

Jual favors stop heritage work

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Veteran Tribal Leader and BJP MP Jual Oram Sunday demanded that work in the "Protected Zone" must be stopped

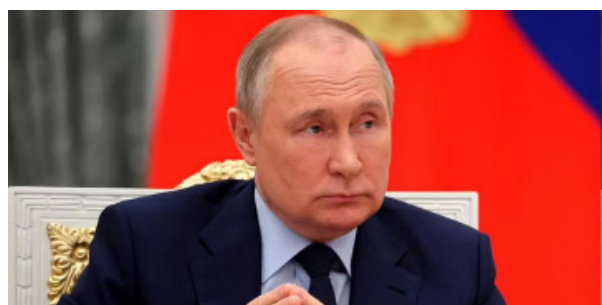


immediately.

Former Tribal Affairs Minister Mr.Oram on 15 May accused Puri MP Pinaki Misra of mis-

Putin warns Finland NATO membership would harm relations

HELSINKI(KCN): Russian President Vladimir Putin warned his Finnish counter-



part Saturday that relations between the two neighbours could be "negatively affected" if Finland follows through with plans to apply for NATO membership.

The Kremlin's press service said in a statement that Putin told Sauli Niinisto Finland's abandonment "of its traditional policy of mili-

Srimandir Parikrama project: Beautification work fine but must follow norms, says Dharmendra Pradhan

BHUBANESWAR/ANGUL(KCN): Breaking his silence on the Srimandir Parikrama project, Union Education Min-

ister Dharmendra Pradhan said that nobody has any objection to the beautification work undertaken by the State government around the Jagannath Temple, but the works should be undertaken within the confines of the law.



project should not be taken up by ignoring the cultural heritage of the area. Heritage and tradition have a special importance in Odisha, which is a land of culture, he said and added that the State government should abide by the regulations of the Centre in this regard. The Union Minister said

that idols and other artefacts dating back to ancient times are being found around the Jagannath temple and the State govern-

ment should not ignore this. Pradhan said that as a devotee of Lord Jagannath and follower of Odia culture, he expects that the beautification work near the Jagannath temple should be implemented according to the prevailing legal provisions. The statement of

leading Lok Sabha while making a statement on the Heritage Corridor Project in the House. "This is illegal to undertake any construction project in the protected zone. I doubt some officers are carrying out illegal work by hiding the truth from the chief minister. It is unfortunate that Puri MP Pinaki Misra misled Parliament while speaking on the Puri Heritage Corridor Project. I was present there when Pinaki babu made the statement," Mr.Oram alleged.

BJD MP Mr.Misra had said that only four toilets were being constructed near the Shree Jagannath Temple. He, however, later clarified that he could not mention other works being carried out at the temple due to the paucity of time in the Lok Sabha.

Mr.Oram said the BJP State President has already visited the construction site in Puri and will soon submit a report to the party's central leadership.

Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi said in twitter handle that "Shree Jagannath Temple Administration has been asked by National Monuments Authority to revise its building plan; the office structure that would have come up within 200 Meters. Law has to be followed. The structural safety of our Jagannath Temple

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tary neutrality would be an error since there are no threats to Finland's security".

"Such a change in the country's foreign policy could negatively affect Russian-Finnish relations, which had been built in the spirit of good neighborliness and partnership for many years, and were mutually beneficial," the statement added.

The response came after Niinisto told Putin in a phone conversation that the militarily non-aligned Nordic country, which has a complex history with its huge eastern neighbor, "will decide to apply for NATO membership in the coming days."

Niinisto's office said in a statement that the Finnish head of state told Putin how starkly Finland's security environment had changed after Moscow's Feb. 24

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'Will keep open avenues for forging alliances according to political circumstances': Congress

UDAIPUR(KCN): The Congress on Sunday said it was

In its Udaipur Declaration adopted after the three-day 'Nav

Congress person to bring this difference before the people, the

hood, not holding elections, implementing an "erroneous delimitation" and killing of thousands of innocent civilians, security forces and Kashmiri Pandits by militants were signs of "serious failure" of the central government.

While the Congress has to strengthen its grassroots presence everywhere on the basis of its organisation, it is "committed to establish dialogue and contact with all like-minded parties to protect the spirit of nationalism and democracy and will keep open avenues for forging alliances

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committed to establishing dialogue with all like-minded parties to protect the spirit of nationalism and democracy and would keep open avenues for forging alliances according to political circumstances.

Sankalp Chintan Shivir', the Congress asserted that Indian nationalism is the core character of the party, while in contrast, the BJP's "pseudo-nationalism" is centred on the hunger for power. It is the duty of every

declaration said. Based on the recommendations of the group that led the discussions on political issues at the conclave, the party stated that changing the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, taking away its full state-

World leaders descend on UAE to pay respects to late ruler

DUBAI(KCN): An array of presidents and prime ministers continued to descend on the United Arab Emirates from around the world on Sunday to pay their respects to the federation's late ruler. They also came to praise his successor, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a vivid sign of Abu Dhabi's influence in Western and Arab capitals.

The first Western leader to jet to the oil-rich capital of Abu Dhabi was French President Emmanuel Macron. He met Sunday with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the country's long-ailing ruler who died on Friday at the age of 73.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was expected to arrive later Sunday to offer condolences, along with other leaders including

Israeli President Isaac Herzog after the two countries opened formal relations in 2020. An American delegation led by Vice President Kamala Harris is due to visit the UAE on Monday, a bid to show support after relations

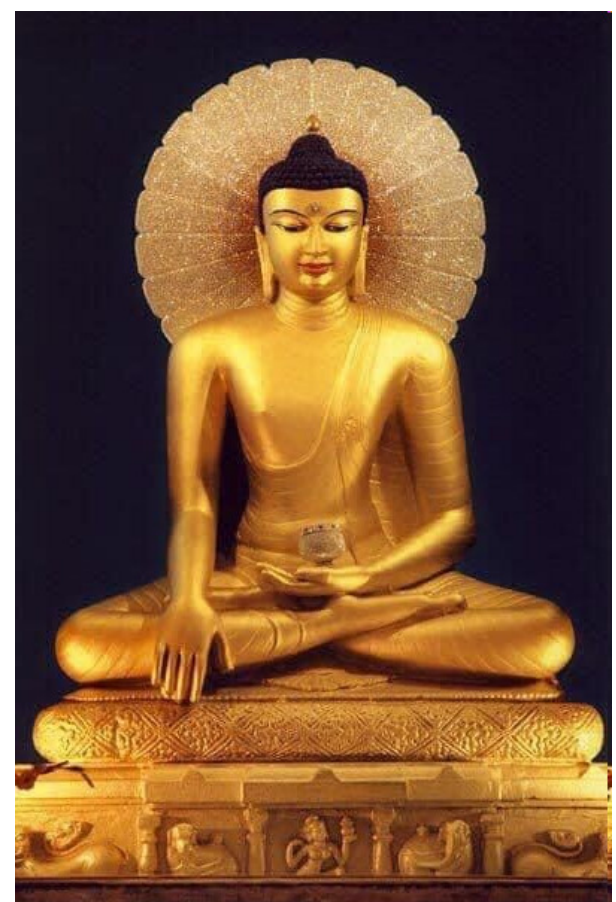


between the countries have recently strained. Arab heads of state, including close allies Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi and Jordan's King Abdullah II

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India to Set Lumbini Buddhist Center

New Delhi(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the corner stone laying ceremony for the construction of a unique center for Buddhist Culture and Heritage



within the Lumbini Monastic Zone during his official visit to Lumbini on 16 May 2022 on the occasion of Vaishakha Buddha Purnima. At Lumbini, Prime Minister will visit the sa-

cred Mayadevi temple to offer prayers. Prime Minister will also deliver an address at a Buddha Jayanti event organized by the Lumbini Development Trust under the aegis of the Government of Nepal.

The construction of the unique 'India International Centre for Buddhist Culture & Heritage' with a universal appeal will be undertaken by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), India under the auspices of the Lumbini Development Trust with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

International Buddhist Confederation, is a grantee body under the Ministry of Culture. The Buddhist Centre will be the first 'Net Zero Emission' building in Nepal.

Also, on the occasion, the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) is hosting a colorful program for the Vaishakha Buddha Purnima Divas celebrations in New Delhi.

The highlight will be the screening of a film on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foundation-stone laying ceremony, earlier in the day for the Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage at Lumbini, Nepal.

The event will start at 2:00 pm with Chanting from various Buddhist sites played on the screen.

The Chief Guest, for the event will be Kiren Rijju, Minister of Law and Justice, Government of India, while the Guest of Honor will be G Kishan Reddy, CONTINUED ON: P-7

Top 13 contestants get a chance for Photoshoot at Mahabir Danwar Jewellers store to participate at Couple Number 1 contest to win a trip to Dubai

Kolkata (KCN): Mahabir Danwar



Jewellers is making married couples feel special by organizing a grand event named



'Couple No 1' contest. It was a 3 month long Contest after

which top 13 couples were chosen for the grand finale. These lucky pairs won a chance for exclusive photo-shoot at Mahabir Danwar Jeweller's store which was organized on a very large scale. Weddings in India are considered eternally blissful, but it is also important to rekindle the romance and celebrate your partner each passing day. Keeping the same thought in mind, this unique, fun and creative competition has been organised. The finale of this competition will be held at Fairfield by Marriott, Kolkata on 29th May, 2022 which would be glittered by the presence of jury members which includes: Richa Sharma, Actress;

Dolly Jain, Celebrity Saree Drapist & Styl-



ist; and Naina More, Celebrity Motiva-



tional Speaker and would be attended by: Mr. Vijay Soni,

Director, Mahabir Danwar Jewellers. Speaking to the media, Mr. Vijay Soni, Director, Mahabir Danwar Jewellers said, "We hosted Jodi Number 1 contest a while ago and we are excited to bring it back in a new form with married couples this time. It was really challenging and tough to choose and shortlist these 13 pairs for the finale. Applications came in each day. We want to spread joy by celebrating every special moments of these couple." These selected couples would be seen in outstanding outfits by Sansita and Saharsh as they are the official apparel partner of this grand event. Grooming and makeover of the contestants would be

done by Club Salon.



So get excited and wait for the results to



find out who is the lucky couple to win a trip to Dubai as the winner!

Barbil police crack down the smuggling plan of Manganese ore

Barbil (KCN): The Barbil police recently seized one 14 wheeled truck carrying manganese

intelligence source that a truck bearing registration number CG 04 MU 8105 loaded with theft

Raigarh. The theft ore of 20MT, Rs 55000 cash, 8 mobile phones and a Pulsar motor cycle vide no.



theft from Chormalda comes under Koida Mining circle. The seizure has confirmed that there is no end to unabated mineral theft in the district. As per information Barbil police perceived information from its

manganese at Tonto. Barbil police headed by IIC Sushant Dash and his team accompanied by SI Baroda Sahu, ASI B.Naik reached the spot and crackdown the planning of these mafia who intended to sell this ore at

OD09 T 0763 seized. Police arrested 7 person namely Dinesh Sahu, Sujit Kumar Sahu, Md Rafique, Jaymangal Munda, Ranjan Sharma, Jafar Usman Sheikh and Ajit Patra in this connection and forwarded to court.

New CEC takes charge

New Delhi(KCN): Rajiv Kumar today assumed charge as the 25th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India at Election Commission of India.

ECI to give our citizens free and fair elections, to ensure purity of the electoral rolls, prevent malpractices and enhance the quality of our elections. "The Commis-

Mr.Kumar has been serving in ECI as Election Commissioner since 1 September, 2020. During his tenure as Election Commissioner, elections have been held for State Assemblies of Bihar in 2020, Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal amidst Covid concerns in March-April 2021 and also elections to Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh recently in early 2022.



After assuming charge as CEC, Mr.Kumar said that he is honored to have been given the responsibility to lead one of the finest institutions gifted by the Indian Constitution - the institution that reinforces our democracy. He added that a lot has been done during the last seventy years by

sion will follow the time-tested and democratic methods of consultations and consensus building in bringing about any major reforms responsible under the Constitution, ECI will not shy away from tough decisions", he added. Mr.Kumar also said that Technology will further be made the major instrument for simplification of processes and practices for bringing about transparency and ease of voter services for better election management and operations.

ASMA in Association with Odisha Mo-Parivar Organized Blood Donation Camo

Khordha(KCN): To maintain a balance between blood donation and blood supply the volunteer organization ASMA has



organized a blood donation camp in association with Odisha Mo-Parivar at PWD, IB Khordha. The blood donation camp was inaugurated by the chief guest of the occasions MLA, Khordha Joyrindra Nath Mitra and said that " Blood donation is a noble cause and every blood donor contributes to the development of the community. Blood is the most exquisite gift that one can give to another person. " MLA, J. N. Mitra also encourage the blood donors. It is main goals is to maintain a consistent balance of blood supply. A total of 49 units of blood were collected in the camp. In this camp Odisha

Mo-Parivar Khordha District Co-ordinator Dillip Kumar Hota, Chairman Khordha Municipality Mrs. Kanaka Lakshmi Mohanty, Vice-Chairman Sourya Ranjan Mohanty,



Biju Mahila Janta Dal Odisha State Vice-President Mrs. Basanti Mohapatra, Vice-Chairman Khordha Panchayat Samiti, Prakash Samantaray, BJD, Khordha District Vice-President, Bibhu Prasad Sahoo, General Secretary Lalit Mohan Mohapatra among others were present and encourage the blood donors. 15 women volunteers of ASMA trust voluntarily donate their blood. Chief of ASMA trust Debasish Mohanty, Shanti Mohapatra, Sai Kiran Menaka, Soham Pattnaik, Abhisek Pradhan, Priyadarsini Nayak, Sweta Das, Siba Prasad Barik Co-ordinated the camp.

CPI(M) raise voice against hike of commodities at Barbil

Barbil (KCN): The Communist Party of India (Marxist) the Barbil wing in the district of Keonjhar today demonstrated agitation and condemns the massive hike in the prices of petrol, diesel and food items. This will lead to the cascading of the inflationary spiral

burdened. There is no transparency in the pricing decision making. By the Modi Government and Naveen government. This is nothing but an abdication of the responsibility of the government to control and regulate the prices of a crucial item of fuel which has a



imposing unprecedented burdens on the working people, once again in a big way and create imposition of burdens on their livelihood says CPIM leader Indramani Behera. The people who are suffering from continuous food inflation will be more

direct impact on the prices of all essential commodities. He too reiterates that the gas pricing system should not be based on the average of prices ruling in international hubs without any reference to the domestic cost of production of gas.

Child labor increased Post Covid

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The number of child labourers has increased across the globe in the aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic.

Against Children (SAIVEC), an apex body of South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

"After 20 years, we witness rise in the trend of child labour globally and especially post Covid-19, the situation has become grimmer," said Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, Chairperson, NACGEVAC India. The reason might be due to loss of employment, death of an earning person in the family and contraction of economy, etc. Mr.Mohanty has informed this while addressing at a virtual consultation programme. The National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children (NACGEVAC) INDIA in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the South Asia Coordination Group to End Violence against Children (SACG) jointly organised the virtual consultation titled "India Country Consultation on Elimination of Child Labour by 2025". The global meet is taking place in the context of the grim reality that globally child labour has increased from 152 million children in 2016 to 160 million children in 2020. With just over three years to meet the SDG Target 8.7 deadline, over 2000 delegates across the Globe will participate in the conference and plan to address the challenges with a strong commitment and an action plan to eliminate child labour by 2025. More than 100 participants joined in the discussion including members organisations of NACG working on the elimination of child labour and children/youth change makers in the country. National Action and Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children (NACGEVAC), India is the civil society forum of South Asia Initiative to End Violence

The Global Conference on Elimination of Child Labour (VCG) will be held in Durban, South Africa from May 15-20, 2022 with the presence of key global players and the recommendations of today's consultation will be shared for discussion. Thangaperumal Ponpandi [Thangam], Chair, SACG, shared that, this is a very special occasion to prepare the civil societies recommendations for the global conference taking the experiences, challenges and successes into account. Insaf Nizam, Regional Specialist, South East Asia, ILO shared the objectives of the global conference. The six days long conference will be declared open by the president of South Africa alongside the presidents of Malawi and Zambia. All the six days involve high level panellists and discussions, voices of communities and sharing of experiences etc. At the consultation programme, P. Victor Raj, Thematic Expert, Child Labour, NACGEVAC India discussed about the child labour issues and challenges in India. In this context children from different parts of the country joined in and shared their thoughts and recommendations for elimination of child labour. The children consultation was facilitated by Aditi P. Kaur, Child Thematic Expert, NACGEVAC India & Anuradha Mohanty, Executive Director, PECUC. Other key speakers included Sanjay Gupta, Vice Chair, NACG; D Roshan Kumar, Vice Chair, NACG and many other experts from different parts of the country.

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Bollywood's Independent Music Album 'Dil Se Dil Tak'

Bhubaneswar/East : In a first-of-its-kind creative attempt to bridge that gap between

Singh, "I consider myself an 'expressionist' and I just have to keep creating. I'm a lover of

is a powerful Producer and Director of films, bestselling author of F?@K Knows and Youth Icon for the new, young India.



Bollywood and popular music, Entertainment and Sports Guru, Shailendra Singh turns Music and Video Director of Dil Se Dil Tak – an independent Bollywood music album featuring ten songs of ten different genres, each with its own music video. Always one to use his experience and platform to include new, young artists alongside India's best talents,

music and saw real gap between the storytelling songs that we love in films, and the unburdened creation of independent music. So I wanted to make it. I brought together so many talented artists to

creating songs that blend the best of each music genre with an emotional and gripping story in the song and accompanying video. The music videos were shot at picturesque locations all over the country from Himachal Pradesh to Spiti Valley, to various untapped locations in Maharashtra. Filled with colorful characters and glamorous production values, Dil Se Dil Tak is all set to create sensation in the musical world.

One of India's most public philanthropists, Shailendra Singh explains, "During the Covid-19 pandemic crisis we all were equally hit. But in every crisis there is an opportunity.



Shailendra Singh features an unprecedented 200 different artists on the much-awaited album. The proceeds generated from this unique album will be used to help Covid-19 pandemic affected children through the Magic Bus Foundation.

Dil Se Dil Tak is Bollywood's first independent music album to bring so many artists together to create independent, stand-alone music, but with all the drama and storytelling of the nation's beloved Bollywood.

Says Music and Video Director, Shailendra

create this album with me, appreciated each and everyone's contribution and really believe we made magic in Dil Se Dil Tak."

For first film that Shailendra Singh produced, Pyaar Mein Kabhi Kabhi, he was awarded a Limca World Record for 'the most number of debuts in a film', launching the careers of over 200 of Bollywood's biggest talents. India's Serial Entrepreneur and Inceptor of Percept Ltd, Sunburn, Guestlist4Good and Boss Entertainment, he is the entertainment and sports industries' all-rounder. He established 23 successful startups in 32 years of his career,

Whenever there is darkness there will soon be the light. I wanted to engage both established and new artists in film and music to create something India has never seen before. No sponsors, no agenda... just a pure musical and video experience. And with a heart – to help those who are still suffering the most, the underprivileged children of India."

Dil Se Dil Tak is produced by Boss Entertainment; Shailendra Singh is the Music and Video Director; Anjana Ankur Singh is the Music Composer; Arshad Khan is Director of Photography; Dinesh Mali has edited the music videos.

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

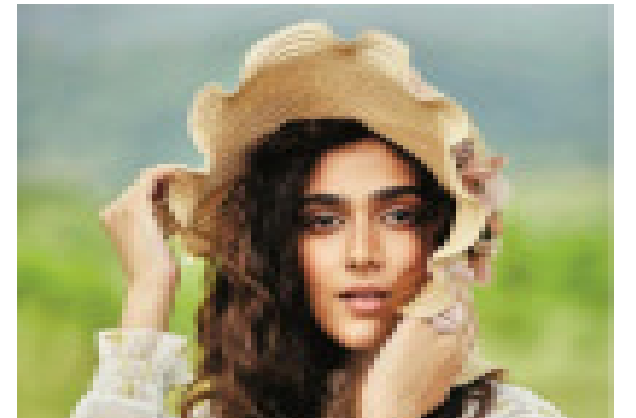


NEW DELHI: Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book #YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the caption, he noted "Hindi or English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon. Within a few hours of being posted, fans of the former Chairman

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

Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

Ajay Devgn's Mayday has been creating a massive buzz because of its interesting star



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

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

Stay of Income Tax demand Part 4

(Contd. from 10th May 2022)

18. Whether the stay of demand can be refused u/s 220(6) on the ground that the assessee is financially sound and is in a position to pay the demand:



Normally, once the officer is satisfied that an appeal has been filed (and the grounds are not frivolous), he has to

treat the assessee as not in default to the extent of the portion of tax disputed in the appeal. Though section 220(6) does not indicate in what cases denial of discretion shall be justified, the fact that the assessee is financially sound and is in a position to pay is not in itself a ground for refusing to exercise the discretion in granting the stay - R.P. David v. Ag. ITO [1972] 86 ITR 699 (Mad). In UTI Mutual Fund v. ITO W.P. (L) No. 523 of 2013 (Bom) Order dated 6th March 2013, it was held that it is not the law that in the absence of financial hardship, no stay of recovery can be granted. The High Court held; Where a strong prima facies case is made out, a direction to deposit would itself cause financial hardship. The Assessing Officer must deal with prima facie merits of the assessee's case in appeal and if the same is covered against the revenue in view of a decision of a superior forum then the question of considering the issue of financial hardship may not arise. Financial hardship is relevant only when the assessee is unable to make out a case on merits for an unconditional stay of the demand. Also refer- Slum Rehabilitation Authority v. DDIT (E) W.P. 2542 of 2014 dated 29.10.2014 (Bom); Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority v. DDIT (E) [2015] 55 taxmann.com 307 (Bombay)/ [2015] 230 Taxman 178 (Bombay), **Vodafone India Ltd. v. CIT [2018] 89 taxmann.com 54 (Bombay).**

19. Where assessee has been granted instalment for payment of 20% of demand for the purpose of stay till the first appeal, can assessee later retract to pay the instalment on the ground of financial incapacity: Where assessee has been granted monthly instalment for paying 20% or 15% of the demand, as the case may be, on the basis of the commitment by

the assessee to pay the said instalment

Narayan Jain

regularly then the assessee is not entitled to make prayer that the instalment should be waived or reduced on account of financial difficulties being faced by the assessee. The rejection of the fresh prayer by the AO has been held to be justified - **Kalaignar TV (P.) Ltd. v. PCIT [2017] 88 taxmann.com 183 (Madras).**

20. Whether A.O. can attach assessee's bank account despite the fact that demand has been stayed by ITAT, and put forward an argument that he was not aware of such stay order:

Action of A.O. to attach assessee's bank account despite ITAT stay order is clear cut contempt. The hearing in ITAT cases are being attended by CIT-DR and orders are pronounced in open Court. As such AO cannot plead its ignorance. Serious view has been taken in the cases of **A.T. Kearney India Pvt. Ltd. v. ITO W.P.(C) 1937/2014 (Delhi HC); DIT (E) v. Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority Writ Petition (L) No. 3174 of 2013 dated 04.02.2014; and Bharti Airtel Limited v. ACIT ITA No 5816/Del/2012 dated 11.03.2014 of ITAT, Delhi.**

21. Can A.O. grant stay for a limited period:

The A.O. may keep a demand in abeyance under sec. 220(6) "so long as the appeal remains undisposed of". The A.O. has discretion, for good reasons, not to grant any stay at all; he has also the power to impose any just condition e.g., security etc. while granting stay. But arbitrarily to grant a stay upto a certain day and not as long as the appeal remains undisposed of, is not a proper exercise of discretion - **Hindusthan Rubber Works Ltd. v. CIT [1971] 81 ITR 397 (Cal).** As per CBDT Instruction vide **Office Memorandum No. F.NO.404/72/93-ITCC, dated 31-7-2017**, if 20 per cent of demand is paid, the AO will generally grant the stay.

22. Whether department can go to High Court against the stay order by ITAT where there is a High Court decision in favour of assessee for the controversy involved:

It has been held that the entire demand raised by the authorities was prima facie not even sustainable when the controversy was apparently covered in assessee's favour by Delhi High Court and Bengaluru ITAT rulings; in such a case the revenue must not harass the assessee and must

not misuse the constitutional

remedies.

The High Court further remarked that "The efforts of the Revenue to prove their point that they had a good case on merits before the Constitutional Courts rather than respecting the orders passed by the statutorily created Tribunals not only shows lack of judicial discipline and hierarchical discipline which they should maintain, but treating the constitutional remedies as a vested right with them..... in turn depriving the Constitutional Courts to devote their time for looking into the causes of poor people, which deserve their time and attention of the court more than such Government Departments."; The High Court imposed 'exemplary' cost of Rs.50,000 each, to be paid personally by 2 Principal CITs and an ACIT. Refer: **Epson India Pvt. Ltd. v. ACIT TS-19-HC-2018 (KAR).**

23. Whether CIT(A) can grant stay of demand till the disposal of appeal -

Debasish Moulik v. DCIT 231 ITR 737(Cal.); ITO v. M.K. Mohammed Kunhi (M.K.) 71 ITR 815 (SC); Prem Prakash Tripathi v. CIT 208 ITR 461 (All.); PaulsonsLitho Works v. ITO 208 ITR 676 (Mad.); Kesav Cashew Co. v. DCIT 210 ITR 1014 (Ker.); Tin Manufacturing Co. of India v. CIT 212 ITR 451(All.); Kallettumkara Service Co-operative Bank Ltd. v. ITO [2019] 112 taxmann.com 65 (Ker)..

24. An assessee has disputed the additions in appeal and CIT (Appeal) has decided in the favour of the assessee. As such assessee got the refund. Department moved to ITAT and then to the High Court wherein the High Court decided in favour of revenue and demand was raised.

Whether assessee is liable to pay interest also u/s 220?: In order to nullify the decision of Apex Court in the case of- **Vikrant Tyres Ltd. v. First ITO [2001] 247 ITR 821 (SC):166 CTR (SC) 1**, section 220(1A) has been inserted by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2014 with effect from 1st October 2014, to provide that where any notice of demand has been served upon an assessee and any appeal or other proceedings, as the case may be, is filed or initiated in respect of the amount specified in the said notice of demand, then such demand shall be deemed to be valid till the disposal of appeal by

the last appellate authority or disposal of proceedings, as the case may be and such notice of demand shall have effect as provided in Section 3 of the Taxation Laws (Continuation and Validation of Recovery Proceedings) Act, 1964.

In the said case of **Vikrant Tyres Ltd.** the Supreme Court had held that where the assessee initially paid the tax as per demand notice u/s 156, but later got the tax refunded pursuant to appellate order, and later on, the tax became due from the assessee pursuant to the decision of the High Court setting aside the appellate order, the revenue is not entitled to demand interest in regard to the amount which was refunded to the assessee on the basis of appellate order, especially when the assessee had promptly satisfied the demand made by the revenue in regard to the tax originally assessed.

25. Where jurisdictional High Court has held in the favour of assessee on an issue, but the decision of the High Court has been challenged in the apex court by the department, should stay be granted in such cases:

Where the claim of the assessee is covered by the decision of the jurisdictional High Court but has been disallowed on the ground that the view of the High Court has been contested in the apex court, in such a case, stay should be granted to the assessee - **Vellore District Government Employees Co-operative Society v. ACIT [2014] 70 CCH 0152 (Chen. HC) :<http://indiankanoon.org/doc/138897718/>.**

26. Conclusion: In case of any demand notice received by a taxpayer, appropriate steps should be taken to file the appeal against the assessment order, if so advised. Then within the stipulated period of 30 days, a petition for Stay of Demand should be furnished. Wherever so required 20 per cent of tax demand may be paid vide CBDT Office Memorandum No. F.NO.404/72/93-ITCC, dated 31-7-2017, so that AO can grant Stay. In case of extreme problem, the AO may be approached for allowing payment lower than 20 per cent. Necessary evidences in support of extreme problems should be furnished with Stay Petition or at the time of hearing of stay petition.

(Concluded)

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

Budha the religious preachers of the World

Gautam Budha is considered to be one of the greatest religious preachers in the world. He was the messenger of peace, equality and fraternity was born in Lumbini in the 6th century BC, the Terai region of Nepal. His real name was siddharta. He belonged to the royal family of Kapilavastu. His father was Suddhodhana, the ruler. Maya Devi mother of Gautam died soon after giving birth to him. From the very child hood he was a thoughtful child with broad mind and very much disciplined. He was the preacher of peace and harmony. According to him "when peace reigns supreme, the mind of man turns towards constructive values of life". Scholars speculate that during the late vedic period



the people of the region were organised in to tribal republics, ruled by a council of elders or an elected leader; the grand palaces described in the traditional accounts of the life of Buddha are not evident among the archaeological remains. It is unclear to what extent these groups at the periphery of the social order of the Ganges basin were incorporated in to the caste system, but the Buddha's family is said to have belonged to the warrior Kshatriya caste. The rise of these cities of central India with their courts and their commerce, brought social, political, and economic changes that are often identified as key factors in the rise of Buddhism. According to Buddhist doctrine, the universe is the product of karma, the law of the cause and effect of actions, according to which virtues actions create pleasure in the future and

non virtuous actions create pain.

Uma Sankar Prasad

A person who has set out on the long journey to discover the path to freedom from suffering and then to teach it to others, is called Bodhisattva. A person who has discovered the path, followed it to its end, and taught it to the world is called a Buddha. The story of particular Buddha begins before his birth and extends beyond his death. It encompasses the millions of lives spent on the bodhisattva path before achievement of Buddhahood and the persistence of the Buddha, in the form of both his teachings and his relics, after he has passed in to nirvana. According the founders of the world's major religions, the Buddha was the only teacher who did not claim to be other than an ordinary human being. Others teachers were either God or directly inspired by God. The Buddha was simply a human

being and he claimed no inspiration from any God or external power. He attributed all his realization, attainments to human endeavour and human intelligence. A man and only a man can become a Buddha. Every man has within himself the potential of becoming a Buddha if he so wills it and work at it. Man's position, according to Buddhism, is supreme. Man in his own master and there is no higher being or power that sits in judgment over his destiny. It is with this principle of individual responsibility that the Buddha offers freedom to his disciples. This freedom of thought is unique in the history of religion and is necessary because, according to the Buddha, man's emancipation depends on his own realization of truth, and not on the benevolent grace of a God or any external power as reward for his obedient behaviour.

The Author is Columnist, Khordha

Russian neighbour Finland announces it wants to join NATO

BERLIN: Finland's president and government announced Sunday that the Nordic country intends apply for membership in NATO, paving the way for the 30-member Western mili-



tary alliance to expand amid Russia's war in Ukraine.

President Sauli Niinisto and Prime Minister Sanna Marin made the announcement at a joint news conference at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki.

The Finnish Parliament is expected to endorse the decision in coming days, but it is considered a formality. A formal membership application will then be submitted to NATO headquarters in Brussels, most likely at the some point next week.

VP Naidu in UAE to convey India's condolences over death of Sheikh Khalifa

ABU DHABI: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu visited the UAE on Sunday to offer India's condolences over the demise of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited the UAE embassy in New Delhi on Saturday to convey India's con-



lences. "Signed the condolence book at the Embassy of United Arab Emirates, extending our deepest condolences on the passing away of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, late President of UAE," External Affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted, sharing a photograph of his arrival.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in a statement on Saturday said Naidu will visit the UAE on May 15 to offer condolences on behalf of the Government of India to the UAE leadership on the sad demise of the UAE president and ruler. President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday expressed

condolences over the demise of Sheikh Khalifa. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited the UAE embassy in New Delhi on Saturday to convey India's condolences. "Signed the condolence book at the Embassy of United Arab Emirates, extending our deepest condolences on the passing away of HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, late President of UAE," Jaishankar tweeted. India observed a day of national mourning on Saturday as a mark of respect to Sheikh Khalifa. "Under the leadership of Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the India-UAE ties prospered greatly to the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries. He took exceptional care of the large Indian community in UAE, who held him in the high esteem," the MEA said. It said the two countries will continue to take forward their historic and comprehensive strategic relationship in new and diverse areas.

BJP using diversionary tactics as it failed to provide justice to people in Jammu and Kashmir: Omar Abdullah

JAMMU: National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Sunday alleged the BJP was using diversionary tactics as it failed to keep its promises and provide justice to any



section of the society in Jammu and Kashmir. The former chief minister said his party will scuttle every attempt of the BJP and will safeguard the rights of the people to start a new phase of development, once it returns to power.

Addressing his party workers at Surankote in the border district of Poonch, he said nothing has changed in Jammu and Kashmir since August 2019, when the BJP-led central government abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two union territories. "Ad since they (BJP) failed, they are using diversionary tactics by creating differences, making Muslims fight each other and harassing people (by using government agencies)," he said.

Referring to the assurances of the local BJP leadership to Pahari-speaking people that they will be given Scheduled Tribe status, he alleged that they are using the ploy to pitch Gujjars and Bakerwals against Paharis to make them fight each other.

"NC governments in the past always pleaded

with successive central governments for ST status for Paharis on the plea that they also live like Gujjars and Bakerwals and face tremendous hardships. As the central govern-

ment was taking time, my government recommended four per cent reservation for Paharis and one per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes for the time being but unfortunately we lost the (2014) elections and BJP came to power (in coalition with PDP) in 2015," he said.

He said had they been sincere towards the Paharis, they should be pressed for the implementation of the recommendation of the previous government to provide some sort of relief to them.

"They are only deceiving the community on the false promise because they know when you all (Gujjars, Bakerwals and Paharis) will come together, their boat will not move forward," he said.

Abdullah said over the past two-and-a-half years since the abrogation of Article 370, nothing has changed as the youth are still jobless, the poor are becoming poorer and government schemes failed to benefit the public.

"They talked about industrialisation but not

a single new industry was set up. They are cutting ribbons of tunnels, the work of which started during former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tenure," he said.

The delimitation report joining Rajouri and Poonch districts with the Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency is beyond one's understanding, he said, adding, "We are forced to think that they are planning something fishy because of their track record."

He said the National Conference was criticised when it talked about internal autonomy, having two components -- one between the Centre and J&K and the second within J&K with Pir Panchal being given a separate status within the state for its overall development.

"They became perturbed on our internal autonomy documents and accused us of drawing lines on the basis of religion," he said, raising a question mark on linking Poonch and Rajouri with the Anantnag Lok Sabha seat.

"If they had laid the foundation of the tunnel (along the Mughal road), there was no need to create differences among the people and make them fight," he said.

Criticising the final report of the delimitation commission, he said, "After going through the report, one would have liked to stay back at home but the past experience of the two-and-a-half years forced us out as we see the problems of the people increasing manifold instead of decreasing."

He also criticised the baton charge and tear-gas shelling on the Kashmiri Pandits in the valley following the killing of a community member inside his office in Budgam district of central Kashmir.

"They (Kashmiri Pandits) were not looking towards any other person except BJP. They were taking part in our meetings during our visit to migrant camps but were straight forward in saying that they will only vote for Narendra Modi and BJP," he said, adding armoured trucks were used to stop their movement outside their camp like they were doing with mainstream leaders.

Congress to field those below 50 in half of seats in polls from 2024; to fix retirement age in legislatures

UDAIPUR: The Congress on Sunday said starting 2024 Lok Sabha elections, half of its tickets will be given to those below 50 years of age and retirement age will be fixed for those in Parliament, state legislatures and other elected posts.

The bold decisions are part of the Congress 'Nav Sankalp' declaration that was adopted at the end of the three-day 'Chintan Shivir' here, indicating that the party has chosen to put its weight behind the young leadership after a prolonged old-versus-new tussle.

The exit of several young leaders from the Congress in recent years had been attributed to the party's old guard failing to address the aspirations of the so-called 'gen-next' leaders.

across the country through the organisation, and as a first step, it would press for an SC-ST sub-plan with legal recognition in the budgets of the central and provincial governments.

"At the organisational level, 50 percent of the posts should go to colleagues below 50 years of age. The youth group also concluded that a retirement age be fixed in Parliament, legislatures, legislative council and all elected posts."

"In future party governments, 50 percent of people below 50 years of age should occupy positions. More experienced people should be used for strengthening the organisation. Beginning with the 2024 parliamentary elections, at least 50 percent of party tickets be granted to those below 50 years of age in parliament, leg-

and resolved to raise their voice and demands across the country through the Congress organisation.

"It was resolved by the Indian National Congress to run a 'Leadership Mission' for the creation of new leadership of the deprived sections in the SC-ST reserved parliamentary and assembly constituencies."

"Due to the hostile atmosphere sponsored by BJP, it is also necessary that the Congress party should create a sense of harmony in the localities of minorities, SC, ST, OBC by running a special 'Sadbhavana Mission,'" it said.

A 'Social Justice Advisory Council' should be formed in the All India Congress Committee to strongly raise the voice of SC-ST, OBC and minority communities, to

focus on their problems and to give proper place to their leadership, which will guide the Congress President in this regard.

"For the empowerment of women, a constitutional amendment of 33 percent women's reservation in Parliament, Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils should be passed at the earliest and women of every category should get the benefit of proportionate reservation," it said.

The Indian National Congress is determined to create a "Special Health Mission" for the tribals and protect the 'pattas' (land ownership document) of the tribals, it further said.



While adopting the 'Nav Sankalp' declaration, the party said exactly 80 years ago, in the year 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave the slogan of "Quit India" and in 2022, the slogan of "Jodo India" (Unite India) should be adopted now.

The Congress also decided to bring a constitutional amendment to provide 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament, legislative assemblies and legislative councils and get it passed at the earliest to ensure the empowerment of women so that females in every category should get the benefit of proportionate reservation. The party also resolved to raise the demands of SCs/STs/minorities and OBCs

islatures, legislative councils and other levels," the resolution said.

The 'Nav Sankalp' resolution adopted at the Udaipur Shivir also stated that youth party leaders should play a leading role and be active in non-political activities like youth festivals, cultural events, sports events, youth parliament, town hall meetings and blood donation, etc. This will also help in the spread and expansion of the party among the youth, it said.

The 'Social Justice and Empowerment Group' lamented the "conspiratorial injustice and discrimination" against the exploited, deprived, backward, poor and minorities of the country

The youth group also held extensive consultation on the new education policy and alleged that the provisions deprived the children of poor and exploited classes of equal rights, and will increase the gap between rich and poor.

It also criticised the central government for "deliberately" not making public the caste census data of backward classes and alleged the goal behind this is to deprive the backward classes of their rights. "It is our resolve that the Indian National Congress will make a decisive struggle for the demand to make the caste census data public and get the backward classes their rights," the Congress resolution said.

Tomar Advises For Tech Adopt

Bhubaneswar: Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar Sunday called upon the farmers of Odisha to adopt technology in



cultivation to ensure better benefit.

Mr. Tomar was addressing an agriculture conclave here along with Union Minister of State for Fishery, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Sanjeev Balyan.

"The government under the leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi is committed to increase the income of farmers. In the last 8 years, the Government has undertaken several initiatives, results of which are starting to pay off today".

Mr. Tomar's statement is considered significant as Odisha stands second from bottom in farmers' income in the country, according to the survey conducted by National Statistical Office (NSO) in 2019.

The report said the monthly income of each farmer's family in Odisha is just Rs 5,112 against Rs 4,895 of Jharkhand which is lowest among all states and Union Territories in the country.

While Meghalaya tops the list with its each farmer earning Rs 29,348 per month, Punjab stands second with Rs 26,701 and Haryana third with Rs 22,841, the survey found, This was stated by Odisha's Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo while replying a question in the assembly on March 30, 2022.

Union Minister expressed his concern for state farmers' financial condition in comparison to other states. He advised Odisha farmers to adopt practices to mix technology with farming to reap better profits.

"In the farming sector, benefits don't come overnight as it takes time to get results. The Central government has implemented several schemes and initiatives in the last eight years and they have started paying dividends now," he said.

Union Minister said the Odisha farmers who use technology and diversify crops, are getting benefits. In Odisha, 24,000 hectares of land is dedicated to organic farming and its profits will be discernible in coming days, he said.

In a bid to further augment the farmers financial condition, Tomar said the Ministry has been taking steps for implementation of the 'Digital Agriculture Mission' for which several mobile applications have been developed. He said during the Modi regime, the black-marketing of urea fertilizer has ended and stress is being given on more production of edible oil seeds and pulses.

As the United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets, Tomar said steps are being taken for millets to find a place in each plate.

MoS Fishery said that use of ethanol in petrol has meanwhile increased from just 2 per cent to 12 due to initiatives of former Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. As ethanol is produced from wheat, rice and corn, the farmers will ultimately benefit. The country will also save foreign exchange; he said adding that the country will prosper when the farmers become financially sound.

Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Trilochan Mohapatra said in Odisha, the farmers are growing paddy only. By doing this, they can't double their earnings. They should rather switch over to crop diversification, Mohapatra said. He said there is no scarcity of water in Odisha as the state receives ample rain. The State is also blessed with different climates. Hence, the paddy farmers can grow fish, vegetables and fruits along with cereals," Dr. Mohapatra said while placing his opinion on raising the farmers income in Odisha.

Tribals champion Millet products

ADILABAD: The three millets, looked down upon as the poor man's diet once, are now the most sought after food by all strata of society. The millets, whose multifarious health

benefits have been rediscovered in the recent past, are now becoming the staple diet for many suffering from various illnesses. Those who want to be fit and those who are fit but want to be fitter are now using the millets in their diets.



So is the Kumbheshwar district administration which, through ITDA, has made millets part of the daily diets for pregnant women, in-

which makes different kinds of powders at Kautaguda near district headquarters which include sorghum, millets, sajj, peanuts, kernels, pesara, cumin, turmeric, chilli, mustard, coriander, sugar, almonds and rava. A member of SHG K Kavitha said, "This project is helping us get employment and at the same time making us feel happy that we are serving a cause." The self-help groups

use them to cook sorghum meals, and multigrain mineral sweet meals at Anganwadi centres for supply to the children, adolescent girls and pregnant women. Ten women members

of the aboriginal tribes have been trained to run the unit each of whom has a specific task cut for them to run the unit efficiently. The self-help groups are hopeful that they would get an opportunity to double their income by supplying millet-based products to public schools and hostels. The officials have found that millet-based products are showing good results in reducing anaemia due to malnutrition

among those covered by the Anganwadis. The district has been awarded the Prime Minister's Excellence Award for coming up with the innovative idea and for implementing it which was now improving the health of the women and children under Anganwadi centres. The award was recently received by District Collector Rahul Raj from the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Food panel chairman reviews procurement The Telangana Food Commission Chairman Thirumala Reddy lauded the manner in which grains are being procured through women's associations, primary co-operative societies and market committees in the State. On Saturday, the commission chairman along with other members inspected the various purchasing centres and rice mills at Medak district.

Woman farmer from Odisha's Jagatsinghpur secures rights over fragrant paddy variety

JAGATSINGHPUR: Two decades back, Jagatsinghpur's Kadambini Behera entered paddy fields for the first time out of curiosity. Today, though, she is the only woman farmer in the district to have a high-yielding fragrant rice variety registered in her name. The Plant Varieties Registry at New Delhi has registered 'Lall Basna Dhan' variety of rice in the name of Behera, a resident of Redhua village under Raghunathpur block. The variety can be grown in both kharif and rabi seasons, claims the progressive farmer who has been focusing on introducing new



fragrant paddy varieties in Jagatsinghpur. Gardening, she said, was a hobby that she nurtured since her childhood days. She got married immediately after completing her Bachelor's degree in 1997 but did not give up her hobby. Raghunathpur being a rice growing area, her focus shifted to fragrant rice varieties.

With an interest to grow such varieties, she joined Gorekhnath Krushak Mahasanga, a leading farmers' organisation in Redhua, in 2002. Members of this farmers' organisation have been producing high quality paddy seeds and Behera has been an active member. During her association with Gorekhnath

Krushak Mahasanga, she came in touch with scientists of National Rice Research Institute (NRRI) and Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) and learnt the nuances of rice breeding and seed production. Under their guidance, she has been cultivating two types of scented rice - Ketakijuha and Kudrat-3 - in her land since the last 15 years. Ketakijuha is a variety certified by NRRI and Kudrat-3 is an indigenous variety.

"Since people here are traditional paddy growers, I thought of experimenting with the scented varieties of rice and joined the Mahasanga," said Behera who is currently also associated with the Redhua Gram Panchayat Level Federation of Odisha Livelihoods Mission as its secretary.

In 2017, she identified a new rice panicle in her agricultural farm which was a result of her crossing Kudrat-3 with Ketakijuha. She named it 'Lall Basna Dhan' and sent the sample to the Plant Varieties Registry for registration.

In March this year, the rice variety was registered in her name. With the registration, she holds the exclusive right to grow, sell and export the rice variety.

Behera said, "Lall Basna Dhan' is not only drought resistant and waterlogging tolerant but is also high-yielding. The grains are medium in length and the fruit duration of the plant is 125 to 130 days. It is a desi variety of rice, good in taste and fragrant. It is suitable for making rice pithas, kheer and mudhi."

Behera wants to help women SHGs in the area to grow new paddy varieties and her two sons - Koustuv and Kalyan - are helping her in the mission. Both her sons are pursuing MSc and BSc degrees in agriculture from OUAT.



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Legal backing for Right of Way by December, says Telecom Minister

NEW DELHI: Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said legal backing for Right of Way (RoW) will be in place by December, and launched the GatiShakti Sanchar portal that will centralise and speed up approvals for laying of fibre and tower installations, as the country gears up for 5G roll-out. The GatiShakti Sanchar portal will facilitate centralised Right of Way (RoW) approvals.

An online platform for the industry to apply for RoW approvals as they build telecom infrastructure, including for 5G services, the GatiShakti Sanchar portal offers a unified, integrated, centralised approach covering all states and UTs, and central government ministries.

For players, it promises to reduce the days involved

Putin warns Finland NATO membership would harm relations

Continued from page-1

invasion of Ukraine, and pointed to Russia's demands for Finland to refrain from seeking membership of the 30-nation Western military alliance.

"The discussion (with Putin) was straightforward and unambiguous and was held without exaggeration. Avoiding tensions was considered important," said Niinisto, Finland's president since 2012 and one of a handful of Western leaders who has been in regular dialogue with Putin over the past decade.

Niinisto pointed out that he had already told Putin at their first meeting in 2012 that "each independent nation would maximize its own security." "That is still the case. By joining NATO, Finland will strengthen its own security and assume its responsibilities," Niinisto said.

Niinisto stressed that Finland, despite its likely future membership in NATO, wants to continue to deal with Russia bilaterally in "practical issues generated by the border neighborhood" and hopes to engage with Moscow "in a professional manner".

According to the Kremlin statement, the two leaders also discussed Russia's "military operation" in Ukraine, and the possibility of achieving a political solution.

Putin said negotiations between Moscow and Kyiv had been suspended due to Ukraine's "lack of interest in a serious and constructive dialogue." The phone call was conducted on Finland's initiative, Niinisto's office said.

Finland shares a 1,340-kilometer (830-mile) border with Russia, the longest by any European Union member.

Niinisto and Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin on Thursday jointly endorsed their country's NATO bid and recommended that Finland "must apply for NATO membership without delay" to guarantee its security.

A formal announcement from Niinisto and Marin of Finland's intention to apply for NATO membership is expected on Sunday.

Marin's governing Social Democratic Party approved the membership bid on Saturday, paving way for a parliamentary vote next week to endorse the move. It's expected to pass with overwhelming support.

A formal membership application would then be submitted to NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Neighboring Sweden is set to decide on its NATO stance on Sunday at a meeting of the governing Social Democratic Party led by Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson.

One possible hurdle to Finland and Sweden joining the alliance came from NATO member Turkey, whose president said Friday he was "not favorable" to the idea.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan cited support in Sweden and other Scandinavian countries for Kurdish militants, whom Turkey considers to be terrorists.

Finland's Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto said Saturday that he had already called his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu, "to take the tensions down".

"I'm sure that we will find a solution to this item as well," he told reporters at the start of an informal NATO foreign ministers' meeting in Berlin late Saturday.

US President Joe Biden held a joint call Friday with both Niinisto and Andersson where, according to a White House statement, he "underscored his support for NATO's Open Door policy and for the right of Finland and Sweden to decide their own future, foreign policy and security arrangements".

in getting stipulated permissions, lower costs, and facilitate ease of doing business.

Launching the portal, Vaishnaw asserted the need for legal provisions for Right of Way, and promised that a strong legal backing will be put in place by December this year.

At present, RoW rules are based on administrative process, and a strong legal backing is required to empower local officials, bring clarity on the fee structure, and fix accountability, he explained.

"That will be our next step. Moreover, all the portals that are there, especially Gati Shakti portal, railway portal, highway portal, and others... integration of those... We will be working on these two technological and legal aspects," Vaishnaw said.

Work has started on these two fronts already, and the integration of portals is expected in the next 3-4 months while the timelines for providing legal backing is December-end.

World leaders descend on UAE to pay respects to late ruler

Continued from page-1

traveled to the UAE on Saturday.

"He was respected by all for the values of peace, openness and dialogue that he embodied," Macron wrote on Twitter of Sheikh Khalifa, expressing 'full support' for the ascension of his half-brother Sheikh Mohammed after rulers in the federation unanimously appointed him as president.

As crown prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed has served as the nation's de facto leader since Sheikh Khalifa suffered a stroke in 2014. He has turned the small UAE into a most influential state, wielding outsized power militarily and commercially across the Middle East and Africa.

Even while the country became entangled in the bloody, yearslong conflict in Yemen and a chaotic proxy war in Libya, it positioned itself as a savvy and reliable partner in Western capitals.

Paris and Abu Dhabi have become increasingly aligned in recent years, sharing a deep mistrust of Islamist movements like the Muslim Brotherhood across the wider region, including in Turkey and Libya.

France opened a major overseas naval base in Abu Dhabi. French warplanes and personnel are also stationed at a major facility outside

Ethiopian Airlines explores commercial tie-ups with IndiGo, SpiceJet
MUMBAI: Africa's largest carrier Ethiopian Airlines, which already has a codeshare pact with Tata Group-owned Air India, is looking to have "commercial" tie-ups with domestic budget carriers IndiGo and SpiceJet, a senior company official said.

The airline also said it is also evaluating the prospects of setting up an aircraft (maintenance, repair and overhaul) facility in India. It currently operates its non-stop flight services to Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. The airline also has freighter services to Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru. Notably, the airline recently completed 50 years of its operations in Mumbai. "India is one of our strategic markets in Asia and we have been providing critical air connectivity between India and Africa for decades.

'Will keep open avenues for forging alliances according to political circumstances': Congress

Continued from page-1

as per the political circumstances", the declaration said.

The party accused the BJP-RSS of spreading communal divide in the country and said the Congress rejects the politics of garnering votes by targeting minorities, poor and the downtrodden.

The Congress said the "attack" on the federal structure of the country by the central government is "even more dangerous".

Illegal and immoral encroachments on the jurisdiction of the states have become the nature of the BJP, the party alleged in the declaration.

Even the post of Governor is now openly misused for the attainment of power by the BJP, it alleged.

The Congress also raised the issue of attack by China on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"The lack of accountability of the central government on this whole matter and the mysterious silence of the prime minister is a matter of serious concern for the country," the party said.

The Congress also expressed concern over "spread of separatism and extremism" in the northeastern states.

Asked if legal provisions for RoW will also entail penalties if approval timelines are not met, the minister said generally accountability and penalty tend to be linked.

"... otherwise, it is about deemed approval," he said. The new GatiShakti Sanchar portal is expected to significantly ease the process of RoW approvals for laying down of infrastructure by players, and offers a centralised and unified approach to permissions.

Further, the integration of the portal with GIS, will give state government and various agencies more visibility into the optical fibre mesh and digital networks that are in place.

The RoW approval time has already come down from 100 days to 22 days, Vaishnaw said lauding the state governments for their proactive role in streamlining processes.

Once the work on the technological as well as le-the Emirati capital. The two governments jointly built a gleaming branch of the Louvre museum in the emirate.

During Macron's visit to Dubai last December, France clinched its biggest overseas order for its Rafale combat jet with the UAE — an USD 18 billion deal that came as a planned US sale of advanced F-35 fighter jets to the UAE stalled in part over American concerns about the Emirates' relationship with China.

The assertive foreign policy of Sheikh Mohammed was on stark display as allied Arab leaders rushed to the capital to express their sorrow over Sheikh Khalifa's death and offer congratulations on his formal ascension to power. Among the first was el-Sissi, the Egyptian general who, with Gulf Arab support, overthrew an elected but divisive Islamist government in 2013.

Emirati-backed Tunisian President Kais Saied, who has amassed nearly absolute power in the country since dismissing the prime minister last year, also flew in to pay tribute, along with Iraq's president and prime minister.

Sudan's Abdel-Fattah Burhan, the general who led the coup in the strategic east African nation last year, has made frequent visits to key backer Sheikh Mohammed. He posted footage on social media Saturday sprinting up stairs to board his plane to Abu Dhabi to give tribute to the late president.

Jual favors stop heritage work

Continued from page-1

is our top priority."

BJD leader and Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) Mayor Subhas Singh said the charges are being made to halt the ongoing developmental works in Puri even as all parties had unanimously agreed to the project.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is committed to the overall development of Puri and transforming it into a world heritage site, Mr. Singh said.

Amid the ongoing controversy over the Heritage Corridor project at the 800-year-old Shree Jagannath Temple here, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had on Saturday said that there is "no objection" to development activity for benefit of devotees of the 12th-century shrine, but such work should be carried out within the ambit of law.

This statement from senior BJP leader holds significance as his party colleagues, including saffron camp's national spokesperson Sambit Patra and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, demanded suspension of the work in the protected zone of the temple.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on 9 May informed the Orissa High Court that the project was being carried out without valid permission from the competent authority.

However, the Union minister did not demand for suspension of work of the controversial corridor project as his party colleagues made earlier.

Mr. Pradhan said, "It is not wise to ignore recovery of ancient idols and other heritage remains dating back to thousands of years from the surrounding of Shree Mandir. As a devotee of Lord Jagannath, I expect that the beautification works under the Puri Heritage Corridor Project be implemented within laws." Earlier, Odisha Chapter of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage appealed to the Chief Minister to temporarily suspend all construction activities near Shree Jagannath Temple.

Interestingly Mr. Patnaik is one of the founding members of INTACH.

gal aspects is done, the 22 days cycle could further reduce to even one week, going forward.

The portal will act as an enabler to the objective of 'ease of doing business' for telecommunications infrastructure, the minister said.

The timely disposal of RoW applications of various service and infrastructure providers will enable speedy network creation, catalysing timely rollout of 5G, the minister said.

The portal will enable applicants - telecom operators and infrastructure providers - to apply at a common single site, for Right of Way permissions (for laying down optical fibre cable and installing mobile towers) to state governments and local bodies.

For effective monitoring of RoW applications across the country, the portal comes fitted with a dashboard showing State and District wise pendency status of applications.

By easing the RoW approval process, the portal will galvanise laying of optical fibre cable, speed up fiberisation and increase tower density for connectivity, overall ensuring better broadband speed and service quality.

The portal, has been developed by MP State Electronics Development Corporation.

Industry body COAI lauded the initiative saying with this portal, telecom service providers and infrastructure providers will be able to submit their applications and the authorities will be able to process and give timely permissions for the deployment of digital network infrastructure.

The vision for this portal is to provide a collaborative institutional mechanism between all stakeholders including Central and State Governments, central land owning authorities (Railways, Defence, Ports, and others), local bodies, and service providers to facilitate the RoW applications and permissions for the deployment of digital infrastructure in the country.

India to Set Lumbini Buddhist Center

Continued from page-1

Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, Government of India with Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Culture as special guest.

The significance of the timing of Prime Minister's visit to Nepal is to coincide the inauguration of Lumbini Buddhist Centre with the Holy Vaishakha Buddha Purnima Divas.

The day is recognized as the thrice blessed day that marks the Birth, Enlightenment and Mahaparinirvana of Lord Buddha. While Buddha was born in Lumbini in Nepal, he attained enlightenment in Bodhgaya in Bihar, preached his first sermon at Sarnath and attained Nirvana in Kushinagar, in Uttar Pradesh.

Lumbini is the holy place where according to Buddhist tradition, Queen Mahamayadevi gave birth to Siddhartha Gautama at around 623 B.C. Lord Buddha, was born in the famous gardens of Lumbini, which soon became a place of pilgrimage.

Among the pilgrims was the Indian emperor Ashoka, who erected one of his commemorative pillars there. The site is now being developed as a Buddhist pilgrimage centre, where the archaeological remains associated with the birth of the Lord Buddha form a central feature.

Some of the other Viharas and Monasteries in the area are the Myanmar's Golden Temple, Tara Foundation Temple, The Sri Lanka Monastery, the Korean Temple (Dae Sung Shakya), the Cambodian Monastery and the Vietnamese Phat Quoc Tu Temple.

Lumbini is one of the holiest and most important places in Nepal as a result of which it was included in the list of World Heritage areas by UNESCO.

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), India- with its headquarters in New Delhi, was formed in 2013 as an international Buddhist umbrella body to serve as a common platform for Buddhists worldwide. It has the honour of being instituted under the patronage of the Supreme Buddhist religious hierarchy.

The aim is to create a platform for various Buddhist organizations and traditions worldwide to preserve, propagate and promote shared Buddhist values and principles. The objective is also to find shared solutions to global problems.

The IBC has been actively involved in engaging Buddhist organizations in Nepal and has a strong relationship with several senior Buddhist monks. The Prime Minister's visit and the building of an Indian Centre within the Lumbini Monastic complex will further strengthen the bonds through a shared Buddhist heritage and legacy.

Chennai to host WTA 250 event from September 26

CHENNAI: International tennis is all set to return to the city after a gap of three-and-a-half years. A WTA 250 event, the first time such a meet will be held in India, will be staged at the SDAT tennis stadium from September 26 to October 2. Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA) president, Vijay Amritraj, had raised the prospect of this being held a few weeks ago and it was

confirmed on Saturday after chief minister, MK Stalin, handed over the approval letter to Amritraj. The TN government will be the majority sponsor of the \$250,000



With a lot of tennis events in China being cancelled due to Covid-19, TNTA had eyed an opportunity to bring an event to Chennai. They had

lobbed for the event and they had the blessings of the TN government. Work is on to bring on to sort out the formalities with the WTA as well as bringing on board additional sponsors. The stadium will also receive some attention as it hasn't held any international meet — there was an ATP Challenger in February 2019 — for more than three years.

India create badminton history, beat Indonesia 3-0 to win maiden Thomas Cup title

BANGKOK: Dishing out a performance for the ages, India's men's badminton lifted the Thomas Cup title with a commanding 3-0 win over powerhouse Indonesia on Sunday, a historic triumph that will enhance country status in the sport. World Championships medallist Lakshya Sen,

clash of the world's most prestigious team event. Sen gave a terrific display of his mental fortitude as he recovered from the opening game reversal to outwit his higher-ranked opponent. It was his second win in as many career meetings against Ginting. The match was fast-

flunked the lines twice, allow the Indian to claw back at 12-12 with a cross court smash after a long rally. Sen slowly pulled away with a flurry of points to move to 18-14. A quick return to serve from Sen and a wide shot from Ginting took the Indian to four match

a cross court smash to close the contest and let out a roar as India were up 2-0. In the second singles, Srikanth played a measured game, keeping the rallies short and nailing it every time the shuttle was in his hitting range. It worked as his precise smashes on both the flanks earned him points. Srikanth was 8-3 up but he committed too many unforced errors, allowing Christie to draw parity at 15-15. The Indian though kept things under control, making it 20-16 and sealing it when Christie went to net.



Kidambi Srikanth and doubles players Chirag Shetty and Satwiksai Raj Rankireddy delivered when it mattered the most to stun the 14-time champions. After being off-colour in the knock-out stages, young Sen handed India a 1-0 lead with a come-from-behind 8-21 21-17 21-16 win over world number five Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in a superb show of temperament and skill. The country's best doubles pair of Rankireddy and Shetty then showed nerves of steel as it saved four match points in the second game to eventually outwit Mohammad Ahsan and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo 18-21 23-21 21-19. In the second singles, Srikanth outclassed Asian games gold medallist Jonatan Christie 21-15 23-21 in 48 minutes to seal the historic victory. An incredible week culminated in a fitting manner for Indian badminton as the country had never reached the summit

paced with the two players producing angled returns in the rallies to put each other in awkward positions. At the break, Ginting was 11-7 up and it was a one-way traffic there after as the Indonesian easily walked away with the first game. After the change of sides, Lakshya played better and led 7-4 before entering the break with four-point advantage. Ginting mounted his attack to narrow the lead to 11-12 but Sen kept a tight grip on the rallies and grabbed five game points and took the match to the decider. Sen continued to engage his rival in rallies but Ginting rode on his precision to make it 5-1. The Indian showed great temperament as he slowly scripted a comeback, cutting the lead to 6-8. Ginting managed to establish a 11-7 lead at the break with Sen going to net. Back in the better side of the court, Sen started dominating the rallies as Ginting

points and he converted with another tight net shot, which kissed the tape and fell over. Sen fell flat on the court in disbelief. Next it was Satwik and Chirag's turn to own the stage and they showed their tenacity against Ahsan and Sukamuljo. After losing the first game narrowly, India came back strong in the second and took the match to the decider after saving three match points. In the third game, India tried to lift high and use the court. It worked as they led 11-9 at the break in the third game. After a tight battle, it became 16-16. India showed better nerves and won a crucial video referral. Satwik unleashed a smash and once Sukamulyo went to net, it was two match point advantage for India. Indonesia saved one but there was more drama in store as Satwik next received a yellow card for delaying to get ready for a serve. But Chirag produced

club. Situated on the east side of the Etihad Stadium, the large-scale statue of Aguero was created by award-winning sculptor Andy Scott and has been constructed using thousands of welded pieces of galvanised steel. At night, Aguero's statue and those of Kompany and Silva will be specially illuminated with blue tinted lighting. The permanent statue of Aguero celebrates his outstanding contribution to the club's success, and in particular, his pivotal role in what was arguably one of the greatest moments in sport-

Manchester City unveil Sergio Aguero statue to celebrate club's first Premier League title

MANCHESTER: Manchester City on Friday unveiled a permanent statue of Sergio Aguero at Etihad Stadium on the tenth anniversary of the club's first Premier League title and the iconic '93:20' moment. The statue of Sergio Aguero completes a trinity alongside Vincent Kompany and David Silva, commemorating a defining era for the

ing history for which he will be eternally remembered by Manchester City fans around the world. Aguero, who was recently inducted into the Premier League Hall of Fame, won fifteen major trophies during his time at the club, including five Premier League titles, one FA



Cup, and a record six League Cups. Reflecting on his statue, Sergio Aguero said: "Truthfully, it is a very beautiful thing for me, to see myself 10 years ago is very moving." "In those 10 years I was able to win a lot of trophies and was able to help the Club become one of the most important in the world. I am very grateful to the Club for making this statue in recognition of my football career in Manchester. It is something very special," he added.

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