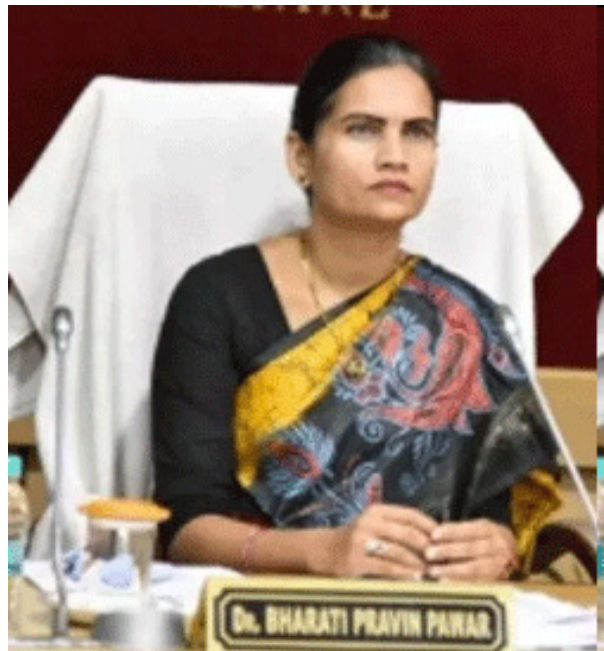


## Center Rejects Medical Students Plea Sasmit New RS Leader

New Delhi(KCN): The Government of India has turned



down the plea of medical students from India who have returned from Ukraine due to war. As per information received from the

### Lok Sabha likely to have debate on price rise on Monday

NEW DELHI(KCN): After a near washout of House proceedings for two weeks, Lok Sabha is likely to have a debate on price rise on Monday, followed by Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, political sources said.

Since the beginning of the session on July 18, the Opposition in both the House had been raising the issue of rising prices and GST, leading to near washout of proceedings. The last two days of House proceedings were drowned due to "rashtrapati" remark of Con-



## Worry for Ratna Bhandar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Senior Congress Lawmaker Santosh



Singh Saluja on Friday demanded the State Government to reopen Ratna Bhandar of Shree Jagannath Temple. Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the State Assembly, Mr.Saluja, requested the Speaker to direct the State Government to lay the report of the Justice Raghbir Dash Commission constituted to probe the incident relating to the missing of the keys of Ratna Bhandar of Sri Jagannath Temple.

He said the devotees of Lord Jagannath, world over, wanted to know whether the jewellery of the lord is in safe custody or not. The Congress Member urged the Speaker to direct the State Government to open the Ratna Bhandar, repair it, list the articles kept in the Ratna Bhandar and make it public. During the last 21 years of BJD Government Rule, 24 Commissions of inquiry were set up by the State Government on various issues at the cost of crores of rupees, said the Congress Lawmaker.

However, it is a matter of regret that out of 24 Commissions, the reports of eight Commissions have not yet been received even after they were given several exten-

sions. The report of the Commission constituted to inquire into the chit fund scam has also not yet been tabled in the Assembly, he added. Speaking to media persons outside the House, BJP Chief Whip Mohan Majhi too urged the State Government to reopen the Ratna Bhandar of Shree Jagannath Temple. According to the inventory prepared in 1978 when the Ratna Bhandar was opened last time, it had more than 12,831 'bhari' of gold and 22,153 'bhari' silver (One bhari equals 11.66 grams). A complete inventory of valuables inside the Ratna Bhandar was prepared by the temple administration between May 13 and 23, 1978. The storehouse had 12,831

grams of gold ornaments with expensive stones and other valuables of the metal. Similarly, 22153 grams of silver with expensive stones, silver utensils and other valuables were found. However, 14 gold and silver items could not be weighed during the inventory making process for different reasons. During the process, values of the items were not assessed. The State Government does not have any information about the gold and silver ornaments and other valuables kept inside the Ratna Bhandar from 1978 to 2018 from donations and 'pranamis' offered by the devotees, the value of items inside the storehouse is likely to have gone up.

stitution Regulation, 2002 provides for that any Indian citizen/overseas citizen of India intending to obtain primary medical qualification from any medical institution outside India, on or after May 2018, shall have to mandatorily qualify the National Eligibility-cum Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to MBBS course. The result of the NEET shall be deemed to be treated as the eligibility certificate for such persons and no separate permission required from NMC, she said. The Union Minister made it clear that no permission has been

gress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and the subsequent Lok Sabha chamber face-off between Sonia Gandhi and Union minister Smriti Irani. Chowdhury wrote to President Droupadi Murmu on Friday and apologised to her for his "rashtrapati" remark. The Congress has upped the ante on Irani over the alleged heckling of Gandhi by her and BJP MPs and organised protests inside and outside Parliament and demanded that she be sacked for her behaviour. CONTINUED ON: P-7

New Delhi (KCN): BJD Supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has appointed Rajya Sabha MP Dr Sasmit Patra as leader of Biju Janata Dal Party in Rajya Sabha. Similarly, Sulata Deo has been appointed as chief whip of the party in the Upper House of Parliament. BJD Organisational Secretary Pranab

Prakash Das has in-

formed this in a press statement here on Friday.



Notably, Dr.Patra and Mrs Deo elected to the Rajya Sabha unopposed and took oath on July 18 and July 8, respectively. The BJD party leader in RS was laying vacant following completion of tenure of ex-member Prasanna Acharya. Dr Patra, a doctorate in philosophy in management, is the third

## New Benchmarks in Healthcare services CM inaugurates KIMS Super Speciality Hospital & Cancer Centre

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik on Friday inaugurated the KIMS Super Speciality Hospital and the

Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology; Orthopaedics and Spinal Surgery and Plastic Surgery.



KIMS Cancer Centre with state-of-art infrastructure and high-end facilities in the presence of Naba Kishore Das, Minister Health and Family Welfare Govt. Of Odisha, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS.

The 300-bed centre will be headed by acclaimed radiation oncologist Prof Bidhu Kalyan Mohanti. The Centre will immensely help the people from Odisha and outside with five distinct Super Speciality Departments, namely, Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Oncology and Palliative Care.

During his visit, the CM undertook a trip around the KIMS campus on a battery-operated vehicle and appreciated the new facilities. The CM appraised the patient-friendly initiatives that have been developed in KIMS. Today, KIMS has expanded its infrastructure with 1600 beds fully air-conditioned hospitals for the general public and economically weaker section people. The modern complexes will offer the most advanced healthcare services to patients coming from Odisha and neighbouring states such as West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand. The addition of the new facilities will give a major boost to the quality healthcare services an affordable price, set new benchmarks and strengthen KIMS commitment to offering the best treatment for all ailments in Odisha itself. The 300-bed Super Speciality Hospital will have 12 Super Speciality departments. They are Cardiology; Cardio Thoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS); Gastroenterology and Hepatology; Surgical Gastroenterology; Nephrology and Kidney Transplant; Urology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Endocrinology,

It is the only centre to possess some high-end medical equipment in Odisha. The hospital has pioneered complex procedures to aid in faster patient recovery and has been recognised for its services by premier-ranking agencies in India and abroad. Most of the



departments are headed by acclaimed doctors and Padma awardees, established names who command awe and respect in equal measures. Evidently so, it has become the first choice for countless people in Eastern India. Among others Smt. Saswati Bal, President, KIIT & KISS; R. N. Dash, Secretary, KIIT & KISS, Prof. Subrat Acharya, Pro-Chancellor, KIIT DU; Prof. Sasmita Samanta, VC, KIIT DU; Prof Dr. CBK Mohanty, Pro-Vice Chancellor; Padma Shri Prof Dr Y.K. Chawla ; Prof Bidhu Kalyan Mohanti; Prof Ramnath Misra; Prof Anil Chandra Anand; Prof (Brig) Dr Ambika Prasad Mohanty, Prof. Ram Chandra Das; Prof (Brig) Dr Sudhanshu Kumar Rath; Prof Dr Narendra Kumar Das and Prof. Dr. Hemant Kar were also present on the occasion.

# Russian Education Fair 2022 held in Kolkata

Kolkata(KCN): Russian House in association with Rus Education organized the

Higher Education in Russia in the field of Medical, Engineering, Aviation, to name a few.

Moscow State University of Civil Engineering (National Research University), Ulyanovsk

State Medical University, Mari State University, Perm State Medical University, Ural Federal University, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Moscow State Regional University. Dr. Pawan Kapoor, Vice-Chairman, Rus Education, said, "Russian Education Fair is an initiative by Rus Education, leading student placement service provider in the country, to reach out to maximum number of students across the country, giving the students an opportunity to build their career and achieve their dreams in Russia through the Fair. All

counseling from direct representatives of the Top Russian Universities and from our Expert Student Counselors. The

students to gauge their prospects, apply directly to the institution of their choice and get first-hand information on

About Rus Education: Rus Education has been a pioneer in helping the students to choose a suitable university from last

Rus Education is best at helping the students with the best courses and universities which are best fitted to their career and which hold the potential of fulfilling their dreams. Rus Education provides the best medical admission guidance services and believes in a personalized approach to the medical aspirants. The transparent work policies and good services make it number one in the field of medical admission guidance sector. Rus Education has a strong presence across the country. Rus Education aims to reach out to the aspiring students and provide them with the necessary guidance and support to fulfil their dreams and to create awareness about the education opportunities available in technical specialities and MBBS in Abroad.



Russian Education Fair 2022 in Kolkata for the students aspiring to pursue education in Russia. The Fair was held at Russian Centre of Science and Culture, Gorky Sadan. Mr. Alexey Idamkin, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata, was present to inaugurate the Fair.

The participating Universities in the Kolkata Fair were:

State Technical University, Peter The Great St. Petersburg

Russian Education Fair is being held in Delhi, Mumbai, Trivandrum, Hyderabad and Kolkata. This fair is exclusively organized to facilitate the Indian students, who are looking forward to pursuing their



Moscow State University of Psychology and Education,

Polytechnic University, Astrakhan State University, Orenburg

aspiring students get the opportunity to seek free Career

## Group Centre, Imphal celebrates its 84th raising day today



Imphal (KCN): The largest paramilitary force CRPF celebrating its 84th raising day today i.e 27/07/2022 with great zeal and enthusiasm. Group Centre CRPF Imphal also celebrated raising day in a magnificent and grand way. Shri Suresh Sharma, Manipur & Nagaland Sector and Shri Madan Kumar, DIGP, Group Centre, CRPF, Imphal and all senior officers paid homage to martyrs who have supreme sacrificed their life on the line of duty for the nation. They have also felicitated to the families of martyrs. Shri Suresh Sharma, DIG, Manipur & Nagaland Sector took salute of the ceremonial guard at Quarter Guard and distributed sweets to all officers, SOs and Jawans. Shri Suresh Sharma, DIG and Shri Madan Kumar, DIGP, Group Centre, CRPF, Imphal expressed his good wishes to all officers SOs and Jawans

on the occasion of 84th raising day. They have also read out about history of CRPF and congratulated to all officers, SOs and jawans and also distributed Atiutkarshita and Utkarishta Sewa Medals to the jawans who have received Atiutkarshita and Utkarishta Sewa on the occasion of anniversary. Painting competition and Volley ball tournament were organized. Shri Madan Kumar, DIG, Group Centre distributed prizes were to the winner up and runner up of the competition and tournament. Bada Khana also organized at respective Messes. The programme completed with grand success. Social distancing was also maintained by all the officers, SOs and jawans during the above occasion to avoid the Covid-19 Pandemic.

expert student advisors provide complete assistance in selecting the best university as per the student's suitability." The exclusive fair aimed to bring together Top Universities from Russia under one roof. It was a free platform for all

Courses, Scholarship Seats, Availability of Indian food at Universities, Complete Passport and Visa Assistance, Preparation of Documents for the students, Accommodation facilities offered by the Universities and much more.

25+ years. Rus Education has some of the brightest minds aboard with high experience in the required field. Rus Education believes in giving in-depth details and information about study pattern and study quality in the top universities.

## Barbil police arrested youth for unnatural sex with a minor

Barbil(KCN):The Barbil police have arrested a 26-year-old man for allegedly having unnatural sex with a twelve-year-old boy. The police identified the accused as Ganesh Munda of kolha Barpada village under Barbil police station in Keonjhar district. The incident happened on 26th July and a first information report (FIR) was lodged at a police station the same day based on the complaint of the boy's grand mother Manju Munda, the police said. As per a police, the man lured the boy forcibly, and later had unnatural sex with the boy and escaped from the spot, it said. Victim grand mother noticed

injury at the back and from his unnatural walk and enquired the matter. After knowing about the incident, the boy's family approached the police and lodged a police complaint. The accused has also threatened him to kill if complain at police station. The police initiated a probe into this case. The police identified the accused and arrested him. The police booked the accused under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 377 (unnatural offences) and sections of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act.

## Arjun Munda, Union minister visited Barbil to review impact of central scheme

Barbil (KCN): Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun

Sukeshi Oram ,BJP mahila morcha, district secretary



Munda visited Barbil of Keonjhar district in Odisha on an official visit on date 29th July, He was received with a warm welcome by locals. BJP party workers escorted him with a long road show from Bhadrasahi to Hotel Lucky India, the venue scheduled for his meeting. In his speech the Union Minister Shri Arjun Munda endeavoured to encourage youth mass participation in Nation building and promote excellence



cast their vote to BJP for further development of the country. Arjun Munda also chaired a review meeting with the beneficiaries regarding central schemes implemented in a meeting held at Baitarani Gosala campus in the afternoon. Union Ministers viewed stock of achievements of the welfare programmes of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre in the area. He said the Modi lead

scheme for the downtrodden across the country and the review of Central schemes is part of the their exercise undertaken by them across the country for further development. Along with many senior leaders from BJP Bad Kumar Gagrai, Former minister Jharkhand, Murali Manohar Sharma, Senior leader, Odisha cadre, Sukdev Mahanta District secretary, Sanjib Mohanty, Odisha party incharge, Biranchi Tripathy, state spokes person,

Ansumaan Sabuj Verma, district president and Dillip Kumar Mishra, former Chairman, Barbil municipality were in the meeting. Other than the leader on the diese many BJP front line leader of the locality like Dev Prasad Mishra, Shradhanjali Nanda, Swopna Sahu, Anita Bhoumik, Sanyashi Majhi, Prakash Sahu, Paramjit Singh, Charchil Mahakud, Sushant Bebarta, Mohan Kar, Shrinibaas Konar, Ajay Das, Vijay Nayak, Dushmant Behera, Bishwajit Chatterjee, Sunil Das were also present.

## CLASSIFIED

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REAL ESTATE

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Kawasaki Bajaj in tiptop condition for sale. Contact: 2555326

### PURCHASE

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

### SALE

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

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

Residential plots at

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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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Simplex / Duplex building at BBSR contact : 9437002509

### ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Required Single / Double / Triple Stored North/East facing building at Puri. Contact 9437143483



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We provide luxury coach buses (16,25,32,41,52 seater) for Picnic, Excursion, Marriage. Maa Santoshi Travels, Contact : 9861079437 For Luxury Passenger vehicle, Contact : Sagasity Tours & Travels, Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Ph. 2540219

### 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

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



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

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

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

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

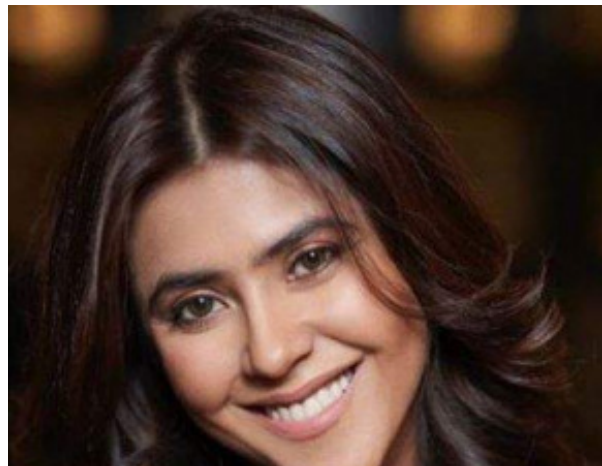
## SC grants Ekta Kapoor interim protection from arrest in FIR over web series

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

leged objectionable content in her web

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

## Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

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

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



ing star cast, which includes Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh and Angira Dhar. Talented actress, Aakanksha Singh has now joined the team. Aakanksha will essaying the role of Ajay Devgn's wife in the film. She joined the shoot yesterday. Aakanksha says, "It's like a dream come true to be a part of such a big and much-awaited film. I am so excited to share the screen with Ajay Sir and Amitabh Sir; and

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

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

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

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

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

## Video-recording of proceedings of courts and tribunals - a panacea for the ills which Indian judiciary faces today

What prompts me to pen these few lines is a query from one of the few law students who started interning with me recently.



The query was, what is the inspiration for me to initiate the campaign titled National Lawyers' Campaign for Judicial Transparency

and Reforms and the video-recording of proceedings of all Courts and Tribunals in the country as its prime objective.

1. I had no difficulty to answer the query because of the injustice which I personally had to undergo, for, the Judges enjoy absolute immunity in the discharge of their official function and for all practical purposes the judgment of the Supreme Court in *K. Veeraswami v. Union Of India & Ors.*, (1991) 3 SCC 655, even from penal laws of the country.
2. I happened to invite the wrath of Justice Mohit Shah, the then Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court as I, unable to resist my righteous indignation that the entire justice delivery system, particularly in the higher judiciary, is being polluted, for, conduits, fearing none, operate with impunity, came to address a confidential letter to high constitutional functionaries, the then President, Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India, Governor of Maharashtra et al, about a conduit who claimed he could buy justice. What I addressed confidentially did not remain confidential. To my great shock, I was officially informed by the office of the Governor of Maharashtra that my said complaint has been forwarded to the Registrar General of the Bombay High Court for necessary action. Even before I received the said communication, I could see a marked difference in the approach of Chief Justice Mohit Shah towards me.
3. While matters stood thus, during the course of the hearing of a case under the SARFAESI Act where I was representing an MSME, Dr. Birendra Saraf, counsel for the Janakalyan Bank, made a submission in the open Court that I had called his client Shri Tambe, AGM of the Bank, on 08.03.13 from my cell number and impersonated Justice Vazifdar. Dr. Saraf later sought to fortify the said allegation, when challenged, by an affidavit dated 25.03.13 of Shri Tambe wherein he attributed to me having uttered from my phone, "I am Vazifdar here, Mathews is before me, ask your advocate to call me". Unbelievable the allegations though, the Chief Justice Mohit Shah ordered the

service providers to produce

**Mathews J. Nedumpara**

the call records, which they did, supported by an affidavit. I too, in the meanwhile, secured the call records from my service provider, which made me feel reassured that I had not made any call to Shri Tambe but, on the contrary, I had only sent a SMS stating: "Tambe/Rajak,

Since the hon'ble CJ is not sitting, I am moving the praecipe before the DB of hon'ble justice Vazifdar. Kindly treat this sms as notice. I will tell so to the hon'ble court as well. When am literally in the court and has given notice of the NOM which am mentioning of which notice has been given to you, if u proceed to harass my client, then, that would constitute criminal contempt of HC. Mathews J Nedumpara". The call records came as a big relief to me since to save my client from being dispossessed of his residential home, I would not have hesitated to call the Bank officer to communicate the direction of Justice Vazifdar to inform the Bank that I will be mentioning the matter, which was not on board, to be taken on board.

4. The call records produced by the service providers, Vodafone of mine and Idea Cellular of Shri Tambe, revealed that I did not at all call Shri Tambe, but it was Shri Tambe who had called me nine times, in response to my SMS, which included seven missed calls. The allegation of impersonation of Justice Vazifdar became a big news. Chief Justice Mohit Shah by order dated 16.06.13 directed the Advocate General to assist the Court. The Court Room was packed with lawyers and public and literally everybody from the press. I asserted, literally hundred times, that I did not call Shri Tambe; that Shri Tambe who filed a false affidavit alleging that I had called him was the one who had called me; that he by filing such an affidavit has committed perjury and he be proceeded against, so too Dr. Saraf for making a reckless allegation, which he did with the sole intention to damage my reputation. In the crowded Court Room with the pressmen in large numbers, Chief Justice Mohit Shah had no other option than to accept my plea that I did not call Shri Tambe and to proceed against him for perjury. But what happened thereafter will shock the conscience of every right thinking person. Instead of proceeding against Shri Tambe, Chief Justice Mohit Shah issued notice against me for contempt of Court proceeding, observing that the call records produced before him indicated that there was 'contact' between the two cell numbers. Chief Justice Mohit Shah, unthinkable though, failed to notice that there was 'contact' because Shri Tambe had called me; that I had not called him, and if I had not called him, it is impossible for me to impersonate Justice Vazifdar. He also failed to understand that in view of the message clearly conveyed in the SMS, there was absolutely no room for any impersonation!
5. What happened in the Court of Chief Justice Mohit Shah, as above, is betrayal of justice which shocked me, too dreadfully. I am sure, most of those who read this article would be shocked as much as me. This incident made me think for days and months, as to how to prevent injustice happening in front of the eyes of hundreds of people; and the wrong-doer occupying the chair of Daniel, nay, the Almighty, escaping with impunity? I felt that the concept of absolute judicial immunity is extremely dangerous and Judges should be accountable for what they do

from the seat of justice, like any other

trustee of power. But if I were to make a campaign demanding judicial accountability, it will be a subject too unknown to the common man to understand. It came to my mind that the real solution is video-recording of Court proceedings and making the same available to the litigant public which would make every participant in the judicial process feel accountable and act fairly – the Judge, counsel on both sides, the parties and the witnesses. I had to face two other contempt of Court proceedings in my 35 years of practice as a lawyer, all after having landed in Mumbai by sheer accident to represent the causes of my clients, in the eyes of many, in my \_avatar\_ as an activist.

6. The allegations in the other contempt of Court proceedings are that I insisted my part to be heard and in doing so I have acted disrespectfully to the Court. The said allegations are so vague and could be made against anyone and at any time, unlike the "Phone case" above where the facts are ascertainable. I realized that any lawyer who invites the wrath of a section of Judges is vulnerable for contempt on the face of the Court. I also realized that presence of a large crowd in a Court acts as a protection from being falsely implicated and the contra that a thinly crowded Court is a death trap. Chief Justice of India Khehar (CJ) and Justice V.M. Kanade of the Bombay High Court, I believe, wanted to haul me up for contempt of Court, but I escaped because of my sixth sense, nay, blessings of providence. For Justice Kanade I was a sworn enemy because I felt that His Lordship's son practising in the Bombay High Court where he is a senior Judge has caused irreparable injury to the institution; so too to His Lordship and his son, who is only of my son's age. In the fond hope that Justice Kanade would seek voluntary transfer to some other High Court for his own interest; so too of his son, I had made a request to His Lordship to seek transfer to some other High Court.
7. On 10.06.16, before Shri Justice Kanade was to rise for the day at 5.00 p.m., I stood up to request the Court to suspend the sentence awarded to my client Dr. Rebello, who was convicted for contempt of Court. I appeared along with my associates S/Shri Adhikari, Mrs. Rohini Amin, Shri R.R. Nair. The Court Room was near empty except the Court Officer and the Peon. No sooner I mentioned the case, without any provocation, Justice Kanade said "you keep quiet ...I will Call the police". It immediately struck me that His Lordship said so to provoke me for an exchange of words and clamp upon me contempt in the face of the Court. I remained as cool as a cucumber, restrained Shri Adhikari from retorting and walked out of the Court.
8. The other incident was before CJI Khehar, as His Lordship then was. An SLP under the SARFAESI Act in which I appeared for the borrower was listed at Serial No.12. No sooner I stood up to address the Court when the case was called out, a booming and extremely friendly Justice Khehar told me in a most polite way "Mr. Nedumpura", for, His Lordship always addresses me so and not as Nedumpara, "Can you wait for some time, we will hear you at length". The excessive friendliness on the part of His Lordship came as a shock to me. I said "Why should Your Lordship ask me that, is it not my duty to wait". Justice Khehar had no reason to be so good to me because I had invited his displeasure by seeking His

Lordship's recusal in the NJAC case.

In the NJAC case I had questioned the maintainability of the PIL by SCAORA and insisted that the said question be determined as a preliminary issue. I had also pleaded that if the PIL by SCAORA is maintainable, were not the lawyers from different parts of the country entitled to be heard, assuming that lawyers are the real stakeholders and not the lawyers in the Supreme Court who are there. I even said that the so-called PIL is only to please Their Lordships, for, the same is considered to be a petition filed on behalf of the Judges. I did ask, who are the real stakeholders? Are not the public at large and if they are, then would not they ought to be heard? Accepting this proposition only, suggestions from public was called for.

9. From the unexpected friendliness of Justice Khehar, I could feel that something is in the offing. As cases after cases were called out and heard, the crowd in the Court Room became thin. Therefore, after the first list of 53 cases were over, I stood up and requested that my case be taken up and heard. I told the Court that I woke up at 3.00 a.m., that without having even breakfast I am before the Court and that my case be heard. Then also Justice Khehar told me that "Your case will be taken up soon, please wait". But unlike in the morning session, His Lordship was not friendly, but was serious. The Supplementary List was getting over, the crowd in the Court was becoming thinner and thinner. So I stood up again to make a request to take up my matter. This time Justice Khehar was unfriendly and sternly told me, "Wait, we will take up your matter". At last, all cases were called out. I, my associate Mr. Philip and my Peon were the only souls in the Court. Justice Khehar told me, "Mr. Nedumpura, you are famous, we will make you all the more famous, we are going to impose a cost of Rs.1 crore." I realized that my apprehensions were real. Justice Khehar wanted to provoke me. I am fairly known to be an outspoken person, a fearless man. I did not utter a word; I just stood with folded hands, praying Almighty to save me. Justice Khehar dismissed my SLP imposing a cost of Rs.1 lakh. Since I kept my composure, His Lordship did not get an opportunity to haul up me for contempt in the face of the Court. There is yet another incident which, for considerations of reticence I do not venture to narrate here.
10. Till I raised my voice against corruption in the Temples of Justice, which I did not dare in the initial 25 years of my practice, I did not face the kind of persecution narrated above. No words can describe the agony, pain, stress and the sleepless nights I had, but I have a sense of satisfaction, a bit of an achievement, namely, that I could bring to the public domain the nepotism and favouritism which the collegium system of appointment of Judges constitutes to be; so too of the monopoly of the Bench and the Bar by a few judicial and legal dynasties and the scandalous practice of the kith and kin of Judges practising in the very same Court where their relative dispenses justice, a scandal of monumental proportion which even my worst enemies cannot find fault with me for bringing to the public domain. I have no illwill with those who have harmed me, sought to destroy my reputation; so too my practice. To forgive them offers me no difficulty, for, "they not know what they were doing".

### Letter to Editor

### Voter id should include email and phone number

It is a positive development that the Election Commission of India (ECI) now permits those above the age of 17 to apply in advance to be included to the voter list rather than having to wait until they reach the required age of 18 in a particular year. Additionally, ECI should let all individuals to register their cell numbers and email addresses so that they appear on voter identification. The ECI made a wise choice to update the electoral roll every three months is appreciable. In order to make it simpler for the young people to submit their advance applications along with emails and mobile numbers, the executives of ECI in all states must come up with latest technological solutions. The registration forms should be simplified and made more user-friendly. The young people should obtain an electoral picture identity card after registering mandatory along with mobile number and email addresses.

Yours,

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

(The author is the President of the National Lawyers Campaign For Judicial Transparency And Reforms)

# Naveen meets team NITI Urge for Road Safety

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday put forth four-point ing. Stating that the state will submit detailed notes on the de-

Mr.Bery on his part also assured the state government to look into the matter and officers of the state government, witnessed a presentation made on behalf of

Bhubaneswar: Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary Commerce & Transport has detailed out the initiatives to improve the road safety scenario in the State.

road engineering defects which lead to accidents.

Addressing the gathering, Lalmohan Sethi, Additional Commissioner Transport, Road Safety said, "We often ignore the fact that in many cases faulty road designs are major



charter of demands before the NITI Aayog and sought fulfillment of them as they are linked to the growth of the state.

Mr.Patnaik's demand included expansion of railway infrastructure, banking facilities in rural pockets, telecommunication service in remote areas and obviously its long standing demand of a special category state status.

The Chief Minister placed the state's demands when NITI Aayog vice-chairperson Suman Bery and Member Vinod K Paul met Mr.Patnaik here. Secretary TO CM V K Pandian coordinated the meet-

mands, Mr.Patnaik said that Odisha has been grossly neglected in the areas of railways, banking and also telecommunications.

While justifying the demand on the special category status for Odisha, Mr.Patnaik pointed out that Odisha has almost been annually affected by natural calamities like floods and cyclones. "These calamities caused lot of financial strain on the state.

Therefore, proper infrastructure in this area may reduce the economic loss," he apprised the visiting NITI Aayog delegation.

the Aayog will take needful measures.

The team also invited Mr.Patnaik to the upcoming 7th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog to be held at New Delhi on August 7. The meeting will be chaired by Prime Minister.

Earlier, while attending other functions and meetings, the NITI Aayog team has assured Odisha government to engage the state in various developmental issues to put it on a high growth path.

Both Mr.Bery and Dr.Paul during a meeting with Chief Secretary SC Mohapatra, Development Commissioner PK Jena and senior

the government.

Both of them appreciated the achievements and development efforts of the state government in their observations and assured of engaging with the state on various developmental issues.

Both the NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman and Member along with other officials also visited the World Skill Centre at Bhubaneswar, an enterprise run by Women SHGs, Community Health Centre, High School Transformation under 5T, Anganwadi Centre and Wellness Centre at Pipili

While stressing upon capacity building and training programme for road engineers of Odisha, Principal Secretary inaugurated on Friday at Heavy Motor Vehicle Driver Training Institute, Chhatia. Road safety is a high priority area for the Government. Department of Transport is taking lot of initiatives to reduce road accidents in the state, said Mr.Sethi. Principal Secretary, Commerce & Transport on several occasions has emphasised on the importance of capacity building for the road engineers. It is first of its kind

training programme in the state where in road engineers working on design and construction of National Highways and State Highways will attend the workshops on Road Safety.

About 200 engineers in four groups will take part in the two-day long training programme between July 29 and August 6. Every batch will have 50 participants; 45 engineers from Works department and five from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Ram Prasad Panda, Chief General Manager, NHAI said, "Three factors are responsible for road accidents- roads, humans and vehicles. Two factors belong to engineers- roads and vehicles; they play a vital role. We have to work in a cohesive manner to reduce accidents."

He further added, the training will enhance the knowledge of the engineers about road safety audit to identify, analyse and rectify



cause of road accidents. The training is planned to understand how road accidents due to faulty designs, which factors influence risks, and what determines crash severity, and based on this understanding, to arrive at reliable conclusions on how to design roads to prevent accidents effectively and efficiently."

Earlier in his welcome address, Sanjay Biswal, Joint Commissioner Transport, Road Safety emphasized on the importance of 4Es of Road Safety- Education, Enforcement, Engineering & Environment and Emergency care.

Among others Sudhi Ranjan Mishra, Superintendent Engineer, ISAP, Works Dept. and Niranjan Padhi, Additional Chief Engineer, NH, Works were present on the occasion.

Pune-based Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT) is the knowledge partner for the event.

The experts from the institute shared their insight into road safety, road safety audit, basic principles like Haddon' Matrix Safety System approach, Vision Zero, emerging technologies in road designs and construction.

Besides theory sessions, the road engineers will get practical training as well. They will also visit black spots along with CIRT team to understand rectification required to make the roads safer.

## Raghurajpur; Textile with Tourism Link Ports boost Maritime Skills

Bhubaneswar: The Ministry of Textiles is developing Raghurajpur craft village of Puri district under the 'Linking Textile with Tourism' initiative.

The Ministry has selected eight craft villages across India including Odisha's Raghurajpur under the program to attract more number of tourists to the place.

Once known as the keepers of Odisha's ancient pattachitra art, largely due to late Jagannath Mohapatra (winner of President of

cent visit to Rome.

Prominent on the state tourist map, the village is frequented by scores of tourists to buy Pattachitra works. After declaring Raghurajpur as an art village, the State government tagged it also as a heritage village.

The other villages—Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Vadaj (Gujarat), Naini (Uttar Pradesh), Anegundi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Taj Ganj (Uttar Pradesh), Amer (Rajasthan) have already been



India's award in 1965) who lived here, today the village houses artists practising various traditional arts.

In 2000, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) declared Raghurajpur a 'heritage village', which has helped the artists explore other traditional art forms as well. Both men and women work as artists.

The artists are mostly friendly towards visitors and not averse to sharing details regarding the origin of the art or the techniques involved. Many families even invite visitors to their household.

Raghurajpur heritage village went into a frenzy after getting to know that the masterpiece 'Tree of Life' made by one of their clan was presented by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to the Pope in Rome during his re-

taken up for overall development of the villages wherein craft promotion and tourism are being taken up at single location, officials said.

Major tourist places are being linked with handicrafts clusters and infrastructure supports combined with soft interventions are being proposed under the "Linking Textile with Tourism".

Craft village will develop handicrafts as a sustainable and remunerative livelihood option for artisans in the clusters and thus protecting the rich artisanal heritage of the country.

Through this program, around 1000 artisans will be benefited directly across the country. This program has also increased the tourist inflow across these craft villages, they said.

New Delhi: Sarabananda Sonowal, Minister Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has said that the Ministry has signed an MoU with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to

jointly undertake the skill development and to harness the innate capabilities in Ports & Maritime sector and enhance their capacities and skills to deal with the rapidly changing competition and provide for port led prosperity as per the objectives of Sagarmala Programme and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). MoU establishes a

framework of collaboration between MoPSW and MSDE.

Additionally, MoPSW also signed another MoU with Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in May 2017, which has been extended in April 2022, for skill development in maritime sector on convergence mode of Deen Dayal Upadhyay-Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Sagarmala.

Multi Skill Development Centre

(MSDC) is operational at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA). Total 57 Qualification Packs (QPs) are being implemented under DDU-GKY Sagarmala convergence programme. Further,

it is envisaged to develop 10 Qualification Packs (QPs) under the MoU signed between MoPSW and MSDE. Apart from MSDCs in Major Ports, several skill development centres have been setup through Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs). Under the DDU-GKY-Sagarmala convergence and PMKVY, more than 4,000 persons have received training for skilling, reskilling and upskilling.

Since the commencement of skill development training programs, Rs. 77.02 Cr. have been sanctioned and Rs. 36.29 Cr. funds have already been released to States / UTs under DDU- GKY Sagarmala Convergence.

This information was given by Mr.Sonowal in a written reply in the Lok Sabha



# Boozie's 10 minute liquor delivery service to launch in Odisha

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Boozie, the service that has taken Kolkata by storm with a first of its kind 10-minute liquor delivery

pointed that there is a void in the market for an efficient, cost effective delivery service in the Liquor segment. We have been



platform is all set launch operations in Odisha after receiving an NOC from the Odisha Excise Department.

Odisha, primarily Bhubaneswar has been a stupendous market for liquor sales, with one of the highest percentage of population which consumes liquor. Surveys indicate that the percentage is almost double of the country's average.

"After receiving an overwhelming and unprecedented response in Kolkata, we wanted to expand further in the Eastern Cluster. We welcome the progressive move by Odisha Government to issue NOCs to aggregators like Boozie. Bhubaneswar is rapidly growing from a Tier II city to a smart metro with a huge demographic of E-com users. In-app analytics, brand feedback and on ground user data in Kolkata have all

able to capture 25% of the market share in the first month of our operations in Kolkata." Said Vivekanand Balijepalli, Founder and CEO of Boozie.

Boozie has been offering premium delivery services at affordable and almost negligible delivery fee, which seems to have got the customer's nod. So how has Boozie been able to achieve

this, we asked Vivekanand.

He said "We have been very strategic in our selection of stores, optimising our rider force, usage of technology to anticipate the trends, keeping retailer interests intact to come up with a robust model that can be a plug and play in Bhubaneswar. This coupled with sale of our in house FMCG products such as Packaged Drinking Water, Club Soda, Tonic Water, Ginger Ale etc. and Snacks ensures the viability of the model. I believe a BOOOZIE is one who enjoys a drink responsibly, smartly and unapologetically. We want to ensure we provide this to our fellow BOOOZIE's."

This one-stop-shop for everything to do with liquor seems to be the need of the hour in Bhubaneswar and for that matter all over the country.

## Warning on Bank Operations

Bhubaneswar: Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra has warned all Departments on open-

It was observed that public sector banks account for 55.88 per cent achievement of ACP and

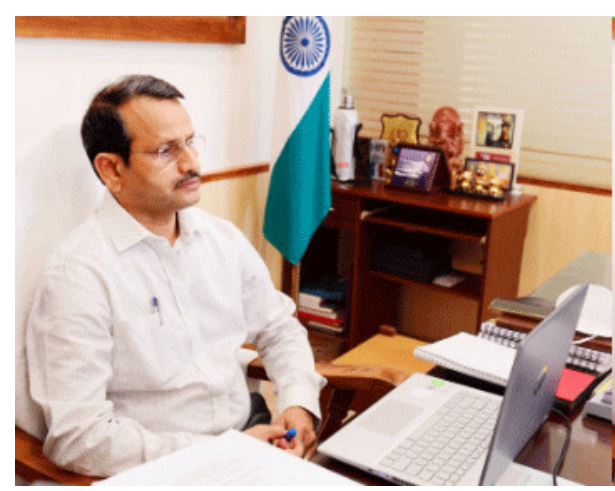
observed.

Further, he said, Indian Overseas Bank, IndusInd Bank and Bandhan Bank, despite excellent performance under ACP achievement for FY 2021-22, do not have any SNAs. "Some departments have distributed all SNAs to only three Private Sector Banks i.e. ICICI, HDFC and Axis Bank," he pointed out.

Based on the composite index calculated on the basis of share in total ACP achievement of the state, achievement against ACP target, CD ratio and total branches, the PSBs should have been assigned 70 SNAs whereas they are having only 57 SNAs. Similarly, the private sector banks should have got 40 SNAs, whereas they are having 53 SNAs operated only by three banks i.e. HDFC, ICICI and Axis Bank.

"All departments are therefore advised to

review and distribute the Single Nodal Accounts among empanelled banks in an equitable manner, keeping in view their respective share in total ACP achievement of the state, achievement against ACP target, CD ratio and total branches," directed the Chief Secretary. Further, Mr. Mahapatra advised the Departments to share the details of Single Nodal Accounts opened by their Department for Centrally Sponsored Schemes with the Finance Department for future reference. Notably, the Finance Department had issued a detailed advisory in October 2021 to all Departments regarding selection of banks for opening Single Nodal Accounts (SNAs) under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) based on key parameter, like CD Ratio, ACP Achievement and No. of Branches.



ing of Single Nodal Accounts (SNA)s in private banks.

Mr. Mahapatra has recently written a letter to the Additional Chief Secretaries (ACSs), Principal Secretaries, Secretaries of all Departments on distribution of Single Nodal Accounts among empanelled banks.

The report from PFMS shows that 110 SNAs for CSS Schemes (implemented by 17 departments) have been assigned to 11 empanelled banks, the Chief Secretary said.

private sector banks account for 15.54 per cent.

However, only 57 SNA accounts out of the 110 SNA accounts are assigned to eight Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and the remaining 53 to three Private Sector Banks i.e. ICICI, HDFC and Axis Bank, he said. Even within PSBs, the distribution is highly skewed. SBI operates 33 SNAs whereas PSBs like, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, Bank of India, Union Bank of India allotted very few SNAs, the Chief Secretary

## Mantra for team excise

Cuttack: Commissioner of Excise, Odisha, Ashish Kumar Singh on Friday advised Excise Officers to go through the latest judgments of High Court and Supreme Court on NDPS Act to make such cases stronger.

Top Cop, Mr. Singh while inaugurating a one-day seminar on Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was organized by the Excise Directorate, Cuttack through virtual mode today wherein all the Excise Officers of the State took part, advised them in this regard. During inauguration, Mr. Singh briefed all to participate proactively and implicate the law properly during the search, seizure and investigation. He instructed all the Excise officers to go through the latest judgements of the High Court and Supreme Court on NDPS Act.

The State Excise Chief informed that with the accused persons resorting to new tech-

nology in illicit trafficking and the changes in law, it is imperative for all to be knowledgeable for observing the mandatory provisions of the

drugs and forfeiture proceeding under NDPS Act.

Rama Chandra Mishra, Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Enforcement ex-

in the seminar. The Excise Officers of the State during interaction made queries in the doubt clearing session and which were suitably explained and



Act and for adducing evidence in court.

Sarat Chandra Samanta, Public Prosecutor, Khordha highlighted on different provisions of NDPS Act, the lacunae in filing papers, adducing evidence in the court of law and advised the Excise Officers to follow the provisions strictly.

Praveen Chandra Tripathy, Deputy Superintendent of Police, STF, Bhubaneswar explained the provisions of pre-trial disposal of

plained about the types of Narcotics and Psychotropic Drugs and their abuse in the society.

Rajat Kumar Praharaj, EDC, Cuttack and Prasanna Kumar Acharya, consultant to Excise Commissioner dwelt upon different provisions.

Rama Chandra Palata, Joint Commissioner of Excise and Dibyalochan Mohanta and Dambarudhar Khanda, Deputy Commissioners of Excise also participated

they were taught about the procedure of search, seizure, investigation and the technique of adducing evidence etc.

The Excise Commissioner at the conclusion of the seminar stressed upon conducting such seminars in each month and stated that steps are being taken to train all Excise Officers in the coming days and hope that all Officers take advantage of such seminars to make themselves comfortable in disposal of their day-to-day enforcement activities.



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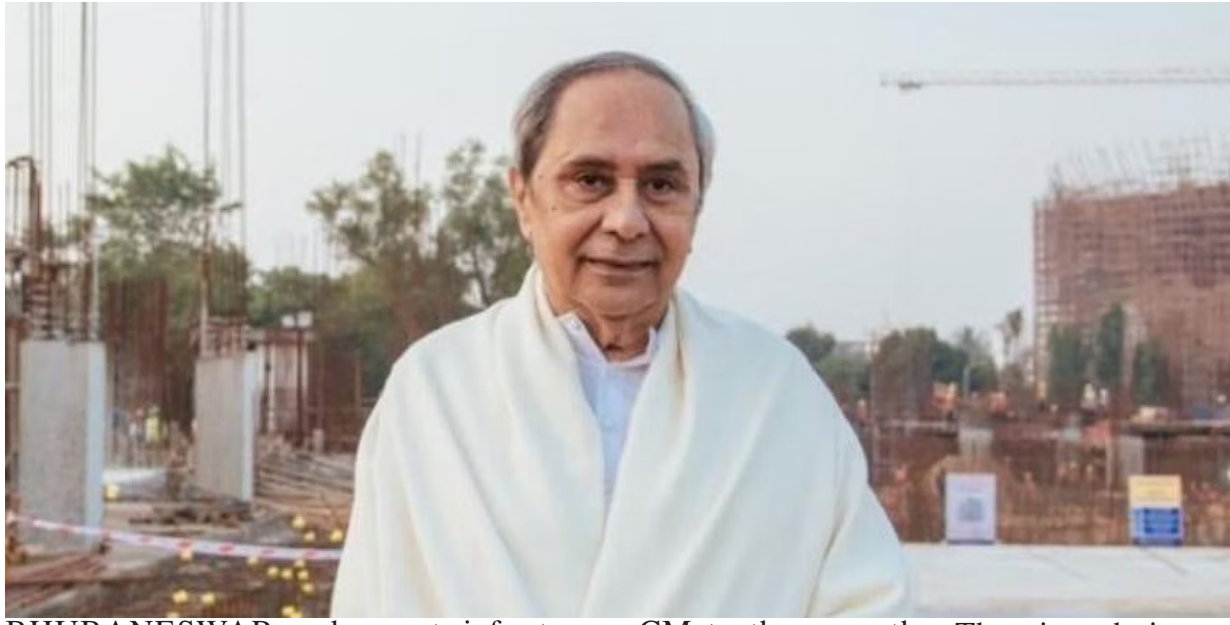


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## Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik reiterates demand for special category state status



BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday reiterated the long-standing demand for special category State (SCS) status for Odisha. In a meeting with vice-chairman of Niti Aayog Suman Bery and member VK Paul at Naveen Nivas here, the CM said the SCS status is important for Odisha which faces natural disasters like cyclones and floods every year resulting in massive

damage to infrastructure. The CM also highlighted demands related to railways, telecom and banking in rural areas. Stating that many panchayats in Odisha do not have banking facility, he said there are areas in the State without tele-connectivity. A detailed report highlighting these demands will be submitted to the Niti Aayog soon. The vice-chairman invited the

CM to the seventh general council meeting of Niti Aayog to be held at New Delhi on August 7. A team from the Niti Aayog is on an official visit to the State. The team members including Bery, Paul and officials visited the World Skill Centre at Bhubaneswar, an enterprise run by women, a community health centre, a 5T transformed school and wellness centre at Pipili.

The vice-chairman held a review meeting which was attended by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Development Commissioner PK Jena and other senior officials. A presentation was made on behalf of the State government on the achievements made in different fields, various developmental issues and challenges.

## Cabinet approves 1.64L-crore plan to revive BSNL

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a 1.64 lakh crores

government wants to convert such huge statutory dues into equity to help im-

Vaishnav said, is also approving sovereign guarantee bond issuance for BSNL to re-

of BSNL 4G services is expected in about 2 years and will significantly in-



revival package for the merger of Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) into the state-owned telecom operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The move by the government aims at not only improving the quality of BSNL services and de-stressing the balance sheet, but also to expand the fibre reach of the company. The government is also approving sovereign guarantee bond issuance for the cash-crunched BSNL to repay its bank loans as the state-run telecom service provider is saddled with a hefty bank debt worth ~33,000 crores. However, the

prove BSNL's financial health and to see a turnaround of the company by FY'27. Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting, telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnav said, "The Union Cabinet today approved a Rs 1.64 lakh crores package for the revival of state-owned telecom firm BSNL where the package has a cash component of Rs 43,964 crores and a non-cash component of Rs 1.2 lakh crores spread over four years. The package has three elements - to improve services, de-stress the balance sheet and expansion of fibre network of the company." The government, Mr

pay bank loans. "The state-run telecom service provider has Rs 33,000 crores as bank debt. Post package, BSNL will be able to expand 4G services to raise ARPU to Rs 170-180. Besides, the administrative allocation of spectrum for 4G and 5G services for BSNL has also been approved by the Cabinet," he added. The minister further said, "The combined fibre network of BSNL and BBNL will be of around 14 lakh km and the government expects high-speed optical fibre services to get a boost across India, including in remote areas, after the BSNL - BBNL merger. The rollout

crease the revenue." In a statement, the government also said that with these measures, BSNL will be able to improve the quality of existing services, roll out 4G services and become financially viable. "It is expected that with the implementation of this revival plan, BSNL will turn-around and earn a profit in FY 2026-27," it added. According to a Telecom Regulatory Authority of India statement issued on July 19, private access service providers had an 89.87 percent market share of wireless subscribers as of May 31, while BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, had a market share of only 10.13 percent.

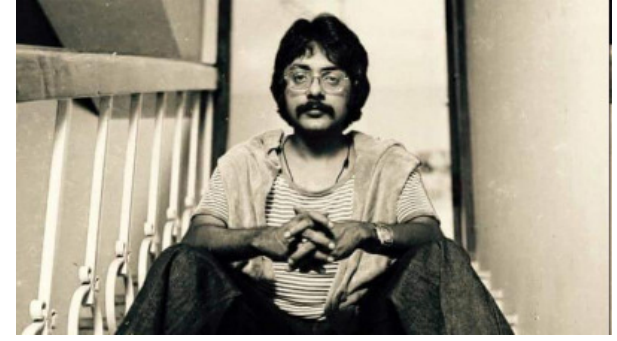
## Hero of another era: Remembering Prathap Pothen

I wonder if actor Prathap Pothen, who passed away on Friday, would have become that popular celluloid hero that he was in his heyday if he were to make a debut today. Would he have fitted into the frames of most modern blockbusters that have so much blood and gore? So if Pothen was loved by the film-goers of those times, the halcyon days of Tamil cinema, it was because a spate of movies, tugging at the viewers' hearts and tickling their brains, were being made by a generation of directors at one point of time. It was the phase after Kollywood came out of the stranglehold of the two legendary titans, M G Ramachandran and Sivaji Ganesan, who had enthralled the audience with their kind of films.

Though I am not sure of the first Pothen film that I saw, my guess is that it was Azhiyatha Kolangal (Inerasable Patterns), which had so many things to remember. Despite being a takeoff on a 1971 Hollywood film, Summer of '42, which I knew much later, when Azhiyatha Kolangal hit the screens, it was a sensation. Not due to Pothen, whose endearing short presence on screen was undoubtedly impressive, but because the heroine was another extremely talented actress, the late Shobha, and the director and cinematographer was the late Balu Mahendra. Tamil film goers went gaga over visuals capturing the rustic charm of the village, in which the coming of age film was set. Another memorable film of Pothen was 'Moodupani' (Mist), again featuring Shobha as the lead actress and Balu Mahendra holding the megaphone and the camera. That too was again inspired by an old Alfred Hitchcock thriller Psycho. But for me or any other Tamil movie goer of the time, the visuals and story line were out of the ordinary. So Pothen, sort of endeared himself to many like me for whom cinema in those days was the prime entertainment. He was the man next door who breezed into the film industry as a whiff of fresh air with his suave demeanour and intellectual aura, oozing with thespian talents. Personally, he was the only film star I have met and interacted with before I became a journalist. He was brought to meet us, students of journalism and mass communication, by one of our guest lecturers, the late Mithram Devanesan, a leading theatre personality in Chennai at that time and a friend of Pothen. That was

soon after the release of his first directorial venture, Meendum Oru Kathal Kathai, a

with elan. All such vignettes are still fresh in my mind since I was an ardent



revolutionary story on romance and marriage of two mentally challenged persons. The film, in which he also played the lead role, won critical acclaim for both his acting as well as directorial skills but Pothen, while interacting with us, was humility personified. He spent a lot of time answering our questions on cinema and film making.

However, about four years prior to that classroom meeting, Pothen had floored me by essaying the role of a student in love with his female lecturer in the Malayalam film 'Chamaram.' The film directed by the late Bharathan created a sensation across campuses, particularly co-ed colleges where women lecturers taught men. I, too, was then a student of a co-ed college. But I wonder if a movie like that could be made in the present day social milieu, in which people are too sensitive to such culture shocks and no one knows what hurts whom. Anyway, in 1980, Pothen pulled it off with aplomb and won the hearts of many students, particularly those who were taught by women teachers.

As a responsible teacher, driving sense into the heads of a pair of adolescent lovers trying to elope from a public school, Pothen appeared in the film 'Panneer Pushpangal,' another beautiful love story that unfolded on the screens in those times. That was also a film character that was widely discussed as he taught us how an ideal teacher should be to his students, thus making an impression on me in those student days when we generally resented the behavior and attitude of our teachers.

Another celluloid fare of that era that featured Pothen and was glowingly spoken about was 'Nenjathi Killathay' (Don't pinch my heart), a slow-moving beautifully narrated story by the late Mahendra, who had once said that he developed the storyline after seeing a woman jogging one fine morning while he looked out of his hotel window in Mumbai and wondered if she would be able to continue her exercise after marriage. Pothen played his part as a photographer

sleep-inducing lectures. But my interest in films waned slowly and I rarely went to watch them as years passed. But Pothen continued to travel in his chosen path and it crossed with mine at times. He was featured in the film Bangalore Days (2013) that I watched and then he came as the judge in the 2020 OTT offering, 'Ponmagal Vandhal.' Most of those who drew our attention through films in those years faded away from the limelight. Also I have to prefix the 'late' to the many names referred to in this column. It is sad Pothen joined them all so early

## Lok Sabha likely to have debate on price rise on Monday

Continued from page-1

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi had this week told Lok Sabha that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has recovered from Covid and was attending Parliament. Thus, the government was willing to hold debate on price rise immediately.

Both the government and the Opposition have accused each other of "running away" from a debate on the issue.

But political sources said on Friday that normal House proceedings would resume from Monday and the debate could first take place in the lower house, followed by the upper house.

## Center Rejects Medical Students Plea

Continued from page-1

given by the NMC to transfer or accommodate any foreign medical students in any Indian medical institute/university.

As per information received from MEA, the Indian Embassy in Kyiv has communicated with all the concerned Universities in Ukraine for providing transcript and other documents in a smooth manner to the students. All details have been provided on the website of the Embassy to assist students to address any related issues, she added.

Notably, in May this year, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention for continuance of studies of students returned from war-ravaged Ukraine.

Naveen had urged Mr. Modi's intervention with the National Medical Commission and the Ministries concerned to facilitate continuance of the study of such students in medical colleges in India from the stage from which their studies in Ukraine have been disrupted on account of the war.

## Sasmit New RS Leader

Continued from page-1

politician in BJD to have got renomination to the Upper House of the Parliament.

Since his induction in the Governing BJD, Dr Patra has been given due importance in the party for his loyalty and selflessness services. The party has appointed him national spokesperson and then elevated him to the RS.

For the first time, Dr Patra was elected to the Rajya Sabha in June 2019. During the tenure, he was appointed as Member, Joint Committee on Office of Profit, Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, Committee of Privileges, Consultative Committee for the Ministry of External Affairs, General Purposes Committee, Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice and Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Law & Justice.

In July 2020, he was nominated to the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, Rajya Sabha. He was re-nominated on July 16, 2022.

Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu has praised Dr Patra for his work and behaviour in the House on several occasions.

He is an academician with expertise in management education, research and consulting; deeply involved in social and cultural activities among slum dwellers, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities.

## Neeraj Chopra wins silver in World Athletics Championships, scripts history again

Eugene: The gold eluded him but with a landmark silver here, Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra still created history one more time, becoming only the second Indian and first male track and field athlete to win a medal in the World Championships. The 24-year-old Chopra, who had come into the showpiece as a hot medal favourite, produced a best throw of 88.13m, which came in the fourth round, to finish second behind defending champion Anderson Peters of Grenada (90.54m).

Legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George was the first Indian to win a medal -- bronze -- in the World Championships in the 2003 edition in Paris.

It was a nervy and unusual start for Chopra, as he opened with a foul throw and had 82.39m and 86.37m to be at fourth after three rounds.

But, to the big relief of the Indian contingent, and the legions of his fans back home, he got his rhythm back as he came up with a big fourth round throw of 88.13m, his fourth career-best effort, to jump to second place, which he held on to till the end.

His fifth and sixth throws were fouls. Chopra had won gold in Tokyo Olympics last year with a second round throw of 87.58m and had just needed a first round effort of 88.39m to qualify for the finals at second place here.

His silver saw India featuring in the medal table of the worlds for the first time in nearly

two decades. India were placed at joint 28th in the standings.

The usual big smile was back as Chopra, the son of a farmer from Khandra village near



Panipat in Haryana, did the 'calm-down' gesture and showed the victory sign with his right hand.

Chopra was, however, no match for Grenada's gold winner Anderson Peters, who produced a massive 90.54m throw to defend the title he had won in the last edition in 2019 in Doha. Peters, also 24, became only the second man in javelin history to defend World Championships title after the legendary Jan Zelezny of Czech Republic who had won gold in 1993 and 1995 editions.

Peters was a class of his own in the final as

he had three massive 90m-plus throws. He opened with 90.21m and then sent his spear to 90.46m in his second attempt. After a series of 87.21m, 88.11m and 85.83m in his next three throws, his javelin soared and landed at a distance of 90.54m in his last attempt to seal the win in style.

Olympic silver winner Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic took the bronze with 88.09m.

Chopra received his silver from the hands of Athletics Federation of India (AFI) President Adille Sumariwalla during the victory ceremony amid loud

cheers from several Indians at the stands, including the other athletes.

Chopra had topped the Group A qualification round and made the final at second place behind Peters by sending his spear to 88.39m for his third career-best throw. Peters had topped Group B with an effort of 89.91m.

The other Indian in the fray, Rohit Yadav finished at 10th with a best throw of 78.72m. Rohit had finished 11th overall in the qualification round with a best throw of 80.42m. The 21-year-old Rohit had recorded a season's and personal best of 82.54m while winning a silver at the National Inter-State Championships last month.

Chopra had won Indian athletics' maiden gold in the Tokyo Olympics last year. He is only the second Indian to have won an individual gold in the Olympics, after shooter Abhinav Bindra, who clinched the yellow metal in

2008 Beijing Games.

Chopra burst onto the international scene with a gold in the 2016 World Junior Championships. He is currently the reigning Commonwealth Games and Asian Games gold medallist. He has also won a gold in 2017 Asian Championships.

With one silver and five finals, this is India's best-ever performance in the Athletics World Championships.

India's Eldhoose Paul finished ninth in the men's triple jump final while the 4x400m relay team ended 12th overall.

The 25-year-old Paul produced a best jump of 16.79m in the three attempts he had, and failed to make it to the top eight. His series read 16.37, 16.79 and 13.86m. Only the top eight finishers after three rounds get three more jumps. Paul had become the first Indian to qualify for the triple jump final after finishing 12th overall in the qualification round with an effort of 16.68m.

Paul, who reached here just a few days ago due to visa issues, has a season's and personal best of 16.99m which he had recorded while winning gold in the Federation Cup in April. Olympic champion Pedro Pichardo of Portugal won the gold medal with a best jump of 17.95m while last edition bronze medallist Hugues Fabrice Zango of Burkina Faso and Tokyo Games silver winner Zhu Yaming of China finished second and third with best efforts of 17.55m and 17.31m respectively.

In the men's 4x400m relay, India finished sixth and last in heat number one and 12th overall.

The quartet of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Muhammed Ajmal Variyathodi, Naganathan Pandi and Rajesh Ramesh clocked 3:07.29. The top three in each and the next two fastest across the two heats qualify for the finals.

## Tamil Nadu has a historical link to Chess

Chennai: Tamil Nadu's historical connection to the game of Chess was enunciated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Min-

istry 75th year of independence from British rule.

This year's games would be a memorable one as it had drawn the maximum

the nation would see more winners and future winners in sports as the youth were getting more infrastructural facilities now.

State to host the event, which had gained global recognition for Tamil Nadu, he urged the Prime Minister to give more such op-



ister M K Stalin at the inaugural of the 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad that saw a galaxy of international Chess players and leading lights of cinema, culture and industry assembled at the Nehru Indoor Stadium on Thursday evening.

Declaring open the games, Modi said that it was only fitting that Tamil Nadu was hosting the prestigious sporting event as it was a State with several temples. Indian culture had a divine aspect to it and as legend had it even a God had played Chess with a princess, he said.

By bringing the Olympiad to India, it was being brought to the land of the game's origin and it was more significant that it was happening in the year the country was celebrating its

number of players to the Olympiad, particularly women, the Prime Minister said. This was the season for many Indian sportspersons to bring home more medals from international events, including the Paralympics and Deaflympics, like never before in view of the encouragement given to sports.

The sporting culture in the country had become stronger, the energy of the youth was at its peak and they were having an enabling environment, which was helping sportspersons to emerge from small towns and villages and make a mark at the world level.

He said the Common Wealth Games were also starting at the same time of the Chess Olympiad and

Modi appreciated the State government for making such extraordinary arrangements for the conduct of the international event in such a short period and also said that it was being conducted at an iconic location. Stalin, in his speech, mentioned Keeladi, the archeological site in the State and said that evidence had been obtained that ancient Tamil people played the game of Chess and some artefacts unearthed there were suspected to be Chess pieces.

He said the game that was once considered to be that of the kings and queens had become so popular among the common people that 36 per cent of the Grand Masters in India were from Tamil Nadu.

Stating that it was a big honour for the

opportunities to the State to showcase its capabilities.

Seeing the Olympiad as an event that would promote not just sports but also tourism and industrial development in the State, Stalin said that though an international sporting meet of that magnitude would normally take a minimum of 18 months to make all necessary arrangements, the State had managed to pull it up in record four months.

He also mentioned that the matches for the game of Sadurangam (Chess in Tamil) would be held at Mamallapuram, which is very close to Sadurangapatnam, which was rechristened as Sadras like Madrasapatnam becoming Madras.




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