of the contributing factors to what's happened in Sri Lanka, although I think there were, as I've just said, many others that have come together."

In a statement on CONTINUED ON: P-7



The pages depicts

Dwit David Philip

Yes it's an earth quack, I am shaken,
Yes it's a cyclone in the midnight, I am frightened,
Yes it's a thundering and lightening night my soul severed,
Yes it's a fall of boomed on me, it damaged deep down,
Yes it's a tornado I felt, I can't stop,
Yes it's a stamped, I am bruised, all over, almost dead before I can rise,

Ohh,
Never faced, all these together,
Calamities to me at a time !

Innocent and tender around these,

Wildfire brok out within me, the natural grace to use the weapon against the odds,

Enjoyed it with, as not from one side.

Flooded all over, wet I am, I see.

K7/79, Grace PhyDwit David Philisiotherapy,, Kalinga Bihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha



Quotation of the Day

"Just think of any negativity that comes at you as a raindrop falling into the ocean of your bliss."



Beyond buffets and slots: Casinos double down on fine art

Hoping to expand their appeal beyond the slot machine and buffet crowd, some casinos are turning to fine art galleries or exhibitions to bring in new business from customers who might not otherwise visit a gambling hall. Our best subscription plan now has a special price

In the process, they are helping not only broaden their own customer bases, but are also putting

producing them digitally and projecting them onto screens, walls and floors.

art and artworks, paintings, casinos, paintings in casinos, fine art in casinos, famous artworks, experiencing art, indian express news An image from the "Beyond Van Gogh" exhibit is projected onto a wall at the Hard Rock casino in Atlantic City. (AP Photo/Wayne Parry) "The whole point of an experience like this is to bring

Atlantic City. (AP Photo/Wayne Parry)

Other casinos are doing likewise. The Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art in Las Vegas has displayed works by Picasso, Monet, Warhol, Titian and Van Gogh.

The Palms Casino Resort features modern art pieces from Jean-Michel Basquiat, Richard Prince and Andy Warhol, and numerous street artists.

MGM's Aria Resort features public art includ-

Jennifer Steinkamp, Charlie Ahn, Robert Indiana and Not Vital.

UK climate activists glue themselves to masterpieces

"Many guests are intrigued once they realize the breath of the collection," said Renee Mutchnik, a spokesperson for the casino. "We believe that any appreciator of the arts would be impressed by our art pieces, and we are always looking for opportunities to promote the collection."



new eyeballs in front of some of the world's great works of art.

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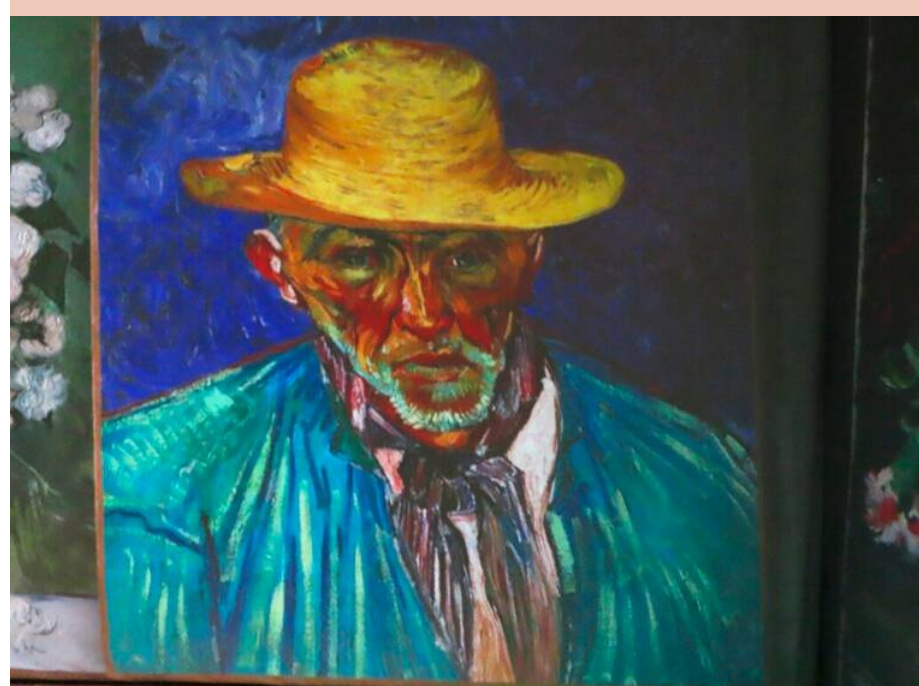
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India's demography at crossroads: Elderly may outnumber the youth

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Behind the Art: Why is 'Weeping Woman' by Picasso considered an icon of Cubism Movement?



One such effort began Friday at Atlantic City's Hard Rock casino, where the highly acclaimed "Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience" exhibit opened. The 30,000-square-foot display uses over 300 of Van Gogh's works, re-

people in," said Fanny Curtat, the exhibit's art historian. "For a lot of people, museums are intimidating. It's all about exploring and having more ways of experiencing art."

Joe Lupo, the casino's president, said casinos need to appeal to as broad a range of potential customers as possible.

art and artworks, paintings, casinos, paintings in casinos, fine art in casinos, famous artworks, experiencing art, indian express news An image from the "Beyond Van Gogh" exhibit is projected onto a wall at the Hard Rock casino in Atlantic City. (AP Photo/Wayne Parry)

"You need to try different experiential things to help the city acquire new visitation, whether it's art or some other experience to acquire that person who doesn't look at Atlantic City as just a gaming destination," he said. "The Van Gogh exhibit has been successful in every major market in the country, and Atlantic City needs to be looked at as one of those major markets. I think it elevates the city and the property with such a high-profile exhibit."

Black parade culture museum reopening in New Orleans

The walk-through exhibit projects Van Gogh's artwork onto the walls and floor of a viewing room, with images growing and flowing into one another: cherry trees, for example, sprout and grow blossoms, that then blow away in the breeze. Shimmering walls of color dissolve and flow into other shapes and images all

around the viewer. art and artworks, paintings, casinos, paintings in casinos, fine art in casinos, famous artworks, experiencing art, indian express news Spectators view an image from the "Beyond Van Gogh" exhibit at the Hard Rock casino in At-



ing sculptures by artists including Antony Gormley, Richard Long and Henry Moore.

art and artworks, paintings, casinos, paintings in casinos, fine art in casinos, famous artworks, experiencing art, indian express news A specta-

tor takes a cell phone photo during a preview of the "Beyond Van Gogh" exhibit at Hard Rock casino in Atlantic City, N.J. (AP Photo/Wayne Parry)

The Hippodrome Casino in London in 2013 appointed a digital artist in residence, Thomas D Gray, and offers a competition for U.K. artists to have their works displayed there.

Maryland's Live! Casino & Hotel has an art collection curated by Suzi Cordish, whose husband owns the casino. The collection includes more than 40 works by artists including Warhol,

Photo/Wayne Parry)

Placing fine art in casinos benefits not only the gambling halls by appealing to new customers, according to Curtat, the Van Gogh exhibit historian. She said it also helps create new art lovers.

"It might seem like an unlikely pairing, but if anybody gets out of this a feeling that they have this connection with Van Gogh, maybe the next time they are in New York they'll want to go to (The Museum of Modern Art) and see the actual 'Starry Night' on the museum wall," Curtat said. "That will be a win."

Photo/Wayne Parry)

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



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

her over a decade-long career.

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

"I'm really thrilled to be part of

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

brand 7Up's new campaign, 7Up Ponneram.

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

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

even today," she said.

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

On the career front, Kajal is keenly looking forward to the release of "Paris Paris", the Tamil re-

make of Kangana Ranaut's "Queen".

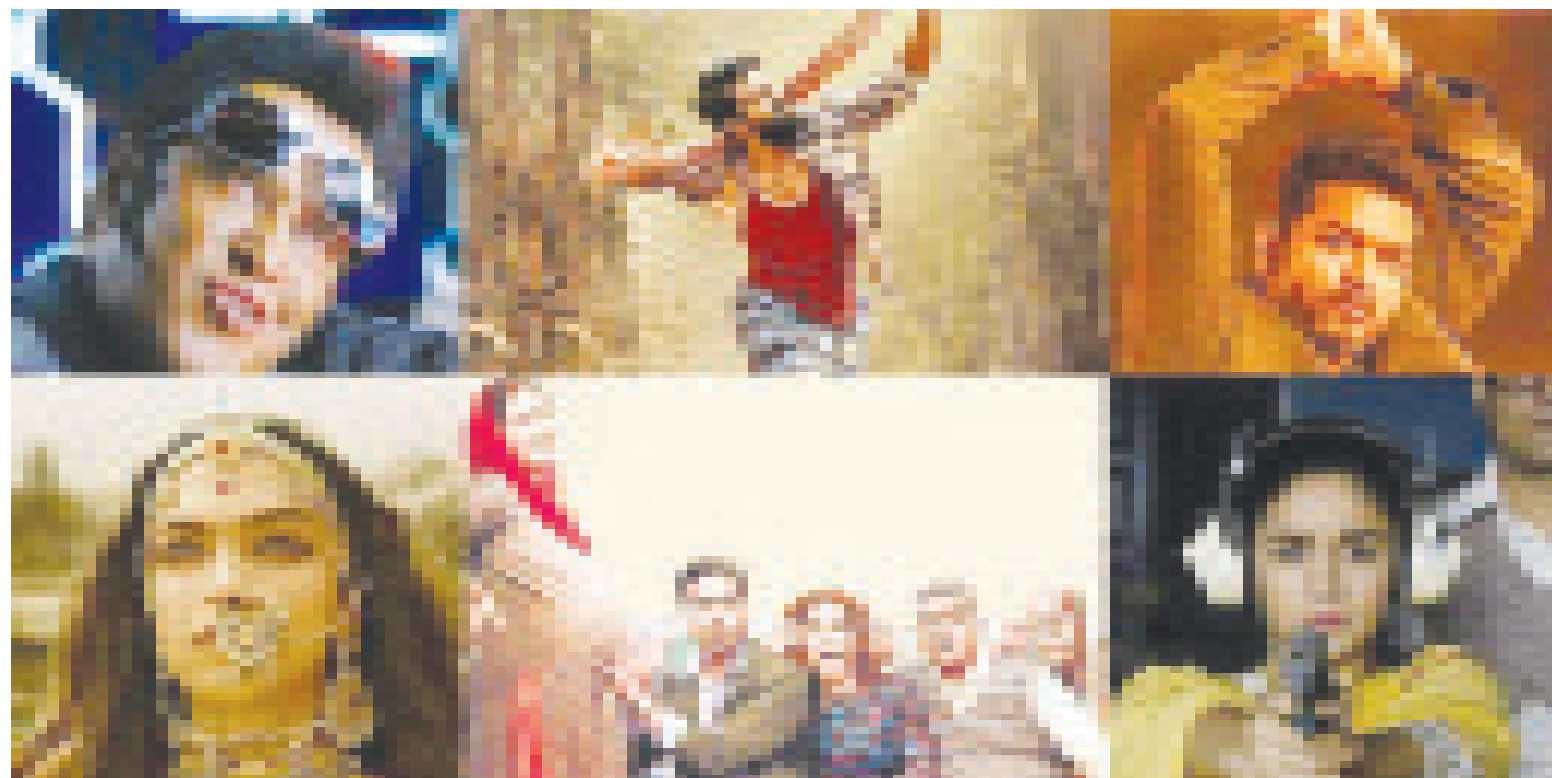
"Paris Paris" will be Kajal's first release of 2019.

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

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

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

of controversies. Yet some movies shined amid the storm.



box office and was declared as 'double blockbuster' film. The movie showed the different phases

fuss, the movie became a blockbuster at the box office, earning Rs 293 crore. 4. Race 3:

edly misrepresenting AIADMK's late leader J Jayalalithaa and the government freebie schemes.. A

having strong star cast including Aamir Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, Katrina Kaif. The film re-

man facing embarrassment in society as his mother gets pregnant. Watching this movie will hurt your belly from laughing but it leaves you with a thought to ponder.

9. Rangasthalam:

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

10. Raazi:

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

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

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

MUMBAI (KCN): Actor Adil Hussain has offered support to the growing group of female artists who are asking the reason for women's absence from the Bollywood delegation of producers and actors that recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues faced by the film industry.

Modi to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage.

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

of controversies. Yet some movies shined amid the storm.

According to IMDb, here's the list of ten movies that performed well in the box office last year.

1. 2.0:

It won't be an exaggeration to call 2.0 as India's 'Superhero' movie. True to that, Kollywood and Bollywood superheroes Rajinikanth and Akshay Kumar played the lead roles in the movie. The movie has so far earned over Rs 700 crore worldwide already and is still running successfully in theatres. Directed by Shankar, who's known to make magnificent movies, 2.0 comes with a social message for people on why one should reduce the use of mobile phones. Also, it is the first Tamil film to enter the 700 crore club. If you haven't watched the film yet, book your tickets right away!

2. Sanju:

Sanjay Dutt's biopic 'Sanju' minted Rs 340 crore at the

of the controversial actor Sanjay Dutt, which really didn't go well with some organisations. RSS openly criticised the movie in their mouth piece 'Panchjanya.' However, the movie became a huge hit in no time. It's definitely Ranbir Kapoor's best work ever. The movie was a comeback for both the reel and real Sanjus.

3. Padmaavat:

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

'Our business is our business, none of your business' line from the movie took the internet by storm and hundreds of memes were made on it. Based on relationship and royalties, this is the first film in the series that Salman Khan was a part of. Race 3 was critically panned and failed to do the expected business. But in spite of being a flop, it managed to mint Rs 166 crore in the box office.

5. Sarkar:

Sarkar's plot is about a successful businessman from the USA coming to India to cast his vote on election day. To his shock, he finds out that his vote has already been cast by someone else. So he decides to take up a political battle against the miscreants and how he survives the race makes the rest of the story. Directed by AR Murugadoss, the movie got into a huge row and was criticised by the ruling Tamil Nadu government for alleg-

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

6. Baaghi 2:

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

7. Thugs of Hindostan:

The film set in the 18th century earned Rs 130 crore in the box office against the 275 crore budget ending up a huge disaster at the box office despite

National budgets need to take Gender into account

Gender budgeting is a public finance management tool in which governments analyse fiscal policy in terms of its differing effects on men and women. Gender budgeting identifies policies that are unequal as well as opportunities to spend money on helping women and which have a high return.



Pradeep Kumar Panda

Designing fiscal policies to support gender equality is good for growth. Many country governments pride themselves on pursuing policies that promote gender equality. However, they fail to live up to its word. The government does not set out to discriminate. Rather, it overlooks its own bias because it does not take the trouble to assess how policies affect women. Government budgets are supposed to be "gender-neutral"; in fact they are gender-ignorant.

In poorer countries, the bias can be more explicit. When Uganda first looked at its budget through a gender lens, it discovered that little of the spending on agriculture was going to support women farmers, though they did most of the work.

What may sound simply like feminism infiltrating fiscal policy is thus also about efficiency. Gender budgeting is good budgeting, argues Janet Stotsky, who led an IMF survey of such efforts around the world. You don't have to be a feminist to accept that investing in girls' education or in women's labour-force participation will generate a high return on investment.

Such a utilitarian approach appeals to finance ministries in a way that pious talk of "women's empowerment" may not. Ministries can fail to grasp how their budgets affect women and girls. In developing countries, for instance, investment in clean water and electricity eases housework, freeing time for mothers to earn money and for girls to go to school. Cutting funding may save money in the short

term, but when women spend their days fetching water, growth suffers.

There are plenty of examples of the idea in action. In Rwanda spending aimed at keeping girls in school—such as providing basic sanitation—has led to higher enrolment. In India the use of gender budgeting in a state is a better indicator of girls' school attendance than higher incomes. In South Korea a lack of child care has forced women to choose between work and family.

Both female labour-force participation and fertility rates are low—a poor formula for growth in an ageing country. Gender budgeting helped the government design programmes to reduce the burden of care on women. Around the world, safer transport systems can ease the vast, often unseen, burden of violence against women and girls—in medical costs, and lost productivity and labour, as they are prevented from working or learning.

Gender budgeting has won the backing of international financial institutions. Diana Elson once took the IMF and the World Bank to task for their bias, arguing that austerity forced on countries seeking funds in the 1980s imposed heavy burdens on women. Now the World Bank backs gender budgeting. The IMF used not to see promoting sexual equality as its job, but Christine Lagarde, its managing director, now wants gender-budgeting to play a role in the advice it gives to member countries.

Not everything has gone well for gender budgeting, however. Some initiatives have proved half-hearted, short-lived or prey to party politics. Egypt introduced the concept in 2009, encouraged by international donors; when the donors left, it petered out. Australia was the first country to have gender budgeting. But today's conservative government saw it as left-leaning and anti-austerity and dropped it in 2014, the year after it took office.

Other countries have issued sexual-equality statements and begun tracking data, but have not changed budget allocations. Much of their

reluctance can be put down to bureaucratic inertia—and the

sheer difficulty of the process of tracking who gets what. Fiscal policy is based on the market economy, which generates cash, and ignores women's unpaid labour, and the extent to which it limits their work in the market economy. Rather than rethink the system, governments rely on equal-opportunity laws to cut inequality—though the evidence is that they do not.

It is easy to be cynical about government—and rarely does such cynicism go unrewarded. Take, for instance, policy towards women. Some politicians declare that they value women's unique role, which can be shorthand for keeping married women at home looking after the kids. Others create whole ministries devoted to policies for women, which can be a device for parking women's issues on the periphery of policy where they cannot do any harm. Still others, who may actually mean what they say, pass laws giving women equal opportunities to men. Yet decreeing an end to discrimination is very different from bringing it about.

Amid this tangle of evasion, half-promises and wishful thinking, some policymakers have embraced a technique called gender budgeting. It not only promises to do a lot of good for women, but carries a lesson for advocates of any cause: the way to a government's heart is through its pocket.

At its simplest, gender budgeting sets out to quantify how policies affect women and men differently (see article). That seemingly trivial step converts exhortation about treating women fairly into the coin of government: costs and benefits, and investments and returns. You don't have to be a feminist to recognise, as Austria did, that the numbers show how lowering income tax on second earners will encourage women to join the labour force, boosting growth and tax revenues. Or that cuts to programmes designed to reduce domestic violence would be a false economy, because they would cost so much in medical treatment and lost

workdays.

As well as identifying opportunities and errors, gender budgeting brings women's issues right to the heart of government, the ministry of finance. Governments routinely bat away sensible policies that lack a champion when the money is handed out. But if judgments about what makes sense for women (and the general good) are being formed within the finance ministry itself, then the battle is half-won.

Gender budgeting is not new. Feminist economists have argued for it since the 1980s. A few countries, such as Australia and South Africa, took it up, though efforts waxed and waned with shifts in political leadership—it is seen as left-wing and anti-austerity. The Nordic countries were pioneers in the West; Sweden, with its self-declared "feminist government", may be the gold standard. Now, egged on by the World Bank, the UN and the IMF, more governments are taking an interest. They should sign on as the results are worth having.

Partly because South Korea invested little in social care, women had to choose between having children, which lowers labour-force participation, or remaining childless, which reduces the country's fertility rate. Gender budgeting showed how, with an ageing population, the country gained from spending on care. Rwanda found that investment in clean water not only curbed disease but also freed up girls, who used to fetch the stuff, to go to school. Ample research confirms that leaving half a country's people behind is bad for growth. Violence against women; failing to educate girls properly; unequal pay and access to jobs: all take an economic toll.

Inevitably there are difficulties. Dividing a policy's costs and benefits between men and women can be hard. Sometimes, as with lost hours of school, the costs have to be estimated. Redesigning the budgeting process upends decades of practice. If every group pressing for change took the same approach, it would become unmanageable. In a way, though, that is the point. Governments find it easy to pay lip-service to women's rights. Doing something demands tough choices.

The Author is an Economist

Presidential Election in India- A Celebration

In the upcoming presidential election in India, Draupadi Murmu, a candidate for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, will face



Pratap Kishore Mohanty

Yashwant Sinha, a candidate for the opposition. As the BJP and its allies have the numbers to put Murmu in the lead, she is predicted to win the race. The Indian Constitution requires, in Article 62(1), that "an election to fill a vacancy caused by the end of the term of office of President shall be completed before the expiration of the term." The term of current President Ram Nath Kovind expires on July 25. On July 18, a presidential election will take place. On that day, an electoral college made up of elected members of both houses of parliament and legislatures from every state and union territory in India will cast their votes. The results of the election will be announced on July 21, and the 15th president of India will take office on July 25.

Sinha, a former BJP leader who has previously held the finance and external affairs positions, was chosen as the opposition's candidate. Murmu, the candidate chosen by the BJP-led coalition, is a member of the Santhal tribe. As a former governor of the state of Jharkhand, she has opposed laws that were unjust to tribal groups. The BJP lost control of Jharkhand as Murmu's term as governor came to an end in 2017.

[* File contains invalid data | In-line.JPG



*]Since Murmu's candidacy was announced, BJP members have been praising her. Adesh Gupta, the head of the BJP's Delhi branch, identified her as the leadership of the party's best choice in an interview with The Diplomat. He stated, "Madam Murmu has worked very hard in life and deserves this chance to guide the development of the indigenous community. Regarding Sinha, the former BJP leader has been making forceful statements about the

authority and role of the president in the Indian democratic

system since his name was floated as the opposition's presidential candidate. He recently stated in an address that the nation shouldn't have a "rubber-stamp president." The battle is not between two individuals, he said, but between two ideologies.

Former union minister Sinha has said that the BJP-led administration is heading down a path that is bad for the nation. With its new programme for military recruitment,

the government has "joked" about the unemployed youth who it claims are "suffering" and are "young people." They have no long-term job security under the recently revealed Agnipath programme. Previously, Sinha has phoned as well. The outgoing president of India, Kovind, has backed

the BJP government's divisive and virulently anti-people policies and politics. Kovind has worked hand in hand with the BJP government to stifle the pro-people spirit of India's democracy, doing everything from rescinding constitutional rights and guarantees promised to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to applauding the anti-Muslim and discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act and giving his assent to contentious farm

laws that were eventually rolled back.

For Dalits and other members of lower castes across India, Dr. Kovind's election to the office of president was considered as a positive development. The lives of Dalits in the country, however, have not much improved during his time in office since they continue to experience violence and are compelled to live in poverty. Analysts believe Murmu will triumph handily. The BJP is anticipated to receive support from its regional allies, including the Biju Janata Dal, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, and the Yuva Jana Shramika Rythu Congress Party in the presidential election, in addition to its significant presence in the national parliament and state legislatures. Contrary to the BJP-led coalition, which firmly supports Murmu, sources in the Congress Party informed The Diplomat that Sinha's candidacy for president is not well-liked among many members of the opposition Congress-led United Progressive Alliance. India is preparing for the first time to have a tribal woman as its president.

Murmu will have a lot of difficulties in his role as president. Will she ultimately acquiesce in silence to every law and policy the Narendra Modi administration sends her way? India's social structure and democracy are in ruins. Will she criticise the government if it doesn't uphold the values outlined in the constitution? Will she, most importantly, stand out against companies' wrongful and unlawful seizure of native land? At this point, it appears doubtful.

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Motivational Strips Founder Conducts Seminar for SET Students and faculty

Bangalore(KCN): The students, profes-

The interesting seminar highlighted some

makes or breaks the people around it, and

note that her latest poetry book titled "Poetic Nectar" along with a poetry anthology written by students from India and abroad titled "The Surgeons" was launched by the founder of Motivational Strips.

The CEO of Soundarya Educational Trust Mr Keerthan Kumar thanked Author Shiju H Pallithazheth for having taken time from his hectic schedules to empower the faculty members along with high school, graduate and post graduate students of Soundarya Educational Trust.

Dr . Pratiksha Keerthan Kumar, managing trustee of SET, expressed confidence on the positive future of academic students after having heard the motivational inputs delivered by Mr Shiju during the session. She added that such seminars could awaken the productive needs of worldwide students and teachers.



sors, lecturers and teachers were thrilled after having participated in the one hour seminar conducted by Mr Shiju H. Pallithazheth, founder of Motivational Strips, the world's most active writers forum. The academy hall of Soundarya Educational Trust was filled with representatives of media, SET management, faculty members and high school students. Mr Shiju conducted the seminar on a wise topic which he had titled as "A Synopsis Of Knowing Self".

powerful realizations on human empowerment and society. The key content matters spoke about people wasting time to criticize others while much productivity could be achieved by spending that time in criticizing oneself. He also highlighted that one could only approach growth when one wants to learn more. Success culminates with greed for knowledge and understanding the people around. He also spoke on some key facts which highlighted about society. He said that society

thus it becomes important that the humans appreciate society as much as self. The seminar was inaugurated by Mr Shiju lighting the traditional lamp of positivity and peace. The inaugural tradition was followed up by SET managing trustee Dr. Pratiksha Keerthan Kumar and Principal of Soundarya Central School Ms Renukadevi Ravada lighting and brightening the lamp. The entire event was coordinated by Sr Faculty Member of SET Ms Sreekala P. Vijayan. It was interesting to

Biswal is New PCCF

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Veteran Indian Forest

Grievances Department has issued a no-

force from his date of joining as PCCF, Odisha, as per the notification.

Mr. Biswal has been serving as Director of Mines since July 2020. He has been appointed as in-charge PCCF and Head of Forest Force following the retirement of former PCCF, Sisir Kumar Ratho on June 30.

Earlier, he was posted as the Special Secretary in the Forest & Environment Department.

During his two-year tenure as Director of Mines, Mr. Biswal has very successfully handled the crucial role. When the revenue generation from almost all sources squeezed

due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was the mines directorate which came for rescue.

The successful auction of several mineral blocks with high premiums has taken the State economy to a new height and the State very smoothly overcame the pandemic situation.

Now, as head of the State Forest Force, Mr. Biswal is having a crucial task to handle. He is going to take over the post when the death of several elephants in Athgarh and other areas has become a boiling issue in the State. Besides, he has to manage the entire forest force of the State.



Service (IFS) officer Debidutta Biswal has been appointed as the new Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and Head of Forest Force, Odisha. The General Administration and Public

tification to this effect on Tuesday.

Mr. Biswal, a 1988-batch IFS officer of Odisha cadre, has been promoted to the Apex Scale (Level-17 in the Pay Matrix) and his new appointment will come into

Sri Lanka crisis will have 'big impact' on Chinese investments, bilateral ties: Experts

BEIJING: While China has so far maintained a conspicuous silence on the dramatic fall of Sri Lanka's pro-Beijing Rajapaksa brothers, experts have warned that the current chaos in Colombo will have a "big impact" on the country's close ties and its large-scale infrastructure investments in the strategically located island nation in the Indian Ocean.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country on a military jet, days after demonstrators overran his residence. He had pledged to stand down on Wednesday amid mass protests over the island's worst economic crisis.

For months people have been struggling with daily power cuts and shortages of basics like fuel, food and medicines.

"In the short run, there will be a big impact on China's relations with Sri Lanka because the influence of the Rajapaksa family in Sri Lanka's political circles will be undermined and a political comeback will be unlikely in the near future," Lin Minwang, a South Asia expert at Fudan University in Shanghai said as quoted by Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post on Tuesday.

While President Gotabaya fled the country

Team excise on arrest spree

Bhubaneswar(KCN) : State Excise detected a record number of 454 cases under NDPS Act with the arrest of 522 persons during the first

holding this meeting is to monitor sustained enforcement and to counter the illicit trafficking of Narcotics in the coming days, offi-

creased to 10,744 in the same period of 2022.

The seizure of ID liquor and OS liquor has increased by more than 113 per

the state to keep record of each and every accused person and to have coordination with the Police Department. During the meeting,



quarter of the financial year 2022-23. However, only 129 cases and 152 persons were arrested during the same period of last year. This was known from the quarterly excise review meeting held under the chairmanship of Commissioner of Excise Ashish Kumar Singh on Wednesday, wherein Deputy Commissioner of Excise (CD, Cuttack)/ Headquarter and Superintendent of Excise, Enforcement Cell were attended from different offices. The objective of

excise said. The Team Excise seized 10017 kg Ganja till June 2022 against the seizure of 6676 kg of ganja during first quarter of last year, thereby registering a growth of 50 per cent. Further, 3540 Grams of Heroin seized this year against 1557.5 Grams last year. The total approximate value of seizure excise substances has been increased to Rs 48 crore this year from Rs 15 crore last year. While 6091 persons were arrested on Excise cases till June '21, it has been in-

cent and 17 per cent, while seizure of country made liquor increased by 77 per cent till June of 2022-23. Seizure of beer and bhang increased by 3 per cent and 533 per cent, respectively, said an official. The State Excise has seized 542 vehicles, which were used for the illegal transportation of the excise substances during the last three month of this year. This year, the digitization of data of Excise cases of the last ten years is going on with the assistance of OCAC throughout

the Excise Commissioner appreciated the performance/achievement of Excise officers during the first quarter of the financial year (2022-23).

He instructed all Superintendents of Excise & EIEB Units to strengthen & enhance the enforcement measures in this year 2022-23 and to conduct frequent raids against the illegal manufacturing, distributing and sale of ID Liquor/duplicate IMFL/Non duty paid IMFL/NDPS items in the State.

Mamata says will comment on emblem row only after studying matter

DARJEELING: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday refused to

aggressive posture, while the ruling BJP asserted that the lions atop the new parliament building are a "scaled-up" version of the original emblem.



"I will not comment on this now. Let me first study the matter properly. Then I will speak on this," Banerjee told reporters after meeting Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar at the Raj Bhavan here. At least

comment on the alleged distortion of the national emblem by the Centre, saying she needs some time to study the matter.

Opposition parties accused the Centre of replacing the "graceful and regally confident" Ashokan lions with those having menacing and

two MPs of her party, however, already attacked the BJP-led central government over the issue.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday unveiled the national emblem cast on the roof of the new Parliament building.

Mahinda Rajapaksa is a much-liked Sri Lankan leader in China for promoting large scale Chinese investments in the island nation, disregarding India's security concerns and the US criticism and warnings over Beijing's "debt-trap diplomacy" in the strategically important country in the Indian Ocean. China has so far maintained a conspicuous silence on the fall of the powerful Rajapaksa clan, considered to be the main backers of Chinese investment in the country, which is now facing its worst economic crisis since independence in 1948.

Replying to a question on the Sri Lankan crisis on Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here that China is paying close attention to the situation unfolding in Sri Lanka and appealed to all parties to work unitedly to resolve the crisis.

As a friendly neighbour and cooperative partner, China sincerely hopes that all parties in Sri Lanka will act in the fundamental interests of the country and its people, work together to overcome difficulties and realise social stability, economic recovery and improvement of livelihood at an early date, he said.

Bengaluru Celebrates World Rasagola Day



Bengaluru (KCN): World Rasagola Day was celebrated in Bengaluru with much enthusiasm and super excitement. To mark the occasion a special ceremony was organised by 56 Bhog Outlet at its premises in Agara

circle of the Mega City. Around 2000 Rasagolas of different varieties like Pahala, Gud And White were specifically prepared in traditional Ananda Bazar style of Puri and were distributed among the invited Guests during the



celebration. Hundreds of visitors had consumed and enjoyed the delicious recipe and well appreciated the high quality of the stuff. Thanking all the participants for the massive success of the Event the Main Host Founder cum Proprietor of

the Establishment Hara Prasad Mohapatra announced that 56 Bhog shall continue to carry on its Mission And Endeavour to propagate, promote and popularise original and authentic foods of Odisha in Bengaluru.

Record Seizure, Arrest by Excise Dept. in the First Quarter of Financial Year-2022-23

Khordha (KCN): The quarterly review meeting was held on 13.07.2022 under the Chairmanship of Sri. Ashish Kumar Singh, Excise Com-

-2022-23, 13067, % of growth - 75.75. Persons arrested, 2021-22, 6091, 2022-23, 10744, % of growth 76.39. ID Li-

try Liquor (in Ltrs) 2021-22, 1666.6, 2022-23, 2956, % of growth 77.37. Beer (in BL) 2021-22, 9186.915, 2022-23, 9526.37, % of growth 3.69. Bhang (In kg) 2021-22, 863.89, 2022-23, 5469.1, % growth 533.08. Mohua Flowers (In Qntl) 2021-22, 10533.41, 2022-23, 13974, % of growth 32.66. Vehicle in nos. 2021-22, 476, 2022-23, 542, % of growth 13.87. NDPS case detected 2021-

proximate value - in the year -2021-22, 15 Crores, 2022-23, 48 Crores, % of growth 68.75. During the first quarter of the financial year -2022-23 record number of 454 cases under NDPS Act have been detected with arrest of 522 persons against detection of 129 cases and 152 persons arrested last year. Further 3540 Gram's of Heroin seized this year against 1557.5 Gram's last year. This year the digitization of data of Excise cases of last ten years is going on with the assistance of OCAC throughout the state to keep record of each and every accused persons and to have a coordination with the police dept. The Excise Commissioner appreciated the performance, achievements of Excise Officers during the first quarter of the financial year -2022-23. He instructed all superintendents of Excise & EI EB Units to strengthen & enhance the enforcement measures in this year -2022-23 and to conduct frequent raids against the illegal manufacturing, distributing and sale of ID Liquor, duplicate IMFL, Non duty paid IMFL, NDPS items in the state.



missioner, Odisha through virtual mode where in Dy. Commissioner of Excise, CD, Cuttack /EDC, Head Quatre, EDCs, Enforcement cell, Bottling Unit, MIS and all Superintendents of Excise attended. The objective of holding this meeting is to monitor sustained enforcement and to counter the illicit trafficking of Narcotics in the coming days. The details of comparative enforcement activities during the first quarter of the financial year 2022-23 are

quor (in Ltrs) 2021-22, 166034.6, 2022-23, 354932.9, % of growth 113.77. Wash (in Ltrs) 2021-22, 1717931, 2022-23, 3416835, % of



growth 98.89. O. S. Liquor (in Ltrs) 2021-22, 129, 2022-23, 454, % of growth 251.94. Persons arrested 2021-22, 151, 2022-23, 522, % of growth 245.70. Ganja (in kg) 2021-22, 6676.915, 2022-23, 10017.54, % of growth 50.03. Brown Sugar (in gm) 2021-22, 1557.5, 2022-23, 3540.1, % of growth 127.29. Cough Syrup (in Ltr) 2021-22, 52, 2022-23, 279, % of growth 436.54. Total Ap-



cases detected financial year till June - 2021-22-7435, year

22, 5991.3, 2022-23, 7052.3, % of growth 17.71. Coun-

Massachusetts hosts Niladri Bije Festival

Massachusetts (KCN): Massachusetts State of USA hosted Car Festival, Return Journey, gold ornamentation and Niladri Bije ceremonies of Lord Jagannath with much fanfare and spiritual fervour. The Grand Celebration was organised by Odia Communities based in New England in active association with the New England Shirdi Sai Parivaar (NESSP). Befitting to the occasion the New England's Shirdi Sai Temple situated at 99, Shirdi Way in Groton of Greater Boston, where the Trinity are presently stationed was aesthetically decorated and was wearing a ethnic and elegant look. To mark the commencement of the Festival special religious rituals were performed by the priest Pavan Acharya in front of the Four Deities. Around 500 Odia and non - Odia inhabitants from Massachusetts and nearby states of USA like Rhodes Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Maine congregated at Groton to take part in the holy fair. In afternoon the four Idols were taken in a grand procession to the colourfully decked up chariot having clad with pipli applique works parked in front of the Sai temple. American carpenter built this chariot with the guidance of temple trustee Niranjan Senapati. Devotees present conducted the traditional sweeping of chariot namely Chherra Pahanra. Then the long awaited pulling of chariot started. The entire atmosphere got reverberated with the lyrical sounds of Bhajan, Kirtan, chanting of hymns, raising of slogans like Hari Bol, Jai Jagannath and playing of musical instruments like Ghanta, Kartala, Cymbals Jhanja and Mrudanga and recital of Odissi Dance. The chariot was pulled around the boundary of Sai temple till 2 km and then taken back to the premises of the temple. The moving sight of Lord of the Universe sitting atop the Royal chariot in His majestic style during the sojourn on the street of Massachusetts was momentous, mesmerising and memorable. After reached

back at the temple the idols were escorted to the Gem Studded Altar by the servitors. Then all the Four Gods and Goddess were decorated with golden attire like being done in main temple at Puri. After that Arati was performed before the sanctum sanctorum.

Massachusetts witnessed a spectacular cultural extravaganza as part of the Mega Event. During the gold ornamentation time of Idols Shyama Gundala, Sunita Gundala, Sudhira Mishra, Dillip Pradhan and



Rageswari Pradhan presented soul soothing bhajans. The special attraction of the Festival was the presentation of scintillating Odissi Dance performances by the disciples of noted Odissi Gurus Jayasri Kar and Mouli Pal. The talented artists who showcased their extraordinary creative genius by presenting devotional music and classical dances during

the ceremony include Shyamala Bangalore, Anusha Mukunda, Shruithi Nanjagud, Meera patil, Jeyanthi Ghatraju, Nithila Krishna Kumar, Ruta Shinde and Shruithi Lakshmi Narayan. The cultural session was neatly presented and well coordinated by Bishwa Bhusan Sahoo and Rashmi Ranjan Rath.

The highlight of the Festival was the preparation of delicious Fifty Six Bhog on the pattern of Anand Bazar at Puri by temple volunteers under the direction of Sujata Dhala. The Mahaprasad was distributed among the devotees during the Rath Yatra. This year's annual chariot Festival became a massive success due to the strenuous efforts put up by main organisers like Mahender Singh, Neelkanth Mishra, Sandeep Koushik, Surya Kodukula, Chenna Keshab, Niranjan Senapati, Jayasri Patel, Kumar Patula, Rajesh Singh, Niranjan Senapati, Pradeep Dhal, Bishwa Bhusan Sahoo, Arun Mohanty, Nishikanta Bhadra, Dillip Behera, Sujata Dhala, Nishikanta Sahoo, Vijay Bala, Amal Dutta and Nagendra Natti.

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Windfall tax on crude oil: Govt rakes in Rs 1.3 lakh crore; here's what brokerages say

NEW DELHI: The windfall taxes imposed by the government on domestic crude oil production and fuel exports will hit ONGC's earnings severely while shaving off up to USD 12 per barrel in refining margins for Reliance Industries Ltd. The new levies will give the government up to Rs 1.3 lakh crore additional revenue, brokerages said. In a surprise move, the government on July 1 increased import duties on gold (by 5 per cent), added export duties on petrol and ATF (Rs 6/litre; USD 12 per barrel) and diesel (Rs 13/litre; USD 26/bbl) and slapped a windfall tax on domestic crude production (Rs 23,250 per tonne; USD 40/bbl).

inflation, a higher tax on gold should decrease imports and help the external balance marginally. "Yet, Friday's (July 1) measures will serve squarely to raise revenue for the government." Duties on crude oil should raise an additional USD 3-4 billion (net of lower royalties, income taxes and dividends) while the gold duty can raise USD 1.5-2 billion annualized. Export taxes on diesel/petrol can raise close to USD 9 billion gross per annum, it said adding the revenue for current fiscal will be 75 per cent of these numbers. "The government intent appears to be to maximise revenues from upstream producers by capping their upside from higher oil



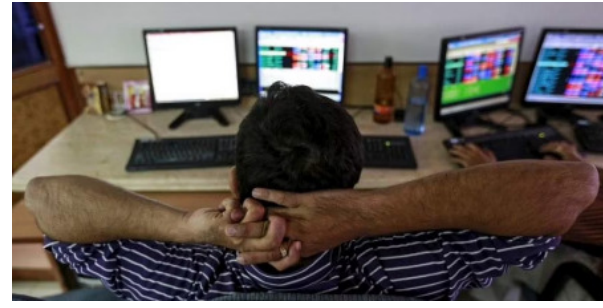
This follows earlier duties imposed on steel (15 per cent) and iron ore (up 20-45 per cent). While the export tax will be applicable on only-for-exports refinery of Reliance Industries (RIL), the restriction on product exports wherein at least 30-50 per cent is first supplied domestically will not apply to SEZ units. HSBC Global Research in a note said in May 2022, the government announced a cut in the excise duty of Rs 8 per litre on petrol and Rs 6 a litre on diesel, which is estimated to have reduced its revenues by Rs 1 lakh crore. "The additional excise duty just announced and effective from July 1, 2022 aims to fill this revenue gap. We estimate these taxes could generate Rs 1.2 lakh crore in government revenue and could also discourage the export of products which are being diverted away from the domestic market." The windfall tax on crude production could generate revenue of Rs 65,600 crore and tax on export products another Rs 52,700 crore if they were to be continued for the full year. Kotak Institutional Equities said the taxes will result in additional tax revenues of Rs 1.3 lakh crore on an annualized basis and Rs 1 lakh crore for the rest of FY2023 assuming the government retains the taxes for the entire year.

UBS estimated that the government can raise Rs 1.38 lakh crore annually from additional taxes. "Based on diesel and gasoline export volumes in past year and estimate for FY23, we estimate additional revenues of Rs 68,000 crore on three transportation fuels. Similarly, windfall taxes on crude can raise Rs 70,000 crore in additional revenues." Nomura said the windfall taxes could potentially impact RIL's GRM by USD 12 per barrel (Rs 47,000 crore on an annualised basis). Goldman Sachs said it saw limited earnings risk for RIL (despite wide scenarios of USD 1.5-12.7 risk to gross refining margins or GRMs from new taxes) as the spot implied GRM run rate is over USD 27 per barrel. HSBC said while the new tax will lower ONGC earnings by Rs 30 per share, its impact on RIL would be Rs 36 a share. "We continue to believe the loss on its domestic marketing margin is still greater than the export tax, and thus, we believe RIL is likely to continue to export significant amounts," HSBC said. Indian crude oil basket hits 10-year high; petrol, diesel prices unchanged JP Morgan said while the duties on steel/iron ore helped reduce domestic prices and curb

prices as well as disincentivising refined product exports by private refiners to ensure domestic fuel availability isn't compromised," Citi said in a note. The USD 40 per barrel windfall tax is "a material negative for ONGC in particular where earnings are likely to be severely impacted," it said. On the top of the new levy, ONGC will continue to pay oil 20 per cent (a fifth of the oil price) as OIDB cess and another 10-20 per cent royalty. The net realisation for ONGC will be around 40 per cent of the oil price. The gross refining margin (GRM) impact for RIL assuming two-thirds of its diesel, petrol and ATF were being exported, could be USD 9-10 per barrel, Citi said adding the firm must be currently earning USD 25 per barrel GRM. "The earnings impact for RIL is likely to be less material given offsets from marking-to-market for current GRM strength, which would likely preclude earnings upgrades rather than drive major downgrades." Kotak said it does not "see much merit in the government's decision to impose export duties on exports from RIL's SEZ refinery. The government has cited increased exports of diesel and gasoline and lower availability of such products for the domestic market as a key reason to impose the exports tax. However, RIL's SEZ refinery was set up for exports and its products were not intended for sale in the domestic market." It said demand-supply analysis of petroleum products shows that there is enough availability of diesel and petrol for the domestic market even excluding volumes from RIL's SEZ refinery. Haitong said India's total diesel demand is 80-83 million tonnes while the total PSU diesel supply is 65-68 million tonnes. "Therefore, the rest can be met by private players like RIL and Nayara Energy. Similarly, total consumption of petrol in India stands at 30-31 million tonnes while PSUs supply is 21-22 million tonnes. Therefore, one-third of India's consumption can be fulfilled through private players." According to CLSA, RIL's GRMs may be hit by USD 5-6 per barrel due to the new tax. It said the new taxes would give the government extra annual revenue of Rs 1.1 lakh crore (\$14 billion), negating the Rs 97,000 crore revenue loss from the excise duty cut done about six weeks ago. Credit Suisse said the impact on RIL from cess on the export of petroleum products is about USD 7-8 per barrel, translating to an annualized impact of USD 3.5-4.0 billion on EBITDA

Good days ahead? Market bounce may extend to 16000-plus levels

MUMBAI: The markets, which exhibited the resilience on Friday, recovering from the day's low even as Reliance tanked 7%, could attempt to continue its upward bounce underway since last week. Weekly options' build-up suggest resistance at 15900, which if broken could witness Nifty testing 16000-16200 levels in the coming week. Key support is at 15500. Levels for Sensex roughly translate into 53,400, 53760 and 54432 as resistances and 52080 as a key support in the coming week. On Friday, Nifty made a low of 15511.05, but recovered on domestic buying, even as index heavyweight Reliance cracked 7% on news of the export tax on refined products. With Reliance ac-



counting for almost 14% weight on the index, Nifty and Sensex's recovery from intraday lows is being read by analysts that the market is not yet in a mood to relent to bearish pressure, for now. "Friday's recovery despite RIL's sharp correction signals a continuation of the pullback rally that got underway last week toward 16200," said Siddarth Bhamre, research head, Religare Broking. Rajesh Palviya, technical head at Axis Securities, expects a maximum pullback through 16100 at which level he expects significant selling. "We are in pullback mode from lows, from an oversold zone so we might see an extension of the bounce to a max of 16100," Palviya said. Friday's recovery was led by the Bajaj twins, HDFC, HUL, Wipro and Infy, which countered the fall in RIL.

If rupee was a man, right now he's somewhat footloose and fancy-free

Bombay: The Indian currency, unmindful of its commitment to the economy, is touching new lows each day. Last week, it tore into 79 against the US dollar and now seems steadfast on cracking 80. The RBI, which has all the powers to lord over the exchange rate, is intervening prudently and is instead letting the rupee find a level of its liking. Perhaps, for now. The one thing that's weakening INR is higher demand for dollars. High imports led by soaring crude oil prices and sharp capital outflows (India being one of the worst among emerging Asian peers) are together raising the demand for dollars, depreciating rupee. Since January, the domestic unit is down 5.6%



against the greenback over last year, prompting the central bank to spare \$41 billion out of its over \$600-billion-odd forex reserves war chest it built in the past two years. But that move has sliced India's import cover to single digits -- for the first time in three years. According to Barclays, RBI, under Governor Shaktikanta Das has a strong preference for currency stability and the ferocity of pressure on the currency can be seen from the fast depletion of forex reserves. That said, allowing INR to gently weaken for now could be the right strategy, allowing the import-export imbalance, or the trade deficit, to improve. A weakening rupee boosts exports, though given the slack in global demand, exporters aren't particularly enthused. Others believe, the central bank is letting the exchange rate adjust to new realities, which in turn could act as a natural macro stabilizer. Moreover, as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman noted, the INR was relatively better placed than other global currencies against the greenback and pegged against other currencies, rupee is holding its ground, firmly.

Modi to join Biden at I2U2 virtual summit tomorrow

Continued from page-1 Tuesday, New Delhi said: "The leaders will discuss the possible joint projects within the framework of I2U2 as well as the other common areas of mutual interest to strengthen the economic partnership in trade and investment in our respective regions and beyond. These projects can serve as a model for economic cooperation and offer opportunities for our businesspersons and workers." The MEA went on to add: "The I2U2 grouping was conceptualised during the meeting of the foreign ministers of the four countries held on 18 October 2021. Each country also has sherpa-level interactions regularly to discuss the possible areas of cooperation. I2U2 is aimed to encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security. It intends to mobilise private sector capital and expertise to help modernise the infrastructure, low carbon development pathways for our industries, improve public health, and promote the development of critical emerging and green technologies."

'Military crackdown on protesters could worsen situation': Experts on Sri Lanka crisis

Continued from page-1 difficult. But what is required today really is restoration of some kind of political stability within the bounds of the Sri Lankan constitution," Kantha said. "This is a process that needs to play out within Sri Lanka itself and there is very little role for other countries including India," he added. Kantha said steps must be taken to ensure that the political situation stabilises. "It must stabilise as quickly as possible because without a modicum of political stability, it will be very difficult for the government of Sri Lanka to address the unprecedented economic challenges," he said. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, a former secretary in the ministry of external affairs, said that the situation is in control now. "For India's sake, we just hope that the prime minister takes control. It is in our interest that there is no refugee flow into India as it could trigger a crisis of another dimension," he said. Wadhwa said there is a need for an "urgent bailout package" for Sri Lanka by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "Sooner the new government is formed, the better it is for Sri Lanka as it can address key issues," he said. The former diplomat also hailed India's position on the overall situation.

In its first reaction to the massive political turmoil in Colombo, India on Sunday said it stands with the Sri Lankan people in their aspirations for prosperity and progress through democratic means, established institutions and constitutional framework. Strategic affairs expert Prof S D Muni said things will not be easy for Sri Lanka in the next few months. Kantha said India helped Sri Lanka quite generously. Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, is under the grip of an unprecedented economic turmoil, the worst in seven decades, leaving millions struggling to buy food, medicine, fuel and other essentials. Prime Minister Wickremesinghe last week said Sri Lanka is now a bankrupt country. On Saturday, thousands of angry protesters stormed Rajapaksa's official residence and set Wickremesinghe's private house on fire. 'Situation in India similar to what it was in Sri Lanka few years ago, Centre needs to act': Congress Continued from page-1 risen to 92 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The government will have to repay a debt of USD 267 billion by next month. The government is not allowing these facts to come out in the public domain, he added. "The government is bringing religious issues to the fore to divert attention from the real and pressing issues. But it will cost us dearly. The Congress party is protesting against the Centre's wrong policies and the government should address the basic issues of the people in a timely manner, otherwise serious consequences will have to be faced," Londhe said. Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, is under the grip of an unprecedented economic turmoil, the worst in seven decades, leaving millions struggling to buy food, medicine, fuel and other essentials.

Champions League final chaos: Liverpool fans' group calls for French government apology

LIVERPOOL: A to 40,000 of them Shankly, thanked the lobby to achieve it. leading Liverpool travelled to the sta- French Senate for its "We also believe only



fans' group has called for a "full apology from the French Government" after a French senate enquiry found organisational failings were to blame for the chaos that surrounded the Champions League final. The kick-off for the match on May 28 was delayed as supporters struggled to get through bottlenecks accessing the ground and were repelled by teargas fired by French police. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin had pointed the finger of blame at Liverpool fans, claiming that up

dium either with no tickets or fake ones. However, a fact-finding mission led by two senators instead found the problems were caused by a "string of dysfunctions" including a lack of preparation by French authorities and poorly executed security arrangements. For many Liverpool fans, the scenes in Paris were reminiscent of the Hillsborough disaster when 97 fans were killed by a crush ahead of their FA Cup semi-final in 1989. Liverpool supporters group, the Spirit of

findings, but said it will continue to push for a full government apology and parliamentary enquiry. ALSO READ | Champions League final chaos caused by 'dysfunctions', not supporters: French enquiry "There remains the issue of lies being persistently repeated," Spirit of Shankly said in a statement. "We want a full apology from the French Government with a complete retraction of the lies purported on their behalf on and since 28 May 2022, and will continue to

a full French Parliamentary inquiry, with witnesses testifying under oath, will bring truth and justice and will continue to lobby to achieve it." Earlier this week, Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said lessons need to be learned from events outside the Stade de France for major finals going forward. "Everybody needs to know about it, not because it will change anything for this game but it has to be changed for the next games, big events, wherever it will be because supporters have to be protected," said the German coach.

Wasn't thinking about break from ODI, already knew what I had to do, says Shami

LONDON: Seasoned India pacer Mohammad Shami said he wasn't thinking about his long lay off from ODI cricket and approached his comeback game with a clear mind as he is well-versed with the white-ball behaviour. The first ODI against England on Monday was Shami's first appearance in the format after almost a gap of two years. He last played in India's 51-run loss to Australia in November 2020. "It wasn't a small break but of three years," Shami, who claimed 3 for 31 at the Oval on Tuesday, said during a chat with bowling coach Paras Mhambrey on BCCI.tv. "Nothing was going on in my head regarding

basics. "But you need to be courageous from heart and if you are that, then you can get set in any format at any given moment." While Shami claimed three wickets, fellow pacer Jasprit Bumrah finished with a career-best 6 for 19 to blow away hosts England in the first ODI. "As soon as we started, the ball was stopping and seaming, it became important for us to pick our areas and keep line and length in control. "We played our best performance (in first ODI); like, the way a series has to be started, it set an example." Shami said the key was to keep things simple and put pressure on the batters from both ends. "The only thing to be kept in mind was if the area will be great on a pitch where it swings and seams, you bowl with great pace from both ends and makes life difficult for (batting teams) on a wicket like this. "We kept things simple, got to fetch wickets quickly and result is there for all to see." Shami feels not much needs to be changed if the conditions remain the same in the next two games. "Personally speaking, reverting back to keep it simple theory will be the best. If the wicket behaves a little differently, then you need to think a bit more," he said. "If you take the confidence from here to rest of matches, then the chances are there for being more successful. "But if the wicket is dry or slow, then the plans can be changed. But to carry confidence from here is very important." India lead the three-match series 1-0.



the gap. I've become very comfortable with the team. We travel together and have been playing together for like a decade now. "Everyone knows their job and after playing so much of cricket, if you come with a question mark in your mind, then I believe it's not good." It was also a milestone match for Shami who became the fastest Indian and third fastest bowler overall to take 150 scalps in ODI cricket. "It's extremely important to come with a clear mind as you already know what you need to do, where you need to pitch the ball, the variations in white-ball and everyone knows these

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. "I would say I'm proud of most of what I did but there are certainly times where I'm like,



"I didn't need to do that!" said McEnroe. "It only exacerbated the situation and made more people get mad at me or start booing me so it wasn't like it helped me.

"It may be at times you blow off some steam. Obviously, you see Kyrgios doing that all the time."

The Australian was handed a code violation in Sunday's final during which he also volubly demanded the removal of a spectator who he claimed was drunk and launched a foul-mouthed tirade at his own box.

"How do you think his box feels when he's screaming at them? Those are the people that love him most, right?" said McEnroe.

"Unfortunately, the people that you love most you take it out on, because you feel closest to them. I think we can all relate to that. But if it wasn't so sad it would be funny in a way.

"So that part, hopefully he would look at and go, 'I don't need to do that to my dad or my girlfriend'.

"You know he's sitting there and he's obviously tortured in certain ways. (He's) unbelievably talented, very smart... a hell of a player when he wants to be."




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