

Uproar over Diarrhoea Deaths Mantra for IAS; respect public pep.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The death of six people in Kashipur block in tribal dominated Rayagada district in the last three days in diarrhoea created an uproar in Odisha Legisla-

ing that 1.36 lakh people out of 1.54 lakh in Kashipur block are being provided Rs 1 kg rice yet people are consuming Mango kernel and dying of diarrhoea and hunger there.

Mr.Mishra said it indicated that rice provided by the Government is not sufficient. There are many areas like Kashipur in the state, but the Government instead of addressing these issues is busy acquiring awards by furnishing false information. The government is taking credit by launching various

populism programmes and exploiting the people like a private money lender, he said. The Congress leader urged the Speaker to take it seriously and issue a ruling directing the Chief Minister to come to the House and make a statement on the issue on what steps he has taken after these deaths.

Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati said the death of people in Kashipur after 23 years of BJD rule and 75

NEW DELHI(KCN): Union Minister Personnel and Public Grievance Jitendra Singh advised the young IAS officers to adopt a very respectful attitude towards public representatives and listen to them patiently and promptly examine their suggestions in the light of policy framework.

He said, wherever feasible or desirable, we may have to seek approvals from the higher ups to serve the cause of citizens. He said, the public representatives be it an MLA or MP or Ward Councillor or Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions are elected by people and can provide the officers

a lot of insights into what citizens require and how can Government provide effective doorstep services to citizens.

tion or support is turned away from your office empty handed. Addressing the young IAS officers

Dr.Singh today reminded them of their destined role in 2047 when India celebrates 100 years of independence. With



tive Assembly during zero hour on Saturday. OLA Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukh was forced to adjourn the house twice after the Congress members trooped into the well and shouted slogans demanding a ruling from the Speaker to direct the Chief Minister to come to the House and make a statement on the issue. Raising the issue during zero hour, Congress legislature party leader Narasingha Mishra said the State Government is claim-

ing that 1.36 lakh people out of 1.54 lakh in Kashipur block are being provided Rs 1 kg rice yet people are consuming Mango kernel and dying of diarrhoea and hunger there.



The Minister emphasised that young officers in charge of Districts or Tehsils or any Department must ensure that no citizen who needs your interven-

of 2020 batch, undergoing three months' stint as Assistant Secretaries in Central government before going to their respective State cadres, Union Minister

age on their side, only they have to have that opportunity and privilege, he said. Dr. Singh said, in order to make the Government citizen cent

Jaishankar to brief parties on Modi government's intervention in Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI(KCN): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and

mentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi. Citing a July 16 of-

of the monsoon session of Parliament an Indian intervention in

tre. While India's position so far has been to not intervene politically in Sri Lanka,



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will brief representatives of all political parties following appeals by the AIADMK and the DMK to the Narendra Modi government to intervene in the political and economic crisis in Sri Lanka.

This was confirmed here today by Parlia-

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tre. While India's position so far has been to not intervene politically in Sri Lanka, it has dispatched aid through other channels. This was evident in a Ministry of External Affairs statement last week, which said that "India stands with the people of Sri Lanka as they seek to realise their aspirations for prosperity and progress through democratic means values, established institutions and constitutional framework".

West Bengal BJP MLAs shifted to hotel ahead of Presidential poll

KOLKATA(KCN): Ahead of the July 18 Presidential elections, the BJP in West Bengal shifted its 69 MLAs to a private hotel in Kolkata's outskirts on Sunday.

A total of 69 BJP MLAs were taken to the hotel which is said to be the first of its kind in the history of Bengal's politics. Sources in the BJP said the party wanted to ensure the votes of 69 MLAs would be in support of NDA's candidate Draupadi Murmu. The saffron camp,

however, officially said that the MLAs would be given a

the Assembly on Monday. A section of the BJP

Presidential elections. The MLAs could have been allowed to stay at the



training session about how to cast their votes in the Presidential elections on Sunday before they would go to

leaders, however, expressed surprise over shifting the MLAs to the private hotel. "Training is not required for voting in

MLA hostel. It appears, party wants to ensure all its MLAs will vote for NDA's candidate," said a senior BJP leader.

Odisha CM reiterates support for presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday reiterated the BJD's full support for the NDA Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu. Stating that the 'daughter of Odisha' has been nominated to the highest office in the country, the Chief Minister said it is indeed a matter of honour and pride for the State.



"On behalf of the people of Odisha and BJD, we need to extend our full support to her candidature in the Presidential election to be held on July 18," the Chief Minister told party MPs at a virtual meeting of the Parliamentary Party ahead of the monsoon session on Monday. He said that in the course of his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on May 30, he had discussed several issues concerning the State's interest and sought the support of the Centre. He asked the party MPs to take up all the pending issues with the ministries

concerned so that these are sorted out in a time-bound manner.

Stating that the State is neglected in matters of railways, banking, teledensity, payment of coal royalty and clean energy cess and construction of coastal highway, Naveen said that all these critical



issues concerning the interest of Odisha need to be raised in Parliament.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the virtual meeting of the Parliamentary Party

About the issues to be raised by the MPs during the session, the Chief Minister said that recently he had written letters to the Prime Minister on the evacuation of five lakh tonnes of surplus fortified parboiled rice from the State for the

Opposition focuses on price rise, Agnipath, 'misuse' of agencies at all-party meet on Monsoon session

NEW DELHI(KCN): Leaders of various opposition parties on Sunday demanded that issues of price rise, 'Agnipath' scheme as well as the alleged misuse of investigative agencies be taken up in Parliament and also raised objections to the list of "unparliamentary words" at an all-party meeting convened by the government ahead of the Monsoon Session. Sources said the leaders were unanimous in their demand for the immediate withdrawal of the Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the armed forces and called for a discussion on important issues like price rise and the status of the economy during the ses-

sion starting Monday.

Addressing reporters after the meeting, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said that the government was open to discus-



on all issues under the rules and procedures of Parliament. Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge asked how 32 bills, lined up by the government, will get passed in 14 days in Parliament and said, "What is the government is trying to do?" "We raised 13 issues including price rise, Agnipath, attack on the federal structure of the country and misuse of investigative agencies such as ED and

CONTINUED ON: P-7

NGO welcomes ban on single use plastic

Kolkata (KCN): Commoner's 'four Ecology is the means of studying laws of ecology'. These four laws are:



cern for Calcutta and several solid waste management companies who render yeoman service in mitigating the Solid Waste problems. In the beginning Social activist Narayan Jain acclaimed the decision of the Government to ban single use plastic of less than 75 Micron thickness from 1st July and ban on 125 Micron Plastic Bags from 1st January 2023, which was being demanded by Concern for Calcutta for last 5 years. Mamta Binani, President of NGO in-

Tapas Gupta Chief Technical Advisor WBPCB spoke on the menace of plastic and urged the audience to follow up on the ban of plastic less than 75 micron, leads to new recycling technology and innovative ideas. For drive on "Save Soil" WBPCB needs expert hands of professionals and entrepreneurs to come forward and add value to the initiatives of WBPCB. Concern for Calcutta during last four years have been at the forefront of a campaign



relationship and processes which link to living things with physical and chemical environment" said Dr Rajesh Kumar Member Secretary West Bengal Pollution Control Board, while delivering the keynote address to members of Concern for Calcutta, an environment-centric NGO. To amplify the idea of our responsibility to nature, Dr Kumar invoked Barry

Everything is connected to everything else, Everything must go somewhere, Nature knows the best and There is no such thing as free lunch. Obviously Dr Kumar proposed that we must be responsible to mother earth and our irresponsible behaviour toward nature is causing environment degradation and onset of killer virus like corona. He lauded the efforts of Con-

formed that her organisation has been providing Jute and Cloth Bags as substitute to plastic carry bags for shopping. Binani admired that West Bengal Pollution Control Board has embarked on various path breaking initiatives to control solid waste management. For instance, 4500 Tonnes of waste that is dumped every day is being recycled.

against use of plastic Carry bags said KS Adhikari Chairman of Environment Committee. On this occasion Samir Dutt, BG Roy, RL Auddy, Rajendra Khandelwal, Pawan Paharia, R.K. Burman, Vineeta Burman, RD Kakra, Sharat Jhunjunwala, KC Tewari, Joeeta Basu, Sonali De and others actively participated to make the Session successful.

AIPL Organize Plantation Drive to Mark "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav"

Khordha (KCN): AIPL Organized a plantation drive at its camp office in Godipada,

tive will go a long way. "AIPL undertaken several activities to commemorate the 75th years



Khordha. On to celebrate "Azadi Ka Amrit Mohastav ". The dignitaries present on the occasions were General Manager AIPL, Ramachandra preside over the meeting. The chief guest of the occasions Regional Officer N.H.A.I. Odisha Dr. Rama Prasad Panda, said that " In the Extension Work of National Highway Road from Bhubaneswar to Tangi, Khordha, AIPL complete the work smoothly and very sincerely in time. It is a matter of pride for AIPL for organising such a plantation drive to celebrate "Azadi Ka Amrit Mohastav ". This kind of plantation drive is very important for the community and this initia-

of India's Independence under the banner of Azadi Ka Amrit Mohastav. The other guest were PIU, Berhampur, NHAI Project Director, N. Harekrushna, Consulting Team Leader K. Srinibash Rao, Punjla Aid Project Manager, Tapan Kumar Das, Er. Om Prakash Mohapatra, AIPL Road Safety Manager, L. Sandeep were present in this meeting. In this plantation programme students of P. N. Autonomous College, Khordha & Staffs of AIPL were participated and create awarness among the people. More than 2500 saplings and trees planted by the AIPL in both the side of National Highway at Godipada, Khordha. The programme was Co-ordinated by AIPL, Safety Manager, L. Sandeep.

Gulf Odia Association Hosts Fifth Annual Function

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Gulf Odia Association

COVID period. Exhibiting his outstanding



tion (GOA) hosted its Fifth Annual Function at Bhubaneswar with much fanfare and festive fervour. A Gala Celebration was organised by GOA to mark the occasion. Since the commemoration of the Anniversary was taking place offline after a gap of three long years due to corona disruptions, the members of GOA were seen in high spirit and unprecedented enthusiasm dur-

satirical skill the Guest of Honour, renowned humour Poet Gyana Hota entertained the gathering with his mesmerising oratory. The Secretary of GOA Pyrimohan Mallick outlined the various social and community services of GOA through a power point presentation. CEO of Easy Bank Loan Debasish



Pattanaik in his masterly deliberation explained the ways and means of securing



ing the Mega Event. Hundreds of GOA's members alongwith their family and Wellwishers from Saudi Arab, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE and Abu Dhabi attended the Ceremony and cheered the exemplary achievements of GOA during last five years. The function was inaugurated with lighting of ceremonial lamp by invited Guests. Senior Member of GOA Bidya Bhushan Mohanty extended a warm welcome to the participants. Delivering his speech the President of Gulf Odia Association Ajay Kumar Das highlighted the mission and vision of GOA and commitment towards the all round development of the mother state Odisha. Marching on the motto of "Service above Self" GOA has been dedicated in promoting social and cultural heritage of Odisha in Odisha and across the Gulf countries since five years, shri Das observed. He thanked Sai Ashirbad Infratech's Managing Director, Subodh Kumar Rout for his unstinted support to the philanthropic pursuits of GOA. Addressing the meeting the Chief Guest, Chairman of World Odisha Society Kishore Dwibedi lauded the noble initiatives being undertaken by GOA in projecting and popularising brand Odisha in the Gulf countries. Particularly, Shri Dwibedi showered profuse praises on the team of GOA under the dynamic leadership of President Ajay Kumar Das in providing aids and assistance to Odisha in health, education and sanitation sectors during the

bank loans in an easy and hassle free manner. The representatives of ICICI Bank consisting of Odisha Zonal Head Pradosh Rout, International Desk In-charge Ramandeep Singh and marketing manager Rajesh Pattanaik were given a rousing reception during the occasion for the Bank's Continuous backing to GOA in its various



social activities. The Anniversary celebration witnessed a colourful cultural extravaganza presented by Czars and Czarinas of Odishan dance and music arena. Noted singers Anindita Das, R.S.Kumar, Jyotirmayee Nayak and Mousami Das enthralled the audiences with their scintillating musical numbers. The upcoming Odissi Dancer Vedanshi Das showcased her creative genius through a spellbinding performance. Cultural Secretary of GOA Banabihari Mohanty well-coordinated the cultural presentations. Ace Anchor Ankita Mohanty presented and conducted the cultural session in a smooth and seamless manner. The entire arrangements of the Annual Function was ably managed and neatly executed by the competent organisers of GOA like Ajay Kumar Das, Pyrimohan Mallick, Bidya Bhushan Mohanty, Banabihari Mohanty, Ajit jena, Jayant Mohapatra, Mustafa Baig, Debasish Rout and the other senior members GOA like Pratap Nayak, Binod Bihari Sahoo, Sisir Mund, S.K. Mohapatra, Dinabandhu Samal, Vivek Shille, Saroj Patra, Saroj Das, Biplab Hota and Santoshi Hota.

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AUTOMOBILE



REAL ESTATE

SALE
Kawasaki Bajaj in tiptop condition for sale.
Contact: 2555328

SALE
Flats ready for possession before Rathayatra at Puri near Seabeach for sale.
Contact: 9861078308

PURCHASE
Required a Marshal/Commandor / Boleto in good condition. Contact 2555763

Residential plots at Pahala close to NH-5 and near Pata Railway Station, Bhubaneswar for immediate sale.
Contact: 0674-2556733
Residential plots at

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF
Classified advertisements are released daily. The normal classified advertisement is charged @ Rs. 5/- per word up to maximum number of 50 words. Any extra word will be Rs. 8/- per word. The minimum charges for any classified advertisement is Rs. 100/-. The options for bold lettering and outlining are also available and are charged @ 7/- and 10/- per word respectively. Extra charges for photographs Rs.100/-. For Box No. Rs. 100/-

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MATRIMONIAL BRIDE WANTED

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WANTED

Required Driver/Peon/Attendant/ Aya

Please Contact-8984600400

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required double/Single/ Multi storied Bungalow type North or East Facing Independent building At-Nayapalli, Jayadev Vihar, V.S.S. Nagar, Mancheswar, Rasulgarh, Sallashree Vihar, Niladri Vihar.

Please Contact- 8338870595

Disney's Marvel unit files lawsuits to keep rights to 'Avengers' characters from copyright termination

WASHINGTON: Disney's Marvel unit has filed lawsuits to including Stan Lee, Steve Ditko and Gene Colan. Marvel has faced terminations from termination provisions of copyright law, authors or their



acquire full control of 'Avengers' characters including Spider-Man, Iron Man, Black Widow and others. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the complaints come against the heirs of some late comic book geniuses in-

The legal document seeks "declaratory relief that these blockbuster characters are ineligible for copyright termination as works made for hire." Reportedly, if Marvel loses, Disney would have to share ownership of characters worth bil-

Hollywood Reporter. Patrick Ditko, Don Larry also filed Rico and Keith termination notices to Dettwiler. The cases will focus on the creation of famous comic book characters and who should be deemed the statutory author. One of the complaints filed on Friday asserted, "Marvel had the right to exercise creative control over Lieber's contributions and paid Lieber a per-page rate for his work." If the plaintiffs win, Disney would have to share profits with the others and hold on to at least a share of character rights as co-owners. As per The Hollywood Reporter, the termination provisions of copyright law only apply in the United States, allowing Disney to continue to control and profit from foreign exploitation.

'Kanyadaan' an outdated ritual or important custom? Alia Bhatt's ad sparks debate

The bride, pretty, radiant and in red, sits in front of the sacred fire, her family, the groom and his parents around her, the love flowing like a balmy breeze. And in that arguably most precious moment, she looks into the camera and asks, "why must a woman be commodified through the custom of 'kanyadaan' literally 'donating a daughter'." The ad for a lehenga brand featuring Bollywood star Alia Bhatt as the much-indulged daughter and granddaughter has fired debate on social media platforms and elsewhere on the age-old tradition of giving away the daughter.

modities to be given away or 'donated.' Women have agency, selfhood and can make decisions about their lives on their own so my wedding reflected exactly that by not including a ritual like 'kanyadaan'," the actor told PTI. She even engaged a female priest for her wedding to emphasise gender equality. "It is time for young couples to define how they want to get married and if their ceremony is truly representative of their personalities and love for each other," said the actor, who is also the United Nation's National Goodwill Ambassador from India. The ritual of giving away the bride is, of course, not just about Hindu weddings.

away and you have nothing to do with me anymore. You're severing ties like I'm some object basically that you're giving away. My parents did understand it but the issue was 'this is how it is, has been and will be'." Actor Kangana Ranaut was among those who disagreed. Criticising the ad in an Instagram post, she said, "Humble request to all brands. Don't use religion, minority, majority politics to sell things. Stop manipulating naive consumers with shrewd divisive concepts and advertising. Please stop mocking Hindus and their rituals." One of the Twitter users echoed similar sentiments.

Many term it Hindu phobic for casting aspersions on a ritual that is part of the warp and weft of society, others appreciate it for calling out the patriarchy that underscores the custom and there are those that feel it should have gone even further in its rejection. "There is a growing number of young women who are beginning to think about the issue, especially as increasing number joins the workforce, has access to ideas (via social media etc) that are critical of 'women as property' concept. This ad reflects that," sociologist Sanjay Srivastava told PTI. In the 1.41 minute ad, Bhatt, the self-assured woman of today who also does a selfie pout with her father while at the 'mandap', recalls her lifetime of 'othering' in a monologue - her fond grandmother saying she would one day go to her own home, her father not reacting when people called her "paraya dhan" (alien property) and her mother calling her a 'chidiya' which would fly away one day. The Manyawar ad ends with the grooms' parent also joining in in the ritual (though it is unclear whether they too are giving away their son) and Bhatt's bride saying it should be 'kanyamaan' (respect for the girl child) and not 'kanyadaan', and asking, "Am I a thing to be given away?" Her angst finds a wide echo. Actor Dia Mirza, who decided to do away with the rituals of both "bidai" and "kanyadaan" when she got married to businessman Vaibhav Rekhi, said they wanted the wedding to reflect their "beliefs and not outmoded ideas." "Neither of us believes that women are com-



"Our traditions are not regressive, your mindsets surely are! Kanyadaan is a sacred tradition, where a father/parent parts with their most precious and cherished daughter, a bitter-sweet emotional moment filled with hopes, promises and dreams," the user wrote. Women's rights activist Shabnam Hashmi said the attacks on the ad "reflects the highly patriarchal mindsets of our society". "It is a very progressive advertisement and raises important questions of women's dignity and equality," Hashmi told PTI. Sociologist Shrivastava added that people reacted negatively because there is an increasing intolerance against anything that is seen to question 'Indian traditions'. The reaction, he said, also reflects a "male anxiety" about the changes that are happening in addition to the current climate where it has become difficult to question anything Indian/Hindu. There were also those who felt the ad didn't go far enough. "The idea should not be to perpetuate the custom but to break away from it," said a young woman, who welcomed the ad and the questioning of traditions but would have preferred that it didn't end with the parents of both sides taking part in it. A radical break would have been more effective in sending out the message, she said. However, a debate reflects a churn. And in that sense, any discussion is welcome, even if it has unlikely beginnings in an ad for a bridal lehenga.

It is also a vital part of a Christian wedding service where the father walks down the aisle with his daughter and "hands her over" to the waiting groom. Brought up on tradition and a diet of popular culture, including movies, both Indian and western, many women have now begun to question the patriarchal traditions of wedding ceremonies across societies. Mumbai-based IT analyst Meghna Trivedi, who got married in February last year, said the ritual of 'kanyadaan' does not make sense in today's day and age but had to undergo the ritual anyway. Trivedi, a Gujarati who married a Punjabi, said she asked the priest to find another way but he maintained 'kanyadaan' is a "must". "What you mean by 'kanyadaan' is that you're giving away your daughter to somebody else and that is something you have to do in your life and it's related to your duties as a parent that now your daughter belongs to another family," she told PTI. "But I'm still my parents' daughter after I got married. 'Kanyadaan' is like you're giving me

Filing of Updated Income Tax Return u/s 139(8A) -Part 3

(Contd. from 11th July, 2022)

W.e.f. 1.4.2022, any person, whether or not he has furnished a return under section



139(1) or belated return under sec. 139(4) or revised return under sec. 139(5), he may furnish an updated return of his income or the income of any other person in

respect of which he is assessable within 12 months/ 24 months (as the case may be) from the end of the assessment year, as under:

(i) **Updated Return with 25% additional tax and interest – may be filed within 12 months from the end of the assessment year;**

(ii) **Updated Return with 50% additional tax and interest – may be filed within 24 months from the end of the assessment year.**

Updated return cannot be filed in the undermentioned situations:

- if the updated return, is a return of a loss or has the effect of decreasing the total tax liability determined on the basis of return furnished under sec 139(1), 139(4) or 139(5). However where a loss return was previously filed under sec 139(1), an updated return of income can be filed, provided that such updated return is a return of income;
- results in refund or increases the refund due on the basis of return furnished under sec 139(1), 139(4) or 139(5);
- if search has been initiated under section 132 or books of account, other documents or any assets are

requisitioned under section 132A or

- if a survey has been conducted under section 133A, other than TDS survey under sec 133A(2A) or
- if a notice has been issued to the effect that any money, bullion, jewellery or valuable article or thing, seized or requisitioned under section 132 or section 132A in the case of any other person belongs to such person or
- if a notice has been issued to the effect that any books of account or documents, seized or requisitioned under section 132 or section 132A in the case of any other person, pertain or pertains to, or any other information contained therein, relate to, such person.

The restriction in the case of search under sec 132 or requisition under 132A or survey under sec 133A, is for the assessment year relevant to the previous year in which such search is initiated or survey is conducted or requisition is made and any assessment years preceding such assessment year.

- Where an assessee has furnished an updated return under section 139(8A), he cannot again furnish an updated return for the same assessment year
- any proceeding for assessment or reassessment or recomputation or revision of income is pending or has been completed for the relevant asst. year;
- the AO has information in his possession under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976,

Narayan Jain

or the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act,

- 1988, or Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 or the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 or and the same has been communicated to the assessee
- information for the relevant assessment has been received under an agreement referred to in sections 90 or 90A of the Act in respect of the assessee and the same has been communicated to him prior to the date of furnishing of return under sec. 139(8A);
- any prosecution proceedings have been initiated under Income tax Act
- if he is a person or belongs to a class of persons, as maybe notified by the Board in this regard.

If an updated return filed for any assessment year results in reduction of carried forward loss or unabsorbed depreciation or reduction of MAT credit or AMT credit for subsequent tax years, assessee is required to file an updated return for all such subsequent assessment years.

The updated return under sec 139(8A) must be accompanied by the proof of payment of tax under sec 140B, otherwise the updated return will be defective.

Where no return of income under sec. 139(1) or sec 139(4) has been furnished by an assessee, tax on the updated return of income will be computed after adding interest/fee under sec 234A, 234B, 234C, 234F along with applicable surcharge and health and education cess. From the figure so arrived, TDS, TCS, advance tax, Relief under sec. 89, sec. 90, sec. 90A and sec.

91, tax credit under sec. 115JAA or 115JD shall be reduced.

Where the assessee has furnished Return under sec. 139(1), sec. 139(4) or 139(5), the tax, interest, fee, surcharge and cess will be computed and the same shall be reduced by TDS, TCS, advance tax, self assessment tax, relief under sec 89, sec 90, sec 90A and sec 91, tax credit under sec 115JAA or 115JD shall be reduced.

Additional payment of 25% of tax, interest, surcharge and cess shall be payable if the updated return is furnished within 12 months from the end of the asst. year and in case updated return is furnished after 12 months from the end of the asst. year, **additional payment of 50%** of tax, interest, surcharge and cess shall be payable.

For computing interest under sec. 234B, the assessed tax will be determined on the basis of income in the updated return. Where the assessee has furnished the return of income, the computation of interest under sec. 234C shall be made on the basis of income in the updated return.

The updated return, furnished under section 139(8A) shall be accompanied by proof of payment of such tax, additional tax, interest and fee. The assessee shall get immunity from prosecution under sec. 276CC with respect to the income offered in updated return. An assessment is to be completed within 9 months from the end of financial year in which the updated return is furnished – sec. 153(1A)

The taxpayers are advised to furnish updated return in appropriate case where the date for furnishing revised return has elapsed.

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

Decline in FDI inflow for Indian Economy

The World Investment Report 2022 shows

that the structure of global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows has been affected significantly by the pandemic. The report brought out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) indicates

that global FDI inflows staged a smart recovery in 2021 rising by a substantial 64.3% to touch \$1.58 trillion, thus surpassing the pre-pandemic flows. This is in sharp contrast to the 35% fall in FDI inflows to \$963 billion in 2020.

Letter to Editor

Tattooing requires rules

The recent suicide of a person in Bengaluru as a result of allergic skin reaction after tattooing has piqued the interest of everyone in the nation who are obsessed with tattooing. It is simple for an individual to get a permanent tattoo of favourite art in a few hours on any part of the body's skin, but dermatologists advise caution when it comes to long-lasting body art. Before getting a tattoo, one should be aware of the risks and how to minimise them. The central government must establish strict rules and regulations, as well as licencing standards for the tattooing business imperatively without any sluggishness. The licencing and regulations should be supervised and handled by the state health department so that omnishambles that occurring from unprofessional tattooing businessman can be avertible.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

A major consequence of the pandemic was that the share

of FDI inflows to developed economies slipped to just around one-third in 2020, the lowest recorded. Though the FDI inflows to developed economies more than doubled to \$746 billion in 2021, its share in global FDI inflows still remained lower than that of the developing economies. A major reason for the shrinking share of developed economies in global FDI inflows is the decline of inflows into the European Union (EU) for two consecutive years, which reduced its share in global FDI inflows from around a quarter to less than a tenth.

Another major consequence of the pandemic was that FDI outflows from developed countries rose sharply from around two-thirds of the global outflows in the pre-pandemic years to around three-fourths in 2021. This surge was mainly powered by the United States (US), which now emerged as the largest source of FDIs. The US now accounts for close to a quarter of global FDI outflows, marginally exceeding even that of the EU. Another major change noticed after the pandemic was that, for the first time, in many years, the global outflows of FDI from almost all major developed countries were higher than their FDI inflows. Similarly, another major fallout of the pandemic was that the developing countries have now become the dominant beneficiaries of global FDI inflows with its share exceeding that of developed countries both in 2020 and 2021. However, the pickup in FDI inflows to developing economies was sharply skewed. While FDI inflows to Africa more than doubled to \$82.9 billion in 2021 and that to South America surged by three-fourths to \$88 billion, both flows probably buoyed up by the global commodity boom.

Pradeep Kumar Panda

However, FDI inflows into Asia barely grew by around one-fifth.

And this was also highly skewed. While inflows increased by around half in South East Asia and West Asia, it declined by a quarter in South Asia.

What is surprising is that the disruption of supply chains and the setback to globalisation during the pandemic seems to have had no significant impact on the geographical distribution of FDI inflows. Though many developed countries repeatedly promised to reduce the global dependence on China's exports and ward off trade vulnerabilities by diverting investments to other areas, these initiatives seem to have floundered. In fact, the trends show that the result has been the opposite with FDI inflows to China accelerating even as FDI inflows to other developing countries like India falter badly. Consequently, between 2019 and 2021, the share of FDI inflows to China (including that to Hong Kong) went up from 14.5% to 20.3%, while that to India shrunk from 3.4% to 2.8%. Certainly, India seems to have failed to take advantage of the new opportunities offered by the pandemic. The efforts to persuade the world to bring in increasingly larger share of the FDI flows within its shores and diversify the global supply chains have apparently not borne fruit. Similarly, the slowdown in the economy has also affected FDI outflows from India with its share in global FDI outflows slumping down to 2.8%, the lowest level across the last four years.

The Government of India data on the FDI show that equity inflows have declined by around one-fifth to \$51.3 billion in 2021. However, the decline was not uniform. While FDI inflows from Mauritius, the largest contributor to the

cumulative FDI inflows into India, more than doubled to \$8.7 billion in 2021, that from Germany and Japan increased by around a quarter. However, FDI inflows from almost all other major investor nations declined. While FDI from Singapore, the US, the Netherlands, and United Arab Emirates fell by more than a quarter, that from the United Kingdom and Cayman Islands fell by around one-fifth.

However, the bulk of decline in FDI flows in 2021 was due to the fall in investments in the computer software and hardware, the biggest segment, which fell by half to \$12 billion. Similarly, FDI inflows into infrastructure and construction sectors also declined by half. Surprisingly, FDI inflows to services (that include finance, banking, insurance, research and development, and others), which account for more than a tenth of the total FDI inflows, rose by a quarter to touch \$6.5 billion in 2021. In manufacturing, the improvement in FDI inflows was largely confined to automobiles, drugs and pharmaceuticals. Clearly, India still has a long way to go to emerge as a manufacturing hub in the global economy.

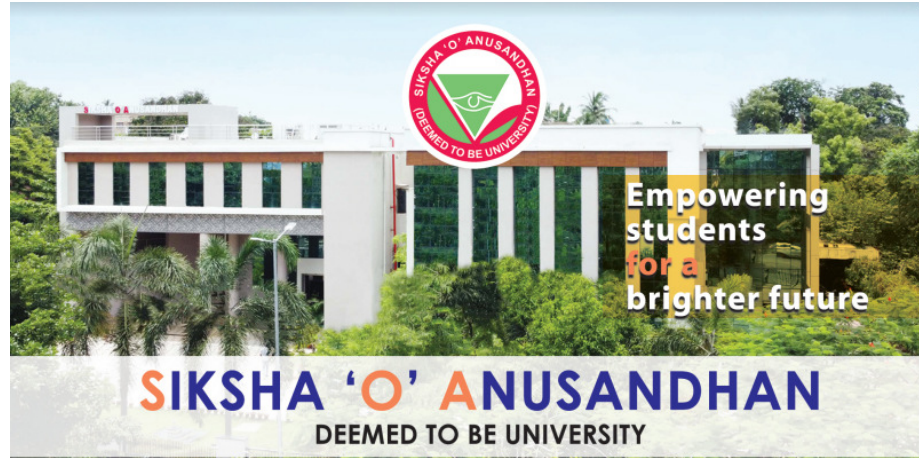
The steady decline of FDI outflows from the EU is a major setback for India, more so because India has failed to tap the potential for increasing inflows from the US, which has emerged as the largest source of FDI outflows. The consequent slump in the share of FDI inflows into India should set alarm bells ringing in the government. Certainly, it is still not too late to woo new investments to reduce global supply chain vulnerabilities and the excessive dependence on China.

The Author is an Economist

Siksha 'O' Anusandan - A meeting pot of quality academics and research

Bhubaneswar: From a humble beginning over 25 years ago, Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University, known more by its acronym SOA, has emerged as a shining academic edifice today which has illuminated the educational skyline of eastern India.

A socially inclusive institution of higher education focused on quality education and innovative research, SOA has been churning out professionals in varied fields ready to meet the requirements and challenges of different sectors.



Coming into existence on July 17, 2007 when the Government conferred on it the status of a Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, SOA is considered as a centre of superlative professional education today. The university is home to nearly 15,000 students including from 15 foreign countries who have chosen SOA to chart out a future for themselves. The university has a faculty-student ratio of 1:10.75 with the number of faculty with Ph.D or equivalent degrees accounting for more than 75 per cent of the teachers.

Though just over 15 years old, SOA has been continuously listed among the top 25 universities in the country by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), instituted by the Ministry of Education in 2016, for seven consecutive years. SOA has been ranked 16th in the country by NIRF in the just released rankings for 2022 making it the third best university in eastern region.

SOA's vision is to become a leading institution of higher learning in its chosen areas to prepare future generations through quality teaching and innovative research. Its mission is to become responsible, enlightened and productive citizens.

Already a name to reckon with in the realm of higher learning, SOA reached a huge milestone recently when National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited the university with the highest Grade A++ with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.88 out of 4.

The recent decision of the University Grants Commission (UGC) to grade SOA as Category-1 Deemed to be University has come as the newest feather in the university's already glowing cap.

SOA was globally ranked in the 801-1000 bracket by the prestigious QS World University Ranking for 2022 after being placed in the 401-450 bracket in the QS Asia University Ranking in 2021. It was awarded Diamond University rating by QS I-GAUGE for outstanding performance in 2020. SOA was also the only institute in eastern India to get QS I-GAUGE E-LEAD (E-Learning Excellence for Academic Digitisation) for conducting online teaching-learning during the Covid-19 lockdown.

SOA found place in the Times Higher Education

(THE) World Ranking, being listed in the 1201 plus category in university rankings, while it got ranked in the 601-800 bracket in engineering and technology and computer science in 2021. SOA was ranked in 601 plus category in health sciences and was placed in 401 plus bracket in THE Asia University Rankings in the same year. It was ranked in the 401 plus bracket in THE Young University Ranking and listed in 501 plus category in THE Emerging Economies University rankings in 2021. Significantly, 13 of the researchers in SOA found place in Stanford University's prestigious world ranking of two per cent scientists which was drawn up on the basis of a subject-wise analysis in 2021.

SOA offers 24 Under Graduate and 67 Post Graduate, 15 Post Masters, Ph.D. and Post Doctoral programs in engineering and technology, management, medical sciences, dental sciences, nursing, pharmaceutical sciences, biotechnology, hospital management, hospitality and tourism management, law and agricultural sciences.

The university follows a teaching-learning process grounded on outcome and project based learning which has been paying rich dividends as students have been receiving lucrative placement offers every year. About 91 per cent of SOA's engineering students graduating in 2021 have received job offers in top notch companies staving off the huge worldwide impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Five of SOA's engineering programs have been accredited by National Board of Accreditation (NBA) while three have been accredited by Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) of USA.

Focused on research, the university has 9324 Scopus indexed publications to its credit so far with h-Index of 85 while Web of Science publications contained 5287 papers with h-Index of 77. The university has set up 16 research centres to promote research work in 26 thrust areas.

SOA runs the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, its faculty of medicine, with 1600 beds which has become one of the most sought after healthcare destinations in the east. The teaching hospital, with NABH and NABL accreditation, has 250 MBBS seats.

SOA was in the forefront in Odisha's battle against Covid-19 when the first wave swept through the state in 2020 making exemplary contribution towards prevention and control of the pandemic. It set up four stand alone Covid Hospitals in Bhubaneswar, Kendrapara, Talcher and Chandpur in collaboration with the state government and ran two Covid Care Centres at Jatni and Jamujhari accounting for 2341 beds.

When the second wave struck early in 2021, SOA operated as many as five Covid Hospitals at Bhubaneswar, Chandpur, Puri, Talcher and Kendrapara (besides a Covid Care Centre at Jatni) having more than 2200 beds with around 500 doctors from Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital engaged in treating the patients assisted by nurses and paramedics who worked round-the-clock.

Odisha government to develop 'Science City' near Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha govern-

ment Minister Ashok Chandra Panda in-

formation and interactive exhibits on various topics of science will also come up encouraging visitors to experience the props and enjoy the underlying scientific principles," Panda said.

Apart from it, a science centre-cum-planetarium is coming up at Puri and a nature museum on the Satkosia biosphere. An area measuring 3.7 acres has been identified by the Puri administration in Siddhamahavir mouza for the science centre-cum-planetarium.



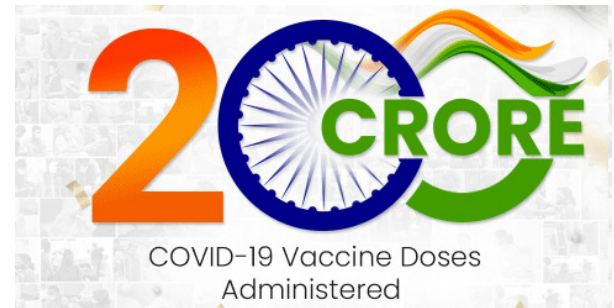
ment has decided to develop a Science City on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar. The project will come up on a 30-acre patch of land, Science and Technol-

formed the Assembly on Friday. It will be developed on the lines of the Science City at Kolkata, which is one of its kind in the country. The Industrial Infra-structure Develop-

asked to allot the land for the project. "Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has approved the project, which will enhance the scientific skills among the students. Hands-

India surpass 200 CR Vax Milestone

New Delhi: In a historic achievement, India's cumulative COVID19 vaccination drive has surpassed the 200-Crore milestone today. As per provisional reports till 1 pm today, a total of 2,00,00,15,631 doses have been administered across the country. This has been achieved through 2,63,26,111 sessions. India's nation-wide COVID19 vaccination program was launched by Hon'ble PM on 16th January, 2021. Under his proactive and visionary leadership, India supported the research, develop-



ment and manufacturing of COVID19 vaccines under the "Make-in-India" and "Make-for-World" Strategy, embarked on the use of cutting-edge technologies like CoWIN for evaluating geographical coverage, tracking AEFI for vaccines, promoting inclusivity and for providing a single reference point for citizens to follow their vaccination schedule, and prioritized vaccine administration based on scientific evidence and global best practices.

Several systematic interventions were also carried out in ensuring capacity building for carrying out this nationwide exercise. Existing supply chain for storage and transport of COVID19 vaccines was leveraged and strengthened and effective monitoring of vaccine distribution and assured availability and efficient utilization of vaccines and syringes was ensured at all times.

India's free and voluntary nationwide COVID19 vaccination exercise is also being carried out in a citizen friendly approach through initiatives like Har Ghar Dastak, Workplace CVC, School based vaccination, vaccination of persons with no identity documents, Near-to-Home CVC and Mobile Vaccination Teams. With 71% of CVCs located in rural areas and over 51% of vaccine doses administered to women, India's National COVID19 Vaccination Programme also ensured geographical and gender equity.

Despite the decline in COVID cases across the country, consistent efforts were ongoing to vaccinate all eligible citizens. This is exemplified by the fact that it took almost 9 months to reach the 100 Cr mark and another 9 months to reach the 200 Cr vaccination mark since the start of the vaccination drive on 16 Jan '2021, with the highest single day vaccination record of 2.5 Cr doses achieved on 17 Sept 2021.

On 15th July 2022, the Union Government launched a 75 day long 'COVID Vaccination Amrit Mahotsav' to provide free precaution dose to all eligible adult population at Government COVID Vaccination Centres (CVCs). This special drive, part of the celebration for Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, is being implemented in a 'mission mode' to increase uptake of precaution dose of COVID vaccine.

India also laid out a well-organized communication strategy of providing correct information and customized guidelines on COVID vaccination. It helped address vaccine hesitancy and promoted vaccine eagerness and COVID appropriate behaviour among the masses.

The Union Government is committed to further accelerating the pace and expanding the scope of COVID-19 vaccination throughout the country.

Fiscal risks Galore

Bhubaneswar: It is said that Mahabrabhu Jagannath runs this Utkal state, not the ministers and the bureaucrats. The state that was struggling to pay salaries to its employees in 2000, is now flush with funds. And now our political leaders and policymakers take credit as the state overcomes major financial hurdles. However, all this is due to the 'money rain' Odisha received during FY2021-22 with massive revenue of Rs 48,642 crore from the mining sector alone. This was beyond the imagination of our financial experts or economists engaged in the budget making process. Interestingly, our experts had set a target of mining revenue collection to the tune of Rs 13,700 crore only for the 2021-22 fiscal, which is less than actual mineral revenue of Rs 13,792 crore, earned in the previous year.

This high earning from the mining sector is being celebrated across the state. Odisha bagged first prize in Category-I & second prize in Category-II under Rastriya Khanij Vikas Puraskar of the Ministry of Mines. It is indeed good news for our mineral rich state which despite its huge mineral treasure remained neglected. Thanks to the officials, laborers, workers and staff engaged in the mines sector the state is reaping benefits.

However, it is surprising that our financial experts could not anticipate that Odisha is going to make such a huge gain in a year. When the so-called experts fail to anticipate gains to be made, how can they fathom the losses in store for the future? Unless we have better planning, calculation and estimation, the state may earn a benefit "by chance", but cannot sustain the loss in store. The job of the expert is to see things which are not visible or anticipated by the common man.

This time for the 2022-23 fiscal, the government has set the target of Rs 43,444 crore revenue collections from the mining sector. This is Rs 5,000 crore less than the revenue generated in the 2021-22. This is done keeping in view the volatility in mining revenue generation. Mining Revenue constitutes about 6 per cent of the GSDP, 26 per cent of total revenue receipt, 90 per cent of the state's own tax and 46 per cent of state's own revenue. If there is a fall in mining revenue, it will have a direct impact on the state's annual budget. Since mining revenue is sensitive to demand and price of metal in the national and international market, there is risk associated with the mining revenue.

The state's mining revenue is likely to suffer as the centre has raised duty on export of minerals. Large quantities of iron ores are exported from Odisha. Natural disasters, volatile nature of mining revenue, GST, Odisha's share in central taxes and electricity sector are the major risks for the economy. During the 2021-22 fiscal, the mining revenue produced a positive shock. Since volatility in metal price directly affects the mining revenue, the risk associated on this account will substantially increase in future due to higher exposure.

The state was assured of compensation for the loss incurred on account of GST implementation till June, 2022. But due to pandemic, the cess collection in the GST Compensation Fund has been low. Now there is no GST compensation regime, so there will be a fiscal shock to the extent of about 1 per cent of the GSDP for the state, which could be around Rs 6,000 crore. Therefore, one has to be very cautious while dealing with this aspect of the economy.

There is also a possibility of uncertainty around share in central taxes. A fall in economic activity reduces national tax collection which results in lower central transfer share to state. The 15th Finance Commission has recommended reduction in state share from earlier 42 percent to 41 percent owing to bifurcation of the Jammu & Kashmir into two union territories. The share of Odisha has reduced from 4.64 per cent to 4.53 per cent for the 15th Finance Commission award period which is from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The FC had recommended a share of Odisha for 2020-21, pandemic year, at 4.63 per cent as per the interim report. However, the actual release was much lower. The difference was almost 30 per cent. However, there was a higher release in 2021-22 due to higher GST collection.

All of us know that Odisha is prone to frequent natural calamities like cyclones and floods. Between



2014 and 2021, the state has sustained a direct loss of more than Rs 24,000 crore. Keeping in view the fast climate change, such calamities will certainly make regular visits to the state and one must remain prepared for this also.

The state public sector undertakings are also a major worry for the state as Odisha has invested more than Rs.21,000 crore in them. The SPSUs have incurred a loan of more than Rs 6,000 crore where the government is a guarantor. Though the PSUs will pay back the debts, the state has moral responsibility to the lenders. Therefore, efforts must be made to revive the loss making PSUs, not just by pumping more money, but also by putting in place a robust management. While private sector undertakings make wonders, why not the state PSUs? It is high time to fix accountability on the PSU management.

The total outstanding public debt of Odisha in 2021-22 stands at Rs 1,00,813 crore which is 15.8 per cent of the GSDP. However, the composition of debt stock in the state has also witnessed a transition from some of the high cost borrowing sources such as National Small Saving Fund (NSSF) to low cost borrowing sources. The state has been taking short term loans at cheaper interest rates from funds set up for dedicated purposes like OMBADC and CAMPA. The state can borrow up to 60 percent of surplus funds available in these funds.

Therefore, it is high time that our experts and policy makers should do their homework and reorient their vision. They should make proper planning and estimation while anticipating risks and planning for their mitigation. Utmost care must be taken for the proper management of the state economy with a fail-safe framework for risk planning.

Bharat Bandh called by traders on July 16 against the central government

BJD ready for Parl Session

New Delhi: Against the GST policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a call for a whole India bandh has been called on 16 July, on behalf of the Bhartiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal, on Saturday. On Thursday, July 14, memorandums will also be handed over by the aggrieved businessmen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala

across the country will have to face a lot of trouble due to this proposed move of the central government, due to which the people will get expensive everyday things, dissatisfaction will spread across the country, governments will not get much revenue. Only the GST officers will get the benefit, their pockets will



Sitharaman to the officers in the district headquarters, town headquarters across India. It is noteworthy that in the last week of June, a meeting of the GST Council was held, in Chandigarh. In the above GST Council meeting, the proposal was passed that the government would collect 5% GST tax on unbranded food items across the country from July 18. Wheat, flour, pulses, rice, jaggery, honey etc. come in the 5% GST slab proposed by the government. Various business organizations of the country argue that this move of the central government will increase the prices of essential food items in India, common people are upset. Unnecessarily, anarchy can also spread in the country. Small, big, medium traders, industrialists, retail traders

be filled. The government is also in danger of being defamed, so the Indian Industry Board of Business requests the central government to withdraw the anti-people GST increase tax for the greater interest of the public, without any delay.

In the event of not listening to the government, memorandums will be submitted from place to place on the 14th and all types of business will be closed in India.

We have got all the above information through Prahlad Khandelwal (Chairman governing body) Shyam sundar Poddar (Secretary) Rajesh Agarwal (Org. Secretary) and Padam Bhawsinka, Mahendra Agarwal, Hanuma mal singhi, Pravash Rout, the top leader of the Indian Industries Board.

More funds for gender Budget

Bhubaneswar: In order to promote development and empowerment of girls and women ensuring gender equitable distribution of resources and by contributing to equal opportunities for

maternal governance and administration. The total amount for Gender Budget has gone up from Rs. 48,545.44 Crore in 2021-22 to Rs. 56,846.24 Crore

women & child Development has 49 Percent of share of the gender specific budget, Mission Shakti will be having nearly 34 Percent share and Health & Family Welfare sector will have

As per Budget Estimate 2022-23, the share of gender specific allocation is 4.78 Percent, gender sensitive program is 39.88 Percent and total Gender Budget to state's total expenditure accounts for 44.65 Percent.

So far State Gross Domestic Product (GSDP) is concerned, gender specific allocation is 1.12 Percent, gender sensitive allocation is 9.35 Percent and total gender budget to GSDP is 10.47 Percent.

In the meantime, the state government in order to strengthen Gender Responsive Budgeting, Gender Budget Cell has also been constituted within several departments for overseeing their respective gender budgeting process and to make more transparent and accountable, the state government has made the budgetary process digital.

Despite such positive outputs, the gender gap that still exists in terms of various development indicators need targeted and coordinated interventions from all the stakeholders, officials admit.



all, more funds are pumped in to address their needs. Accordingly, more than Rs. 8300 Crore more allocation has been made in 2022-23 Annual Budget exclusively for gender specific and gender sensitive programs, for which the Gender Budgeting in Odisha has gone a long way, thanks to overdrive of the State Government, which aims a more gender transfor-

during 2022-23 as more schemes and programs have been included in gender specific programs, officials say, adding it is Rs. 8301.37 Crore more than last Fiscal. State Government is implementing 85 schemes and programs in gender specific components and 420 Schemes in gender sensitive components during 2022-23. While Department of

9 Percent share. So far gender sensitive schemes are concerned, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water has 16.60 Percent, followed by Health & Family Welfare 14.07 Percent and Works 10.04 Percent. Officials say that gender responsive fiscal policy has turned out to be an effective tool to improve the allocation of existing resources in more gender equitable ways.

Bhubaneswar: The Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has lined up several important issues of Odisha pending with the Government of India for the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament to begin from July 18.

Chief Minister and BJD Supremo Naveen Patnaik on Saturday held an important meeting with his party MPs from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for the upcoming session.

"We are neglected in matters of railways, banking, tele density, payment of coal royalty and clean energy cess and the construction of coastal highway. All the above critically important issues concerning the interest of Odisha need to be raised in the Parliament," Mr. Patnaik said in the meeting.

The CM said during his meeting with the Prime Minister on May 30 at New Delhi, he had dis-

boiled rice from the state for the crop season 21-22, withdrawal of export duty on the below

imum support price (MSP) for paddy in the interest of our farmers, 33 per cent reservation for women in both assembly and parliament and constitution of Odisha legislative council.

"Our demand for special category status and inclusion of 'Ho' language in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution needs to be followed up and pursued vigorously," he added.

The MPs were asked to provide all support to NDA Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu.

"The daughter of Odisha Droupadi Murmu has been nominated to the highest office of our country. It is indeed a matter of honour and pride for our state. On behalf of the people of Odisha and BJD, we need to extend our full support to her candidature in the presidential election to be held on July 18," Mr. Patnaik told his party MPs.



cussed several issues concerning the state's interest and sought the support of the central government on all the issues.

"I would impress upon all of you to take up all the pending issues with the concerned ministries so that these are sorted out in a time bound manner," he told the BJD MPs.

He also asked the MPs to peruse the union government about evacuation of 5 lakh MT of surplus fortified par-

58 per cent grade ore and pellets, sanction of 1.84 lakh PMAY (G) (special houses) to the cyclone Fani affected families, exemption of DMF trust from the purview of income tax from 2022-23 onwards.

The BJD President further asked the MPs to peruse the centre for speeding up of pending railway projects in the state, implementation of the Swaminathan Committee recommendations on mini-




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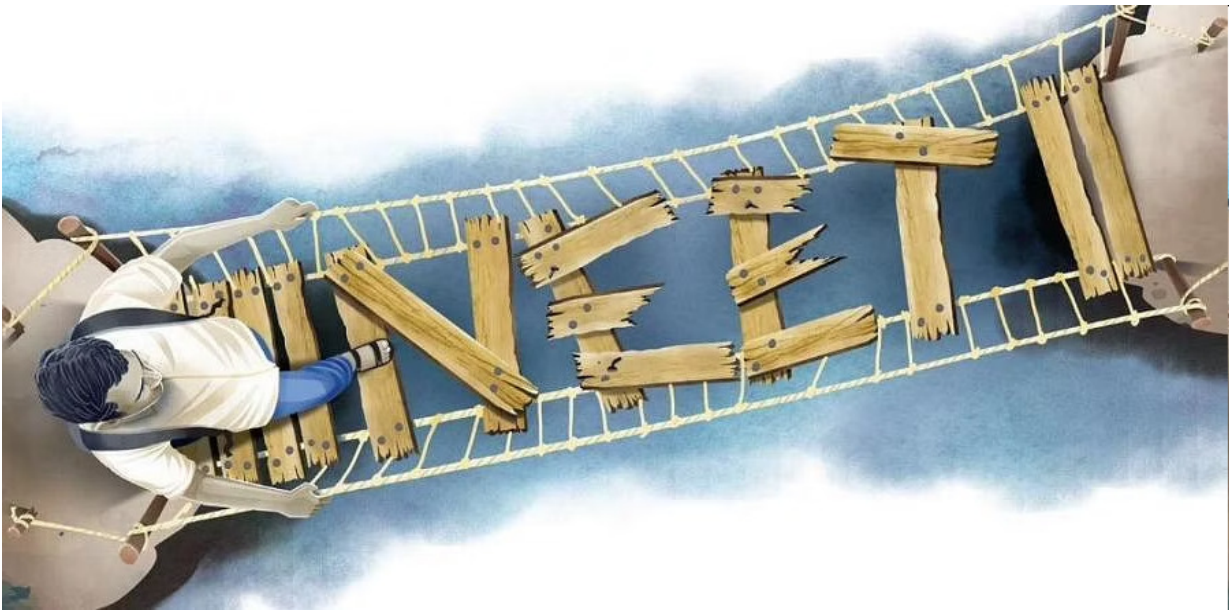
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NEET records 95 per cent attendance with record 18.72 lakh applicants



NEW DELHI: About 95 per cent attendance was on Sunday recorded in the medical entrance exam NEET, which had received the highest number of applicants ever, according to National Testing Agency (NTA) officials.

"Breaching the 18-lakh mark, a total of 18,72,329 candidates had registered for the largest entrance exam in the country of which 10.64 lakh were female. About 95 per cent attendance was recorded today," a senior NTA official

said. This was the first time that the number of registrations for the NEET medical entrance exam surpassed 18 lakh, a considerable increase of over 2.5 lakh from 2021.

Last year, the NEET-undergraduate exam was held on Septem-

ber 12, with over 95 per cent of the registered candidates appearing for it.

Over 15.44 lakh candidates appeared for the exam, which was conducted at 3,858 centres.

Of these, at least 8.70 lakh students had qualified.

Reveal your racing attitude: The first-ever BMW G 310 RR launched in India

GURUGRAM: BMW Motorrad India launched the first-ever BMW G 310 RR in India today. India is the first country to welcome the third and latest member of the highly successful BMW 310 model series.

The bike is available at BMW Motorrad India

dealerships from today onwards. The BMW G 310 RR has been jointly developed by BMW Motorrad and cooperation partner TVS Motor Company. It is locally produced in India along with BMW G 310 R and G 310 GS by TVS Motor Company in Hosur.

being recognised within the country as well as abroad.

Condemning the Opposition for creating a row over unparliamentary words and circulars issued in routine for the past several years, he said such a practice is being carried on since 1954, when the first such list was brought out, and the opposition was doing so as it was devoid of any issues against the government.

Joshi claimed the government was "doing good work" and the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was recognised not just by people within India but also those abroad. "The Opposition is trying to make issues out of non-issues as they do not have anything against the Government. It is trying to belittle the image of Parliament," he said on the row over unparliamentary words.

"Actually there is no major issue against the government as it is functioning well under PM Modi's leadership and it is being hailed in may elections," he said.

Joshi said presiding officers in previous years also released such a list of unparliamentary words, but the Opposition did not raise it then. He said the words are expunged on the demands made in Parliament and the Chair takes the final call.

"No word has been barred from use in Parliament and the Lok Sabha Secretariat has been bringing out such a list of unparliamentary words since 1954," Joshi also said, adding that it is the Lok Sabha Secretariat and not the government that brings out such a list. Similarly, he said a normal circular was issued by Rajya Sabha Secretariat on not holding any dharnas and protests in Parliament, but the Opposition raised it as if it is something new.

Such circulars are issued ahead of every session, he said. On criticism over the absence of the prime minister from the meeting, he said Congress leader Jairam Ramesh raised the issue.

"The prime minister never attended all-party meetings before 2014 when the Congress was in power."

"It was his good gesture to do this from 2014. They are trying to make an issue that is a non-issue. Our senior colleague Rajnath Singh and deputy leader of the house chaired the meeting," he said.

"We are open to discussion on all issues under the rules and procedures of parliament," Joshi said when asked about the opposition demand on the Agnipath scheme.

He also stated that the government would hold an all-party meeting on the Sri Lanka situation on Tuesday which will be chaired by Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar.

Bird found mid-air in cockpit of Air India Express' Bahrain-Kochi flight

NEW DELHI: A live bird was found in the cockpit of Air India Express' Bahrain-Kochi flight on July 15, officials of aviation regulator DGCA said on Sunday. The bird was found in the glove compartment



on co-pilot's side when the plane was at 37,000 feet altitude, the officials noted. The plane landed safely in Kochi, they said.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is investigating the incident, they mentioned. Prima facie, it looks like there was a ground handling lapse at a foreign station, the officials said while talking about the incident.

Air India Express' Calicut-Dubai flight diverted to Muscat after burning smell observed in cabin

In another incident, Air India Express's Calicut-Dubai flight was diverted on July 16 to Muscat after a burning smell was observed in cabin mid-air.

Air India Express did not respond to PTI's requests for statements regarding the two aforementioned incidents.

Jaishankar to brief parties on Modi government's intervention in Sri Lanka

Continued from page-1

India's position, especially in the context of the political instability in Sri Lanka and the role it could play in seeing a stable regime in Colombo, Sitharaman will emphasise on the crippled economy and the extent to which New Delhi could go to pull the island nation out of the morass. The government's decision to brief representatives of political parties comes in the wake of the Indian High Commission to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay's assurance to Sri Lankan Parliament Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana on July 16. Baglay and Abetwardana's meeting took place a day after the latter accepted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation that was sent in after his exit from the country.

Uproar over Diarrhoea Deaths

Continued from page-1

years of independence is very unfortunate and shameful.

Joining his party colleague Mr. Mishra, Mr. Bahinipati too urged Speaker Mr. Arukha gave a ruling asking the CM to make a statement.

Local MLA Makaranda Muduli said six people have died of diarrhoea and a medical team has been sent to the spot to take preventive measures.

He demanded the government to send a state level medical team to the affected areas to assess the situation and take action. Mr. Muduli said water from the area has been sent for examination and the result of the test report is awaited.

The issue took an ugly turn when the Speaker said he had reserved his ruling and appealed to the agitating members to go to their seat and cooperate in conducting the business of the House.

The agitated Congress members however, rushed to the well and shouted slogans in support of their demand.

As the Speaker refused to give ruling immediately on the issue, Congress members created uproar in the House, which led to adjournment of the proceedings twice for 10 minutes and then, 15 minutes.

Later, the Speaker asked the Parliamentary Affairs minister Niranjan Pujari to make a statement in the Assembly on the issue on Monday.

As per reports, around over 40 people of Kashipur block lost their lives to diarrhoea in 2007.

Odisha CM reiterates support for presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu

Continued from page-1

Kharif marketing season 2021-22 and on withdrawal of export duty on below 58 per cent grade iron ore and pellets.

He had demanded sanction of 1.84 lakh Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen) special houses to the cyclone Fani-affected families and to migrate 5.09 lakh data from the rural housing portal to permanent waitlist (PWL) through Awaas+. Besides, he had drawn the attention of the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for exemption of the district mining fund trust from the purview of income tax from 2022-23 onwards. "All the above issues need to be pursued with the Centre," he added.

The Chief Minister also said that the State's demand for speeding up pending railway projects, implementation of the Swaminathan Committee recommendations on minimum support price for paddy, 33 per cent reservation for women in both Assembly and Parliament and for Odisha Legislative Council also need to be followed up and pursued vigorously. Other issues to be raised in the Parliament include the demand for Special Category State status and inclusion of 'Ho' language in the 8th Schedule, he added.

Mantra for IAS; respect public pep.

Continued from page-1

tric, it is important that we use technology to bring in meaningful exchanges and definite improvements in national governance. He said, today's citizen aspires to have a voice in the processes of policy formulation and policy implementation.

Dr. Singh noted that the initiative of mandatory stint of Assistant Secretaries with the central Ministries / Departments was a huge experiment introduced at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 has paid off extremely well to the benefit of the Government of India.

He was informed that this batch of 175 officers has 108 officers with engineering background and many officers with background in medicine, management, law and Arts have also joined. He emphasised that it would be very much admirable if they utilise their educational background to showcase how the Ministries/Departments can innovate, use new ideas and deliver high quality outputs directly to citizen with complete elimination of middlemen and leakages. The Minister also hoped that the technocrats will be able to do justice to the flagship programmes of the government in sectors like Health, Agriculture, Sanitation, Education, Skills and Mobility to name a few, which are technology based and technology driven.

Dr. Singh said, as the expectations and aspirations of citizens from the administration and governance are on the rise, information technology, internet, mobile technology, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning etc. can bring dramatic changes in the lives of the people and they can help the administration to establish a direct contact with the people. He said, the required improvement in citizen services and speedy resolution of grievances related to them can be brought about by utilising technology in an effective manner. Dr. Jitendra Singh exhorted the young bureaucrats to remain grounded and added that their attitude to the common citizen who comes to the doorstep of the Government is going to be one of the most important factors in shaping citizen's satisfaction from Government Services. Once the attitude is supportive and full of empathy, the attitude of those who are working with civil servants is bound to change and therefore they should strive for being the role model in this Attitude Changing Mission, the Minister added.

Dr. Singh urged the officers to examine the status of the programs, ideas and suggestions that were initiated by the 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 batches of Assistant Secretaries and ensure that their ideas and suggestions are also taken to the logical conclusion. He said, through this program, officers are getting an awesome opportunity to gain insight into Policy making with the senior most and most experienced officers at the beginning of the career, which is going to be very useful, relevant and enlightening for all of the officers. It will also help one to understand how policy review and analysis takes place at the highest levels and how decisions are taken before you join the field postings, the Minister concluded.

Losing in quarters was upsetting, says a relieved Sindhu

SINGAPORE: A 'relieved' P V Sindhu hopes to continue her rich vein of form in the upcoming events, including the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, after winning the Singapore Open title here on Sunday.

moments to prevail 21-9 11-21 21-15 over 22-year-old Wang Zhi Yi, the reigning Asian Championships gold medalist, in the summit clash to claim her third title of the season.

"In the last couple of tournaments, there were hard-fought

matches, and losing in the quarterfinals and semifinals was a bit upsetting but each match mattered and finally I could get this," Sindhu told reporters after the win. "I am very happy because after a long time coming here to Singapore and winning this, means a lot

to me. "I have finally crossed that level, I have got the win now and I hope the same tempo continues for the rest of the tournaments and I do well in the upcoming event. "Living out of a suitcase is the norm for international athletes

and Sindhu admitted there is no time to celebrate as she shifts focus on the Commonwealth Games starting July 28.

"I just have a week after that again we leave for Commonwealth Games. Maybe I can take a day off, and spend time with my family," she said.

"It has been a long tour for me, there was Indonesia, Malaysia for two weeks, and now Singapore. So it is time to go back home and just relax for a bit and then get back to training but definitely, I am going to enjoy this win, it means a lot.

Asked if the Singapore open title augurs well for the Commonwealth

Games and World Championships, Sindhu said: "Ya it is. I wanted to be more successful (laughs). Right now it is time to just go and relax and then focus on the Commonwealth Games and hope I get a medal in that.

"Followed by that we have the world championships and Japan Open, of course, hope for a medal in that too. I have to be physically and mentally fit. My strength and conditioning coach Srikanth is there with me, so it should be okay."

Sindhu, who already has a silver and a bronze apart from the team gold from the Commonwealth Games, will be favourite to win the gold this time.

Talking about the Bir-

mingham event, Sindhu said: "It is going to be a team

"It was a good match. After winning the first game, I gave



event. We have to give 100 percent and be in 100 percent form. As a team, we need to work (towards it) and after that, there is an individual event.

"I hope I give my best, it is not going to be easy, there are some good players. So hoping for as many medals as we can."

The final was a tricky affair as Sindhu recovered from a mid-game slump to outwit China's Wang Zhi Yi.

away continuous points from the beginning in the second, so it was really difficult to catch up. But in the third game, it was 9-11 and it was a crucial phase, where I had to maintain the lead," she said.

Talking about her opponent, Sindhu said: "She played well. I am playing her for the second time. I was not hoping that it will be easy, I knew it will be a long match, long rallies."

Bayern Munich clear star striker Robert Lewandowski's move to Barcelona

BERLIN: Bayern Munich confirmed on Saturday they have agreed a deal with Barcelona for the sale of Poland star Robert Lewandowski to the Spanish club.

extension to his contract, which expires in the summer of 2023.

He was also unhappy with the salary offered and had clashed with the Bavarian club's coach Julian Nagelsmann over tactical choices.

Abysmal debt Although he resumed training with Bayern a few days ago, Lewandowski arrived late each time, except this Saturday, when he took the opportunity to bid farewell to his teammates.

The official presentation of the Bayern squad then took place at 1500 local time (1300GMT) without him.

With his imminent arrival, Barcelona continue to strengthen with the ambition of returning to the forefront of the European scene. He is the club's fourth summer transfer after Ivory Coast midfielder Franck Kessie from AC Milan and Chelsea defender Andreas Christensen on a free transfer, and Brazil winger Raphinha, recruited for 70 million euro from Leeds.

It makes for a very generous transfer window for a club who suffered from an abysmal debt, exceeding one billion euros, a few months ago.

Double European top scorer, Lewandowski, who turns 34 next month, can bring experience to supervise a very young group, carried by Ansu Fati, Pedri, Gavi and Ferran Torres.

Lewandowski joined Bayern in 2014, scoring 344 goals in 375 competitive matches and broke the Bundesliga single-season scoring record.

He won the Bundesliga in each of his eight seasons with the club as well as the Champions League, the Club World Cup and three German Cups.

Last season, "Lewy" scored 42 goals in 50 matches in all competitions, including 35 goals in 34 league matches and 13 goals in 10 Champions League games.

The striker's official presentation as a Barcelona player is not expected to take place until they return to Catalonia in early August.



"We have a verbal agreement from Barcelona. It's good for both sides that we have clarity," Bayern president Herbert Hainer said on the club's Twitter account.

"Robert is a very deserving player, he has won everything with us. We are incredibly grateful to him." Bayern did not give details but Spanish and German media reported the two-time FIFA men's player of the year had agreed a four-year deal worth 50 million euros (\$50.4m), including five million in potential add-ons.

Later, the Catalans confirmed the move for the 2020 Champions League winner.

"Barcelona and Bayern Munich have reached an agreement in principle for the transfer of Robert Lewandowski, dependent on the player passing a medical and contracts being signed," they said in a statement.

Forward Lewandowski told German television he would be joining the Barcelona squad on their tour of the United States from July 18-31.

Media reported he would undergo his medical in Miami.

The agreement between the two teams closes the standoff with the 33-year-old who said at the end of May "it is certain that my story with Bayern has come to an end."

Bayern had only offered Lewandowski a one-year

Haryana government allots Daulatabad Stadium to Special Olympics Bharat events for 20 Years

GURUGRAM: The Haryana Government on Sunday announced that the Daulatabad Stadium will be home to Special Olympics Bharat events for the next 20 years.

naments will also be held in the next six months, the Haryana government further said. The stadium will also accommodate 10 indoor and outdoor sports such as football, tennis, badminton, basketball, power-lifting, table tennis, cycling, handball, skating, and judo.

The facility is also set to benefit over 1,500 athletes residing in Gurugram district.

"Haryana is taking giant development strides in multiple directions.

These are the athletes who represent India at the World Games and many other international events, making their states proud as well," said Dr Mallika Nadda, Chairperson, Special Olympics Bharat.

"It is the responsibility of all communities and individuals, for mainstreaming & providing the special Athletes with a life of dignity and respect," she added.



Special Olympics, the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and physical disabilities, has been operating in India since 1987. The organisation is also present in 172 countries and provides year-round training to over five million special athletes across the world. The Daulatabad stadium will be utilised for regular training sessions while national tour-

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