

## State government failure to be discussed at BJP office-bearers meeting at Bhubaneswar



BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The BJP at its office-bearers meeting here on Tuesday set the agenda for the State executive committee meeting to be held on Wednesday. The meeting chaired by State BJP president Samir Mohanty expressed concern over massive corruption at all levels in the BJD government. Failure of the State government in maintaining law and order, resolving farmers problems, improving education and health services, employment generation and delivery of public services, among other issues, will be discussed at the meeting, said BJP State general secretary Lekhashree

Samantasinghar. Coming down heavily on the State government for keeping the list of beneficiaries under various welfare schemes a secret, she said since a majority of the schemes are Centrally-funded, the BJD is afraid that the credit will go to the Narendra Modi government. She said the BJD government has not been able to solve basic problems of the people like supply of tap water and electricity to every household even after more than 22 years in power. Union Minister Bishweswar Tudu, Lok Sabha MPs, Suresh Pujar and Basanta Panda and State functionaries attended the meeting.

## Hong Kong bars some journalists from 25th handover anniversary, citing security reasons

HONG KONG journalists from covering events this



authorities, citing security reasons, have week marking the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return

to China, according to the Hong Kong Journalists Association and media reports. The journalists represent at least seven media outlets, including international news agencies Reuters and Agence France-Presse and several others from Hong Kong, the association said in a statement posted online late Tuesday. "The authorities have made ad hoc and narrow interview arrangements at this important juncture and have put forth vague grounds for refusal, seriously undermining the freedom of the press in Hong Kong," the statement said. It said

## All Party meet in OLA

Bhubaneswar(KCN):Ahead of Monsoon Session of Odisha Legislative Assembly, newly appointed Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha on

Monday, Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra too raised this issue during the meeting.



Wednesday held an all party meeting for smooth functioning of the House.

MLAs from Governing BJD, Opposition BJP and Congress have attended the meeting held here at Assembly premises.

At the meeting Opposition BJP and Congress suggested the Speaker allow journalists into the House to cover the proceedings. However, the Speaker rejected it as Covid-19 situation still exist in the State.

"We have requested the Speaker to allow the journalists into the House. However, as you know, the Speaker said he will look into the matter," said BJP leader Bishnu Sethi. Simi-

nalists will undergo Covid-19 testing before the commencement of the session.

The monsoon session of Odisha Legislative Assembly will begin from July 2 and continue till August 4. Finance Minister Niranjana Pujari is slated to present the State Budget for the remaining eight months of the year 2022-23 on the first day of the session (on July 2).

The Monsoon session of the Assembly will have 24 working days and will continue till August 4. The House will be adjourned from July 7 to 13. The second phase of the session will begin on July 14 and will run till August 9.

Mr.Arukha said the monsoon session will be held under Covid-19 restrictions like last session.

"We have increased the second half time period by another hour so that more number of MLAs can participate in the Budget discussions," Mr.Arukha told reporters.

All the Members, their staff, employees of Assembly and jour-

## Devotees to witness divine siblings in Nabajoubana Besha after two years

PURI(KCN): After two weeks of seclusion at the Anasara ghara, Lord Balabhadra, Lord Jagannath and Devi Subhadra will appear before devotees in Nabajoubana Besha on Wednesday. Hundreds of devotees are expected to witness the event after a gap of two years.

Following the divine bath on Sana Purnima day, the deities had fallen sick and been recovering in the sick room. They were treated by temple Vaidya with herbal drugs. As per tradition, on Tuesday, the servitors applied solution called 'khadi and Ghana laagi' on the body of the deities early in the morning. Three sets of Dutta Mahapatra servitors

recast the face makeup using natural colours for two days

am. Later in the day devotees can see the deities from 2 pm to

devotees are likely to witness the Trinity that day as well, said



behind closed doors to prepare the Trinity for the Nabajoubana Besha. On Wednesday, Parmanik darshan (for ticket holders) will continue for one hour from 8 am to 9 am, while Sahan Mela (free darshan) will begin by 9 am and continue till 10.30

3 pm and then from 6 pm to 6.30 pm. This apart, the temple administration is planning to allow free darshan intermittently till 12.30 pm. Since this year, as per Srimandir Panjika, the Nabajoubana Besha timings continue on Thursday too, a large number of

deputy chief administrator of the temple Samarth Verma. "We are taking steps to streamline the nitees to facilitate Sahanmela (free darshan) for devotees who will be allowed entry through Simhadwar. On Thursday, CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Uddhav Thackeray steps down as Maharashtra CM after SC refuses to stay floor test

Maharashtra (KCN): Minutes after Supreme Court gave its go ahead to floor test in the Maharashtra assembly on Wednesday, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced that

to NCP and Congress, allies in the coalition government. "I want to express my gratitude to the people of NCP and Congress that they supported me. From Shiv Sena, Anil Parab, Subhash Desai and Aaditya Thackeray, these people were only present when the proposal was passed while NCP and Congress people also supported the proposal," he said.



ALSO READ | We have majority, confident of victory: Eknath Shinde

He also expressed to

he is resigning from his post.

"I am resigning as the Chief Minister," Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray announced. He also announced his resignation as MLC too.

Uddhav Thackeray also expressed gratitude

## CM Naveen Patnaik begins UAE trip, to meet investors today

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The stage is set for the mega investors meet at Dubai on

visit, Naveen arrived in UAE late on Sunday. He visited the Sheikh Zayed

spired by Moghul architecture. I am told, the artisans and the marbles also came

tors meet at Dubai and meeting the non-resident Odias from Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region on Wednesday.

Huge billboards have appeared on Sheikh Zayed Road and Al Khail Road in Dubai welcoming him. The investors' meet is being jointly organised by the State government and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). A high-level official delegation comprising Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Industries Secretary CONTINUED ON: P-7



Wednesday, where Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will meet industry leaders and pitch the vast opportunities for investment in Odisha. After completing his Italy

mosque in Abu Dhabi on Monday.

"The marble dome of Sheikh Zayed Mosque, Abu Dhabi is an epitome of magnificence with intricate inlay work in-

from Makrana village of Rajasthan. A bit of India, everywhere," he tweeted, posting a video of his visit. The Chief Minister's agenda includes participation in an invest-

## "Sojourner of Faithful Seeking"

Shahid Abbas

I'm the passion inspiring  
The compelling word to be read  
Faded images seen by the awakened  
A firey glow lighting the way



I'm cool breezes which bring healing  
A joyful song to be sung  
An impossible dream to be dreamt  
And hope beyond hope giving birth to a reason for living

I'm the bridge linking then to now  
A nebulous vision shaped into thoughts  
Profound happiness felt with gratitude  
The fecund soil bursting forth

I'm a generosity for sharing  
An ancient story retold as new  
A hard fought victory yet celebrated  
That electricity in the moment  
The universe changes forever

I'm quietude providing peace  
The strong belief which never dies  
A sought for prize which will never fail  
An attraction which shall not fade

A memory not soon forgotten  
A structure of life erupting to fullness  
The sojourner of faithful seeking  
An image of pre-eminence for adoring  
A pattern of glory to emulate .....

People die,  
But in their traces,  
Often they leave...  
Our memories with them!  
The days spent with  
Some laughter  
Mingled with their yells  
Fused with their screams

In the formless world of forms  
We often vainly seek their presence  
In the murmurs  
In their scents  
So lost  
So faded  
Into the cosmic world of trance

But do we unearth their presence?  
No, no and a big no!

Life is indispensable  
Death is the biggest illusory  
Still, death is also certain

But our fragile heart fails to admit it  
It always chases its loved ones

Yet they depart us with a huge vacuum  
Leaving out from the deep passion  
In which, we try to clutch them

## In Your Memory

Sudipta Mishra

Towards an infinite end

But at the verge of life,  
We have to accept  
One ultimate truth  
That is cessation

Silence...  
Calmness  
Perpetual bliss  
Resignation  
Declination...



And our memories lay deeply buried  
With the exit of their earthly bodies  
Within the deepest pit of anguish  
We deposit all our emotions inside

Often, in the darkest hours of nights  
We release them with grieving  
For the departed souls  
For our ever arguing spirits

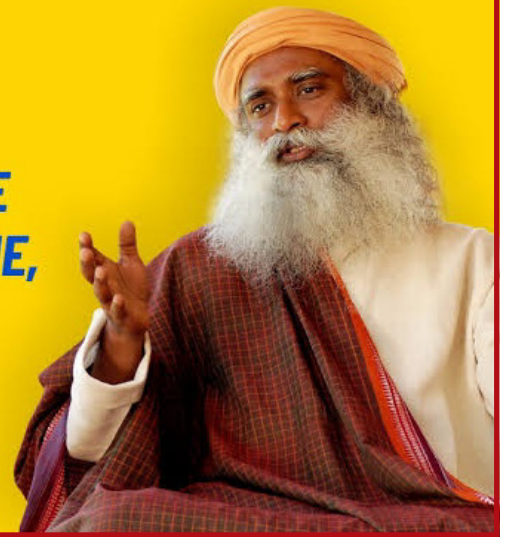
Too arduous to accept the reality  
Yet, we have to accept the decorum  
Soul transmits  
From one core

To another  
By leaving behind  
Their incredible essence!

## Quotation of the Day

SADHGURU QUOTES

**IF YOU HANDLE  
YOUR ENTIRE LIFE  
WITH LOGIC ALONE,  
YOU WILL END  
UP A MESS.**



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## Sons and daughters of war

Dwit David Philip

No war is won,  
Unless the hearts are won,  
Rape is too a war,  
Children begot, are the answers.

Land and air captured,  
Heros are declared,  
Self is the victor or vanquished,  
Time declares its retaliation or love.

Thanks for rape, thanks for war,

I have begot a child, that decides  
what it was.

Bullets, arshannels, guns,  
Muscles, powers and words,  
Embarks the week the van-  
quished,

Does love, joy and peace, an-  
swers, it's the greatest might?

Laherithana, Bihar Sharif, Nalanda, Bihar



# How art and culture can help us rethink time

understand something with their minds but also to feel it emotionally and physically," Eliasson wrote in a 2016 article for Huffpost.

Often questions about the long-term future can feel distant and hard for people to translate into meaningful action in the context of their lives. It's one thing to watch Black Panther in the cinema, and another to know what its vision of the future means in the context of your own life. Art and culture can not only help us experience the long view, but can provide reflective space to enable us to take action based on that understanding.

Somerset House's recent Earth Day season exemplifies this approach with its focus on "the role of language and storytelling in promoting collective action on the global climate crisis". Its mixture of immersive installations, screenings, workshops and debates enabled the public to both explore and reflect. In the words of the founder of the Climate Museum Bridget McKenzie: "We need to move beyond seeing arts and culture in service to communication of climate action, to thinking of it as a transformative and generative agent."

Olafur Eliasson placed melting iceberg pieces in front of the Tate Modern in London (Credit: Getty Images)

Olafur Eliasson placed melting iceberg pieces in front of the Tate Modern in London (Credit: Getty Images)

We Know Not What We May Be was a project at the Barbican in London developed by Zoë Svendsen of the arts organisation Metis. After a 20-minute talk from expert speakers from fields like economics, geography and environmental science, the public was invited to explore what it would be like to live in an alternative economic future, based on a fictional scenario devised from one of these experts' research. In an immersive "factory of the future" they grappled with their role in the shape of the future through storytelling and experimentation. In the words of Svendsen, the arts "can invite us to take on ways of operating without having to commit to them". Or there's the work of interactive theatre company Coney, whose 2014 piece Early Days (of a better nation) involved no actors, only a participating audience who were told: "The war is over and the nation lies in ruins. You and your fellow

survivors must build the beginnings of a new country. What are the rules you're going to live by? And can you avoid the mistakes of the past?" The audience had to explore how they might organise themselves and run a country,



testing and playing with new behaviours and scenarios.

An installation by Finnish artists Pekka Niittyvirta and Timo Aho in the Outer Hebrides used light to show the impact of sea level rise (Credit: Pekka Niittyvirta and Timo Aho)

An installation by Finnish artists Pekka Niittyvirta and Timo Aho in the Outer Hebrides used light to show the impact of sea level rise (Credit: Pekka Niittyvirta and Timo Aho)

It's likely that acting in the interests of the long term will involve radical change in the short term. It will involve rocking the boat, going against the norm, doing things very differently. Art and culture can help us do this in many ways: by connecting us with previous moments of change to make the radical feel more possible, by challenging the inevitability of the status quo, and by making radically different worlds feel tangible.

Art and culture can remind us that radical change has happened in the past. It can both inspire us as to the scale of previous change and it can remind us of the values and behaviours needed to make change happen. For example, drama that retells previous movements of change like gay rights (Milk), civil rights (12 Years a Slave), or women's rights (Suffragette) can make us feel more coura-

Ella Saltmarshe and Beatrice Pembroke

geous, willing to put more on the line and take action.

It can feel like the world we live in is the only option. Art and culture can expose us to a multiplicity of possible futures. Art can also help us challenge the status quo. Cultural theorist Mark Fisher wrote of art's role in challenging "the monopolisation of possible realities". It can feel like the world we live in is the only option. Art and culture can expose us to a multiplicity of possible futures. Take Economic Science Fictions, a new anthology exploring how science fiction can motivate new approaches to economics, or A People's Future of the United States, with speculative stories that challenge oppression and envision new futures for the US. Speculative work can liberate us from the confines of pragmatism and to dream new futures. Fictions can fuel the future.

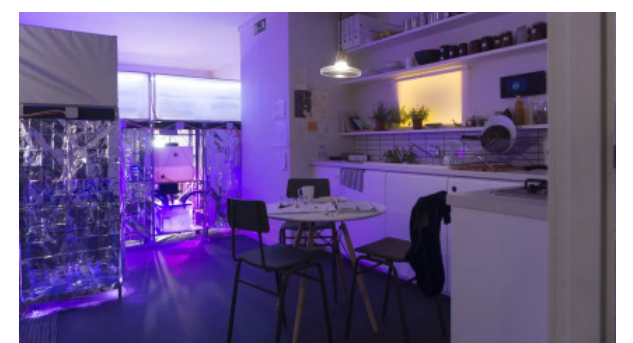
Culture also has the power to rapidly transport us out of the confines of everyday life to create embodied experiences of different possible futures. Back in the 1960s, the Situationists, a group of artists in Paris, pioneered work that created moments to jolt people out of their usual ways of thinking and acting. They demonstrated that art and culture can create spaces that temporarily suspend the es-



established order, norms, and privileges. This was a facet of the recent Extinction Rebellion climate protests in the UK, which used art and culture to transform the roads and bridges they occupied in central London. The striking pink boat in Oxford Circus, Samba bands, poetry, and impromptu performances from musicians all contributed to creating spaces that felt radically different from the

norm. Olafur Eliasson's the Weather Project in the Tate Modern prompted meetings, celebrations, relaxation, noisy acts of protest, and silent contemplation (Credit: Getty Images)

Olafur Eliasson's the Weather Project in the Tate Modern prompted meetings, celebrations, relaxation, noisy acts of protest, and silent contemplation (Credit: Getty Images)



Getty Images)

Ultimately, we believe that challenging short-termism will involve reauthoring some of the deeper narratives that animate our society, the collective beliefs that shape our direction of travel – from narratives about our place in the natural order of things to those which drive our economic paradigms. The stories we live in justify the status quo, make institutions feel inevitable, legitimise certain kinds of solutions, and make our world feel preordained. These cultural narratives are often foundational to the structures that incentivise short-termism, whether at the individual, political, corporate or financial level. For examples of this kind of narrative shift work, see recent work on poverty by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the oceans by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and The Pop Culture Collaborative, which is underpinned by the belief that "activists, artists, and philanthropists can encourage mass audiences to reckon with the past and rewrite the story of our nation's future."

Culture is foundational. It is the soil from which our civilisations grow. If we want to ensure that humans have a long, thriving future on this planet, then we need to work at the level of culture as well as politics, science, technology, finance and infrastructure. If we can work with art and culture to stretch our time frames so that we care about the long-term future, then hopefully as a species, we will have a future in the long term. (Concluded)

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# Shanthnu Bhagyaraj joins Vijay's 'Thalapathy 64'



After back-to-back Thalapathy 64 updates over the past two days, it is clear that the makers of the film are keen to capitalise on the trend. Today, they have announced yet another detail about the Lokesh Kanagaraj directorial.

As we had earlier speculated, actor Shanthnu Bhagyaraj has indeed been roped in for Vijay's upcoming film, which already boasts of a stellar cast that includes names such as Vijay Sethupathi and Angamaly Diaries-

fame Antony Varghese. This project will have Anirudh Ravichander composing for a Vijay film for the second time after Kaththi. Sathyan Sooryan,

who is the cinematographer for Lokesh's upcoming film, Kaithi, will handle camera duties in Thalapathy 64 as well. Bankrolled by

Xavier Britto of XB Film Creators, Thalapathy 64 is also speculated to feature Malavika Mohanan, and this might be the update that the makers are expected to announce later today.

## Weird that women still need to protest for rights, says Shruti Haasan



**MUMBAI(KCN):** Actress Shruti Haasan has raised question over why women still feel the need to protest for their rights, not only in India but all around the world.

"People organise marches and protests for women's rights and I find it weird that we still feel the need to do these protests for women's safety and equality rights. It has been happening for years. I do believe there is a change in the scenario but I feel sad that the problem still exists," said Shruti, while interacting with the media at an RPG Foundation-organised get-to-

gether for women who work under their CSR initiative on Tuesday in Mumbai. ALSO READ: Shruti Haasan's latest to cross over to Hollywood She added: "I don't feel it is happening only in our country. It is happening all around the world. When you look at international news, you realise this topic comes up many times."

Asked what she felt about the fact that there were lesser female-centric films made in India, she said: "I think slowly things are changing. Films are being made that are rooted around

women characters, so change is taking place. But it should have happened bit earlier."

ALSO READ: Shruti Haasan to have break-up song in her debut EP

Talking about Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary on October 2, Shruti said: "It's such an important day and important part of our history. My father (Kamal Haasan) really believes in his philosophies."

Shruti Haasan will next be seen in an untitled film directed by Mahesh Manjrekar, along with Vidyut Jammwal.

## 'Joker' review: Solid filmmaking, messy politics

In many of its seedy street side shots, Todd Phillips's Joker focuses on a theatre and clearly shows the titles playing. There is Zorro the Gay Blade, which came out in 1981, a time that seems closer to the mood this film is going for – the late 70s and impending Reagan era vibe of New York that it lends Gotham City. But the more interesting title it shows is probably Ace in the Hole.

Is it the Billy Wilder film? It's a film that hints at media manipulation and

Joker insists on a kind of manipulation by everything from TV, press to upbringing and economic condition that drives Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix) to become the murderous eponymous character.

Ace in the Hole was also one of Wilder's famous critical and commercial failures. Failure and rejection are important driving forces in this film that's more honest and focused on its visual splendour than it is on the condition and circumstances that cre-

ate the space for a turn like that of Arthur Fleck's Joker. Also, who refers to Harvey Dent as "ace in the hole"? Heath Ledger's Joker in The Dark Knight.

ALSO READ: There are many ways to see 'Joker', says director Todd Phillips

The Gotham City and its socio-economic atrophy that writers Phillips and Scott Silver envision can come across as unconvincing and out of context. It talks of class issues but without clear markers for the oppression it wants us to zero in on.

# Inflammable religions and a vulnerable polity

An upsurge of the right-wing ideology and its grabbing political power in India is perceived as the result of an emergence of a new majoritarian mindset. The political dispensation at the centre has always come under fire since then and a landslide of criticism was that it was frequently festooned with. What became unusually imperative since its coronation was that the idea of religion in India became an inflammable subject. There have been numerous instances in which the amiability of religions in India's secular atmosphere got smothered and narratives to the effect of blaming it as the result of the political transition that the country witnessed in 2014; to be precise, the year since Narendra Modi walked onto hold the reins of India. Despite his achievements as the Prime Minister, the inequality that he is blamed to have brought about among the polity on religious lines keep giving him a ridiculous grin. Especially the quantum of volatility that different faiths in the country came face to face with, and the intensity of animosity that the Hindus and the Muslims stood warring against were seen as an outcome of this right leaning ideology being hoisted to power. In fact the vulnerability of a democracy lies in the erroneousness, imprudence and inaccurate introspection with which different faiths are treated and of course, the demography that India is, should always give us a subject of rumination in the direction of more inclusive and amicable religious alignment. Majoritarianism, for that is what it is described as; the political inclination of the majority or a political establishment accused to be fundamentally tilting towards it, with a view of protecting the aspirations of some and avoiding the exasperation of someone else would drag the country into jeopardy. In its pluralistic essence, viewing the country as majoritarian would turn its social dynamics topsy-turvy. An impending threat is menacingly visible on India's political horizon which needs urgent attention. With its population crossing 1.3 billion, India would be battling to balance itself between democracy and a theocracy that it might be slowly inching towards. While democracy provides its citizens with the essential freedom to flourish as a social being, theocracy dictates terms holding on to the theatrics of radicalization. Signs to this effect of growing disagreement and dissatisfaction is evident and efforts to cobble together the differences without patching them up resolutely for mere electoral gains is obviously throwing the country on to the brim of a scuffle. This is dangerous. India needs to plan not only for its tomorrow but also for the decades to come. The impelling threat is to keep the landscape united without being axed once again on religious lines. Ever since independence, the attitude with which India accommodated its minority was an accurate gesture of inclusiveness that its plurality preserved. While this being the case, there was no glimpse of the majority seeking providence and prominence from the country's political establishment. India has no reason to flourish as a democracy without the Hindus and the Muslims living in concord. This cannot happen through a political adjustment as evidence to prove this theory is plenty. Politics, throughout its history in India, had the privilege to divide religions into deeper and dreadful platforms. Their unity cannot happen at a political level, but deep down at heart for the wellbeing of the nation, a revival should take place. According to Sri Aurobindo, it is important to find the causes of disunion between the Hindus and Muslims and they can be found in the heart and mind



M. R. LALU

and the remedy to heal the malady of disaffection should be sincerely sought there. He is indicating a cohesive adjustment that the conflicting principles should come up with. Plurality essentially brings with it certain conflicting differences. India could successfully assimilate all those conflicting elements which had flown into it from across the globe. The one that failed to accept the essential truth of India and therefore, could not be assimilated to the fold was Islam. This was probably because Islam failed to recognize the cardinal values that a plural social system in India preserved and its all pervasive impulses. Throughout its history, Islam remained reluctant from becoming cohesive and to change its mentality. The Hindus on the other hand, had a tendency to change with the flow of time and developed a capacity to absorb and accommodate. The real trouble that the politics in India caused was to patch up an artificial Hindu-Muslim unity. This was particularly to stage-manage a show that the parties could further use for electoral gains. But the division began to be unfathomable and the solution remained an illusion. Every day broke with a new issue of discomfort between the religious cohorts of both religions and the disruptive flavour that the politics could manipulate the country with, was immensely incongruent. From excavating idols from under the mosques to a disruptive stone pelting in the streets to a massive rioting, everything is a caricature representation of the insensibility that religions have turned themselves into. The recent tumultuous outcry in India was controversial enough to bring the country into a diplomatic standstill, at least for some time and that was the result of this insensitivity with which we dealt with the disunion of the plurality. Religions at war on philosophical differences, possibly trying to establish their spiritual accuracy and ability to deliver salvation instantaneously, keep forgetting the essence of sociability that a new world order would seek; and humanity, tired of the wars and bloodshed would desperately be craving for solutions that a thought or an idea can deliver without any rigidity. This would be the moment when countries seek to break-open their borders in amity and acceptability and who knows, the very idea of religion would fade away or probably be replaced by a new idea which is incredibly accommodative and accessible. No religion for that matter, gains the audacity to prove its depth without being questioned. The intelligence that dares to question the authority of faiths that keep dividing people in the name of metaphysical propositions and doctrines cannot be thrown for persecution. India, a polarised mix of beliefs would probably be designated as the world's most populous landscape in the coming decades, needs to read into the susceptibility that it is inching towards with its plurality. A destination, where most of the religions in the world have flourished and propelled their doctrines steadfastly, would grow manifold in strength and number by 2050 and the situation would seemingly turn more impetuous and impeccably inanimate in terms of creating a breathing space for plurality. An enmity between the warring ideologies would further exacerbate the heat of difference. Manipulating democracy for electoral short-term goals would further deepen the divide between religions and it is sure to bring disastrous repercussions. Majoritarianism, if that is what the present saffron upsurge became a reality with, should hold on to the values of plurality and help India transform into what we call a world leader.

## “The Gateway to Happiness Lies In Having Sympathy for the World”

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever". So a beautiful thing always showcases enough splendour and joyous moments of life. The lustrous beauty lies in simplicity and nature. The modern world is often shrugged off by the sluggish attitude towards life. The inactive mind fails to perceive the real value of happiness. We never know who is starving or craving for food in some corner of our society. People are even competing for basic requirements like water and air. Leave the basics in this toxic situa-



Dr Sudipta Mishra

tion, a few are not getting enough space to reside in complacency. There is stiffer competition for feeding little food to families. Young ones are chasing and begging for their hungry stomachs. The entire responsibility of the whole family is thrust upon little ones. Homeless people are wondering here and there. The flow of milk, in the temples of our country, is considered religious and dignified whereas numerous kids are dying of hunger. The rich are getting richer by pushing the poor people into the pool of poverty. Some fools like us are always chasing and imitating the lifestyles of elite people by creating a never-ending state of anarchy. At the time of this silly and nonsensical comparing game; we forget that every moment we are losing the vital zests of life. We should always cultivate the art of appreciating. If we have endowed with the basic facilities like a roof for shelter, food for acute hunger, and last but not least clothes to cover, then why do we complain? Why do we forget that everyday people are getting deprived of these basic comforts? Ecstasy is something paradoxically defined by society. We somehow conceive that luxury is the seed of ecstasy. No way. Happiness is an inner state, which we can derive from empathy and compassion towards each other in a community. The beauty of life will be cherished and nurtured by the celebration of humanity. The art of helping each other in a society is eternal bliss. The gateway to happiness lies in exploring and imbibing goodness and sympathy for the rest of the world. The way to heal oneself is based on caring and sharing positivity, not on exhibiting disgust and hatred towards humans. After all, we should carry on with the humanitarian values of mankind towards a goal-driven direction of life.

tion, a few are not getting enough space to reside in complacency. There is stiffer competition for feeding little food to families. Young ones are chasing and begging for their hungry stomachs. The entire responsibility of the whole family is thrust upon little ones. Homeless people are wondering here and there. The flow of milk, in the temples of our country, is considered religious and dignified whereas numerous kids are dying of hunger. The rich are getting richer by pushing the poor people into the pool of poverty. Some fools like us are always chasing and imitating the lifestyles of elite people by creating a never-ending state of anarchy. At the time of this silly and nonsensical comparing game; we forget that every moment we are losing the vital zests of life. We should always cultivate the art of appreciating. If we have endowed with the basic facilities like a roof for shelter, food for acute hunger, and last but not least clothes to cover, then why do we complain? Why do we forget that everyday people are getting deprived of these basic comforts? Ecstasy is something paradoxically defined by society. We

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# Even as Covid-19 threat lurks, street vendors care less about food safety

SAMBALPUR: With Covid scare still haunting, food quality and hygiene have gone for a toss as street vendors across the city ignore norms of food safety. Sources said street vendors had incurred huge losses owing to curbs imposed during the pandemic in last two years. Now that the restrictions are eased after two waves, they have become aggressive in busi-

ness and are trying to recover their losses throwing safety norms to wind. During both the Covid waves, a number of measures were taken to ensure food safety among the street vendors in Sambalpur town. While a number of food carts were evicted due to unhygienic surroundings, those in other places had been asked to follow strict guidelines to operate. A large number of unregistered food vendors were also reportedly given training on hygiene and social distancing by the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC). But in absence of regular monitoring, the street food vendors have yet again mushroomed at several areas in the city and without any concern towards



maintaining healthy practices. Take for instance Budharaja area of the city. While a number of food stalls were evicted along the drains, they have again resumed their business just a few hundred metres away. Former food safety inspector Sebastian Horo said while water tests are made compulsory for every restaurant and cloud kitchens oper-

ating in the city, it cannot be implemented in case of the street vendors. However, frequent raids were being conducted to check the quality of raw materials and the violators were compounded and fined. The drive was intensified ahead of the Sital Sasthi celebrations this year. Official sources informed that on an average at least 50 food vendors are found using inappropriate raw materials or violating safety norms every month within SMC limits. This apart, though vendors have been asked to get registered with FSSAI, many of them are ignoring it to avoid paying annual charges every year. Inadequate work force has led to lack of stringent enforcement by the civic body, they said.

## Tech Care for Tusser Sector

Bhubaneswar: State level Workshop on "Technology Dissemination and Experience sharing in Tusser Sector" and "Launching of Silk Samagra-II in Odisha" was held on Wednesday. The workshop was jointly organized by

State officials to take complete note of Silk Samagra-II and accordingly formulate new schemes to be funded by the Central Government. Besides, she also said that there is urgent need for the expansion of Tusser cultivable areas in order to

plantation are targeted this year alone, he informed. Dr. K. Satyanarayan, Director CTR and TI, Ranchi in his inaugural address highlighted the role of Tusser cocoon production in uplifting the livelihood of poor rural farmers.

Narayan Patnaik. The Technical Session was chaired by Dr. K. Satyanarayan, Director, CTR and TI, Ranchi who gave an account of different developmental projects funded by CSB like U&DP, Spl. SGSY, MKSP, CDP and CSS.



the Sericulture Wing of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Department and Central Silk Board, Government of India. Attending the event as chief guest, HT&H Secretary Shubha Sarma expressed her happiness as scientists, technical experts and forest officials are participating in the workshop. This can be marked as a new beginning aiming for an increase in Tusser. Raw silk production on one hand and increased the farmers' income on the other, she said. Sharma urged the

increase production. Additional PCCF, Pradeep Raj Karat said that Odisha is the pioneer State in implementation of Joint Forest Management Programme; where more than 67 thousand Vanya Surakhya Samiti are involved in forest management. Since, Tusser is a forest-based activity the VSS can be instrumental in the increase of Tusser Silk Production and the Forest Department will extend all cooperation. Under the CAMPA Programme 1800 hectares of new

He emphasizes the need of convergence among different departments like Department of Forest, Department of Textiles and Central Silk Board to bring the development initiatives in a workable model while targeting the livelihood generation of stakeholders. At the outset, welcome address was given by Director, Textiles Sushanta Kumar Dash and vote of thanks in the inaugural session was proposed by Additional Director, Sericulture, Surya

# MiO 3.0 from Nov 30

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday announced that the State would be conducting the third edition of its flagship Global Investors Meet – "Make In Odisha 2022" during Nov 30- Dec 04, 2022. The Chief Minister made this announcement at the Investors' Meet held in Dubai today. The

meeting, organized with FICCI and the Embassy of India in UAE, was attended by 150 companies based out of the UAE and the MENA region from sectors comprising of Minerals and Metals processing, Petrochemicals, Chemicals, Plastics, Heavy Industries, Clean Energy, Food Processing including Sea Food Processing, Electrical Equipment & Electronics Manufacturing, Logistics & Warehousing, Real Estate, and Hospitality. Leading industry associations from the region including Indian Business & Professional Council (IBPC).

The Chief Minister, in his address mentioned that Odisha holds the lion's share of India's mineral reserves with 96% of the country's chromite reserves, 92% nickel, 53% bauxite, 45% manganese, 35% iron-one, and 23% coal reserves of India.

This has made Odisha the largest producer of Steel, Stainless Steel, Ferro Alloys, Alumina, and Aluminium in India, he said. Odisha also has 11% of India's water resources. The state has a 480-km long coastline making it a natural choice for setting up ports, and for international trade.

"The State is home to a large and highly skilled workforce. We have made good investments in setting up technical and professional institutes at all skill levels – ITIs, Polytechnics, and engineering & management colleges. 11 of India's top 100 Industrial training institutes are in Odisha," said Mr. Patnaik.

With the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Institute of Technical Education Services (ITEES), Singapore, the Government of Odisha has recently established the World Skill Centre in Bhubaneswar to prepare the Odia workforce for modern & new age Industry.

Odisha's use of enabling technology in delivering efficient and effective investment facilitation: The State's Single Window portal for investors, GO SWIFT has transformed the B2G interface with its user-friendly features which provide time-bound clearances for over 50 G2B services. Odisha is also home to over 1200 start-ups, many of which are in the tech-

nology space, he added. Odisha's progressive policy and governance advantage: Focusing on 5Ts – Transparency, Technology, Teamwork, Time, and Transformation, the state Government has taken up several proactive measures for the development of industries and infrastructure. This has



created an industry-led ecosystem of value addition, sustainable employment generation, and revenue augmentation in the State, pointed out the CM.

During the Investors' Meet, the team Odisha also conducted 1-1 B2G meetings with major companies of the region. The companies expressed their interest to invest in the state. Investment intents worth more than Rs. 21,000 Crore and employment potential of more than 19,000 was received by the State across sectors such as infrastructure, hospitality, logistics, chemicals, food processing etc. Chief Minister invited them to visit Odisha and has also assured all the companies of unmatched facilitation and support.

The team Odisha also included a high-level business delegation from the top companies who have invested in Odisha.

The business delegation included Parth Jindal – Managing Director, JSW Cement, Saroj Poddar – Chairman, Paradeep Phosphates Limited, Satish Pai – Managing Director, HINDALCO, Dilip Oommen – CEO, AM/NS India, Rahul Sharma – CEO, Vedanta Ltd., Subhrakant Panda – Managing Director, IMFA, Sujoy Choudhury- Director, IOCL, Jagadish Naik – Chairman, and Managing Director, DN-Homes, Bhabatosh Sahoo, Managing Director, B-One Business House Pvt Ltd., Prashant Mallick – Managing Director, Tata Steel SEZ and Mr. Chanakya Chaudhary – Vice President, Tata Steel Ltd.

The Odisha Investors' Meet was a platform for presenting the vast array of opportunities Odisha offers to businesses in the UAE and the MENA region. It has generated a huge interest among the business community as it is the first time that a state like Odisha which has received significant domestic investments has also reached out to UAE to attract FDI.

## Devotees Enjoyed Trinity Darshan

Puri: A large number of devotees made a long beeline to have first glimpse of Chaturdhamurti (Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra along with Sudarshan) on the occasion of Nabajouban darshan at the Shree Jagannath Temple here after a fortnight-long interval.



After recuperating from illness after bathing with 108 pots of holy water on Snana Purnima, Lord Jagannath and his siblings have reappeared in their rejuvenated youthful

form. The deities have been under medication at the Anasara Ghara since June 15. The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) had made elaborate arrangements for the smooth darshan of the Lords. The Parimanika darshan of the Lords was started about 45 minutes early due to early completion of rituals, said Development Commissioner PK Jena, who visited Puri on Wednesday.

This was followed by the Sahana Mela darshan in which the devotees witnessed the Nabajoubana Besha (attire) of the Lords from the Bhitara Katha inside the

Jagmohan. For Parimanik darshan, the devotees collected tickets from the office of the temple administration. However, they had a free darshan of the Lords during the Sahana Mela which continued till 10.30 am. The Parimanik darshan and the Sahana Mela had begun after the servitors brought Trinity and performed Mangala Alati and Mailam Lagi, Netrotsav Bandapana and Yatrangi Mahasana rituals.

Later in the day devotees had darshan of deities from 2 pm to 3 pm and then from 6 pm to 6.30 pm. This apart, the temple administration is planning to allow free darshan intermittently till 12.30 pm.

Since this year, as per Srimandir Panjika, the Nabajouban Besha timings continue on Thursday too, a large number of devotees are likely to witness the Trinity tomorrow as well, said a Sevayat.

On Thursday, darshan will be allowed till evening. Thereafter the doors will be closed for the public to prepare deities for the grand Pahandi on Rath Jatra day.

Meanwhile, construction of the three chariots are almost complete. A mock drill of chariot pulling was held in the reserve police grounds on Tuesday.

## 100 students fall sick after consuming mid-day meal in Bargarh district of Odisha

**BARGARH:** At least 100 students of Khaliapali Ashram Vidyalaya in Bargarh block fell ill after reportedly consuming the food served under mid-day meal (MDM) in the school on Tuesday.

Sources said 150 students had their lunch in the school. Soon after eating the meal, three students complained of stomach pain and started vomiting. Subsequently, other students also complained of stomach ache and nausea. All the students were rushed to the district headquarters hospital (DHH), Bargarh. In-charge chief district medical officer (CDMO) of Bargarh Sadhu Charan Dash said, "The children were brought to the hospital in phases. After examining them, we found that most of the cases

were psychological. The students were discharged after primary treatment. However, three students are still admitted to the hospital and have been kept under observation."

The samples of cooked food served to the students have been collected for tests. Besides, the rice and soya beans stored in the school kitchen have been seized to check their quality, Dash added. A teacher of the school Padmabati Rout said the students consumed the usual food that they are given everyday under MDM. "We are not sure what triggered such a situation. Most of the students have been discharged from hospital and are doing fine," Rout added.

## OIJ Organized Road Safety Awareness Drive

**Khordha (KCN):** In a bid to inculcate road safety and to spread awareness about traffic rules the Odisha Union of Journalists (OUJ) Khordha District Unit organized a road safety awareness programme at Khordha New Bus Stand Traffic chhak. On this occasions the Chief Guest SDPO, Khordha, Sushil Kumar

Pradhan, Members Narayan Mohanty, Gopal Pradhan, Subhalakshmi Samantaray, Suresh Pradhan, Govinda Panda, Srikanta



Pradhan, Iqbal Ahmad, Ajit Mishra, Siba Charan Singh, Jitendra Bhanja, Prakash Pattnaik, Ayas Mohanty among others were present. SDPO, Khordha, Sushil Kumar Mishra said "Since it was an awareness programme we advised peoples to use seat belts and helmet. During the programme we appreciated the people who were wearing seat belt and helmet. OIJ Odisha State General Secretary Prasanna Kumar Paikaraya said "we aim to make people realizes the value of wearing seat belts and helmet. When they realize it, it becomes a habit. Then there won't be a need to constantly remind them about road safety and traffic regulations. Khordha District Media persons Rajesh Mohanty, Dhaneswar Bidhar, Prabhat Panigrahi, Surya Narayan Mohanty, Ram Narayan Dash were present on this occasions.



Mishra, guest of honour ARTO, Khordha, Aurobinda Nayak, DSP, I/C Khordha Model PS, Sanjaya Kumar Pattnaik, Tahasildar Khordha, Ipsit Sahoo, OIJ, Odisha State General Secretary Prasanna Kumar Paikaraya, OIJ, Khordha District Unit President, Sanat Kumar Pattnaik, working President Lohit Narayan Mohapatra, Advisor Tapan Kumar Nayak, State Executive Committee Member Susanta Biswal, Secretary Dillip Kumar Hota, Vice President Sayed Ansar Alli, Khordha Dis-

## Odisha's four coal blocks get multiple auction bids

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Union Ministry of Coal has received 38 bids for auction of coal mines for commercial mining. Two coal blocks of Odisha have received highest number of seven bids.

Of the five coal blocks from the State put up

that received only single bids. The bid documents were opened on Tuesday.

The bids will be evaluated by a multi-disciplinary technical evaluation committee and technically qualified bidders will be shortlisted for participation in the electronic auction.



for auction, Ghogarpalli and Dip Side of Ghogarpalli in Sundargarh district have fetched maximum bids.

Rampia and Dip Side of Rampia coal blocks in Sundargarh district has received three bids while Alakananda coal block in Angul district has received lukewarm response with a single bid. The Centre had initiated the auction process for sale of 122 coal/lignite mines on March 30, 2022 and the last date of submission of technical bid was till June 27, 2022. There was tepid response to 14 coal blocks

Rampia, Dip Side of Rampia, Ghogarpalli and Dip Side of Ghogarpalli were among the five coal blocks that had been allocated to Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) during the UPA government much to the chagrin of the State government.

However, the five coal blocks were de-allocated and put for auction as WCL could not operate a single coal block even after allocation of for more than a decade due to delay in land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected families.

## Sunflower cultivation poor in Sundargarh despite potential

**ROURKELA(KCN):** In spite of the huge potential for sunflower and groundnut pro-

kharif crop, sunflower cultivation has not been programmed, while 3,500 ha out of

division Religious Beck said between 2005 and 2009, sunflower cultivation in

land can fetch up to 14 quintal of sunflower. Sundargarh's 52 per cent crop area is made of high land (1.63 lakh ha) of which 76,000 ha is used for labour-intensive paddy crops. In sunflower and groundnut production, the district has a remarkable potential to help curb import, he added.

Incidentally, the Centre has upwardly revised MSP for sunflower to Rs 6,400 per quintal against the production cost of Rs 4,113. Similarly, MSP for groundnut is Rs 5,800 per quintal against production cost of Rs 3,873. Chief district agriculture officer (CDAO) of Sundargarh Birendra Behera said the agro-ecological conditions are favourable for sunflower and groundnut cultivation. In the upcoming 2022 rabi season, efforts would be made to increase cultivation of both the oilseed crops.



duction in Sundargarh and high market demand, the district is lagging behind in cultivation of the two rewarding oilseed crops largely due to lack of government support.

In the rabi season last year, around 14,953 hectare (ha) of land was covered under oilseeds cultivation in Sundargarh. Sunflower cultivation was programmed for 250 ha of which only 207 ha could be achieved. For groundnut, it was 495 ha. In the ongoing

16,900 ha for oilseeds is earmarked for groundnut.

Sources in the Agriculture department attributed the constraints for sunflower cultivation to unavailability of seeds. In the recent past, the cost of import-dependent sunflower oil had gone up to Rs 215 per kg but now it is priced at around Rs 190. The cost of groundnut oil too is on the higher side.

District agriculture officer of Panposh sub-

the district had dramatically gone up. But subsequently, farmers stayed away from the crop as there used to be no minimum support price (MSP) and marketing option then. In 2021 rabi season, sunflower seeds were not available and interested farmers had no option.

Beck said sunflower is a profitable crop and gets ready in 100 days without much labour. With systematic cultivation and assured irrigation, one ha of




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# Government gives ONGC, Vedanta freedom to sell crude oil

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday allowed firms like ONGC and

Mangalore refinery, which had conceived a petrochemical complex on the premise that

culated on a uniform basis across all contracts, it said, adding as earlier, exports will

freedom to sell oil from its Ravva oil field in eastern offshore. It currently sells



Vedanta to sell locally produced crude oil to any Indian refinery for turning it into fuel, such as petrol and diesel, as it deregulated one of the last few avenues that were still under its control.

While contracts for oilfields awarded since 1999 gave producers the freedom to sell oil, the government fixed buyers for crude produced from older fields, such as Mumbai High of ONGC and Ravva of Vedanta.

Briefing reporters on the decisions taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said from October 1, the companies will have the freedom to sell crude oil in the domestic market.

However, the ban on the export of crude oil will continue.

This decision would mean ONGC can auction its 13-14 million tonnes a year of crude oil produced from Mumbai High field to any refiner, including private sector Reliance Industries Ltd and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy.

The firm at present has to sell the Mumbai High crude oil to state-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL).

It could not sell the oil to its own

5 million tonnes of Mumbai High crude could be turned into value-added PTA and Benzene.

In the present system, the government fixes the quantity each buyer will pick.

This limits the scope for price negotiations and often sellers sold oil at discount.

Now, the sellers can e-auction the crude to anyone paying the highest price.

"The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved 'Deregulation of Sale of Domestically Produced Crude Oil', whereby Government has decided to cease allocation of crude oil and condensate with effect from October 1, 2022," an official statement said. This will ensure marketing freedom for all exploration and production (E&P) operators, it said.

"The condition in the production sharing contracts (PSCs) to sell crude oil to the government or its nominee or government companies shall accordingly be waived off," the statement said.

"All E&P companies will now be free to sell crude oil from their fields in the domestic market.

"The government revenues like royalty and cess will continue to be cal-

culated on a uniform basis across all contracts, it said, adding as earlier, exports will not be permissible. The decision would allow Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) to sell their domestic produce to anyone offering the most price in an e-auction.

Companies, such as ONGC, will most likely seek a premium over an international benchmark for the crude. ONGC may even change the benchmark crude from Nigeria's Bonny Light to Brent, the world's most traded crude oil.

Vedanta's Cairn Oil & Gas will get the

Ravva crude only to HPCL.

"This decision will further spur economic activities, incentivise making investments in upstream oil and gas sector and build on a series of targeted transformative reforms rolled out since 2014," the statement said.

"The policies relating to production, infrastructure and marketing of oil and gas have been made more transparent with a focus on ease of doing business and facilitating more operational flexibility to operators/industry."

## Uddhav Thackeray steps down as Maharashtra CM after SC refuses to stay floor test

Continued from page-1

Wednesday gave its go ahead for floor test in Maharashtra Assembly on Thursday as it refused to stay the state Governor's decision which was challenged by Shiv Sena chief whip Sunil Prabhu. "We are not staying tomorrow's floor test," the Supreme Court bench said.

The court also issued notice on Shiv Sena Chief Whip Sunil Prabhu's plea and said that tomorrow's floor test will be subject to the outcome of the present petition. The court will hear his plea on July 11.

A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala had earlier in the day reserved the decision on the plea filed by Sunil Prabhu challenging Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's direction to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to hold the floor test on June 30 (Thursday).

ALSO READ | Taking Balasaheb's Hindutva, Shiv Sena forward: Shinde Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari had asked the Uddhav Thackeray government in the state to prove a majority on the floor of the House on June 30 stating that the "present political scenario" unfolding in the state paints a "very disturbing picture."

The Governor wrote to the state Assembly secretary to convene a special session of the State Assembly tomorrow with the only agenda of a trust vote against CM Thackeray. BJP leader and former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had met the Governor on Tuesday evening after returning from Delhi, and submitted a letter to him demanding an immediate floor test.

# India's marine exports reach all time high of \$ 7.76 billion in FY 2021-22

KOCHI: Despite heavy odds, India shipped 13,69,264 MT of seafood during 2020-21 as against the 11,49,510 MT of the previous year. The seafood shipped during this year is worth Rs 57,586.48 crore (\$ 7.76 billion).

The export improved in rupee terms by 31.71%, in US dollar terms by 30.26%, and in quantity terms by 19.12% from the previous year. In 2020-21, India exported seafood worth Rs 43,720.98 crore (\$ 5.957 billion).

Frozen shrimp remained the major export item in terms of quantity, and value while USA and China turned out to be the major importers of India's seafood.

K N Raghavan, chairman, of Kochi-based Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), said India managed to do all-time high exports in value and volume of seafood, despite the several challenges in its major export markets caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Export targets by the Department of Commerce, Government of India are also met by 99.4%, he said. Frozen shrimp, which earned Rs 42,706.04 crore (\$ 5,828.59 million), retained its position as the most significant item in the basket of seafood exports, accounting for a share of 53.18 percent in quantity and 75.11 percent of the total dollar earnings. Shrimp exports during the period increased by 31.68 percent in USD value and 23.35 percent in quantity.

The overall export of frozen shrimps during 2021-22 was pegged at 7,28,123 MT, which fetched foreign exchange worth \$ 5,828.59 million. USA, the largest market, imported (3,42,572 MT) of frozen shrimp, followed by China (1,25,667 MT), European Union (90,549 MT), South East Asia (44,683 MT), Japan (38,492 MT), and the Middle East (37,158 MT). Export of Frozen shrimp shows an increase in all the markets by value.

The export of Vannamei (white leg) shrimp increased from 5,15,907 MT to 6,43,037 MT in 2021-22. Of the total Vannamei shrimp exports **CM Naveen Patnaik begins UAE trip, to meet investors today**

Continued from page-1

Hemant Sharma, 5T Secretary VK Pandian and Resident Commissioner in Delhi Ravi Kant will assist the Chief Minister at the investors' meet.

Naveen will be meeting representatives of leading companies and industry associations of the Middle East and North Africa regions. Besides, a 10-member delegation of industrialists is already at Dubai to take part in the meet. The State will be mainly looking for investment in petrochemicals, chemicals and plastics, metals and advanced electronic manufacturing sectors.

His itinerary also includes interaction with non-resident Odias living in the MENA region. More than one lakh people from Odisha are working in UAE. A delegation from the ruling BJD comprising Food Supplies Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Rajya Sabha MP Sujit Kumar, former ministers Debi Prasad Mishra and Dibya Shankar Mishra and party legislator Akash Das Nayak are in Dubai to attend cultural programmes and meeting the diaspora.

## Devotees to witness divine siblings in Nabajoubana Besha after two years

Continued from page-1

darshan will be allowed till 5 pm," he added. Thereafter the doors will be closed for public to prepare deities for the grand Pahandi on Rath Yatra day, Verma added. Meanwhile, construction of the three chariots are almost complete. A mock drill of chariot pulling was held in the reserve police grounds on Tuesday.

Third eye vigil on Rath Yatra at baripada Baripada: Mayurbhanj police will put in place tight security measures for the Rath Yatra at Haribaldev Jew temple which will be held on July 2. SP Rishikesh D Khilari on Tuesday said CCTV cameras will be installed at major points on the Grand Road and adjoining places to keep a watch on devotees. At least 25 platoons of police force will be deployed for the festival. Temporary check posts will be set up at the entry points of Baripada town. A 24-hour police helpline will operate during the festival to assist the public.

in USD value terms, the USA accounted for 59.05%, followed by China (14.59%), European Union (8.16%), South East Asia (4.78%), Japan (3.61%), and the Middle East (3.17%). The USA also turned out to be the major market for Black Tiger shrimp with a share of 25.90% in terms of USD value, followed by the European Union (23.78%) and Japan (22.71%). Other items, the second largest export item, fetched Rs 3,979.99 crore (USD 540.73 million), accounting for 12.96% in quantity and 6.97% in dollar earnings. The export of other items increased by 43.8% cent in rupee value and 42.94% in dollar value.

## Hong Kong bars some journalists from 25th handover anniversary, citing security reasons

Continued from page-1

at least 10 journalists have been barred.

The Hong Kong Economic Journal said at least three other journalists from local news outlets were informed Wednesday that their applications to cover the July 1 events were rejected.

Hong Kong police have confirmed that Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit the city for the anniversary of the former British colony's return to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997. Xi's visit will be his first trip outside of mainland China since the coronavirus pandemic took hold about 2 1/2 years ago. Police in Hong Kong, a special semi-autonomous region of China, have announced a raft of security measures, including road closures and a no-fly zone.

Strict requirements have been set for those attending the events. Journalists must have daily COVID-19 nucleic acid tests starting last Sunday and stay in a quarantine hotel from Wednesday.

Despite receiving initial approvals that included instructions for checking in to the quarantine hotel, some journalists received rejection notices on Wednesday while on their way to the hotel, while others were informed that they were barred from the events upon arrival, the Hong Kong Economic Journal said.

Authorities had invited media outlets to submit up to 20 applications to cover the events — which include a flag-raising ceremony and the inauguration of the new Hong Kong government — but later specified that only one journalist from each outlet could be sent to cover each of the two events.

Reuters said in a news report it submitted the names of two journalists to cover the events, and that both were rejected.

A Reuters spokesperson said the company was seeking further information on the matter.

The affected Hong Kong media outlets include the English-language South China Morning Post, the Chinese-language newspaper Ming Pao and online news outlet HK01, the journalists association said. The South China Morning Post said in a news report that one of its photographers had been rejected, with no reason given.

Ming Pao and HK01 did not immediately comment. Agence France-Presse declined to comment and a South China Morning Post spokesperson declined to comment beyond their news report.

The affected media organizations were invited to send other journalists to cover the events, but the replacements must also meet the quarantine and testing requirements, according to the journalists association.

The Information Services Department, which sent out the initial invitations to media outlets to register to cover the events, declined to provide information on how many journalists were given accreditation and would not comment on a South China Morning Post report that one of the department's own photographers had been barred from the events.

"The government is striking a balance as far as possible between the need of media work and security requirements," the department said in a statement. "We will not comment on the accreditation outcome of individual organizations and persons."

## Malaysia Open 2022: PV Sindhu, Parupalli Kashyap win; Saina Nehwal loses

KUALA LUMPUR: Two stalwarts of Indian women's badminton, PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, suffered contrasting fates at the Malaysia Open Super 750 tournament with the former progressing to the second round and the latter bowing out after losing her opener here on Wednesday.

Sindhu enjoys a 5-3 head-to-head record against Chochuwong, having won the last time they met, at the 2021 World Championship, and the Indian looked in good touch against the Thai, who struggled with her lengths and finishing strokes.

The match started with the duo playing at a good pace but it was Sindhu who dictated terms with her better court coverage. Chochuwong matched Sindhu in the rallies but faltered in her finishing. The result was Sindhu led throughout the first game after securing a 4-1 advantage early on.

A tight net shot earned her a four-point cushion at the break. Sindhu's front court play was more polished than her rival and she used the smashes and attacking returns to good effect whenever there was an opportunity.

Sindhu extended her lead to 16-11 before producing an over-the-head return to grab seven game points and converted it with a smash. After the change of sides, Chochuwong started with two net errors before pouncing on some weak returns from Sindhu to lead 4-2.

The Thai player kept gathering points with Sindhu also committing errors at the net or going wide. It was one such long return from Sindhu which handed Chochuwong a three-point advantage at the break. Chochuwong quickly moved to 16-10 with the help of two precise returns on both sides and Sindhu also miscued her shots.

But the Indian then scripted a phenomenal recovery with a five-point burst with her rival falling into a heap of unforced errors.

With the Thai going long again, Sindhu levelled the score at 17-17 and then moved to the lead with yet another shot from Chochuwong getting buried at the nets. With the shuttle sailing out twice again, Sindhu grabbed three match points and sealed it comfortably.



Sindhu, a former world champion, dished out a fine performance to outwit Thailand's world number 10 Pornpawee Chochuwong 21-13 21-17, but London Olympics bronze medalist Saina went down fighting against American Iris Wang, ranked 33rd in the world, 11-21 17-21 in 37 minutes.

Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap also made a positive return from injury as he prevailed 21-12 21-17 over Korea's Heo Kwang Hee to advance to the second round in men's singles.

Sindhu, seeded seventh, will next face Phittayaporn Chaiwan, a 21-year-old from Thailand who held the number one ranking in world junior ranking and also was part of the bronze medal-winning team at the Uber Cup in Bangkok.

Kashyap, ranked world number 39, will meet Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn, who had won the German Open Super 300 in March.

B Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa, who will be leading India's charge at the Commonwealth Games, couldn't get past world number 21 pairing of Robin Tabeling and Selena Piek of the Netherlands.

The Indian duo lost 15-21 21-19 17-21 after a 52-minute battle.

## India vs England: Rohit Sharma ruled out of fifth Test after testing COVID positive again

NEW DELHI: Jasprit Bumrah is set to become first fast bowler in 35 years to lead Indian Test team in the rescheduled 'fifth Test' against En-

gland as regular captain Rohit Sharma has been ruled out of the game after testing positive for COVID-19 for the second time on Wednesday. The last pacer-captain that India had was the great Kapil Dev, who was removed from captaincy in 1987. Since then India has never had a speed merchant leading the team in traditional cricket.



"Rohit is out of this Test match, starting July 1, as his RT-PCR test has come positive again. He is still in isolation. Jasprit Bumrah, who is one of the vice-captains in absence of KL Rahul, will lead the team," a senior BCCI official told

in 1932. The Gujarat pacer, who has 123 wickets in 29 Tests, has grown into world's best fast bowlers. The Chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma had already said that he is being groomed as a future leader.

Fast bowlers have not been traditionally given the job in India unlike in Pakistan where their greatest skipper was Imran Khan. Legends like Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis also led national side. In West Indies, Courtney Walsh led the side for a considerable amount of time and world number one Pat Cummins now leading Australia in longest format.

PTI on conditions of anonymity. Bumrah will be the 36th cricketer to lead India in the longest-format since the country first played

Cheteshwar Pujara or Hanuma Vihari to open with Shubman Gill. With the experienced Rohit out of the playing eleven, seasoned Cheteshwar Pujara has a good chance of opening the batting with young Shubman Gill. The source said that Mayank Agarwal has just been brought as "cover" and is not in the scheme of things as far featuring in the playing eleven is concerned.

"Mayank is here just as cover. It is likely to be Pujara-Gill combination that is going to open the batting. There is an outside chance for Hanuma Vihari to open as he has done the job in a stop-gap arrangement in Australia during the 2018 series. But chances of Pujara opening are way more," he said.

It is understood that the specialist batters in the set-up will be Pujara, Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Vihari and Rishabh Pant. The only other debatable matter is whether to play a fourth fast bowling all-rounder in Shardul Thakur or a second spinner in

Ravichandran Ashwin alongside Ravindra Jadeja.

Along with Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami select themselves automatically.

Squad for Ireland series will play first T20I vs England

With the first Test scheduled to finish on July 5 and the first T20I scheduled for July 7 in Southampton, the selection committee has decided that the star players will be given a three-day recovery period before they are picked from the second game.

India are scheduled to clash with England three T20Is and as many ODIs. "The squad that played T20I series in Ireland will remain in the first T20I and then from second T20I, all the stars (Rohit, if fit, Kohli, Bumrah, Pant, Jadeja) will make a comeback," the source added.

"Once, they are well rested, all of them will be a part of the regular white ball side but most of the players in Ireland will remain till the end of T20I series," he added.

## Remaining tickets for 2022 World Cup to go on sale from next week: FIFA



DOHA: The remaining tickets for this year's World Cup in Qatar will be available on a first-come, first-served basis from next week, FIFA said on Wednesday. About 1.8 million tickets were sold in the first two batches of sales, FIFA said, without saying how many are now available. The Qatar will host the first World Cup in

the Middle East from November 21 to December 18 at eight stadiums in and around the capital, Doha. The latest tickets will go on sale online from July 5 at 12pm Doha time (0900 GMT) until 12pm on August 16, FIFA said in a press release. "Huge worldwide interest is anticipated in the new sales period," the world body said.

Officials said that three million tickets are available in total, including those allocated to sponsors. Last week, the World Cup's chief organiser Hassan Al-Thawadi said 1.2 million tickets had been sold so far. FIFA president Gianni Infantino said there were five million ticket requests just for the final at the 80,000-

seat Lusail stadium. Doha, with a population of about 2.4 million and limited accommodation, is bracing itself for a huge influx of visitors for the 32-team tournament. Last month, Qatar announced scores of daily shuttle flights from neighbouring Gulf countries, allowing fans to stay elsewhere and fly in to watch games.

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