

Breaking News:**Supreme Court rules in favour of Revenue in Sec 148 Re-assessment controversy**

Kolkata (KCN): The Supreme Court has almost ruled today in favour of Revenue in the re-assessment controversy. The Apex Court held that all notices issued under Section 148 on or after 1st April 2021 will be deemed to have been issued under Section 148A of the Income Tax Act. The Assessing Officer will have to follow the procedure laid down as per amended sections 147 to 151 as done via Finance Act, 2021. As a result of the Supreme Court decision, all High Court orders stand modified and this judgment of the Supreme Court is to substitute the same.

Adv Narayan Jain, Chairman DTPA Representation Committee said as a result of decision of Supreme Court, the Notices issued under section 148 on or after 1st Apr 2021 will be deemed as Notice under sec 148A. It will cause difficulties to taxpayers who had got relief from any High Court. As per order of the Supreme Court the Assessing Officer will have to provide the taxpayer information and material relied upon by revenue in 30 days from the date of Order and taxpayer will reply within 2 weeks thereafter. While issuing the Notice under section 148 the Officer will have to adhere to procedure and provisions of section 147 to 151 as amended by the Finance Act 2021. The assessee will have right of defence. It is expected that effective action under section 148A and issue of Notice under section 148 will take place only in half of the cases in which notices were issued on or after 1st April 2021 as the conditions precedent under sec 149 cannot be fulfilled in many cases. KK Jain, President, DTPA expected that the department will proceed in a judicious manner.

The Supreme Court has dispensed with the requirement of conducting any enquiry, if required, with the prior approval of specified authority as provided under section 148A(a) as a one-time measure vis-à-vis those notices which have been issued under section 148 of the unamended Act from 01.04.2021 till date, including those which have been quashed by the High Courts. The Court observed that even otherwise holding any enquiry with the prior approval of specified authority is not mandatory but it is for the concerned Assessing Officers to hold any enquiry, if required.

After considering the Reply of taxpayer, the assessing officers shall pass orders in terms of section 148A(d) in respect of each of the concerned assessee and thereafter after following the procedure as required under section 148A the assessing officers may issue notice under section 148 (as substituted); RD Kakra, Chairman, Legal Relief Society said that according to the decision of Supreme Court all defences which may be available to the taxpayers including those available under section 149 of the Income Tax Act and all rights and contentions shall be available to the concerned taxpayers and Revenue under the Finance Act, 2021.

This Judgement was pronounced by Justice M. R. Shah and Justice B.V. Nagarath on 4th May 2022.

Laparoscopic skill training at FMMCH, Balasore

Balasore (KCN): Laparoscopic suturing and knotting is a critical surgical technique. It requires rigorous training and regular practice



before applying on real time patient settings. To train the young surgeons a workshop was organized by Dr. Sushil Kumar Pattanaik,

Mission Shakti drives women's empowerment

ODISHA (KCN): March 5, 2020 was a red-letter day for the 10-member Jay Maa Tulasi women Self Help Group (SHG) of Binika in Sonapur district when they received Rs 5.29 lakh in their bank account.



This was for the first time that they had earned in lakhs.

Two months later they received Rs 5.94 lakh more to become the first women group to earn Rs 11.24 lakh from paddy procurement in

kharif season. The SHG topped the State by pocketing a commission of Rs 24.32 lakh during the rabi season. The group procured 3,597-tonne paddy in Kharif and 7,784 tonnes in rabi seasons. You got it



right. Women SHGs in Odisha are now earning lakhs and reshaping their lives by actively taking part in paddy procurement, once considered a male bastion. Unknown to the trade until a couple of years

back, they have now become role models for their counterparts in other states. Registered in 2008, the Tulasi SHG was dealing with homemade semi-processed food items like badi, papad and pickles besides

Prof and Head, Department of Surgery, FMMCH, Balasore in collaboration with Johnson and Johnson Institute on Wheels (JJIW) in the FM Medical College campus.



The workshop was inaugurated by in charge Superintendent of the hospital Dr. Bararuchi Das in presence of Prof and HOD, Surgery Dr. Pattanaik and Registrar Administration Mrs Manorama Bhuyan.

Different suturing and knotting techniques, open method for students and laparoscopic method for young surgeons, were learnt with the help of simulators and training models inside the mobile Volvo bus under the guidance of a professional trainer Mr. Sambhunath Jha. Prof. Pattanaik felt that it would meet both the organization vision of up-skilling the next generation surgeons and would augur better patient outcomes.

but we have also generated income opportunities for others," said Jayashree Baboo, president of the group. It all started after the state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on

May 29, 2019 took a historic decision approving a proposal to tie up WSHGs with different departments for provisioning of government services and procurement amounting to



stitching items and tailoring. "The earning was never beyond Rs 5000 then. Our group was completely transformed after we got into paddy procurement. Not only are we leading a decent life,

CONTINUED ON: P-7

State ready for Cyclone

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Though the path of the possible cyclone over Bay of Bengal is

Mr.Mahapatra told media persons. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological De-



partment (IMD) said cyclonic circulation has formed over South Andaman Sea and neighbourhood and extends upto mid tropospheric levels. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over the same region under the influence of the cyclonic circulation system around May 6, it said. Further, the system is likely to become more marked during

CONTINUED ON: P-7

Baseball signed by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy auctioned for Ukraine relief

KIEV(KCN): When Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy autographed a baseball for an American collector in 2019, he likely had no idea it would one day be used to help his nation during a time of need.

The official Rawlings Major League baseball is being sold by Randy Kaplan, a renowned collector of balls signed by world leaders, with



a portion of the proceeds going to war relief efforts in Ukraine, auctioneer RR Auction of Boston said Tuesday.

An RR spokesperson said that the ball was expected to sell for at least USD 15,000 but the leading bid as of Tuesday had already exceeded that amount. "With what's going on in the world right now it makes sense to auction it at this point because the proceeds will help the people in Ukraine. What's going on in Ukraine is a disgrace and it's breaking my heart to see the people dying there. Their needs are just so dire right now," Kaplan said in a telephone interview.

The ball is signed with black felt tip both in Ukrainian Cyrillic and in Latin letters.

It is accompanied by a transmittal letter signed by Volodymyr Yelchenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to

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Modi leaves for France after concluding his Denmark trip

COPENHAGEN(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday left for France after concluding his "productive" visit to Denmark during which he held a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Nordic countries and attended the second India-Nordic summit.

"After a productive Denmark visit, PM @narendramodi emplanes for Paris," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted.

"Strengthened bilateral ties with Denmark. Enhanced collaborations with the Nordic countries and the region. PM @narendramodi's visit to Copenhagen concludes. PM Modi now leaves for Paris to hold

talks with the French President @EmmanuelMacron," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

Modi, who arrived here on Tuesday from Berlin on the second leg of his visit to three European nations, held "productive talks" with his Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen on Tuesday and also attended a business summit to discuss economic linkages. He also addressed the Indian

community and interacted with Denmark's Royal Family.



the evolving global security scenario.

On the sidelines of the summit, Prime Minister Modi held separate bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Norway, Sweden, Ice-

land and Finland during which he discussed with them ways to further deepen bilateral ties and also exchanged views on regional and global developments.

"My Denmark visit has been excellently productive. The programmes covered different spheres ranging from diplomatic meetings, boosting cultural and commercial linkages and engagement with the Indian community. I thank PM Frederiksen, the Government and people of Denmark," Modi tweeted after wrapping up his Denmark trip.

"The India-Nordic Summit gave a great platform to discuss ways to boost ties with the Nordic nations. The

CONTINUED ON: P-7

You on this V-Day !!!

Sameer Ahsan

Facade of mine placing no sense
Teasing me to my own self
Lost ease and peace
What I was, am not the same
What have you made me?
I am captured in your self



I beg of you, let me go
Liberate me oh my charmer
Tear open my carcass
Want to shed each drop of pain
Suffering for nothing in the name of game

Out of the blue! Mask from eyes separate
I can glimpse this beautiful world dancing
One the tune of freedom
Let me dance free, oh my charmer
This loaded soul has achieved years of burden

Years back story of valentines day
Sagacity of wrong or right way
Smartly done at collaborated will
I write my stories of spoilt days
For what was I mistaken to be mine is transient
As the world itself stands impermanent
Our position inside us is a mirage.

Solitary Adieu

Tanni Bose

It was a chaotic voyage inward
nameless destination
Me alone and you in feelings
Crossing meadow, river, mountain and dessert
Every character of land form – a confront
Green pastures of optimism -guiding
Delighted, motivated, hope escalate
I arrive at the river.
No boatman, no vessel...but I swim
I swim towards dream.
But,
With mountain at my adversity -I ponder
I hear a voice
Call my name- embrace me tenderly
Steep climb escorted by hands familiar
I reach the desolate desert
I Wait-
Will I cross it, hopefully- Yes?
Or will the desert turn green?
I wait-
I say a silent adieu to the hands that held me close
I say a silent adieu for she is no more.



Mens rea

Dwit David Philip

The Kashmir file
The Gandhi
Salam Mumbai
Bendit Queen
Tamas.....
Dalit the name
Damba, Pana, Harijan
Not a poem, play, novel or film
Slam, atrocity, slow poison, subjugation
Atrocity yesterday today for generations
Conversation
Rehabilitation
Restoration
Gharwapssi
Peace
Human rights
Ejaculation,
Devilic action or
Continuation of generation
Social responsibility



Nightmare
Preparation
Social celebration
Hidden teenage mischief
Adult stupidity
Mens rea
For power
Supremacy
Dominance
Equality, community, peace, justice
Motive my Mens rea
Art
Architect
Poem
Prose
Gospel truth "is truth" / Motive my menaria
His cross, Motive my Mens rea
Salutations

Leheritahana
Bihar Sharif Nalanda Bihar

King Lion's Birthday

In a Jungle there was a King Lion. One day Donkey named Raj said to the monkey named Raju. Raj said Oh no we forgot to decorate



the house. Raju said yes we really forgot about the king's birthday party. Let me call the other animals for decorating the house. Raju called all the animals for decorating. When the house was building Raj said quickly we want to colour and decorate the house. King's birth

is 15th January today is 12th January do quickly. After 2 days the house was ready with decoration so the next day at 8 o'clock one will call the king to this place. The next day a rabbit had gone to call the king at 8o'clock. The rabbit said happy birthday king come I will take you to one place. King came with the rabbit. When the king entered the house it was so dark. When the king went to the middle of the house, Raj turned on the light. There were many animals with a big cake. All the animals were excited. The king liked the way they did a big celebration on the king's birthday.



Mr. Sadyant Satapathy
Std-IV A, Mother's Public School, Puri

Quotation of the Day



SURRENDER TO GOD
Running the world is His responsibility.
He is the Doer, not you or I.
Surrender yourself to God and you will find
that your life will become like
a beautiful melody.
– Paramahansa Yogananda –

Top 10 most read articles on art and culture in 2021

It's our life mission at Creative Boom to bring you the best new art and design work and explain some of the thinking behind it. But what



are you, the audience, interested in the most? On one level, that question's easy to answer because our website analytics can tell us exactly which articles had the most traffic.

WRITTEN BY: TOM MAY
10 DECEMBER 2021

So as part of The Review, our annual look back over the last 12 months, we're going to do just that. Having gone back over our stats, we've gathered together 10 of the most-read articles in 2021 on art and design. Among our eight million visitors this year, this is the work that really got everyone's attention.

If you missed one or two of these articles the first time around, here's your chance to catch up. And even if you read them before, it's an interesting exercise to look at this work again, with fresh eyes. Does it still excite you a second time around? Maybe, with the benefit of

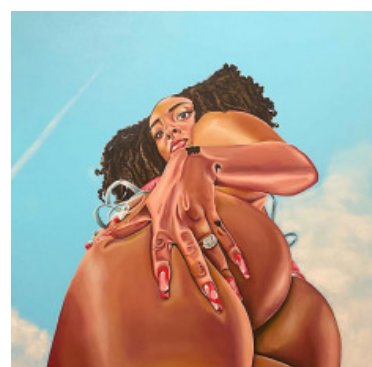
hindsight, you'll see something in it you didn't notice before.

Tom May

1. Hyperrealistic paintings by Kate Waters look like photographs of modern city life
Kate Waters' playful take on hyperrealism is



like nothing we've seen before. Is it a photo? Is it a painting? Or is it something altogether different from the two? However you perceive her work, these imagined scenes plucked from our everyday lives are utterly entrancing.



2. Paintings by Ariel Dannielle offer an alternative perspective on black womanhood
When marginalised voices get a chance to tell

their story, anger or sadness can be a justified theme. But African-American artist Ariel Dannielle's exuberant paintings instead focus on joy and turn it into an act of resistance towards racism. A visual journal of her everyday experiences, these pieces are staggeringly evocative and



truly original.
3. Bob Dylan's lockdown paintings on show to mark his 80th birthday
To mark Bob Dylan's 80th birthday, London gallery Halcyon showcased many of the great man's paintings this year, including a selection of never-seen-before figurative works.

Whatever you think of his music, this art is well worth checking out.

4. Why L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped is the most important artistic statement of the 2020s



When French artist Christo wrapped the L'Arc de Triomphe in fabric, we called it the most important artistic statement of the 2020s, a statement we stand by today. Read our article to follow our reasoning, and decide whether or not you agree.

January 2020, New York City, Christo in his studio, with the large drawing L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped, (Project for Paris) Place de l'Etoile – Charles de Gaulle. Photo: © Wolfgang Volz
January 2020, New York City, Christo in his studio, with the large drawing L'Arc de Triomphe, Wrapped, (Project for Paris) Place de l'Etoile – Charles de Gaulle. Photo: © Wolfgang Volz. (to be continued...)

Tom May is a freelance writer and editor specialising in design and creativity. With over two decades in journalism, he is a regular contributor to Computer Arts, net, ImagineFX and Professional Photography.

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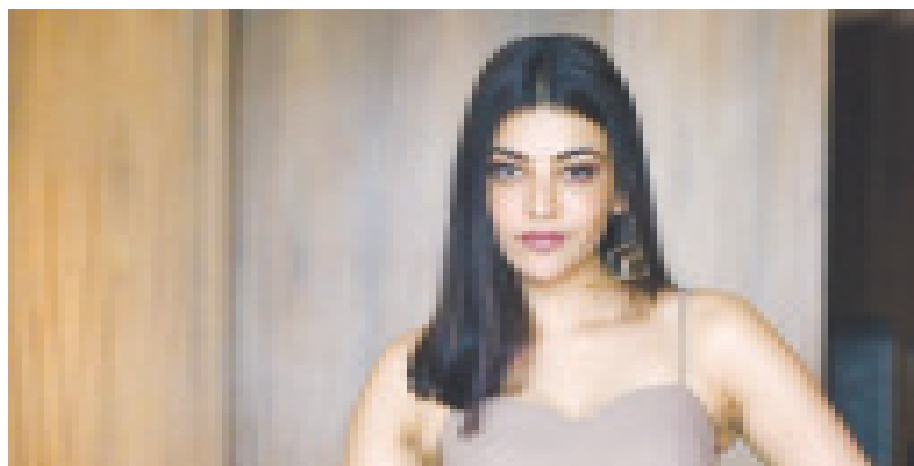
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Signing 'Indian 2' has been a step up in my career, says Kajal Aggarwal



CHENNAI (KCN): Actress Kajal Aggarwal, who teams up with actor-filmmaker Kamal Haasan for the first time in the upcoming Tamil film "Indian 2", says signing the project has been a step up in

her over a decade-long career. Last seen on screen in Telugu film "Kavacham", Kajal has already begun prepping for her role in "Indian 2". "I'm really thrilled to be part of

the project. I'm quite excited about my role and the skills I will get to learn on the job. I see signing 'Indian 2' as a step up in my career," Kajal told IANS along the sidelines of the launch of beverage brand 7Up's

new campaign, 7Up Ponneram.

Ponneram translates to golden times in English. Kajal said her career's golden times started when she signed S.S. Rajamouli's "Magadheera".

"My golden times started when I signed 'Magadheera'. I have seen many ups and downs in my profession but it was only after I did 'Magadheera' did my career catapult to the next league. It earned me a lot of recognition which I enjoy even today," she said.

Talking about what excited her most about the association with 7Up, Kajal said: "It's a brand a lot of us can easily identify and relate with. I like the fact that it's a very clear beverage. It's also a drink that lets you take a step back and chill. I treat success or failure by taking a step back and I believe it gives you a lot of clarity."

On the career front, Kajal is keenly looking forward to the release of "Paris Paris", the Tamil remake of Kangana Ranaut's "Queen".

"Paris Paris" will be Kajal's first release of 2019.

"When I was offered the 'Queen' remake, I saw it as a story that can be explored in many languages. It's a simple story of a simple girl that I could connect with on many levels. I'm sure there are a lot of girls across different parts of Tamil Nadu who will relate to this story and I'd be glad if this film empowers them," she added.

From 2.0 to Raazi, top 10 Indian movies based on worldwide gross

2018 has been an eventful year for Indian cinema. From Sanju to Sarkar, the industry faced a row

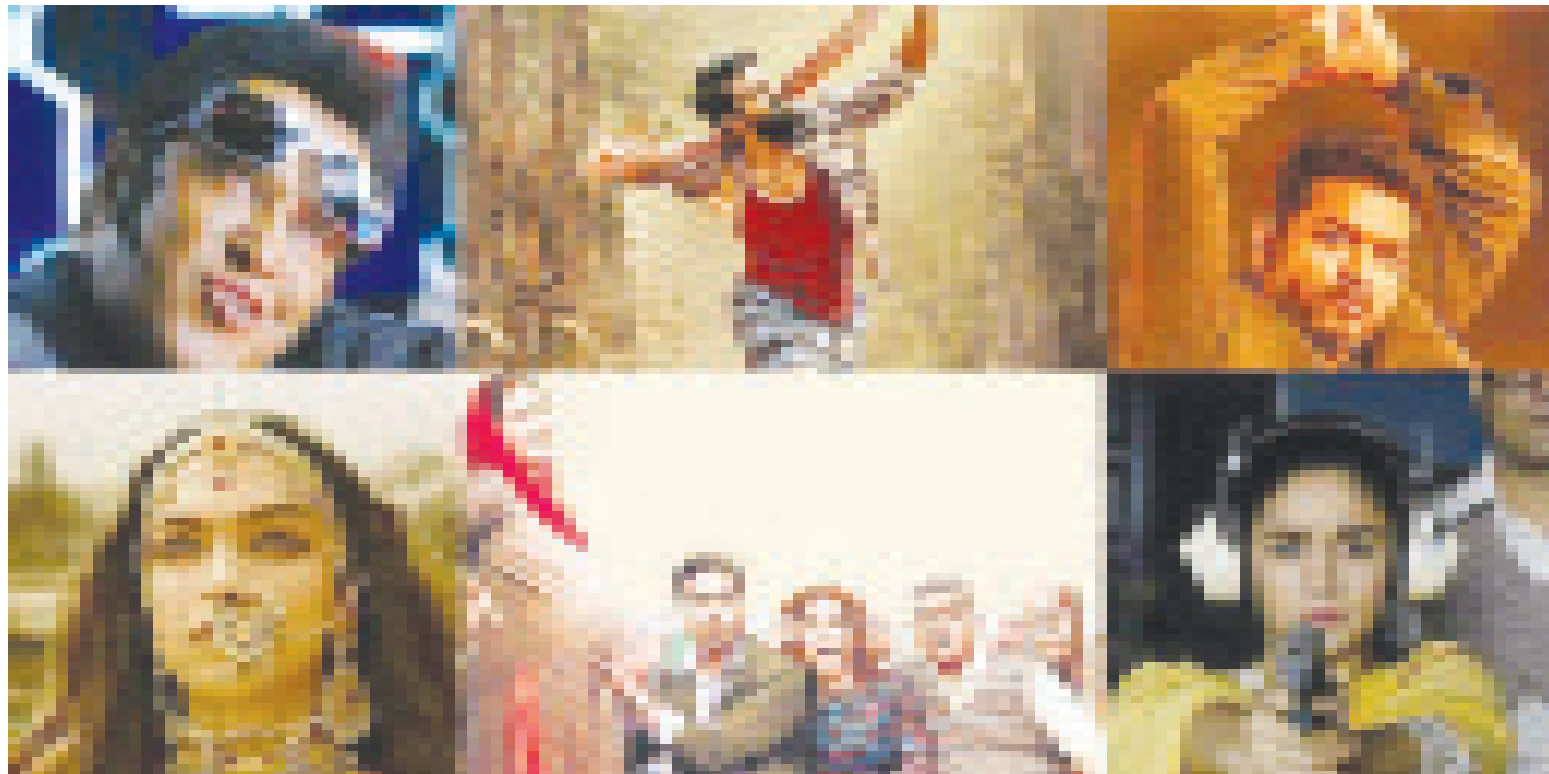
of controversies. Yet some movies shined amid the storm. According to IMDb, here's the list of ten movies that performed well in the box office last year.

1. 2.0: It won't be an exaggeration to call 2.0 as India's 'Superhero' movie. True to that, Kollywood and Bollywood superheroes Rajinikanth and Akshay Kumar played the lead roles in the movie. The movie has so far earned over Rs 700 crore worldwide already and is still running successfully in theatres. Directed by Shankar, who's known to make magnificent movies, 2.0 comes with a social message for people on why one should reduce the use of mobile phones. Also, it is the first Tamil film to enter the 700 crore club. If you haven't watched the film yet, book your tickets right away!

2. Sanju: Sanjay Dutt's biopic 'Sanju' minted Rs 340 crore at the box office and was

declared as 'double blockbuster' film. The movie showed the different phases of the controversial

ing Rs 293 crore. 4. Race 3: 'Our business is our business, none of your business' line and the government freebie schemes.. A few scenes were deleted from the movie too. The matter was



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ceived hilarious reactions on social media as well. Later, Aamir Khan apologised for failing to entertain

but it leaves you with a thought to ponder. 9. Rangasthalam: With the right mix of content for a commercial flick, Rangasthalam made it big in the box office by collecting Rs 151 crore. The story is about how a young man with hearing impairment and his brother decide to dethrone their village's president who's been ruling the village for 30 years.

10. Raazi: An adaptation of Harinder Sikka's 'Calling Sehmat' novel, Raazi is based on the true story of an Indian spy, who gets married into a Pakistani family of military officials to spy on Pakistan during the Indo-Pak war of 1971. It's easily Alia Bhatt's career best. The movie minted Rs 121 crore in the box office against the budget of Rs 30 crore. It's been a great year for Indian cinema which took us on a journey of emotions, from laughter to tears, sometimes of joy. Though a lot of films didn't make it to this list, good films silently made it into the hearts of the audience.

actor Sanjay Dutt, which really didn't go well with some organisations. RSS openly criticised the movie in their mouth-piece 'Panchjanya.' However, the movie became a huge hit in no time. It's definitely Ranbir Kapoor's best work ever. The movie was a comeback for both the reel and real Sanjus. 3. Padmaavat: Initially scheduled to be released in 2017, the movie was caught in a row of controversies and finally got released early this year in January. Set in medieval Rajasthan, the story revolves around the life of Queen Padmavathi, which drew the flak from right-wing groups. Unlike the claims by the religious fanatics, the movie actually portrayed queen Padmavati in the best light. However, the film's team was asked to remove a few scenes from the movie before its release. Despite the fuss, the movie became a blockbuster at the box office, earn-

ing Rs 293 crore. 4. Race 3: 'Our business is our business, none of your business' line and the government freebie schemes.. A few scenes were deleted from the movie too. The matter was

later settled in Madras HC. It was much hyped that actor Vijay may begin his political career after this movie. Sarkar was well received by the Tamil audience and it made Rs 151 crore in the box office. 6. Baaghi 2: This Tiger Shroff-Disha Patani starrer failed to impress audience due to its poor storyline line. Despite that, the movie minted Rs 161 crore in the box office and became a blockbuster. The story is about an army man trying to save his ex-lover's kidnapped daughter. The Baaghi series will have a third part 'Baaghi 3,' which will be out on March 6, 2020.

8. Badhaai Ho: Badhaai Ho is nothing but fun! Made at a 30 crore budget, the movie became a mega-blockbuster, minting Rs 136 crore in the box office. This unconventional story is about a 25-year-old man facing embarrassment in society as his mother gets pregnant. Watching this movie will hurt your belly from laughing

people. Even Katrina Kaif, Fatima Sana Shaikh expressed their disappointment. 8. Badhaai Ho: Badhaai Ho is nothing but fun! Made at a 30 crore budget, the movie became a mega-blockbuster, minting Rs 136 crore in the box office. This unconventional story is about a 25-year-old man facing embarrassment in society as his mother gets pregnant. Watching this movie will hurt your belly from laughing

Just 'normal' to exclude women in decision making process: Adil Hussain

MUMBAI (KCN): Actor Adil Hussain has offered support to the growing group of female artistes who are asking the reason for women's absence from the Bollywood delegation of producers and actors that recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues faced by the film industry.

Joshi, met Modi to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage.

On Tuesday, an 18-member panel, including Akshay Kumar, Karan Johar, Ajay Devgn, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Ritesh Sidhwani and CBFC chief Prasoon

The meeting of the delegation came under fire on Wednesday for its exclusion of female representation with some activists and filmmakers pointing out that it was 2018 and asking, "Where are the women?" Adil took to Twitter to criticise the panel that met the prime minister, saying it has become the habit to exclude women from the decision making process.

Free speech conundrum in Twitter

If anyone can turn cyberspace into a heaven-or hell- of free speech "absolutism" via a USD 44 billion Twitter takeover, then surely he's the man, Right? When free-marked elephants like Musk or Jeff Bezos (who bought The Washington post in 2013) take

charge of major mass-media outlets, concerns are raised about the direction of free speech, which remains the essential ingredient of democratic participation. This feeds in to wider concerns around the ever-increasing privatisation of public spaces. In the online age, the fact that we spend so much of our time in private spaces earning advertising revenues for billionaires is seen by many as an affront to human dignity. The Twitter deal may only move ownership from one set of private hands to another, but the fact that the world's richest and controversial billionaire is involved seems to make it worse.

But the reality is more complex. The

nostalgic idyll of free speech is that once upon a time there was a "town hall" or "public square" where citizens would come together as equals to debate the issues of the day.



Every idea could be freely aired because an enlightened citizenry would sift truth from falsehood, good from evil. The people's elected representatives would then proceed to reach conclusions faithful to the "will of the people" and would frame wise laws accordingly. Those images of a

Uma Sankar Prasad

town hall or public square are assumed to be public in the full sense—they freely open to all and no private citizens own them.

In fact, no such arenas have ever existed at least not in modern democracies. In years gone by, blasphemy laws in many western nations placed restrictions on people's abilities to speak with candour about what was, at the time, far greater church influence over public policy. More importantly women, ethnic minorities, colonised people and others often enjoyed nothing like the prerogatives to speak out without fear in the public forum. Let alone as equal citizens. There can be no question that protest and dissent which used to take place in public spaces has now largely shifted to online media platforms that we owned and operated by private companies. Yet if we should not underestimate the power of private media interests, neither should we overestimate it. Almost the same day as Musk's Twitter deal broke, the European union announced it would adopt a Digital services Act. This will vastly increase the bloc's powers to restrict content that promotes terrorism, child sex

abuse, hate speech (which the EU has tended to define in broad terms), disinformation, commercial fraud and other speech that poses problems for individual safety or democratic society. Many disagree with several elements of the EU law, and of similar UK rules, but that is not the point here. ' The point is that even Musk's billions will not shield him. He can go ahead and fire all Twitter's speech monitors if he wants to, but it will not be long before he needs to rehire them. For each of the categories of content that are covered in the EU law, hefty fines can be levied for breaches. So the only way to avoid the fines would be to continue doing monitoring. In fact, why were these monitors ever hired in the first place? It was not because Facebook, You Tube, Twitter and other online platforms started out with a profound social conscience. Quite the contrary : they started out very much as the supposed free speech absolutists that Musk now fancies himself to be. Since the 1960s, the US Supreme Court has construed the first amendment to allow more provocative speech than other nations have allowed.

The Author is Columnist, Khordha

International Labour Day & Shramev Jayate: Dignifying Indian Labour Force

On May 1st, workers around the world commemorate International Labour Day.

Labour has an unquestionable influence on the country's fortunes. The working class has toiled and suffered for higher causes from the dawn of humanity, first for independence and then to create the nation brick by brick. May Day has a long and illustrious history. In May 1886, the Chicago Haymarket Square witnessed a courageous battle of working people demanding an eight-hour working day for the first time. It was a demand to tell the capitalists that just because they had appropriated the means of production as private property did not imply they could force the workers to work for untold hours for no pay in order to produce the surplus. It was intended to send the message that workers will fight for their rights. Several workers were martyred as a result of their valiant effort.

History of Labour Union in India

We, too, have a magnificent history of working-class fights in India. May Day was first honoured in India in 1923 in Chennai, which is a source of pride. During the British and French occupations of India, trade union groups began to emerge. Calcutta's jute workers were organised into a trade union in 1854. In 1903, the Madras Press Workers Union was established, followed by the Coral Mill Workers Union in 1908. The B&C Mill workers in Chennai organised a trade union and had it registered on April 3, 1918, despite the fact that the AITUC was created in 1920 and we are proudly commemorating its centennial this year. This was India's first officially recognised trade union. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of India, textile mill workers in Pondicherry (Puducherry) fought for an eight-hour working day. The employees were brutally attacked on July 30, 1936, and 12 of them were martyred. For the first time in Asia, the French colonialists were compelled to accept the demand for an eight-hour working day.

India and the Labour force

The empowerment of workers is necessary for an empowered, prosperous and Aatmanirbhar India. Even after 73 years of

Independence, approximately 90% of workers work in

the unorganized sector that do not have access to all the social securities. The total number of workers, comprising of organized and unorganized sectors, is more than 50 crores.

Modi Government and New Initiatives

The current government's far-reaching goal for employees became obvious as early as October 2014. The Shramev Jayate Scheme was launched as soon as Prime Minister Modi assumed control of the government. When the Prime Minister launched "Shramev Jayate" on October 16, 2014, he referred to the employees as "Nation Builders" and claimed that the power of "Shramev Jayate" for the country's



growth was equivalent to that of "Satyamev Jayate."

Workers were offered the benefit of portability through the Universal Account Number (UAN), which allowed them to securely withdraw their provident fund from any location. Furthermore, the 'inspector raj' system was abolished by relegating the job of inspector to that of counsellor and facilitator for workers. In addition, the ShramSuvidha Portal made it easier for the industry to file returns. The government made it plain at the time that if workers have a respectful attitude, they will become "Shram Yogi, Rashtra Yogi, and Nation Builders."

The Modi government began giving social security to elderly workers in the unorganised sector as part of its ongoing reforms and commitment to workers' interests. The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Man Dhan Yojana was established to address this, with a provision for a monthly pension payout of Rs 3,000 after attaining the age of 60.

Many provisions of labour laws can be traced back to the British Raj period.

Pratap Kishore Mohanty

However, as time passed, many of them grew

ineffective or no longer had any modern relevance. Rather than defending employees' interests, these provisions made things more difficult for them. Workers have to complete out four forms to obtain a single benefit due to the maze of regulations. As a result, the current administration has removed the ineffective labour laws. Four Labour Codes have now been created from 29 Labor Laws. For ensuring workers' right to minimum wages, the Central Government has amalgamated 4 laws in the Wage Code, 9 laws in the Social Security Code, 13 laws in The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and 3 laws in the

Industrial Relations Code

Right to Minimum Wages for everyone

Four Labour Laws have been amalgamated into the Minimum Wages Code. Due to this, for the first time, all the workers have got the Right to Minimum Wages.

Social Security for everyone

To ensure security for all workers, the Central Government has amalgamated 9 Labour Laws into the Social Security Code in order to secure the right of workers for insurance, pension, gratuity, maternity benefit etc. Through this Code, a comprehensive legal framework for Social Security has to be created so that workers can receive social security completely. Under this, in a step wise manner, a system would be institutionalized for the contributions received from employer and worker. The Government can fund the contribution of workers from disadvantaged section.

Right of security to workers in all situations

For providing better and safe environment along with occupational health and safety to workers at the work place, 13 existing Labour Laws have been subsumed in the Occupational, Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. In this Code, the security of interests of workers engaged in factories, mines, plantations, motor transport sector, bidi and cigar workers,

contract and migrant workers has been ensured.

We must abandon the belief that industry and labour are constantly at odds with one another. Why not devise a system that benefits all parties equally? Because labour is a continuous issue, the legislation allows state governments to further change the rules to meet their own needs and circumstances. The right to strike hasn't been hampered in any way. Indeed, trade unions have been given a new privilege that allows them to get legislative recognition. We as a nation have improved the symmetry and systematisation of the employer-employee relationship.

Re-structure Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes

In terms of government policies, how can they ensure better worker welfare through policy measures? One of the ways is to focus on our MSME policies. MSMEs contribute approximately 30 percent of the country's total GDP; 40 percent of its manufacturing output; and close to 50 percent of its total exports. It gives employment to around 110 million workers. To further this, under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat agenda, the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) was introduced. As large-scale manufacturing will require a larger pool of labour, it is expected that the scheme will help in utilising abundant human capital and enable technical education with skilling. However, the PLI schemes aim to focus on capital intensive industries, aka large industries rather than MSMEs which have the potential to generate employment and need incentives to expand.

Way Ahead

The ongoing fight against COVID-19 has brought temporary hardship for everyone, including workers. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi has weighed life as being greater than the livelihood and has now provided a blueprint for turning this crisis into opportunity in the post-corona world. The proposed change in work culture through adaptability, efficiency, inclusiveness, opportunity and universalism will open up more avenues for workers to build New India. We must remember Ambedkar's efforts as we commemorate the endless contributions of countless labourers in nation-building, with an ever-increasing spirit of Shramev Jayate.

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PM Modi meets Swedish counterpart in Denmark, discusses ways to deepen bilateral ties

COPENHAGEN: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met his Swedish counterpart Magdalena Andersson here on Wednesday and the two leaders discussed ways to deepen bilateral ties, the progress

LeadIT initiative," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted. During the 2018 visit of Prime Minister Modi to Sweden, the two sides adopted a

Climate Action Summit to help guide the world's heaviest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting industries towards the low-carbon economy. Its membership has now grown to 35 with 16 countries and 19

Summit in 2018. "Today's agenda includes the India-Nordic Summit and bilateral talks with Nordic leaders after which I will leave for Paris to hold talks with President Emmanuel Macron,"



in the Joint Action Plan and exchanged views on regional and global developments. "Cementing ties with Sweden. PM @narendramodi and @SwedishPM Magdalena Andersson held extensive talks on further diversifying the India-Sweden friendship," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted. Modi, who arrived here on Tuesday from Berlin on the second leg of his visit to three European nations, met Andersson on the sidelines of the second India-Nordic Summit in the Danish capital. This was the first meeting between the two leaders. "A partnership founded on innovation, technology & investment. PM @narendramodi held bilateral talks with @SwedishPM Magdalena Andersson. Took stock of the progress in the Joint Action Plan. Appreciated the expanding scope of the jointly launched

wide-ranging Joint Action Plan to take forward a wide range of initiatives in defence, trade and investment, renewable energy, smart cities, women's skill development, space and science and healthcare etc. The two sides had also signed a Joint Innovation Partnership. "Discussions also took place on regional and global developments," the MEA said in a press release. Modi's visit comes amid the Ukraine crisis, which has united much of Europe against Russia. "In today's meeting, the two leaders reviewed the progress made in our bilateral partnership. They also expressed satisfaction at the progress made by the Lead IT initiative," the MEA said. This was a India-Sweden joint global initiative to set up a Leadership Group on Industry Transition (LeadIT) in September 2019 at the UN

companies, it said. "Both leaders also discussed possibilities of deepening cooperation in areas like innovation, climate technology, climate action, green hydrogen, space, defence, civil aviation, Arctic, polar research, sustainable mining and trade and economic ties," the release added. India and Sweden have had longstanding close relations based on common values; strong business, investment and R&D linkages; and similar approaches to global peace, security and development. Innovation, Technology, Investment and R&D collaborations provide the bedrock of this modern relationship. Modi would also attend the 2nd India-Nordic Summit along with Prime Ministers of Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Sweden and Norway where they will take stock of the cooperation since the First India-Nordic

Modi tweeted before starting his engagements for the day. Briefing the media on Tuesday, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra had said that the India-Nordic summit focuses on the elements of bilateral cooperation which essentially fall into three to four major clusters - trade and investment ties; the digital and innovation partnership; the green partnership; and other areas of economic cooperation. "Nordic countries are important partners for India in sustainability, renewable energy, digitisation and innovation. The visit will help in expanding our multifaceted cooperation with the Nordic region," Modi had said earlier. India's trade with Nordic countries stands at over USD 5 billion (2020-21) and a cumulative FDI of over USD 3 billion (April 2000- March 2021).

Sri Lanka government to provide cash to low-income families hit by economic crisis

COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan government on Tuesday announced that it will provide cash allowances ranging between Rs 3,000 and Rs 7,500 to low income families "severely affected" by the current economic crisis in the country. The decision was taken in a Cabinet meeting held on Monday. World Bank assistance would be used for the purpose, trade minister Shehan Semasinghe said. Some 33 lakh families have been identified which will receive the money from May to July, he said. "Low income families entitled to samurdhi (poor relief), elderly, kidney and disability allowances have been severely affected by the current economic crisis in the country. The government has identified the need for immediate relief to these families and those others on the waiting list," Semasinghe said in a statement. As per the statement, amounts ranging between Rs 3,000 to Rs 7,500 under various categories like elders' allowances, kidney patients allowances and disability allowances will be disbursed to low income families. The world bank is facilitating financial and technical assistance to Sri Lanka. The cash transfer will be done only through bank accounts. Any eligible person who doesn't have an account will

be informed to open one immediately by government officials concerned, the minister said in a tweet. Quoting Central Bank Governor (CBSL) Nandalal Weerasinghe, the Daily News online portal in a report published last week said that the World Bank has agreed to provide Sri Lanka with USD 600 million in financial assistance to help meet payment requirements for essential imports. Sri Lanka will offer over USD 300 million out of the USD 600 million due from the World Bank to provide direct financial assistance for low-income families, Weerasinghe was quoted as saying in the report. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's office has announced that China will grant 300 million Yuan to Sri Lanka to purchase medicine, food, fuel and other essentials. The move comes after Rajapaksa's telephonic conversation with Chinese premier Li Keqiang earlier last month. Debt-ridden Sri Lanka's overall inflation surged to nearly 30 per cent in April from 18.7 per cent recorded in March, according to the official figures, as the island nation grapples with its worst economic crisis in decades.

Beijing closes 10 per cent of subway stations to stem Covid spread

BEIJING: Beijing on Wednesday closed around 10% of the stations in its vast subway system as an additional measure against the spread of coronavirus. The subway authority in a brief message said only that the measure to shut 40 mostly downtown stations was being taken as part of epidemic control measures. No date for resumption of service was given. Beijing has been on high alert for the spread of COVID-19, with restaurants and bars limited to takeout only, gyms closed and classes suspended indefinitely. Major tourist sites in the city, including the Forbidden City and the Beijing Zoo, have closed their indoor exhibition halls and are operating at only partial capacity. A few communities where cases were discovered have been isolated. People residing in "controlled" areas have been told to stay within city limits, including 12 areas deemed high-risk and another 35 considered medium-risk. City residents are required to undergo three tests throughout the week as authorities seek to detect and isolate cases without imposing the sort of sweeping lockdowns seen in Shanghai and elsewhere. A negative test result obtained within the previous 48 hours is required to gain entry to most public spaces. Beijing on Wednesday recorded just 51 new cases, five of them asymptomatic. The subway closings should have relatively little impact on city life, with China observing the Labour Day holiday this week and many commuters in the city of 21 million already working from home. In one downtown neighbourhood categorized

as high-risk on Wednesday, the streets were practically deserted apart from a few delivery drivers on scooters and the occasional pedestrian and car. All businesses were shut except for supermarkets and fruit and vegetable stores. Outsiders generally avoid high-risk areas to avoid the possibility of their presence registering on the tracing apps installed on virtually all mobile phones, creating potential problems for future access to public areas. While taking a lighter touch in Beijing, China has overall stuck to its strict "zero-COVID" approach that restricts travel, tests entire cities and sets up sprawling facilities to try to isolate every infected person. Lockdowns start with buildings and neighborhoods but become citywide if the virus spreads widely. That has caused the most disruption in Shanghai, where authorities are slowly easing restrictions that have confined most of the city's 26 million people to their apartments, housing compounds or immediate neighborhoods for close to a month, and in some cases longer. Shanghai reported another 4,982 cases Wednesday, all but 260 of them asymptomatic, along with an additional 16 deaths. That continues a steady decline in China's largest city which recorded a daily peak of 27,605 new cases nearly three weeks ago on April 13. The surprisingly low death toll amid an outbreak of more than 400,000 cases in the city that is home to China's main stock market and biggest port has sparked questions about how such deaths are tallied.

You can't outsource budget, Warring tells Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann; AAP asserts people will make it

CHANDIGARH: Terming the Punjab government move of seeking people's suggestions on the state budget as a "political stunt", state Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring on Wednesday said preparing the budget is the government's "constitutional responsibility", which cannot be outsourced. The ruling Aam Adami Party, however, asserted that the Punjab government's forthcoming budget will truly be the budget of the common people, which is going to be a historic one for the state. During the previous governments, budgets were used to be framed after consultation with some of the chief minister's close leaders, favourite officers and his corporate friends, which consequently benefited the capitalists and political leaders only and not the common people, AAP leader Malvinder Singh Kang said. The Bhagwant Mann government in Punjab on Monday

had said it would seek suggestions from the general public for the state budget for the year 2022-23. In a statement on Wednesday, Punjab the government for the populist purpose. Warring said preparation and presentation of the budget is a constitutional requirement under Article 202 of the Indian Constitution. "Baba Saheb Ambedkar's Constitution has clearly spelt out the process and procedure of budget preparation and Baba Saheb, whom you often quote for your convenience, never told us to go to the people to make the budget," the PCC president said, alleging that "this is just financial quackery". "Let the experts do the job what they are supposed to do," Warring told the chief minister. "People's job finishes the moment they elect a government which is authorised to make the budget taking guidance from the experts," he said. "If the people have to make the budget, what is the government there for?" he asked. AAP leader Kang, however, asserted that the Punjab govern-



ment led by Chief Minister Mann has decided to end the old tradition and follow the basic principles of democracy and prepare the budget by ernment led by Chief Minister Mann has decided to end the old tradition and follow the basic principles of democracy and prepare the budget by

considering public opinion. Punjab's budget will no longer be prepared by capitalists and politicians, the people of Punjab will decide the budget, Kang said. He also added that Punjab's budget for 2022 will benefit every section of the state. "The suggestions received from farmers, labourers, youths, students, women, elderly people, businessmen and traders, will be included in the budget and the budget will be prepared according to these suggestions," said Kang. He said with the inclusion of the common people in the budget process, they would be able to convey their problems and suggestions directly to the government, so that the problems would be resolved quickly and easily.

The role of translators in the development of culture and literature

Nayagarh(KCN):The translation is like a two-edged sword. So translators have to be very careful while translating. To be a good translation, the translator must be proficient in the original language as well as in the source language. Dinesh Mali, a nationally renowned translator, said the role of translators was crucial in spreading culture and literature. An online conference of translators based on the theme "Feelings of Transformation" was organized online by Indian Translation Literature in association with eminent translator Radhu Mishra. Sarat Chandra Acharya, the host of Indian Translation Literature, welcomed everyone and informed them about the publication of an introductory booklet by translators on behalf of the institution and the organization of a national translation conference in Bhubaneswar on September 30 on World Translation Day. The second phase of the program, co-organized by Mita Pattnaik and Sanghamitra Raiguru, included Manjusharma Mohapatra, a renowned Hindi and Odia translator, Dr. Anjuman Ara, Professor, Department of Hindi, Ravenshaw University and Shradhanjali Kanungo (Sahitya Akademi Award-winning translator), Swapna Behera, Dr. Sangeeta Rath, Sarita Nayak, Chandrama Mohapatra. On this occasion, a multilingual translated poem was recited.

How to get on well on others

Nabarangapur (KCN):All normal people wish to be liked by others. The quickest way to be liked is to show that we like people. Signs of appreciation,admiration,sympathy & interest are acceptable to almost every one. It is in small apparently unimportant details of life,that we can show a friendly interest in other people. Here are some ways to do so : (a) seek occasions to compliment to others. The majorities of humanbeings feel rather in secure at least psychologically,words of sensible praise help to give them back their confidence.(b) show sympathy on occasion .sympathy means feeling with others. Deep sympathy we show only to intimate friends. But little touches of fellow feelings are a great help to acquaintances. There are times when we have no words of sympathy but a part on the back or a friendly shake of the hand show . we do share some ones joy or sorrow a little.(c) study the special tastes of others . It is the worth to find out what people like best to eat ,what colours they like to wear what type of ornaments they appreciate,what show entertains them most ,what book pleases them & so on. Then when we give them a treat or a present (gift) we choose some thing that will give them true pleasure & show them that we have considered their own tastes.(d) . Notice the opinion of others. We all have opinions on controversial subjects. Many are only ideas or prejudice ,we have picked- up. In general we should never affront some body elses convictions except in the cases of urgent,important controversy.(e) . Never forget to thank people we show interest in other people then notice what do they do for us. Thanks cost nothing,but give much pleasure.

Drama is also a teaching tool at The Heritage College Kolkata

KOLKATA(KCN): There is a well-known American proverb, "Tell me, and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand." However, education institutions across the city have found a solution to this. Now colleges and



schools have started using drama to teach. Teaching through drama is asking the students to draft a play or a skit around a topic from their curriculum and present it in the claheass. The performers learn about the topic while preparing for the play and the rest learn from the play performed. However, now there are student-built-clubs within colleges who are taking an active initiative in organizing drama competitions to encourage the more such rapid innovations in the teaching and learning process. Keeping this objective in mind, the Drama club of The Heritage College organized a Drama Competition on 2nd May 2022. The students of

Tree Plantation Programme Organized in the Campus of Sri Jagannath Temple



Khordha (KCN): A very auspicious tree plantation programme was organized in the campus of Sri Jagannath Temple, Khordha. The newly elected Chairman of Khordha Panchayat

Samiti Mrs. Srimayee Priyadarsini Patra planted a tree in the campus of Sri Jagannath Temple, Dadhimachhagadia and begin her work today. She convey best wishes to the peoples in the auspicious occasions of Akshaya Tritiya. In this occasions BJD,Khordha District General Secretary Rajkishore Patra, representative of Kaipadar GP, Sarapancha, Bijaya Arisol, representative

MP, Aparajita Sarangi Visit to Sambadika Bhavan

Khordha (KCN): As per the request of drinking water facilities and construction



Khordha Zilla Sambadika Sangha, Bhubaneswar, Parliament Constituency, Mrs.Aparajita Sarangi today visit to Sambadika Bhavan, Khordha. Journalists of Khordha accorded a warm welcome during her visit to Sambadika Bhavan on Tuesday and submitted a memorandum before MP, Mrs. Sarangi to the renovation and improvement work of Sambadika Bhavan. Mrs. Sarangi assured that within seven days the solar light is installs in the campus of Sambadika Bhavan and also fulfill the demand of

of boundary walls. In primary stage she declared Rs. 3 lakhs released to MP, LAD, for construction of boundary walls and simultaneously the MP, LAD, funds released to the renovation and improvement of Sambadika Bhavan, Khordha. Under the leadership of Journalist, Khordha, Prakash Kumar Hati the programme become grand success. Journalist Surya Narayan Mohanty, Santosh Kumar Barik, Prasanna Kumar Paikaraya, Dillip Kumar Pattnaik, Jitendra Bhanja, Niranjana Dora,



of Panchayat Samiti Member Bibhu Prasad Baliarsingh, Nrushingha Pattnaik, Saroj Baliarsingh, Ramani Ranjan Dash, Indrajit Pattnaik, Manas Ranjan Pattnaik and others were present.



Praveen Bhanja, District President Prasanta Kumar Rashmi Ranjan Sahoo, BJP, Khordha, Mohapatra were present.

Group centre, CRPE, langging, Imphal

Imphal (KCN): The heavy rain and storm that hit Group Center Imphal caused great



devastation. Due to this heavy storm and rain, 37 big trees of the Group Center were



destroyed and also the water and electricity supply came to a standstill. Roofs of Kendriya Vidyalayas, roofs of family homes, hospital walls and temple toilets were damaged and roads were also blocked. Shri Madan Kumar, DIG of Group Center, by running a special drive for immediate supply of water and electricity, regularized the interrupted electricity and water and also directed that we should always be alert when such storms and rains come in future so that life and property don't be harmed. Taking quick action, the closed roads were also opened and life went on smoothly.




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Potential market opportunities open up for India due to geopolitical conditions: RBI

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said recent trade agreements and geopolitical conditions open up potential market opportunities for India.

Observing that India's external sector has

monetary policy stance, including restoration of a symmetric LAF corridor around the policy repo rate and the introduction of the standing deposit facility (SDF).

These measures operationalise the primacy accorded to maintaining price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth. Monetary policy has to engender an environment in which inflation persistence is broken and inflation expectations are re-anchored, he said.

Headroom for this reordering of priorities is becoming available with the receding of the pandemic and the steady broad basing of growth as economic activity regains and surpasses pre-pandemic levels, he added.

Observing that liquidity conditions need to be modulated in line with the policy action and stance to ensure their full and efficient transmission to the rest of the economy, he said banking system liquidity has remained comfortable since the April policy announcement.

Average surplus liquidity in the banking system, reflected in total absorption through SDF and variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions, amounted to Rs 7.5 lakh crore during April 8-29, 2022.

Modi leaves for France after concluding his Denmark trip

Continued from page-1

bilateral meetings with Nordic leaders were also productive. I look forward to working with them in various sectors aimed at furthering prosperity," Modi tweeted.

During a short halt at Paris while en route to India, Modi will meet Emmanuel Macron. He will be the first world leader to have a face-to-face meeting with Macron following the French President's re-election in April.

Modi had congratulated Macron after his re-election. "Congratulations to my friend @EmmanuelMacron on being re-elected. I look forward to continue working together to deepen the India-French Strategic Partnership," Modi had tweeted.

In a statement before leaving for Europe, Modi said: "President Macron has very recently been re-elected, and my visit just ten days after the result will not only allow me to convey my personal congratulations in-person, but also reaffirm the close friendship between the two countries. This will also give us the opportunity to set the tone of the next phase of the India-France Strategic Partnership."

"President Macron and I will share assessments on various regional and global issues and will take stock of ongoing bilateral cooperation. It is my firm belief that two countries that share such similar vision and values for the global order, must work in close cooperation with each other," he had said.

State ready for Cyclone

Continued from page-1

subsequent 24 hours, said IMD scientist Umashankar Das. Only after formation of the low pressure area, further details about the possible cyclone can be predicted, he said. Meanwhile, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain has appealed to people not to resort to panic buying to stock up essential commodities.

Using his Twitter handle, Mr. Swain appealed to people not to buy and stock essential items unnecessarily. It might cause an artificial scarcity in the market and unscrupulous traders may take advantage of the situation and increase the prices of the essential commodities, he said.

Stating there is enough stock of all kinds of food items and other essentials in the State, the Minister claimed that the State Government is fully prepared to tackle any situation and his department is closely monitoring the market. Stringent action will be taken against those resorting to hoarding and black marketing, he warned.

The large liquidity overhang in the form of daily surplus funds parked under the SDF (average of Rs 2.0 lakh crore during April 8-29, 2022) has resulted in the weighted average call money rate (WACR) "the operating target of monetary policy" dipping below the SDF rate.

The favourable response of banks as evident in bid-cover ratios of 14-day and 28-day VRRR auctions as well as the USD/INR sell-buy swap auction conducted on April 26 also suggests that system-level liquidity remains ample.

"Therefore, in keeping with the stance of withdrawal of accommodation and in line with the earlier announcement of gradual withdrawal of liquidity over a multi-year time frame, it has been decided to increase the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4.5 per cent of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL), effective from the fortnight beginning May 21, 2022," he said.

Mission Shakti drives women's empowerment

Continued from page-1

Rs 5,000 crore over five years in a structured manner.

Paddy procurement success

Paddy procurement was initially piloted in 17 Gram Panchayats of Kalahandi during 2018-19 rabi season. Over 24.71 lakh quintal of paddy was procured by 17 SHGs resulting in a turnover of Rs 43.26 crore and commission of Rs 77.25 lakh, an average of Rs 4.5 lakh per group. Moved by the remarkable success, the State government decided to scale it up and engaged 199 WSHGs in 11 districts in kharif 2019-20 procurement. Nearly 23.07 lakh quintal of paddy amounting to Rs 419 crore was procured generating a commission worth Rs 7.2 crore. During Kharif 2021-22, 562 WSHGs were engaged in paddy procurement in 20 districts.

While 74.85 lakh quintal of paddy amounting to Rs 1,452 crore was procured, the members earned commission worth Rs 23.39 crore. The women groups have helped the Civil Supplies Corporation procure 187.89 lakh tonne of paddy in the last four years and generated an earning of Rs 58.69 crore. Starting from registration of farmers through procurement automation systems to identification through biometric Iris scanner, the trained SHG members are doing everything needed during procurement. The groups are getting a commission of Rs 31.25 per quintal of paddy after the cost of paddy is directly credited to farmers' accounts from Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation. Once dependent on their male family members, the women SHG members are now inspiring the rural folk to become self-reliant, secure a sustainable livelihood, better healthcare and improved financial health. SHG leader Jayanti Ekka from Sundargarh district has been the face of women empowerment in Odisha ever since she caught everyone's attention for her fiery speech during the last Make-in-Odisha conclave evoking a standing ovation from Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Born to a poor farmer, Jayanti was not good at academics. She gathered the courage to start Kalyani group with a nominal loan of Rs 15,000 in 2003 and then she never looked back. Kalyani, which has diversified into fly-ash brick making, now employs about a dozen women and is supporting around 50 families in Sundargarh district having over 15,000 SHGs. Promotion of WSHGs under the aegis of 'Mission Shakti' programme was adopted on the eve of International Women's Day in 2001 as a key strategy for achieving women's empowerment in Odisha. It started with an initial objective of forming 2 lakh groups in two years. By 2006-07, as many as 2,48,689 women SHGs had been formed and it rose to 3,14,646 by March 2017.

Additional 2,87,367 WSHGs were formed on a mission mode in the next two years and now Mission Shakti has become a silent revolution in the State with 6,02,013 WSHGs comprising 70,00,010 women. Buoyed over the success of the movement, Odisha Government made Mission Shakti a separate Department bringing all SHG-centric initiatives under one umbrella.

The withdrawal of liquidity through this increase in the CRR would be of the order of Rs 87,000 crore.

Sustained high inflation inevitably hurts savings, investment, competitiveness and output growth, he said, adding, it has pronounced adverse effects on the poorer segments of the population by eroding their purchasing power. "I would, therefore, like to emphasise that our monetary policy actions today, aimed at lowering inflation and anchoring inflation expectations, will strengthen and consolidate the medium-term growth prospects of the economy," he said.

"We remain mindful of the possible near-term impact of higher interest rates on output. Our actions will, therefore, be calibrated. I would like to further stress that monetary policy remains accommodative and our approach will be to focus on a careful and calibrated withdrawal of pandemic-related extraordinary accommodation, keeping in mind the inflation-growth dynamics," he added.

The journey of Mission Shakti from a programme to a Directorate and subsequently to a dedicated 'Department of Mission Shakti' is a testimony of women's empowerment in the State. In convergence with 15 departments, Mission Shakti has achieved sizable progress in providing business worth Rs 1,200 crore to over one lakh SHGs generating income of Rs 300 crore. At a time when increased importance is given to innovation, technology and self-sustenance in the post-Covid era and economically weaker sections have been facing an acute loss of jobs and income, the SHG movement in the State has come a long way in pushing several families out of poverty.

SHGs bridge banking gap

To ensure last-mile delivery of banking services in unbanked and under-banked Gram Panchayats, the State government has engaged SHG members as Business Correspondent Agents (BCAs). As many as 2,203 SHG members have been on board as BCAs and transactions amounting to Rs 880.84 crore have been undertaken by these BCAs.

"With the income generated from different works carried out by our group, I could marry off my daughter. I have also planned to send my only son off for higher studies. Thanks to the initiative of the government, we are now leading a life with dignity and respect. This is so satisfying," said single mother Jyotsnamayi Dandasena, president of Maa Saraswati SHG at Madanpur in Kalahandi district. The unique livelihood model adopted by Mission Shakti has not only provided WSHGs with huge business, but the groups have also become torch-bearers of a new socio-economic revolution. Considering the selfless contribution and services rendered by the members, financial support amounting to Rs 217 crore per annum towards meeting fees and fixed travelling allowances for the Executive Committee members has been provisioned by the government. Similarly, the construction of one Mission Shakti Gruha in each GP and each urban local body across the state has been taken up to facilitate regular meeting of SHGs and provide retail outlets.

So far, 7,877 Gruhas have been sanctioned of which 3,796 Gruhas have been completed with toilet and water supply facilities. Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Mission Shakti Department Sujata R Karthikeyan said the convergence model integrated with technology is paving way for transformative change in women empowerment in Odisha and with access to the resources they need, the women are breaking through the shackles of poverty, building stability for themselves and making a positive impact in their communities.

"We will expand it and involve more SHGs. Since a huge volume of money is involved, we do not want middlemen to get involved. The support should reach genuine SHGs boosting the rural economy. We have started linking up the SHG producers groups with different trading organisations of national and international repute so that they can get market price for their produces, which will also go global. It will be a win-win situation for all," she said. -- Woes of the world stem from the fact that humans, by and large, subscribe to a foolish notion that conservation is for nature's benefit...



remained resilient amidst formidable global headwinds, he said provisional data suggest that merchandise exports remained strong in April 2022 and services exports reached a new high in March 2022.

"Potential market opportunities have opened up due to geopolitical conditions and the recent trade agreements. Strong revenue guidance by major information technology (IT) companies also bodes well for the overall external sector outlook in 2022-23," he said in an off-cycle policy announcement.

The worsening of terms of trade, driven by high commodity prices could have implications for the current account deficit in 2022-23, he said, but it is expected to be comfortably financed.

"Net foreign direct investment flows have remained robust, despite some recent moderation. Long term flows such as external commercial borrowings also remain stable. India's foreign exchange reserves are sizeable with net forward assets providing a strong back-up. The external debt to GDP ratio remains low at 20 per cent," he said.

With regard to liquidity, Das assured that the RBI will ensure adequate liquidity in the system to meet the productive requirements of the economy in support of credit offtake and growth.

Quoting from April policy, he said several liquidity management measures were taken in alignment with the shift in the

Baseball signed by President Volodymyr Zelensky auctioned for Ukraine relief

Continued from page-1

the United Nations, which reads: "Dear Mr. Kaplan, Please find enclosed a baseball, signed by the President of Ukraine, HE. Mr. Volodymyr Zelensky during the visit to New York in September 2019."

In addition to the unspecified percentage of the sale that will be donated through the global nonprofit Americares, RR Auction will contribute its buyer's premium and seller's commission to war relief efforts.

Americares' website describes its humanitarian response in Ukraine as focused on the medical needs of millions of refugees. Kaplan is a governmental affairs specialist from New York who has many contacts with the UN and in US politics.

He doesn't buy his baseballs at auction, instead acquiring them himself through those contacts. He started his collection in 1996 when former President Bill Clinton signed a baseball for him at a meeting in Washington, DC.

The collection, which now numbers more than 500 items, has been displayed at museums and presidential libraries around the country.

This is not the first time he has auctioned a piece of his collection, but this is probably the first time he has sold a ball signed by such a high profile leader, a man he has come to admire during the country's war with Russia. "I am really hoping Zelensky survives this. He's a very brave man," Kaplan said.

The auction that ends May 11 also includes autographs and artifacts from Johann Sebastian Bach, Nikola Tesla, and Albert Einstein.

Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk set for valuable Champions League upgrade after Villarreal elimination

GENEVA: Shakhtar Donetsk is heading directly to the next Champions League group stage after Villarreal was eliminated in the semifinals.

Amid so much turmoil in Ukrainian soccer, the upgrade should guarantee tens of millions of euros (dollars) in Champions League prize money next season for Shakhtar, which has been touring Europe playing charity games in exile from Russia's invasion. Villarreal's 5-2 aggregate loss to Liverpool ensured the title will be won

by a team that already qualified for next season's Champions League through their domestic league fin-



ish. Real Madrid and Manchester City play in the other semifinals second leg on Wednesday.

The entry in next season's competi-

tion that UEFA projects for the defending champion can now pass to the highest-ranked national league that

Shakhtar, which had been scheduled to enter the playoffs round in August. Shakhtar led the Ukraine Premier

League standings when the season was abandoned last month with no official title to be awarded.

That country is No. 12-ranked Ukraine and its top club is

League standings when the season was abandoned last month with no official title to be awarded.

Russia invaded Ukraine on Febru-

ary 24, one day before the league was to resume after a two-month winter break. UEFA should formally confirm Ukraine's allocation of European competition entries within weeks.

The financial security offered by Champions League soccer should help Shakhtar find stability amid uncertainty for Ukraine soccer. It is unclear how many players, especially from abroad, it can retain and sign for next season, or where the squad will practice and play.

Still, Shakhtar has been living with un-

certainty in exile for eight years. The team has not played in Donetsk since 2014 when forced out by Russian-backed conflict in its home region of eastern Ukraine. It is now the scene of intense fighting in the third month of the war.

Playing in the 2019-20 Champions League group stage earned Shakhtar 43.1 million euros (USD 45.4 million) from UEFA in prize money and a share of television rights.

In the same season, Dynamo Kyiv received just 7.5 million euros (USD 7.9

million) from playing in the second-tier Europa League. Dynamo was second in the suspended Ukrainian standings and is currently set to begin the Champions League in July at the second qualifying round stage. Dynamo, which is also touring playing charity games, would need to beat three opponents to reach the group stage.

UEFA removed Russian clubs from next season's European competitions because of the war, and that also helped upgrade Shakhtar.

Russian champion Zenit St. Petersburg's group-stage place was this week awarded to 11th-ranked Scotland, lifting Ukraine up to be next in line if Villarreal did not win the Champions League.

Zenit could join Russian soccer federation appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against UEFA and FIFA barring national and club teams from international competitions.

Russia already lost interim rulings at CAS in those appeal cases in March.

Will Rohit, Rahul, Virat be India's top-three going into T20 World Cup?

NEW DELHI: Their current form may not inspire confidence but skipper Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul and Virat Kohli will be indispensable in the Indian team during the T20 World Cup in Australia but a change in their batting order may be considered for the benefit of the side, say experts.

While IPL is an indicator of current form but the national selection committee under Chetan Sharma at this point is not even remotely harbouring any such thoughts, at least not for the time being.

However, one point that is being debated is whether skipper Rohit, his deputy Rahul and team's premier batter Kohli will occupy the top three slots in the batting order at the mega event, set to be played in Australia in October-November.

In the last World T20, their batting order didn't yield favourable results and the approach of the top three was mildly criticised as all of them employed pretty similar styles of first settling down and then going for attack. Rohit since then has changed his approach and has been seen going hammer and tongs although big runs have eluded the India and MI captain.

Rohit certainly would like to better his 155 runs from 9 games at a strike-rate of 123.

Kohli's woeful form has continued for way too long now and 186 runs in 10 games at a lowly strike-rate of 116 is neither indicative of former skipper's quality nor his calibre.

Rahul is playing the role of an anchor for LSG and with 451 runs at an average of 145, he has been in a league of his own.

However there is a worrying piece of statistic which skipper Rohit and coach Rahul Dravid will have to address before Team India hits road with some 15-odd T20Is lined up before World Cup.

The trio hasn't exactly set the Powerplay (first six overs) on fire.

Sample this. In 10 games so far, Rahul has played 55 dots in Powerplay overs and has compiled a total of 141 off 126 balls in these overs across games with a strike-rate of 111.90.

In those games in PP overs, he has hit 15 fours and four sixes.

Rohit in this period has played 56 dots in powerplays in 9 games, scoring 136 off 104 balls at 130.76 strike-rate.

In case of Kohli, he has batted in Powerplay in seven games and has played 16 dot balls but scored 61 runs in 55 balls during the period.

The numbers show that all three are taking their time in the first six overs and perhaps even all three are playing, at least one -- preferably Rahul can come down the batting order and allow a bit of rejig around Rohit and Virat.

So what do the experts think about the trio's batting order? Former chairman of selectors MSK Prasad and his colleague Devang Gandhi had slightly divergent views while analyst former India keeper Deep Dasgupta had a completely different take.

"These three are indispensable if fit. There is no way that you can leave anyone of them for the World T20. But yes, if I look at numbers, I might just try someone like Shikhar Dhawan

at the opening slot and check Rahul out at No. 4. He has a T20 hundred in Manchester some years back in middle-order, so why not," Prasad told PTI. "But yes, I want Virat to take a significant break and before the

Asia Cup, he should be fresh, up and running," Prasad said.

For Gandhi, in a big tournament like the T20 World Cup, he isn't too keen on experimentation and doesn't want to rock the boat.

"These are your proven performers and when they play for India, it is completely different from the roles they have for their franchises.

Also when we talk about changes, we should know who are the replacements? Are they good enough and better than those three in pressure scenario during a Pakistan game? You need to factor in," Gandhi said.

For Dasgupta, T20 by nature is a game that warrants a different philosophy and guiding principles.

"In Tests or ODIs, we normally find players, check them out and accordingly assign roles to them. In T20, you need to do the reverse. You first decide roles and then fit in players.

"They can still play the trio as number 1, 2 and 3 but there has to be specific role which they should be told long before the tournament," Dasgupta said.

Asked in case, a change is required, Dasgupta feels that Dhawan or Prithvi Shaw should be kept in the set-up and may be tried out if necessary.



Madrid Open: Novak Djokovic tops Gael Monfils in his 'career-best performance'

MADRID: Novak Djokovic feels like the hard work is starting to pay off. Trying to regain his best form after a slow start to the season, Djokovic looked sharp in his opener at the Madrid Open on Tuesday, defeating Gael Monfils 6-3, 6-2 to advance to a third-round match against Andy Murray.

"I would probably rate it as the best performance of the year. I felt very good on the court," the top-ranked Djokovic said after saving all five break points he faced and converting the three he had against the 21st-ranked Frenchman.

It was the Serb's 18th straight win over Monfils. The match was interrupted at 2-2 in the first set as rain forced the roof on center court to be closed. "Just generally very, very good performance. I'm very pleased, considering, you know, that up to today I was not playing my best tennis in the few tournaments that I played this year and still kind of finding my rhythm, finding my groove," he said. Djokovic arrived in Madrid with a 5-3 record in the three tournaments he played. He had needed three sets in each of his last three victories this season, all in Serbia before losing the final there to Andrey Rublev.

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