

### NGO urges Government and KMC to ban plastic carry bags

Kolkata (KCN): Concern for Calcutta organised a Campaign against use of plastic carry bags to mark World

Environment Day in Shyam Bazar Market, Kolkata. As a viable alternate to plastic bags the NGO provided Cotton Bags to shoppers. Dr Meenakshi Gangopadhyay, local Councillor explained the ill effects of using

the plastic Carry bags and the benefits of switching over to the use of cotton or Jute Bags. Narayan Jain, Social

Greentech Environ Mana-gement urged the shoppers to abandon the use of plastic carry bags to protect drainage, campaign against use of plastic since 2017. JoeetaBasu, Convenor of the North Calcutta Cell



nicely conducted the

Environment Day in Shyam Bazar Market, Kolkata. As a viable alternate to plastic bags the NGO provided Cotton Bags to shoppers. Dr Meenakshi Gangopadhyay, local Councillor explained the ill effects of using

animals and overall environment. KS Adhikari, Convenor of Environment Committee said that the NGO distributed 1200 cotton Bags to the Sunday shoppers. He thanked Narayan Jain for spearheading this sustained

programme. Bibhas-Maity, Vineeta Burman, Ashok Purohit, Sri Ratan Jhawar, Arundhati Mukherjee and Ishwar Goenka, Guddu Burman and other members actively participated to make the programme success,

### US, South Korea fly 20 fighter jets amid North Korea tensions

SEOUL(KCN): The South Korean and U.S. militaries flew 20 fighter jets over waters off South Korea's western coast Tuesday in a continued show of force as a senior U.S. official warned of a forceful response if North Korea goes ahead with its first nuclear



test explosion in nearly five years. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the air demonstration involved 16 South Korean planes — including F-35A stealth fighters — and four U.S. F-16 fighter jets and was aimed at

### Row over JSW project: Medha Patkar denied entry in Odisha village by protesters

PARADIP(KCN): Social activist Medha Patkar faced massive protests at Dhinkia village in Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district, where a stir over a JSW steel project had broken out



recently, with locals asking her to "go back" as she apparently tried to make her way to the residence of a jailed agitator, police sources said.

Patkar, along with those accompanying her, had to return from the site of the protest on Monday as villagers thwarted her entry to Dhinkia, which is also the epicenter of the anti-displacement movement against South Korean steel major POSCO.

Debendra Swain, an activist who had spearheaded protests against the JSW steel project over concerns of displacement, was arrested in January amid clashes between the police and the demonstrators.

Patkar, talking to reporters, said that she wanted to meet the family members of Swain, but a section of locals claimed that the team of activists was there to seek feedback from them about the JSW project.

The social activist also said that she had taken permission from local police for the visit, an assertion rebuffed by Additional SP,

Jagatsinghpur, Nimai Sethhi.

"The police was not informed about Patkar's visit. We came to know about it only later. The police would not have been responsible, had something untoward happened. Patkar should have sought a written permission," the ASP insisted.

Prominent anti-POSCO movement leader Sisir Mohapatra, who was among those raising 'go back' slogans, said locals do not want her to interfere in their lives.

"We had been facing the ire of climate change over the past few years. Cyclones and flood leave our villages devastated. If JSW sets up its steel plant and develops the place, villagers would be spared the scourge of natural disasters," Mohapatra maintained.

Dhinkia, where betel leaves are produced in large quantities and sold to other parts of the state, had seen numerous protests against industrialisation by locals, who apprehended that the vines, their source of livelihood, if destroyed to make space for the plant, would spell doom for the village.

Mohapatra added that the Jindal firm has assured them of employment and timely compensation.

Earlier in the year, chaos had broken out in Dhinkia as the police tried to stop clashes between locals supporting the project and those opposing it, including Swain.

Some locals, who had back then opposed the project, said on the condition of anonymity that those who stood by Swain before his arrest seemed to have changed their stance allegedly fearing police action.

### Health Plan for Rath Jatra

Bhubaneswar(KCN): State Health and Family Welfare Department has prepared detailed plan for the annual Rath Jatra of Lord Jagannath scheduled for July 1.

Recently, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Health & Family Welfare Department RK Sharma and discussed about various steps to be taken to provide uninterrupted health care services to public during the Rath Jatra-2022. It was decided in the meeting that 30 First Aid Centre (FAC) will be set up at the strategic locations of Puri for providing better health services to the pilgrims and the devotees during Rath yatra.

Some identified CHCs of Puri district will organize separate FACs with their existing manpower in their areas at sites identified by CDM&PHO, Puri, the Health department officials said.

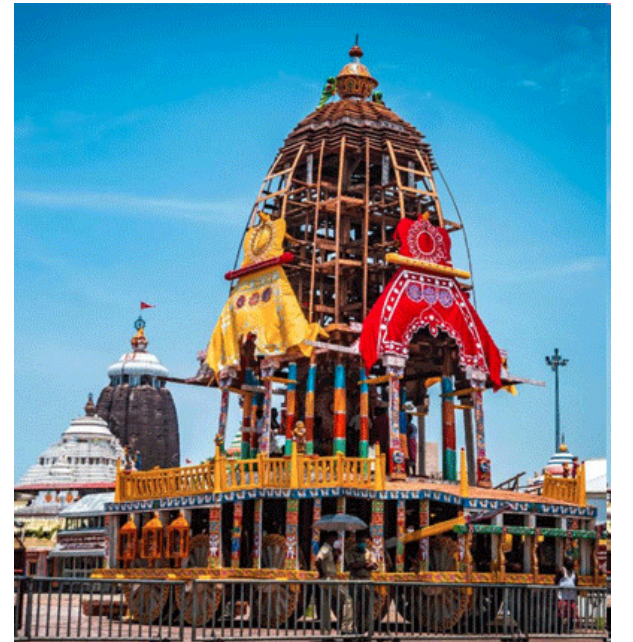
A good signage will be put up before the FACs for better visibility of public. The expenditure related to signage will be made from the head of account under IEC activity.

The Dean & Principal of Sri Jagannath Medical College & Hospital, Puri has been asked to issue necessary instruction to the faculties for their deployment in the hospital, FACs and other areas as required by the Puri Collector. The Director, AYUSH has been asked to deploy 20 AYUSH doctors under the disposal of CDM&PHO, Puri by June 29, the officials said.

One Cardiologist each from Capital Hospital

and SCB Medical College will be deployed to Puri on the day of Rath Jatra and Bahuda to meet the exigencies.

The ACS has asked to keep Puri Covid Hospital in readiness for operationalisation to meet the requirement regarding treatment of emer-



gency cases if required.

Director, Nursing has been asked to plan for deployment of at least 25 staff nurses from FM MCH, Balasore and 25 from Baripada Medical College. Initially 15 from each site will be deployed with instruction to report in Puri on June 29 and rest 10 will be kept in readiness for deployment if required.

As many as 30 Pharmacists and 40 MPH (M) (preferably with pharmacy

### PM Modi to inaugurate Biotech Startup Expo on Thursday

NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Biotech Startup Expo - 2022 here on June 9, his office said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Of-



ice (PMO) said the two-day expo is be-

ing organised by the Department of Biotechnology and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). It is being held to mark the completion of 10

### After 10 long years, Naveen likely to go abroad this month

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is likely to embark on his first

away from the State at least for a week. The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) also main-

tenance and Industry (FICCI) and the Indian consulate at Dubai. He is also likely to attend a

foreign visit 10 years back in May 2012. But, his travel did not augur well as his absence led to a po-



foreign trip in 10 years towards the end of this month. He is slated to visit UAE and Rome to take part in investors' meets there. Though there has been no official word on the matter, knowledgeable sources in the government put the date of his visit on June 28. He is likely to be

tained that it has no knowledge of such a visit till now. However sources said, the Chief Minister will visit Dubai to take part in investors' meet to be organised by Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL), Federation of Indian Chambers of Com-

programme organised by members of the UAE Odia Samaj and Dubai-based non-resident Odia community. He will leave for Rome next, where he will meet investors and present the business opportunities in Odisha. The Chief Minister had last gone on a for-

political turmoil with a section of his own party plotting a coup against him. He had to cut short his London visit, where he was to attend a business meet, and rush back. Though he deftly managed the crisis by crushing the plot and its proponents, he has consciously avoided any more international travel since.



## ITC Engage unveils Pocketful O' Stories 3.0 with Tara Sutaria and Durjoy Datta

Kolkata(KCN): Love is boundaryless, non-conformative and

ITC Engage Pocketful O' Stories 3.0, published by Penguin

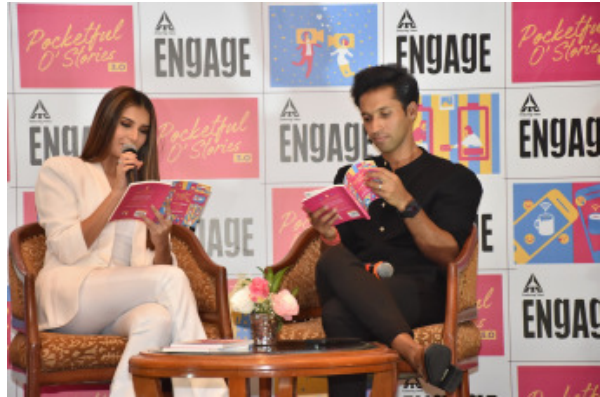
The 3rd edition of the book was launched in Mumbai with brand ambassador and actress Tara Sutaria along with romance genre's most loved author, Durjoy Datta. As the book revolves

esque view of Taj Mahal in Agra and in 2020, Durjoy and ITC Engage took everyone for a dining experience in the air. The backwaters of Kochi now completed the biosphere



comes in various colours and forms. The past 2 years has not only been a testament to the foundation of love but has also put its true meaning into refreshed perspectives for most people. From long distance, to staying at home together, from cross country to cross continent, audiences found love in niches and places where they never thought to look. It allowed them to experiment, explore and reenergise. Keeping the theme alive with #Romance Unlocked, ITC Engage announced the third Season of the brand's Annual Property Pocketful O' Stories to commemorate these 'unexpected, uninhibited moments' of love and playful romance that were celebrated world over during the lockdown.

Random House India is curated and co-authored by India's best selling romance genre writer, Durjoy Datta along with 400 young budding writ-



ers who believe in playful romance, from the ITC Engage community. Subsequent to the success of Engage Pocketful O' Stories for two consecutive seasons, ITC Engage continues on the path of love with heart-warming stories of how youngsters looking for love (& in love!), navigated their way through the pandemic period. The book is a compilation of crowd sourced micro-tales of love and romance in these black swan times.

around the theme of love and emotion. The digital campaign was launched to salute the spirit of love, by inviting stories around the theme #RomanceUnlocked. The entire campaign was designed to engage young audiences and fans of the brand to share their own 'unexpected, uninhibited moments' of love and playful romance during the pandemic, via Instagram and Facebook in 400 characters, linking it to the functional advantage of the pocket-sized innovation, Engage 2 in 1 pocket perfumes. The campaign garnered 35,000 unique stories and secured a plethora of expressions of love from consumers, who have found love digitally or who kept their romance virtually alive by finding creative ways of engaging while being distant from each other. ITC Engage along with Durjoy Datta selected the 400 best micro tales from the entries received. These stories were stitched together to curate the book titled Engage Pocketful O' Stories 3.0 with note worthy love experiences of Unlocking Romance penned by Durjoy Datta himself.



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love, the brand hosted another book launch in Kochi with serene & romantic Backwaters as the backdrop with Durjoy Datta. With #Romance Unlocked as the central theme of Pocketful O' Stories book, the brand has accurately captured the pulse of today's universe of love. The launch also embodies the spirit of romance and the fact that cupid can strike anywhere – land, air and water. The inaugural edition of the book was launched against the pictur-

## Godrej Appliances aims for 20% growth in Q1 FY 2022-23 compared to pre-pandemic period

Kolkata (KCN): Kamal Nandi, Business Head and Executive Vice President – Godrej Appliances, part of Godrej & Boyce said, "Odisha is one of the fast-evolving markets in India and consumption has been going up significantly. Godrej Appliances has a stronghold in this market for cooling categories. Last 2 summers were heavily impacted by lockdown, therefore

this summer we have seen 100% growth over last summer and expecting 20% growth in Q1 FY 2022-23 in comparison to the pre pandemic Q1 FY 2019-20. Godrej Appliances currently has the largest number of Exclusive Brand Outlets in Odisha in comparison to other states in India; and we are aiming to expand our network further across retail stores, presence in modern

trade outlets and exclusive chain stores by 10-15% year-on-year. Overall, the cooling segment has performed well this year, given the pent-up demand due to previous lockdowns, and the heatwave leading to discretionary spends being diverted towards cooling products. We have also witnessed a trend of hybrid work culture post the pandemic that has

increased demand for Air Conditioners. Consumers are using ACs for a longer duration of time at home, and have therefore showcased higher intent towards purchasing energy efficient ACs with 5-Star rating to save more on their electricity cost. This year we have witnessed, around 40% volume growth in sales of 5 Star ACs as compared to pre pandemic period in Odisha."

## Godrej Appliances aims for 20% growth in Q1 FY 2022-23 compared to pre-pandemic period

Kolkata (KCN): A 22-minute film edited by Agnish Chatterjee, a B.Tech Graduate in Civil

Class XII Humanities student of Abhinav Bharati High School; and Yubasana. The short film depicts self-love as a solution



Engineering, Batch 2020 from Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata was declared the Best Film (School Section) at the 12th Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival 2022. The award ceremony took place at Noida, Delhi NCR, on April 30. The film was directed by Yubasana Kapas, a Class XII Humanities student of Gokhale Memorial Girls' School, Kolkata, 'Eituku' s leading roles were played by Nilanjana Ghosh, a second-year English student of Presidency University, Kolkata, and Aishwarya Mahalanobis, a Class XII Humanities student of Mahadevi Birla World Academy, Kolkata. The music was compiled by Sripurna Majumder, a Class XI student of Gokhale Memorial Girls' School; Shubhayan Dey, a second-year Economics student at Presidency University; Soham Samaddar, a



to tackle mental imbalances. It advises us to accept the changes and vulnerabilities. The major aspect of the film is that it shows how the mental health of adolescents has been adversely affected during the lockdown. The film also stressed on the topics like loneliness and how parental conflict can affect the mental health of a child.

"It was a challenging task to finish the entire editing work within a short time," said Agnish Chatterjee, Civil Engineering graduate, Heritage Institute of Technology.

## MATOA, Barbil urges restrictions on movement of heavy vehicles in the city

Barbil(KCN): Barbil truck owner association including locals urges ban on the entry of heavy vehicles into the city .The steep increase in the number of heavy vehicles, goods vehicles and private passenger vehicles is leading to accidents and traffic jams in the city. The traffic curbs need to be imposed to check them said Chandragupta Prasad ,the secretary Mining Truck owner Association, Barbil. Vikas Sarwogi the president of MATOA opined

for dis allowed of heavy vehicles in the city ,saying large number of vehicles everyday especially from Mittal mines ply in side the city in connection with transportation of iron ore. They usually cover Gurudwara, School area medical roads etc which not only do traffic jam ,but also invite accident many time. They handed over a memorandum to Police and transport administration to impose ban on movement of unscheduled vehicle in the city



## Brown Sugar Worth 10 Lakhs Seized in Khordha. Two held

Khordha (KCN): Khordha model police station personnel have arrested two persons in-

Debabrata Mishra (40) and Amresh Behera (27) while they are selling the brown sugar in



involved in smuggling brown sugar and seized 100 gram of the contraband worth 10 lakhs from them. Acting in reliable inputs about the brown sugar trade a team was formed as per the direction of SP, Khordha, Siddhartha Kataria under the supervision of in-charge SDPO, Khordha, Sujit Kumar Panda and in-charge Khordha Model PS, DSP, Sanjaya Kumar Pattnaik. The police team led by SI, Sukanta Dalei and Special Squad sleuths conducted a raid in front of the forest colony and apprehended two persons identified as



their house. During raid 100 gram's of brown sugar worth around 10 lakhs. Cash of around Rs. 1.6 lakhs and one Bajaj Pulsar Motorcycle were recovered from their possession. During preliminary verification it was ascertained that they both have been distributing the brown sugar in the area. Khordha Model Police registered a case vide Khordha Model PS, Case no-269/22, U/S-21 (b) of NDPS Act. and the accused were forwarded to the judicial court of Khordha.



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# Best Film Award in the 'Livelihood and Sustainable Technologies' category for the short film 'Sani' at the "11th CMC Vatavaran Film Festival & Awards"

Bombay (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): nologies' category at the '11th CMC maker Shyam Bagegal, Dr. G. B. K. special interest in making films based tional awards. Director Dr. S K Das mother of Odisha. The river is closely



The short film "Sani - The Son of River" Vataran Film Festival and Awards'



Mahanadi" produced under the banner of Chandigarh on 23 April

Rao, directors of the festival, etc. S K Das was given a prize of Rs 50,000, trophy and certificate. For which he expressed his gratitude to all the people of the festival committee and the jury.

Dr. Sweta Kumar Das (S K Das) pursued a career in

on social issues like women empowerment, farmer sui-

says, "The short film associated with the 'Sani' is based on the livelihood of the



ner of 'Social Image Production' and directed by Dr. S K Das was presented with the Best Indian Film in 'Living and Sustainable Tech- 2022. This year a total of 21 National and International Films were Awarded in 10 categories. It was judged by many veterans like film Odisha Administrative Service after completing MA, M.Phil and PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has a disaster management and current social superstition. The short film 'Mask' directed by him won many national and international awards. River Mahanadi is considered as the people. It is shown in this movie how the fishermen community have to face the water dispute between the two states."

## Mohanlal, Akshay Kumar to launch trailers of 'Marakkar: Arabikkadalinte Simham'



The highly anticipated trailer of Priyadarshan's 'Marakkar: Arabikkadalinte Simham' will be launched by Mohanlal and Akshay Kumar on March 6 on their Facebook and Twitter pages at 5 pm. While Mohanlal will launch the Malayalam trailer, Akshay will release the Hindi version. ALSO READ | Mohanlal is 'Marakkar', but what about others in Priyadarshan's star-studded period drama? Ever since the first footage was shown at the Aashirvad event a few months ago, followed by the launch of the teasers, film buffs have been waiting to take a look at a more elaborate trailer. The film's promotions are going on in full swing and the makers recently the Tamil poster featuring, in addition to Mohanlal, Manju Warrier, Keerthy Suresh, Arjun Sarja, and Prabhu. Marakkar is set to have a grand release on around 5000 screens worldwide on March 26. The big-budget period epic also stars Suniel Shetty, Pranav Mohanlal, Kalyani Priyadarshan, Fazil, and Madhu among others. It is bankrolled by Aashirvad Cinemas, Confident Group, and Moonshot Entertainments.



## Budget 2017: Impacts on Infrastructure and Real Estate

The Union Budget 2017 was presented in the parliament on 1 February 2017. The budget gave infrastructure status for affordable houses and it also promised tax relief for real estate developers. These are some of the positive steps taken by the government for infrastructure and real estate sectors. Here we have explained all the budget proposals for real estate and infrastructure sectors and their impacts in detail.

### 1. The Infrastructure of Roads and Railways

In budget 2017, a total investment of Rs3,96,135 Crore on infrastructure is set up by the government. 10% over FY17 revised estimate. The roads and highways allocation was increased up to Rs64,900 Crore from Rs 52,447 Crore.

The budget announced that rural roads construction work would be accelerated to 133 km/day in 2016-17 from 73 km/day in 2011-14. And railway was given an 8% increase expenditure and it got the allocation of Rs 1,31,000 Crore.

Apart from it, 3,500km of railway lines would be laid in 2017-18 against 2,800km in 2016-17.

Impact: The increase in road construction would ensure better days ahead for road construction firms by way of fresh tenders and road projects.

In increased budget of railways would benefit companies that offer track-laying and electrification services and carry out civil services.

With the growth of infrastructure cement and steel sector should do well because these two are most used products in the work of construction.

### 2) Budget gave Infrastructure status to Affordable Housing

Impact: Union Budget 2017-18 provided the much-awaited and demanded "Infrastructure" status to affordable housing. The step is well positioned with the government's agenda of 'Housing for All by 2022. This will help in providing easier access to capital for developers and in lowering rate with a longer amortization period.

More than this, it allows the access of developers to tax incentives and viability gap funding. For affordable housing purpose, there is a positive change in the way carpet area is counted. Now, the government has changed the carpet area for affordable housing purpose.

From now on, the 30 sqm limit will apply only in 4 metropolitan cities while for the rest of the country including the peripheral areas of metros, limit of 60 sqm will apply.

The announcement of the interest subvention of 4% and 3% on loans up to Rs 0.9 million and Rs 1.2 million respectively would boost the buyers of affordable housing.

Impact: To stimulate the rural housing sector in India, Rs 230 billion has been earmarked under the Gramin Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The government aimed to promote affordable housing in both cities

and rural areas. The government plans to construct 1 Crore homes by 2019.

Presently, the housing sector is flourished mostly in Tier-I and Tier-II cities in India. However, the scheme will create necessary housing to the poor and it will also promote the residential sector in rural areas.

### 4) Tax exemptions for notional rent income on unsold unoccupied completed projects

Impact: The budget announced a tax exempting rule for the developers. Currently, the unoccupied houses which have got

**YOGESH SINGH**

cash within the banks. It allows major banks to lower their lending rates.

And it will also be a reason to cheer for homebuyers who have already taken a flexible housing loan. However, the refinancing scheme will encourage the sentiment of current homeowners, especially those who were subjected to high lending rates in the past.

### 7) Increase in investment in infrastructure and development projects

Impact: This year's budget followed the announcement of several major infrastructure projects of 2016. The union budget

eral cash transactions before the demonetization drive. Developers and buyers had turned cautious after demonetization with a notable reduction in the number of cash transactions. This will also end the flow of black money into the real estate sectors.

### 10) Abolition of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)

Impact: In last two years, the government has made several reforms to encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India. At present more than 90% of the total FDI inflows happens through an automatic route. In this budget, the government has decided to abolish the FIPB in 2017-18.



This reflects the government's motto of further liberalizing FDI norms and get foreign investors. Under this automatic route for FDI, the foreign investors will not be having any need of a prior approval from the FIPB. International investors would be satisfied with the progress on the fiscal responsibility roadmap which is always critical from their perspective and abolition of

completion certificates are subject to tax on notional rental income.

The new rule will be applicable after one year of receiving the completion certificate. The law will grant some required time for developers to liquidate their inventory.

### 5) Reduction in Holding period for immovable assets and Change indexation be shifted from 1.4.1981 to 1.4.2001

Impact: The budget announced that the holding period would be reduced to 2 years from 3 years and it changed base year indexation from 1.4.1981 to 1.4.2001. It is a significant step regarding capital gains taxation provisions on land as well as buildings.

The amendment in the base year indexation and reduction in the holding period will significantly reduce capital gains tax. It will provide tax relief for several asset holders.

It will also expand the government's tax base through an immovable property. It will also motivate the mobility of capital assets.

The proposed taxation provisions would make property holders to be engaged in the sale of real estate, as consequence it will turn out to be a much-needed fillip to the sector.

### 6) Allocation of Rs 200 billion to National Housing Bank (NHB) for refinancing individual housing loans in 2017-18

Impact: The National Housing Bank was allocated Rs 200 Billion for refinancing individual housing loans in 2017-18. The demonetization of higher currency notes in November 2016 has resulted in surplus

2017 gave one of the biggest budget allocations for the infrastructure sector. About Rs 64.9 billion for highways and Rs1310 billion are allocated for railways which include 2,000 kms of coastal roads, smoothening better connectivity between major port cities such as Mumbai, Kochi, Chennai, and other cities and small towns. Similarly, an investment would be made for airports in Tier-II cities for maintenance and operation through the public-private partnership (PPP) model. The government has also planned to enhance the current state of infrastructure in India with an aim to create a state of the art infrastructure network.

Improved infrastructure would defiantly attract the attention of foreign investors and it will enhance investment in the real estate sector.

### 8) Joint Development Agreement (JDA) signed for development of property

Impact: After the signing of Joint Development Agreement for the development of the property, the capital gains tax will be deducted in the year of completion of the project.

Despite several other provisions to lower capital gains tax, this step will provide tax relief not only to the landowner but also the builder/promoter. So it will be helpful in reducing their liability.

### 9) No cash transaction above INR0.3 million (USD4439) permitted

Impact: Extending the effects of demonetization drive, the government has planned to disallow any cash transaction above INR0.3 million.

The real estate sector had witnessed sev-

Foreign Investment Promotion Board would provide some relief to them.

### 11) Introduction of innovative land-pooling mechanism

Impact: The budget 2017 introduces the innovative land-pooling mechanism for the development of the new state capital of Andhra Pradesh. The capital of Andhra Pradesh is being constructed by an innovative land-pooling mechanism without the use of the Land Acquisition Act. In India, land acquisition remained a much-debated issue and a major hindrance with respect to large-scale developments.

The new land pooling mechanism would help in significantly reducing land related disputes and increasing the speed of development. The exemption of capital gains tax will boost the confidence of landowners whose land is being pooled for the construction of the capital city under the government scheme.

However, the exemption is only meant for those who were the owners of such land as of June 2, 2014, the day when the state of Andhra Pradesh was reorganized.

### Conclusion

Infrastructure and Real Estate are key sectors of any economy. The quality of Infrastructure sets the quality of growth of any economy. And real estate is significant sector because it fulfills the basic necessity of the people i.e. housing.

Overall, it was a positive budget for the infrastructure and real estate sectors. The government has done a great job to grow and develop infrastructure and real estate sector which play a significant role in the growth of the country in upcoming year.



## Snana Purnima Darshan for Devotees

Puri: After a gap of two years, the devotees can have darshan of Lord Jagannath and his siblings on Snana Purnima. This decision was taken at the meeting of

for different rituals (Niti Nirghanta) and Byabasthali starting from Snana Purnima to Niladri Bije was approved in the meeting." All arrangements are being made so that devotees can avail smooth darshan of the Lords during the Snana Purnima and all other ritual time, when devotees were allowed during earlier years, the Chief Administrator said.



Jagannath Temple Management Committee held under the chairmanship of Puri King Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb here on Tuesday.

Notably, the devotees were barred from having darshan of their beloved Lord Jagannath and his siblings for two consecutive years on account of Covid-19 pandemic.

This year, the devotees will be allowed to get a glimpse of Hati Besa of the Lords after the ceremonial bath at Snana Mandap. About three hours will be for the devotees to witness the Lords. However, the devotees cannot touch the deities at Snana Mandap.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), VV Yadav said, "The Committee has approved the minutes of the last two meetings held in April. The schedule

Besides, a detailed discussion was held on registration of a society for formation of Gurukul for the children of Sevayats. An MoU will be signed with Birla

Foundation for this purpose, he said. Meanwhile, the construction of chariots for the Car Festival is going on full swing. The most-awaited ritual of the Akha-Chaka Dera was completed on Bada Danda. The main central wheel and axle system called Nahaka Chaka and Nahaka Akha are fixed with each other. The installation of this part will help build the other portions of the chariots. As per tradition, the Chaka-Akha Dera ritual which means the fixing of two wheels and an axle of each chariot of Lord Balabhadra, Jagannath, and Devi Subhadra is conducted on the occasion of Bhaunri Jatra, the last day of the Bahara Chandan Jatra of the deities. After the conclusion of the Bahara Chandan Yatra, the remaining 21 days of the Bhitara Chandan Jatra will be completed inside the premises of Shree Jagannath Temple.

## Pre-matric scholarship for ST, SC students hiked

BHUBANESWAR: The State government on Monday hiked the pre-matriculation scholarships for the students belonging to ST and SC communities. The revision in the rate has been made after a gap of seven years. As per the government order the pre-matric

scholarship for ST and SC boarders has been enhanced from Rs 750 to Rs 950 for boys and from Rs 800 to Rs 1000 for girls. The scholarship is meant for the boarders of schools under the STSC Development department and School and Mass Education department. The

monthly scholarship amount is used to meet mess expenditure of hostels including lentils, vegetables, non-vegetarian items, edible oil, spices and fuel cost. Around Rs 490 crore would be incurred by the State government annually for the flagship scheme, which had

been revised last time in 2015.

Apart from the scholarship, officials said millet based food items will be introduced in hostels menu to address the nutritional part of the boarders. The scheme will benefit more than five lakh ST and SC boarders, officials informed.

## 8K Schools on Transformation Mode

Bhubaneswar: As part of its 5T initiative, the State Government has decided to transform another 8,000 high schools under its ongoing High School Transformation Program. This was informed by School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash on Tuesday. Bishnupada Sethi Principal Secretary School & Mass Education reviewed progress with senior officials of the Department on this count earlier.

Under the High School Transformation program, 1070 high schools were transformed in the first phase while another 2,907 schools were redeveloped in the second phase. The inauguration of schools renovated in the second phase will end on June 10.

To enhance the quality of education, the government will



transform 8,000 high schools in the first phase following which primary schools will get facelift. Besides, efforts are on to sort out discrepancies related to the teacher recruitment, said Dash. The government will host a programme in Jajpur district on June 10 to mark the beginning of the next phase

of the renovation process of remaining high schools, he

recruitment of qualified and trained teachers in a big way added. In the first phase, around 3,000 schools have been transformed in 30 districts. The transformed schools are well-equipped with audio-visual teaching aids, projectors in classrooms, new science laboratories and e-libraries. On the other hand, the Government is also taking steps for

for raising the standard of classroom teaching.

About 11,000 teachers will be recruited by the end of the current month. The Chief Minister will grace the program, where recruitment letters will be offered to the new teachers at various schools of the State, the Minister informed.

## State Moots Micro Irrigation Plan

Bhubaneswar: The State Government on Tuesday approved the Micro Irrigation Action Plan of around Rs 531 crore under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) for the financial year 2022-23.

The State Level Sanctioning Committee on Micro Irrigation has approved the Action Plan. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra in digital mode from Lokseba Bhawan. This fund would be invested for promotion of



vegetables, pulses, oilseeds, coconut and plantation of fruit species over one lakh hectare high and medium land with micro irrigation sprinkler, drip HDPE pipe and pump sets methods of irrigation.

During the last year of 2021-22, the State had invested around Rs 62 crore for prompting sprinkler and drip methods of irrigation with the outcome of 31,038 hectares of medium and high land being brought under irrigation. Sprinkler irrigation was found more popular among the farmers, officials said.

It may be pertinent here to mention that PMKSY is being implemented in the State with funding support from both the Central and State Government.

Substantial subsidy on cost of these micro irrigation implements is available to farmers on these micro irrigation implements. The subsidy varies from 80 to 60 percent depending on the social category of the farmers viz. ST and SC, small and marginal, and general. Reviewing the progress made so far, Mahapatra directed a detailed study on production and requirement of the fruits and vegetables like mango, guava, papaya, lemon, onion and tomato in the State.

## Over 7,000 adolescent girls in Odisha out of school in 2021-22: WCD survey

BHUBANESWAR: A survey by the Women and Child Development has traced 7,717 adolescent girls (in the age group of 11 to 14 years) who have dropped out of schools in the 2021-22 academic session. The highest number of out of school girls are in Kalahandi (2,373) followed by Rayagada (2,256), Koraput (970), Malkangiri (655) and Nuapada (349). There is no data on migration-prone district Ganjam. Interestingly, districts like Boudh, Cuttack, Deogarh, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Sonepur have less than five dropouts. Education activists feel the numbers are too low to be believed. In 2018, the department had found 55,868 adolescent girls who dropped out of school, but the School and Mass Education department had dismissed the data. The then School Education minister Badri Narayan Patra had traced the number at 1,060 for that year. The number is much

higher if one goes by the situation at the grassroots, said convener of Odisha RTE forum Anil Pradhan. He gave the example of Mayurbhanj which has only 21 girls who are out of school as per the survey. In Ra n i p o k h a r i

mains a misnomer. Education in schools is free but there are other social reasons which force the girls to drop out, be it early marriages due to poverty, migrating along with parents to work or taking care of younger siblings

Malkangiri and 31.3 pc in Mayurbhanj. A higher official of the Women and Child Development said the department has asked the School and Mass Education department to bring back these girls to school under the Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav which was



panchayat under Kaptipada block of the district, 122 child marriages had taken place during the pandemic and the number includes five girls who studied in a 5T transformed school, he said. Pradhan attributed the reasons behind high dropout rate in Kalahandi, Rayagada and Koraput to migration and child marriages, among other things. "A majority of the schools in these districts are in inaccessible pockets where education still re-

while parents are away at work," he said. As per the National Family Health Survey-5, child marriages among girls in districts like Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Nayagarh is higher than the national average of 23.3 per cent. While the percentage stands at 39.4 pc in Nabarangpur (where the number of dropouts is 204), it is 35.7 pc in Nayagarh (39 dropouts), 35.5 pc in Koraput, 32.4 pc in

launched in March this year by the Centre. "The names of all the identified girls will be entered into the Prabandh portal of the Education Ministry and through the portal, their school performance will be tracked throughout the academic year," she said. State Project Director of Odisha School Education Programme Authority Anupam Saha said the School and Mass Education department is currently corroborating the data provided by WCD department and will come out with a final figure soon.



## Fee received in advance for next year from students cannot be taxed in year of receipt

**Kolkata (KCN):** The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), Hyderabad has made an admirable decision in the case of Dy. Commissioner of Income Tax, Hyderabad versus M/s. Hyderabad Educational Institutions Pvt Ltd (Decision Dated: 26.05.2022). The Tribunal has rightly held that Tuition Fee Is Taxable Only when A Corresponding Service Is Rendered By The Educational Institution. The assessee had received fee from students in the last quarter of the year which pertained to next quarter falling in next financial year.

Calcutta High Court had made similar decision in case of Advocate and Solicitor Commissioner of Income-tax. Fee received in advance for next year from students cannot be taxed in year of receipt

Calcutta High Court had made similar decision in case of Advocate and Solicitor Commissioner of Income-tax, Kol-XIX. v. Bijoy Kumar Jain [2016] 71 taxmann.com 8 (Calcutta). Since deposits from clients

were treated by assessee as a capital receipt which were adjusted in subsequent years against expenditure incurred for or on behalf of clients from whom deposits were received, it could be concluded that assessee was holding money as an agent or as a fiduciary of his client. Therefore, impugned revisional order under section 263 passed by Commissioner of Income Tax was not sustainable. Similar decision was also made by Calcutta High Court in the case of *CIT v. Sandersons & Morgans [1970] 75 ITR 433 (Cal)*.

The ITAT, Hyderabad has also ruled that teaching includes the activity of examinations, which is excluded from the definition of 'Fees for Technical Services' as per the Double Tax Avoidance Agreement of India with England and Switzerland so no tax could be imposed on fee for examinations collected from students and remitted abroad.

## Vedanta Aluminium's largest smelter reduces GHG emissions intensity by 12% in FY22

- On World Environment Day 2022, commits to reducing GHG emissions intensity (carbon footprint) by 25% by 2030 over FY21 baseline
- India's largest renewable energy consumer in FY22, at 3 Billion Units

New Delhi (KCN): Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, is proud to declare that its largest aluminium smelter has substantially reduced its GHG or greenhouse gas emissions intensity (carbon footprint) by around 12% in FY22 over the previous fiscal, while increasing production volume by 20%. On World Environment Day, Vedanta Aluminium commits to reduce GHG emissions intensity by 25% by

2030, over FY21 baseline, as part of its climate action endeavours. Historically, Vedanta Aluminium has reduced its GHG emissions intensity by 21% in the 2012-21 period, while almost tripling its production in the same period.



2030, over FY21 baseline, as part of its climate action endeavours. Historically, Vedanta Aluminium has reduced its GHG emissions intensity by 21% in the 2012-21 period, while almost tripling its production in the same period. Vedanta Aluminium has deployed a multi-pronged approach for combating climate change. This includes operating plants at high levels of operational efficiencies, increasing quantum of renewables in energy mix, and transitioning to cleaner fuels from fossil fuels. Testimony to its climate action initiatives:

- Vedanta Aluminium is the first from India to launch low carbon 'green' aluminium, branded Restora, whose carbon footprint is nearly half of the global threshold of 4 tonnes of CO2 equivalent per tonne of aluminium for low carbon aluminium
- Vedanta Aluminium is India's largest consumer of renewable energy, at 3 billion units in FY22
- The company has signed a Power Delivery Agreement for 380 MW of renewable energy for its aluminium smelters
- It has commissioned India's largest industrial electric fleet of 27 forklifts powered by lithium-ion batteries
- It has expanded its existing carbon sink with plantation of 4 lakh more saplings in FY22
- Vedanta Aluminium's BALCO plant continues to be the national benchmark in lowest Specific Power Consumption or SPC (a met-

ric which establishes the energy efficiency of operations; lower SPC denotes higher energy efficiency)

- Operational efficiency and energy conservation initiatives have resulted in energy savings of 23 lakh Giga Joules in FY22
- Created 9 rainwater harvesting infrastructures in last fiscal alone, having a combined water saving potential of 194 million litres



Speaking about Vedanta Aluminium's approach to sustainable development, Mr Rahul Sharma, CEO – Aluminium Business, Vedanta Limited, said, "Being India's largest producers of aluminium, we firmly believe in our role as climate action stewards while being industry leaders. We have set ambitious targets for ourselves on our road to Net Zero Carbon by 2050, with the first milestone being 25% reduction in GHG emissions intensity by 2030. We have adopted a 360-degree approach to sustainable development, which includes products, processes, technology, policy and partnerships. We believe our actions will help build a net-zero climate-resilient business, while creating virtuous circles of sustainable growth, jobs and opportunities – for us, our stakeholders, the nation and world at large."

The past year has seen Vedanta Aluminium increase its focus significantly in the areas of carbon reduction, renewable energy, biodiversity, air, water, waste management and communities. For instance, the company has signed several MoUs with India's leading technology institutes for extracting residual value out of industrial by-products like fly-ash and bauxite-residue, as well as establishing circular economy avenues for their utilization.

Vedanta Aluminium, a business of Vedanta Limited, is India's largest producer of aluminium, manufacturing more than half of India's aluminium i.e., 2.26 million tonnes in FY22. It is a leader in value-added aluminium products that find critical applications in core industries. Vedanta Aluminium ranks 4th in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) 2021 world rankings for aluminium industry, a reflection of its sustainable development practices. With its world-class aluminium smelters, alumina refinery and power plants in India, the company fulfils its mission of spurring emerging applications of aluminium as the 'Metal of the Future' for a greener tomorrow. [www.vedantaaluminium.com](http://www.vedantaaluminium.com).

## More Schools on Transformation Mode

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday said that transformed schools are the bridges between the students' dreams and success.

As achieving success is in their hands, they should take advantage of it, he said inaugurating 490 converted schools in 5 districts on the fourth day of the second phase of the school transformation initiative under the 5T charter.

The Chief Minister said that the school transformation initiative has had a positive effect on children's minds.

"As the school's modern facilities increase, so does our interest in learning, and our confidence has grown," he said.

Mr. Patnaik said the students are now very happy with the new school environment and they are very confident about their future.

The Chief Minister said that the new look of the school today has

brought joy and excitement to the children. This has created new hopes and aspirations among them. "School time is the best time of the year,"



he said. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the Chief Minister advised the children to move forward. Mr. Patnaik said each child is unique and full of potential and children have dreams of a better future. Dreams of doing something big in life.

The chief minister said the school transformation has added wings to the dream of transforming children and advised the children to move forward with confidence.

If the children's dream comes true, the goal of a new Odisha will be fulfilled and the foundation of a new Odisha will be laid. The Chief Minister said that education brings the biggest

change in life, the Chief Minister called on the people to make good use of this important time of life and create a new identity for themselves, for their families and for the beloved Odisha. Explaining the efficacy of the 5T charter he said Technology, Teamwork, Time, Transparency and Teamwork brings transformation.

The technology has enabled their schools to provide smart classrooms, e-libraries, computers, modern laboratories, as well as better drinking water and better sanitation while panchayat representatives, school management committees, teachers, alumni and the administration have all joined in the transformation work. Everything from the vision document to the work supervision has been done with everyone's knowledge.

"This transparency is the driving force behind the 5T program," he said.

The Chief Minister thanked the School Management Committee, the Panchayat representatives, the alumni and the teachers for the success of the transformation.

Minister, Nabakishore Das, MLAs Dhruva Charan Sahu, Debi Prasad Mishra and Debesh Acharya and Kalahandi Zilla Parishad president Pushpendra Singhdeo also addressed the gathering.

Students from Kendrapara Ananya, Sania from Cuttack, Shivani from Kalahandi, Prabhasini from Jharsuguda and Parineeta from Bargarh were among those who took part in the discussion.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Chief Minister's Secretary VK Pandian, Principal Secretary Schools and Mass Education Bishnupada Sethi were present on the occasion.

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# Ports On Green Mode; Thakur

Paradip(KCN): Union Minister of State, Port, Shipping and Waterways, Shantanu Thakur has said that all the 12 major ports including



Paradip Port is aiming at Green and Sustain-



able port operations.

While he has appreciated efforts of Paradip Port Authority in chalking out massive programs for protection of environment and generating awareness among the people in and around the port city.

Speaking on World Environment Day Meet organized by Nature Care Initiative (NCI), a leading NGO engaged in environment protection and generation of awareness, Mr.Thakur said that all the major ports including Paradip Port Authority are moving for creating awareness and taking appropriate measures for the protection of our environment.

Mr.Thakur has said that increasing renewable energy usage in the port is one of the major

actions being taken up by port authorities, from use of diesel to LNG. Similarly use of Solar Energy in port operations has become pertinent.

Maritime India Vision 2030 envisages that the ports should be safe, sustainable and adopt to green sector, which Paradip Port is striving.

While Paradip Port has been making endeavor to increase renewable energy in its usages, it has tried to improve air quality in the port areas.



In fact Union Minister before attending the meeting inaugurated a Truck Parking Yard & Bulb Road for congestion free traffic movement built in 32,795 sqm of land with an approximate Rs. 11 Crore investment. This will go a long way in curbing the dust and fossil fuel related pollution.

Mr.Thakur said Paradip Port is organizing for massive plantation program, which he inaugurated before addressing the NCI Meeting. Sujeet Kumar, Member of Parliament (MP) appreciated efforts of Paradip Port for organizing massive plantation and supporting environment awareness programs such as NCI's meet on World Environment day.

Dr.Kumar urged Paradip Port Authority Chair-

man P L Haranadh to ensure at least 90 Per cent trees survive as after plantation due to poor care majority of the trees do not survive. Paradip Port Authority Chairman P L Haranadh said all families in Paradip will be



handed over cotton bags so that they will never use single use plastic bags.

Reeling out his Action Plan for environment protection, he said every year One Lakh trees and in five years five lakh trees will be planted in the Port City. He said optimizing water use and spreading 'Green Cover' is the one of the major agenda of PPA. Similarly PPA is improving solid waste management and recycling of dredging material.

Mr.Haranadh, harped on 'Panchabhut', the five elements of nature-earth, water, fire, air and space and he said our ancient culture teaches us the protection strategy of environment.

PPA Chairman, a religious mandarin, seems to have taken cue from ancient Indian culture and implementing the environment protection programs on this line, say environmentalists present in the NCI Meeting.

Padma Mohanty, DIG Forests Government of India addressed the gathering and advised for lifestyle changes so that with small efforts, one can bring lot of change in mind set, which will go a long way in protecting the environment. She harped on making lifestyle choices to improve our planet, which is facing tough time.

Madhusudan Dash, Additional Secretary Forest, Environment and Climate Change of Government of Odisha lauded programs like engaging Self Help Group (SHG) for protection of forest and control of forest fire in the State. Mr.Dash said COVID has taught us to love and care for nature, which was missing and led to Pandemic.

Shree Jagannath Culture Researcher, Pandit Matru Prasad Mishra harped on Sanatan Dharma and Environment protection.

NCI Chief Executive Srikant Sekhar Sahoo welcomed the guests, while NCI Vice President Bhagirathi Behera thanked the gathering.

Speakers in NCI Meeting appreciated efforts of Sakti Prasad Nayak, an ardent environmentalist for taking up the issue of unnatural death of elephants due to railway accidents and elec-



trocution.

Mr.Nayak, who took up matter in Supreme Court, resulted in large scale reforms brought in for protection of pachyderms in the country.

Mr.Nayak has been proactive in environmental protection issues in the State and has been spearheading the movement single handedly, which is slowly turning into a massive scale. NCI, a National Level Environmental NGO has the blessings of Mr.Nayak, who is recognized for his sincere efforts to generate awareness on environment protection and climate change efforts.

## World Bank slashes 2022 global growth forecast to 2.9%, flags increased risk of stagflation

WASHINGTON: The World Bank slashed its growth estimate for the global economy to 2.9 percent, 1.2 percentage points below the January forecast, due to the Russian in-

vasion of Ukraine which has caused a severe downturn. "The world economy is expected to experience its sharpest deceleration following an initial recovery

from global recession in more than 80 years," the bank said Tuesday in its Global Economic Prospects report. The slump comes after growth recovered

to 5.7 percent in 2021 following the downturn caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Russia invasion and Western sanctions on Moscow have sent grain and oil prices

soaring, and drivers around the world are facing eye-popping prices at the pump. "The war in Ukraine, lockdowns in China, supply-chain disruptions, and the risk of

stagflation are hampering growth. For many countries, recession will be hard to avoid," said World Bank President David Malpass. The war is compound-

ing the damage from the Covid-19 pandemic, magnifying the slowdown in the global economy, "which is entering what could become a protracted

period of feeble growth and elevated inflation," according to the report. ALSO READ | Growth numbers point to unevenness in economic recovery in India.

## US, South Korea fly 20 fighter jets amid North Korea tensions

Continued from page-1

demonstrating their ability to swiftly respond to North Korean provocations.

The flight came a day after the allies fired eight surface-to-surface missiles into South Korea's eastern waters to match a weekend missile display by North Korea, which fired the same number of weapons from multiple locations Sunday in what was likely its biggest single-day testing event.

North Korea may soon up the ante as U.S. and South Korean officials say the country is all but ready to conduct another detonation at its nuclear testing ground in the northeastern town of Punggye-ri. Its last such test and sixth overall was in September 2017, when it claimed to have detonated a thermonuclear bomb designed for its intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Travelling to Seoul to discuss the standoff with South Korean and Japanese allies, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman warned of a "swift and forceful" response if the North carries out another nuclear test.

While the Biden administration has vowed to push for additional international sanctions if North Korea goes on with the nuclear test, the prospects for meaningful new punitive measures are unclear with the U.N. Security Council divided.

"Any nuclear test would be in complete violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. There would be a swift and forceful response to such a test," Sherman said, following a meeting with South Korea Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong.

"We continue to urge Pyongyang to cease its destabilizing and provocative activities and choose the path of diplomacy," she said.

Sherman and Cho are planning a trilateral meeting with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Mori Takeo on Wednesday over the North Korean nuclear issue.

North Korea's launches on Sunday extended a

provocative streak in weapons tests this year that also included the country's first demonstrations of ICBMs since 2017.

Since taking power in 2011, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has accelerated his weapons development despite limited resources. Experts say with its next test, North Korea could claim an ability to build small bombs that could be clustered on a multiwarhead ICBM or fit on short-range missiles that could reach South Korea and Japan.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Monday there are indications that one of the passages at the Punggye-ri testing ground has been reopened, possibly in preparations for a nuclear test.

Hours before Sherman's meeting in Seoul, State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters in Washington that the United States remains concerned that North Korea could seek its seventh test "in the coming days."

The Biden administration's punitive actions over North Korea's weapons tests in recent months have been limited to largely symbolic unilateral sanctions. Russia and China vetoed a U.S.-sponsored resolution in the Security Council that would have imposed additional sanctions on North Korea over its previous ballistic tests on May 25.

"We have called on members of the international community, certainly members of the UN Security Council's permanent five, to be responsible stakeholders in the U.N. Security Council as a preeminent forum for addressing threats to international peace and security," Price said.

"Unilateral actions are never going to be the most attractive or even the most effective response, and that is especially the case because we are gratified that we have close allies in the form of Japan and the ROK," he said, referring to South Korea's formal name, the Republic of Korea.

North Korea's state media have yet to comment on Sunday's launches. They came after the U.S. aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan concluded a

three-day naval drill with South Korea in the Philippine Sea on Saturday, apparently their first joint drill involving a carrier since November 2017, as the countries move to upgrade their defense exercises in the face of North Korean threats.

North Korea has long condemned the allies' combined military exercises as invasion rehearsals and often countered with its own missile drills, including launches in 2016 and 2017 that simulated nuclear attacks on South Korean ports and U.S. military facilities in Japan.

Following the latest North Korean launches, the United States conducted separate joint missile drills with Japan and South Korea, which they said were aimed at displaying their response capability.

Nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled since 2019 over disagreements in exchanging the release of crippling U.S.-led sanctions for the North's disarmament steps. Kim has since ramped up his testing activity despite mounting economic problems and has shown no willingness to fully surrender an arsenal he sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.

His government has so far rejected the Biden administration's offers for open-ended talks and is clearly intent on converting the dormant denuclearization negotiations into a mutual arms-reduction process, experts say.

Kim's pressure campaign hasn't been slowed by a COVID-19 outbreak spreading across his largely unvaccinated populace of 26 million amid a lack of public health tools. The North has so far rejected U.S. and South Korean offers for help, but there are indications that it received at least some supplies of vaccines from ally China.

South Korean activist Park Sang-hak, a North Korean defector who for years have launched anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets by balloon across the border, said his group on Tuesday flew 20 balloons carrying medicine, masks and vitamin pills to help North Korean civilians.



## Ranji Trophy quarterfinals: Suved Parkar hits double ton as Mumbai declare at 647/8 vs Uttarakhand

BENGALURU: Debutant Suved Parkar pummelled Uttarakhand bowlers into submission, hitting a maiden double century to propel Mumbai to a mammoth 647 for eight declared on the second day of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal here on Tuesday.

Parkar's stroke-filed 252 and Sarfaraz Khan's aggressive 153 have put the 41-time Ranji Trophy winners in the driver's seat. In reply, Uttarakhand were 39 for two at stumps, losing skipper Jay Bista (0) and Mayank Mishra (4).

Kamal Singh (27 not out) and Kunal Chandela (8 not out) were holding the fort at the close of play. Uttarakhand have a mountain to climb as they trail Mumbai by 608 runs. Parkar, thus, became the 12th

Indian to score a double ton on his Ranji Trophy debut. He reached the mark with a tap to long-off Swapnil Singh. His 252 is now the fourth highest score



by an Indian on debut and fifth in first-class cricket. He also followed the footsteps of Mumbai coach Amol Mazumdar, who had scored 260 on his Ranji debut.

Parkar, who started from his overnight score of 104 not out, continued from where he left and struck 21 boundaries and four maximums during his mammoth 447-ball innings. He didn't spare a single

Uttarakhand bowler during his knock.

Sarfaraz, who resumed at the overnight score of 69, notched up his seventh first-class hundred. Sarfaraz and

Parkar, who had impressed with his footwork, shared a staggering 267-run stand for the fourth wicket. An audacious sweep off Mayank Mishra (1/120) cost Sarfaraz his wicket. Sarfaraz hammered 14 boundaries and four sixes in his aggressive knock to continue his dream run in first-class cricket. Aditya Tare (1) didn't trouble the scorers as he nicked one to wicketkeeper

Shivam Khurana off left-arm pacer Agrim Tiwari's bowling. Parkar then found an able ally in all-rounder Shams Mulani, who played his role to perfection by hitting a crucial 59. Mulani and Parkar added 106-runs for the sixth wicket and it was during their partnership that Mumbai crossed the 500-run mark.

Mulani hit six boundaries and three sixes before being castled by Kamal Singh. Tanush Kotian (28) and Tushar Deshpande (20 not out) also supported Parkar, who was eventually run out, courtesy a direct hit by Kunal Chandela, after which Mumbai skipper Prithvi Shaw declared the innings. **Medium-pacer** Deepak Dhapola (3/89) was the pick of the bowlers for Uttarakhand.

## Whatever Rafael Nadal's future holds, his legacy's secure

PARIS: Rafael Nadal's status for Wimbledon is in doubt because of a chronic problem with his left foot — as is his future in tennis. What's secure, no matter what happens now, is his legacy.

Nadal got through the French Open, he explained after a dominating 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Casper Ruud in Sunday's final earned a 14th championship at Roland Garros and 22nd Grand Slam title overall, thanks to the help of a series of numbing injections in his foot.

That, he says, was a one-time deal.

"I don't want to put myself in that position again," Nadal said after becoming, at age 36, the oldest champion in the history of a clay-court tournament that was first held in 1925. "Can happen once. But no, it's not a philosophy of life that I want to follow."

And he allowed a little insight into what does make him tick.

It's not, he said, as he's said before, an all-consuming desire to finish with more major trophies than the other members of the so-called Big Three of men's tennis, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. (Nadal currently stands two ahead of his rivals, who both are at 20.)

"It's not about being the best of the history. It's not about the records. It's about: I like what I do. I like to play tennis. And I like the competition," Nadal said.

"What drives me to keep going is the passion for the game, to live moments that stay inside me forever," he added, "and play in front of the best crowds in the world and the best stadiums."

So while he wants to be able to keep going, and would appreciate the chance to play at the All England Club, where the grass-court Slam he has won twice begins three weeks from Monday, he'll only do so if his body permits.

Nadal, who brought a doctor with him to Paris, is going to spend the next week trying new treatments,

hoping to find a way to ease the pain in his foot. If that doesn't work, he will need to contemplate having surgery.

"Of course, my tennis career has been a priority over my happiness (in) life. So things are going to keep going that way," he said. "If I am still able to be happy playing tennis with the things that I have, I'm going to keep going. If I am not able, I'm going to do other stuff."

Either way, Nadal's place in the history of tennis — and, indeed, the history of sports — is solidified.

Because of all of the way he has lorded over the French Open and red clay, yes. And, sure, because of the career Grand Slam he owns and, for now at least, the lead in the men's major trophy count. Don't forget the Olympic medals and the time spent at No. 1 in the rankings, either.

But it's not just all of the numbers. There's also this: Nadal never seems to take a point off, never seems to let an on-court situation daunt him, never gives in or gives up.

"He stepped up, and he showed that when he needs to, he plays great," said Ruud, who appeared to be every bit as overwhelmed by the situation and setting as by his opponent.

"He's a player I have watched on TV for the last 16, 17 years. So to be there myself and face him, it's a bit of a challenge, as well, but a very enjoyable one," Ruud said after his debut in a Grand Slam final at age 23. "Yeah, of course, I wish I could make the match closer and all these things, but at the end of the day, I can hopefully one day tell my grandkids that I played Rafa on Chatrier in the final, and they will probably say, 'Wow, did you?'"

Whatever might come next for Nadal, he needs to figure out what's best for him, his foot, his happiness. If he decides there's no fix for the pain that wouldn't come at too great a cost, he'll move on. His imprint on the sport will remain.

## I don't look at rankings, have respect for Cambodia: Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac

KOLKATA: Indian team head coach Igor Stimac refused to read much into their higher ranking on the eve of the Asian Cup Qualifiers, saying it doesn't matter in present day football.

Eyeing a second straight Asian Cup qualification and fifth overall, 106th ranked India start as favourites and rank way higher than their three group D opponents in Cambodia, Afghanistan and Hong Kong.

"I respect every opposition. I don't look at rankings. Cambodia didn't come here to participate, they came with the same desire to win the game,"

Stimac said on the eve of their group opener. "When India were down 180 in rankings, we went to win the games and not lose them. I would also have more respect for each opponent. I'd never say we can win against anyone easily. That would be disrespectful. We need to be ready, hungry and fully motivated for these games."

"There's no easy game anymore. That was some 50 years ago. From 100 positions until 180-200, there is a very small margin and difference in quality," he added.

The Croat, whose contract has been extended till the end of the Asian Cup Qualifiers, faces a big test as he outlined his strategy to press for an early goal.

"I'd say that we have prepared for any case scenario, but we intend to press for the first minute of the game and put Cambodia under high pressure."

"We need to prove that we are favourites and we need to control as well as be ready to handle the counter-attacks. I'd say we are ready for that."

Not worried about friendlies results India's build-up to the Qualifiers has been far from impressive as they have lost three of their four practice matches, while the one against Zambia was cancelled.

Of the three losses, India have scored once against Bahrain (1-2) and the other two were lopsided defeats to Belarus (0-3) and Jordan

(0-2).

Pointing out that he missed star Indian forward Sunil Chhetri in two matches, Stimac said: "I'm never worried about the friendly games, less worried than you.

It's a learning process.

It's more important how we do in these offi-



cial games.

"Once we started together, we were very clear on what we needed to do in the future. We were clear that we needed to make sure that India participates in every edition of the AFC Asian Cup. These are the steps in football in our progress to make the World Cup."

Fit-again Jhingan upbeat All eyes would be on defender Sandesh Jhingan, who made a comeback during their match against Jordan, after a long injury layoff.

"You have seen me play in the AFC Cup. Nothing changes much," said Jhingan.

Seen as a future India captain, the 28-year-old centre back however does not still consider his place "permanent" in the team.

"No one has a permanent place in the XI. The quality of competition is so high these days. You need to work very hard every day in training to earn the right to play."

"To play in the Asian Cup is massive and to qualify it on home soil at Kolkata is amazing. The experience in Kolkata is massive. Playing in front of a packed stadium is the stuff of dreams for us. The more the fans come, the better for us," he said.

Bheke to miss out

India will miss their right back Rahul Bheke, who is out with an injury, the coach said.

"Apart from Rahul, everyone is available for us. He's been out with a minor injury for the last 11 days," Stimac said.



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