

### Strict Enforcement needed to stop use of Single Use Plastic Bags

Kolkata(KCN): Concern for Calcutta organised next part of its ongoing crusade against use of plastic carry bags for shopping at Lake Market. Programme was graced by Ms Manisha Bose Councillor of KMC Ward

NGO demanded proper enforcement of the law to ban use of Single Use Plastic by Central and State Governments. There is urgent need to ban the production of plastic carry bags of thickness upto 100 micron and also



enforce ban on pouch of Pan Parag and Gutka as well as thermocol plates and glasses to save environment.

Many Members of the NGO Jagat Baid, KC Tewary, Bibhas Maiti, Prof. Pradyot Banerjee, Ramesh Sheth, AC Baid, Govind Singhania, A r u n d h a t i

87 as Chief Guest. KS Adhikari President enlightened about the activities of the organisation and welcomed the Councillor. She appreciated the efforts of Concern for Calcutta for its sustained campaign against Plastic carry bags for last 5 years. Narayan Jain, Chairman of Advisory Board of the

Mukherjee, JK Sharma, Indrani Netram, Praveen Jain Ramesh Mahajan actively participated to make the campaign successful. KS Adhikari thanked all citizens of the area for their co-operation in making the programme great success and informed that more than 1000 cotton bags were distributed.

### Odisha CM releases two books



BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released two books at his residence on Saturday. Retired bureaucrat Gopabandhu Dash's poetry collection 'Apadha Bahi' and IPS officer Sarah Sharma's book 'My experiments with community policing' were unveiled. The book written by Dash is a collection of 75 poems that reflect the eagerness in search of humanity and the growing concern over discrimination in the society. It has been published by Pakshighar Prakashani.



The book by Sharma encapsulates the author's personal experiences as an SP in various interior districts of Odisha. The book has 28 chapters that elucidate her experiences in various spaces of administration, beauty of the Gajapati district, elections, child-friendly police stations, pink auto-rickshaw, Covid times, health camps and other events. The book has been published by Asian Press Books, Kolkata. The chief minister appreciated the efforts and congratulated the writers.

### Actor Amol Palekar, Sandhya Gokhale join Bharat Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra's Buldhana

BULDHANA(KCN): Veteran actor Amol Palekar and his wife, writer-filmmaker Sandhya Gokhale participated in the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra's Buldhana district here on Sunday. The couple joined Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi on the last day of the foot



march's Maharashtra leg from where it will enter Madhya Pradesh at night. The official handle of the Indian National Congress shared a series of pictures of Palekar and Gokhale with Gandhi. "Realising his responsibility towards the country, today famous actor and film director Amol Palekar along with his wife joined #BharatJodoYatra to discharge it.

Thank you for raising the voice of the country," the tweet read.

Previously, cinema personalities such as Pooja Bhatt, Riya Sen, Sushant Singh, Mona Ambegaonkar, Rashmi Desai, and Akanksha Puri took part in the yatra.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra, a mass contact initiative of the Congress, began on September 7 from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu. Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson joins Bharat Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra; Congress calls it 'historic'

It entered Maharashtra on November 7 in Nanded district and also covered Hingoli, Washim, Akola and Buldhana districts of the state.

The march entered its 74th day on Sunday. It began at 6 am from Bhendval in Buldhana after a night halt at Sairam Agro centre.

The foot march will have a rest day on Monday when Gandhi is scheduled to campaign for the Congress in Gujarat, where the Assembly elections are scheduled to be held on December 1 and 5.

### Computerized navigation of cadaveric spine surgery in KIMS

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The first-of-its-kind cadaveric workshop on spine, which was organised at the Department of Anatomy in

shop was headed by organizing chairman Prof (Dr) MM Sahoo from Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital,



Baripada. Prof (Dr) Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra HoD, Orthopedics SCBMCH Cuttack and Assistant Professor Dr Amit Guru of the same department were also part of the team of ICS 2022.

On behalf of KIMS-Bhubaneswar, the expert surgeons attending the cadaveric workshop on the spine were felicitated by Group Director Dilip Kumar Panda.

Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS-Bhubaneswar) as part of the programmes of the Instructional Course on Spine (ICS) 2022 under the aegis of the Association of the Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI), has received rave reviews from the participating spine surgeons, drawn across the leading medical institutes of India. According to HoD, Department of Orthopaedics KIMS and a senior member of ASSI Prof (Dr) Tanmoy Mohanty "the workshop for the first time in Odisha used the digital interfaces like computer-aided 3D navigation system on spine. It was demonstrated on the cadaver specimens and the event was successful as the "feel of live surgery" with the seven cadaveric specimens was an immensely educative, useful and state-of-art experience."

The proper and scientific presentations of cadavers were prepared by Prof Satyashree Ray, HoD, Anatomy from SCB Medical College and Hospital, (SCBMCH) Cuttack. The demonstration on the cadaveric spine work-

During the workshop, the participating surgeons updated their knowledge of various surgical methods on the cadavers including the implant fixation techniques.

Reputed spine surgeons from across the nation, i.e. Dr Ishwar Kirti, Dr Janardhana Aithala, Dr Appaji Krishnan, Dr Kiran Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Dr Anindya Basu and Dr Jaydeep Ghosh joined the cadaveric workshop and contributed as the distinguished guides and table instructors.

The spine surgeons assembled at KIMS Anatomy Department were of the view that the arrangement of the cadaveric workshop at KIMS was of very high order and they also felt that they never knew that such a medical facility ever existed in this part of the country. HoD Prof (Dr) Satyanarayan Shamala and Prof (Dr) Bijay Kumar Dutta, Department of Anatomy KIMS coordinated the event. It was learned that there would be more such cadaveric workshops on different subjects to train budding surgeons in near future.

### BJP Is trying to Destabilizing Soren Government in Jharkhand: TNPRF Leader V S Nayak

Ranchi(KCN): Before December 2019, the scope of investigation should be increased till Raghuvir government, otherwise there will be a massive movement.

In the ED's charge sheet, ED has clearly stated that during the investigation in the illegal mining in Sahibganj, it was found that during the tenure of the previous Bharatiya Janata Party's Raghuvir government, 233 rakes went out of the railway siding and only 18 during the tenure of Hemant Soren. ED Raghuvir went to send the rack out of the railway siding. The people of Jharkhand are eager to know from EDI why they are not probing the government's tenure. The above things were

said today by Vijay Shankar Nayak, Central Vice President of Adivasi Moolvasi Jan Adhikar Manch and former candidate of Hatia assembly constituency. He also said that the Bharatiya Janata Party, defeated by the vote, is now engaged in the game of destabilizing the government through ED, which is not a good sign for democracy.

Mr. Nayak further said that 233 racks which have been sent out of railway siding after illegal mining of minerals, all of them are before December 2019 and during the tenure of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, only 18 tracks have been sent from railway siding, but All the points of investigation CONTINUED ON: P-7

### In a message to China, Modi says Arunachal is rising

Guwahati(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the Donyi Polo Airport in Itanagar, the first greenfield air-



port in Arunachal Pradesh and dedicated the 600 MW Kameng Hydro Power Station to

the nation. He said that the new India is committed to developing border infrastructure that includes building airports, roads and turning villages into frontline hamlets that are fully drawn into the national mainstream. He added that the central government is going to spend Rs 50,000 crores on the development of infrastructure in the state.

In an obvious message to neighbouring China from the frontier state, the Prime Minister said, "Today Northeast is witnessing a dawn of new hopes and opportunities. Today's event is a great example of the new India's approach towards development of the Northeast." He stressed that CONTINUED ON: P-7

## A Hearse van flagged off for the use of Barbil



Barbil(KCN): The flag-off ceremony of a hearse van was held at Barbil by Rajendra Swain, inspector in charge of Barbil police station in Keonjhar district. This van is equipped with necessary emergency aids like freezer, generator and movable stretcher. The JSW Steel, Barbil handed over this to a Barbil

based NGO, "The Seva Group" to cater the problem of local during transportation of deceased body to cremation point. The founder chairman of the NGO Shankar Konar said, though there are more than three hearse van available in the locality, but facilities like the present van given by JSW is unique and can meet the need. This will be provided people at free of cost during their requirements. Rajendra Singh, praising JSW and SEVA group said every one wants that the last rites of person are done amicably so that soul could rest peacefully. JSW and Seva is doing this for the people. He too said JSW and SEVA group should work shoulder to shoulder for more such thing for the welfare of public. In this ceremony Binod Bhawsinga, president, Tarun Chakravarthy, Secretary, Raghunath Barik, senior member and many other members of Seva group including general public were present. Subal Jha, head CSR JSW Barbil unit extended his gratitude and seek support from people to serve them further.

## Star campaigners Ready

Bhubaneswar(KCN): All three principal political parties, Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Opposition BJP and Congress on Saturday released their lists of star campaigners for the Padampur by-poll.

Chief Minister and BJD Supremo Naveen Patnaik tops the list of star campaigners of Biju Janata Dal. The list comprises senior leaders including Pranab Prakash Das, Prasanna Acharya, Debi Prasad Mishra, Ranendra Pratap Swain, Pratap Keshari Deb, and Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak.

The BJD has also included leaders Arun Sahoo, Puspendra Singhdeo, Bibhuti Balabantray and



Raseswari Panigrahi in the campaigners list. Many of these leaders were not named in the star campaigners' list for Dhamnagar by-poll.

On the other hand, BJD leaders Prtiranjan Ghadai, Pramila Mallick, Boymkesh Ray, Pranab Balabantray and Sanjib Mallick, who were in-

## Tug of war between BJD leaders over Baliyatra

CUTTACK(KCN): The just concluded Baliyatra has ripped open fissures in the ruling BJD's Cuttack unit. A day after senior BJD leader and former Banki MLA Pravat Tripathy questioned the manner in which the Baliyatra was conducted this year and sought a special audit on the financial aspects of the fair, former Barabati-Cuttack MLA and president, of Cuttack district unit of BJD, Debasish Samantaray hit back at Tripathy and also targeted mayor Subhas Singh. Samantaray rubbished Tripathy's remarks over politicisation of the historic Baliyatra including the recital of a paean on Naveen Patnaik during a cultural festival. He questioned why the name of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik whose contribution has enabled the administration in holding the trade fair in a grand manner should not be declared on the stage. "I cannot find as to how the Baliyatra was politicised with the recital of a song praising our Chief Minister Naveen Patanaik who has great contribution towards holding the fair in a

grand manner. It is also a matter of regret that mayor Subhas Singh too has given a statement that Baliyatra should not be politicised. Perhaps, Singh has forgotten the political party that he belongs to and got him elected," said Samantaray. However, Samantaray said the administration should have involved people from different walks of life especially the Mahanagar Shanti Committee and Puja Committee. Countering the statement, Tripathy said it is Samantaray's personal choice to ascertain whether the paean would benefit or hamper the image of a party leader. "Baliyatra is certainly not a commercial or cultural organisation or an institution. The ethos of Baliyatra was killed in broad daylight. The small and middle scale vendors who used to make their livelihood for six months by setting up stalls have been deprived of participating in the fair with administration facilitating middlemen to avail the plots and later selling those to big traders, entrepreneurs and companies," said Tripathy. The issue will not die down unless a special audit is instituted, he stated.

# Odisha gets Grain ATM

New Delhi(KCN): Union Secretary Food & Public Distribution, Sanjeev Chopra said Bhubaneswar has received the benefit of Annapurta Grain ATM developed by World Food Program.

Mr.Chopra was speaking in the National Conference of Food Secretaries of all the States and union Territories here on 19 November.

Annapurta Grain ATM can dispense two commodities and takes about 90 seconds in dispensing 50 Kg of foodgrains. The solution reduces manual labour and automates the distribution of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Currently, 4 Annapurta solutions have been installed at Bhubaneswar Gurgaon, Dehradun, and Varanasi.

He said six more solutions are being installed at Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Shillong, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Bengaluru. All these units have been installed by WFP on pro bono basis.

The solution has immense benefits to casual work-

ers, migrant workers and industrial workers as they can avail their entitlements even after their working hours in an automated manner. These solutions can also be installed in industrial complexes itself where the workers can lift their entitlements at the place of work only. The solution can essentially work just like normal banking ATM.

The States and UTs have been requested to express their interests for piloting the solutions.

Shri Chopra said that Government of India is aiming to achieve full distribution of fortified rice in all government programmes by the year 2023-24. The ecosystem is fully geared up to achieve the target and States/UTs have been requested to strengthen their respective machinery in order to be fully prepared to ensure the procurement, supply and distribution of fortified rice as per the stipulated timeline. The FCI is conducting this initiative all over the country.

He appreciated the efforts taken by States in-

## Thank Padampur

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Thanks Padampur! This non-descript drought prone area, numbered 1 among the 147 assembly constituencies in Odisha, has given a clear message to the entire state and for the country also. Padampur in Bargarh district has shown what democracy actually means and how powerful are the people. Though this 'power of common man' was earlier talked about in the speeches and writings in newspaper articles, the people of Padampur have proved it in a proper manner at the right time ahead of the 2024 General Elections for the Lok Sabha and Odisha Legislative Assembly. Padampur is now famous for its unity and showing the world how the cunning politicians are forced to make sit-ups for votes, which in democracy is most valuable. The people of Padampur have also proved that they mean business and they can not to be purchased by any political party. The people have hit the politicians when the election came in shape of a by-poll following the untimely death of its sitting MLA Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha. The by-poll is scheduled to be held on December 5 and the last date for filing nomination papers was November 17. As Padampur by-poll is considered the last electoral battle among parties before the 2024 general elections, its outcome has much more

have made it clear that the agrarian issues must be solved before anyone goes to polls. The people have united and asked how they are going to benefit if the BJD or the BJP wins the by-poll?

The farmers in Padampur say that they have genuine demands. They have been demanding settlement of their crop insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and agricultural input subsidy for the loss of crop in the 2021 drought. Though the cultivators of Padampur face innumerable problems, they have picked up just two issues like immediate payment of crop insurance claims and drought input subsidy. "We have been staging the agitation demanding crop insurance claims since September 21 and now in mid-November, just before the by-poll, the Centre announces that the matter has been settled. We have no trust in the announcements. The farmers will call off the stir only after getting the money in their bank accounts. We are not begging, but demanding our insurance claims," said Ramesh Mohapatra, a farmer leader. Mr.Mohapatra said that they have paralysed the office of the Sub-Collector at Padampur for 20 days, blocked roads and rail several times to get justice. Neither the Central Government nor the State Government even heard them. The farmers



have realized that only they can help themselves and not the politicians of any party. Keeping in view the desperation of both BJD and BJP to win the by-poll in Padampur, the farmers, who are the deciding factor in the constituency, ensured that they will not run after leaders, but make politicians run after them. The leaders who were reluctant to have talks with them finally made a beeline to meet the farmers at their temporary tent near Padampur Sub-Collector's office. Union

Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Odisha's Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari and many other leaders and aspiring candidates met the farmers and all assured to resolve their issues. However, farmers did not trust them. The State Government led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik also announced Rs 200 crore input subsidy for the drought affected farmers of Odisha including those in Padampur assembly segment. Interestingly, the state government announces release of input subsidy amount for the drought of 2021 in November 2022, one full year after the calamity!

The crop insurance settlement which was pending for over a year was just cleared in 24 hours. Dharmendra Pradhan, who is considered as the face of BJP in Odisha took no time to move the Union Agriculture and farmers' Welfare Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar, and ensured that the crop insurance claims were settled. This is not all, Tomar himself took to social media and informed the farmers that their claims were settled. Thanks to the unity of the farmers and people the release of funds was ensured in 48 hours' time without hitting the streets. Similarly, the people of Padampur have also brought out words from the Chief Minister's mouth that their separate district formation demand will also be fulfilled before December 2023.

Some people may say that the developments taking place are nothing less than miracles. But the fact remains that it is people power which made the politicians, supposed to be servants of the masses, to bow down keeping in view the ensuing by-polls. Voters of Padampur deserve kudos for their unity and single-minded pursuit.

Winning the Padampur by-poll may be a political compulsion for the BJD or for that matter, the BJP. But, the people, mostly farmers of Padampur, have different priorities. Cutting across the party line, the Padampur voters comprising 82 per cent farmers,

significance both for the BJD and the opposition BJP and the Congress. Therefore, all the parties want to score over the rivals and win the seat in order to boost confidence of their ranks and files and also give a lasting impression that the people have trust on any particular party.

The by-poll in Dhamnagar has given a clear cut message that most powerful regional party, BJD, can also be trounced. Though BJD won in all the by-polls held in Odisha since 2009, it had to taste defeat at Dhamnagar. Naveen's candidate Abanti Das lost to BJP's greenhorn Suryabanshi Suraj. Though the BJD President said that Dhamnagar was BJP's seat and the saffron party retained it, the same theory had not applied in the Balasore Sadar by-poll results. Dhamnagar by-poll results also indicated that there was something wrong within the mighty BJD which led to its defeat.

In the backdrop of the defeat in Dhamnagar, the BJD cannot afford to lose the by-poll at Padampur. The seat was won by BJD's Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha by defeating BJP's Padip Purohit, a firebrand grassroots level leader of the region. If Naveen's theory of BJP winning Dhamnagar seat was due to popularity of late MLA Bishnu Sethi and base of BJP, then the BJD should certainly win in the Padampur seat. Therefore, Padampur by-poll is more crucial for BJD than for the BJP and any other political party.

## Grain ATM



During the Conference, a presentation was made indicating the present status of finalization of accounts, their pendency and way forward for accelerating the same. Secretary, DFPD, impressed upon that the process may be expedited and as many as possible States' accounts be settled before the next Financial Year. He also stressed for improvement of infrastructure in Mandis/ Procurement Centres in the States for the overall benefit of the farmers of the State.

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# Rowel Star- The new shining Star of the Rajasthan Music Industry

Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): The Rajasthan music industry is going leaps and bounds, celebrating the new singing star Afjor Khan aka Rowel Star. This new generation of Rajasthan singers is making headlines for his outstanding singing style and making the world shake legs with his unique Rajasthan songs.

Afjor Khan, popularly known as Rowel Star on Social Media, has created a sensation in the Rajasthan music world with his mesmerizing voice and affective tone. "I am an ardent fan of Guru Randhawa and take his inspiration for my songs. I want to create some unique mix of folk songs with blending hip-hop and wanted to give something new to the music world, says Rowel Star." He recently gave his voice to two new songs, "Tera Shoot" & "Nahiyo Jeena", making the Rajasthan cultures a step ahead in this ever-evolving music world. The shoot of these songs has recently been completed in Dubai and will be out very soon to rock the floors! About his upcoming projects, Rowel Star will be seen sharing the floors with re-

nowned Rajasthan Singer Sumsa Supari.



They together have shot the song recently in Dubai in various amazing locations. The song will be out soon and published on the YouTube channel Sumsa Supari Films.

Rowel Star's songs, Maro Sajaniyo, Bannasa ke Mijaj, and Jai Jasol Maa album are the most popular and trending, creating a sensation on his YouTube channel and blessing him with millions of views and subscribers.

Born and raised in a small village in the Panawara district of Barmer, Rajasthan, Afjor has been fascinated by the music culture since he was five. He was sent to his maternal house at Sindhari for schooling. During his school days, he sang songs and attracted many ears listening to his soulful voice. His teacher once gave him a chance to sing a song on Republic Day, which grabbed praise from the entire school.

It was the year 2007 when Afjor Khan won the hearts of millions for singing the famous Rajasthan song of those days, "Maharana Pratap", which rolled out tears from listeners' eyes. His soulful voice created a huge impact on people's minds. Afjor won the gift price of Rs.1500/- for his singing.

After the impressive response to his performance, there was no looking back for Afjor Khan, and his journey of becoming Rowel Star has kick-started!

# Neeraj Bharadwaj is shooting for web series 'Saazish' in Bhopal



Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): Film and TV veteran and famous actor Neeraj Bharadwaj is

About which Neeraj Bharadwaj says, "I am playing the role of city's famous lawyer Abhay Pratap

hatched and then what happens is still a secret. My role in this is different, I hope people will like it,



shooting for the web series 'Saazish' in Kalua Khurd, Bhopal, which will soon be airing on Disney Hotstar. It is produced by Col. S S Pattnaik and the director is Hiralal Khatri.

Singh, who gets the brother of villain Shahbaz Khan punished. After that Shahbaz Khan commits a lot of oppression on my family and me. I am not able to do anything. After that conspiracy is

and just like before, I will definitely be able to make a place in the heart of the audience with my performance." By the way, Neeraj Bharadwaj will soon have a webseries named

Madgaon ...A Murder Case. Its shooting has been completed.

The main cast of the web series 'Saazish' are Mugdha Godse, Shahbaz Khan, Raza Murad, Mustakh Khan and

Dev Manaria with Neeraj Bharadwaj. Its screenplay and dialogues are by Vinod Vats, Vikas Vashisht and Ajay. Its cameramen are Manish Vyas and Amar Vyas, music is by Manish Bhanushali. It is

produced by Col.S S Pattnaik, co-producer Dev Manaria and executive producer is Anu Madrasi. It will be coming soon on Disney Hotstar. Its shooting is going on in Bhopal followed by Vadodara.

## Treating unexplained investments as income U/S 69

As per section 69, where the taxpayer has made investments which are not recorded in books of account maintained by him for any source of income, and assessee offers no explanation about nature and source of the investments or the explanation offered by him is not satisfactory in opinion of the A.O., the value of the investments may be deemed to be the income of assessee of corresponding financial year. A.O. is now empowered u/s 142A to refer for valuation, the value of investment u/s 69. One needs to be very careful to properly explain the incomes u/s 68, 69, 69A, 69B, 69C, and 69D by discharging the onus to prima facie prove the identity, creditworthiness of the creditor and the genuineness of the transaction.

**1. Circumstances in which the A.O. may treat the value of investments as the income of assessee u/s 69:** Section 69 provides that A.O. may treat the value of the investments as the income of assessee in case explanation offered by the assessee is not found satisfactory by him. The Supreme Court in this regard held in case of CIT v. Smt. P.K. Noorjahan [1999] 237 ITR 570 (SC): 103 Taxman 382 (SC) that even if assessee's explanation regarding source of an investment is not found to be satisfactory, AO has discretion to treat or not to treat such investment as assessee's income. Similarly, the Andhra Pradesh High Court in the case of CIT v. Moghul Durbar [1995] 216 ITR 301 (AP) held that even if the explanation of the assessee is rejected, section 69 confers only a discretion to the A.O. to deal with the investments as income of the assessee, because the word used is 'may' and not 'shall' in the said section. Kerala High Court in CIT v. G. Anandarajan [1997] 228 ITR 664 (Ker.) held that if the books of account reveal sales and in regard thereto there is not material of a corresponding nature that the assessee could purchase the commodity for the

purpose of offering for sale, the situation becomes an invitation for the assessee to explain as to how and from what source he held the amount of the commodity with regard to its purchase before it was offered for sale. However, in the absence of an explanation the deeming provision of section 69 will apply. Kerala High Court in CIT v. M.A. Unnerikutty [1985] 154 ITR 844 (Ker.) held that the funds comprising the intangible additions made in earlier year would not help an assessee to presume that the said fund was always available to cover the unexplained income of the succeeding years. It is for the assessee to establish that he has not earned any secret profits during the relevant year and that the investment flowed from the intangible additions made in the preceding years. Kerala High Court in T.C.N. Menon v. ITO [1974] 96 ITR 148 (Ker.) held that it is clear from a read-ing of section 69 that before the amount of unexplained investment is included in the total income of an assessee, he is entitled to an opportunity to explain. Supreme Court had held in the case of Smt. Amiya Bala Paul v. CIT 262 ITR 407 (SC) :182 CTR (SC) 489 : 130 Taxman 511 (SC) that Assessing Officer cannot refer the matter to the Valuation Officer for estimating the cost of construction of the house property. (But the position is altered with introduction of section 142A. regarding estimate by Valuation Officer in certain cases) Similar view was expressed earlier in the case of CIT v. Hotel Joshi [2000] 108 Taxman 199 (Raj). that where the assessee maintaining regular books of accounts for the purpose of construction of assets claims the value of assets, it will not be open to the Assessing officer to make reference to the Valuation Officer unless he forms an opinion that having regard to the nature of the asset and other relevant circumstances, it is necessary to do so. The power u/s 55A cannot be exercised in a routine manner. Earlier it was held by Jodhpur Bench of the ITAT in the case of Suwalal Giriraj Ajmera (HUF) v. ITO [2002] 125 Taxman 218

## Kantara - Magnificence of a Folklore retold

Did Kantara the Rishab Shetty blockbuster take you into a rare multiplex marvel giving you a mysterious jolt? I have no words to address the unsophisticated beauty of the village life that the movie takes us through. Its religious intellectualism woven in the innocence of a bunch of forest dwelling people took me back to my childhood. I witnessed it in the movie and was reminded of the impulses of spiritual powers that the non-Brahmin priest used to be obsessed with in a particular annual ritual at our local temple. The main attraction in the annual festival of the temple used to have a huge gathering determinately assembled to witness the morning padayani that went on for hours until the non-Brahmin priest, usually representing a scheduled caste community, breaking hundreds of coconuts and howling in all four directions with unclear sounds, normally known as his symbolic communion with the divine power. Throughout his spiritual exercise the Oorali as he is called in Malayalam appears to be possessed by some supernatural powers and capable to predict matters that affect the temple and the village. Sometimes his prediction on theft inside the temple premises or anything of that kind used to get sorted out in public. His revelations were taken with rapturous attention and attracted reverence of the upper caste Hindus and all devotees of the local deity without any speck of doubt. Kerala's socio-spiritual life is interconnected with various forms of rituals mostly dedicated to a pantheon of deities. A childhood without experiencing such rituals was rare in the society and the emotion that a child grows up with, would certainly contribute to his impulses further and I, for all good reasons, have a non-judgemental view on Kantara, the movie that successfully took me through the domain of my childhood insistently taking

my beliefs into a simmering point. I would rather call my movie experience a solid spiritual journey through the innocence and milder mannerisms of a village folk which came ready to revolt a system that provoked their spiritual intentions and at a point of realisation rediscover the real fantasy of spiritual incorruptibility by breaking barriers of the deceitful supremacy of a feudal mindset. My village is known to have been protected by four divine guards in four directions. They are symbolically represented by four shivlings in the four corners of the village. And the temple situated at the centre of the village is known to have been under the guardianship of these local deities and the belief system would resist you to be critical on anything that comes as part of the annual rituals. Obviously, the pattern of rituals and the build up for the festivities may change from north to south of the state. Inevitably the essential meaning such rituals and celebrations come up with is basically the same and stand in unison with the protection of nature. Sarpa Kavu or the abode of snakes or in common language, the sacred groves that the Kerala society protected in every village was considered as a pictogram of spiritual purity and ritualistic plurality symbolically maintaining the concept of amicable coexistence, a bridge that connected the essential spiritual oneness between men and nature. The rituals they performed were to please the divine forces which they recognised and believed would protect the entire village. Interestingly, all such divine elements are named in the lingua franca and their appearance and ritualistic expressions vary from place to place in different parts of Kerala. Kantara's cinematic experience is an antique piece of visual luxury which is capable to

(Jodh)(Mag.) that where the assessee failed to produce details of the construction expenses the AO was justified in making a reference to the valuation cell for determination of the cost of construction of the house and in making addition on the basis of the valuation report. **2. At what rate deemed income under sec. 68, 69, 69A, 69B, 69C and 69D will be taxed:** The Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2016 has amended section 115BBE w.e.f. asst. year 2017-18, prescribing higher rate of 60% as tax and on that 25% Surcharge. The tax is payable u/s 115BBE in respect of income deemed u/s 68, 69, 69A, 69B, 69C, and 69D. In case the assessee himself does not declare in his return the said incomes under those sections and the A.O. makes the addition, then A.O. may also impose a penalty u/s 271AAC of 10% of income tax payable u/s 115BBE. The tax u/s 115BBE(1) on deemed income u/s 68, 69, 69A, 69B, 69C, and 69D was 30 per cent from asst. year 2013-14 to asst. year 2016-17. It was irrespective of the total income of the assessee. As per section 115BBE(2), notwithstanding anything contained in the Income Tax Act, no deduction in respect of any expenditure or allowance or w.e.f. asst. year 2017-18, set off of any loss shall be allowed to the assessee under any provision of the Income Tax Act in computing his income referred to in section 115BBE(1)(a). The income other than the income referred in section 115BBE(1)(a) included in the income of the assessee shall be taxed at normal rates. **3. Burden of proof - whether on the Department to prove the existence of unexplained investment:** Allahabad High Court in the case of CIT v. Daya Chand Jain Vaidya [1975] 98 ITR 280 (All.) has held that merely because the assessee's explanation regarding certain investments made by his wife and sons is not acceptable, the revenue cannot treat the investments as the undisclosed income of the assessee. The revenue should bring on record material from

which it could be concluded that the investments were in fact made by the assessee. If this was not done, no amount could be added as the undisclosed income of the assessee. **4. In course of search some notings were found indicating that the property purchased by the assessee might have been purchased at a price higher than the price disclosed by the assessee. Can A.O. make an addition on the basis of such notings:** Notings found during the course of search are only indicative but are not a conclusive evidence of the purchase price. In such a case the AO should conduct suitable enquiries and should make addition on the basis of findings of enquiries conducted by him. Addition made merely on the basis of notings found in the course of search without proper enquiry cannot be sustained. Some judicial pronouncements:

In CIT v. P.V. Kalyanasundaram [2006] 282 ITR 259 (Mad.) assessee had purchased land on Oct. 26 1988 registered for Rs. 4.10 Lakh from one R. during the course of search some notings had been found indicating a higher consideration. In a sworn statement Mr. R on 8th Dec. 1998 and on 11th Dec. 1998 admitted that he received Rs 34.85 lakhs. Subsequently in an affidavit on 8th Jan. 1999 he mentioned the sale consideration at Rs. 4.10 lakhs. The CIT noted that due to conflicting nature of statements given by sellers, his statement could not be relied upon and deleted the said addition. Tribunal confirmed the findings of the CIT(A). On appeal Madras High Court held that the burden of proving actual consideration in such a transaction was that of the Revenue. The AO did not conduct any independent enquiry relating to the value of the property purchased. He merely relied on the statement given by the seller. As such the deletion of the addition was justified. The above view has been affirmed by Supreme Court in P.V. Kalyanasundaram [2007] 294 ITR 49 (SC). (Contd.)

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**Narayan Jain**

**M. R. LALU**

press the viewer to his seat and with the surprise of his acting marvel Rishab Shetty, the all in one architect of the movie serves us a buffet of genuine acting in the platter of the socio-spiritual echo system of a society. A genuine research on the impact of the spiritual art form Kola in the life of a small bunch of people in their benign social setting is meticulously presented in the movie and the spiritual inclination that it is capable to ultimately create in the viewer's perception comes in the last ten minutes when the protagonist is taken over by a divine possession. A bone chilling experience of artistic eloquence does not allow the viewer to leave the theatre without goose bumps of surprise and shock and there lies the earth shattering climax of the movie. The spiritual art form Kola which is the central theme of the movie is a Karnataka version of the Theyyam of Kerala. The Malabar region of the state is blessed with this Hindu ritualistic experience every year especially in the districts of Kannur, Kozhikode and Kasaragod. Theyyam is performed by communities from the scheduled castes and tribes like Paravan, Pulayar, Malayan, Velan and scores of other communities. Most of the

villages are known to be protected by a grama devata or a village deity and the theyyam or kolam performed every year is a dedication to Bhagavathy, the divinity in guard of the village. This must also be seen as spiritual art forms originated long before the advent of semitic religions in India and they essentially pass and take us through the reverence that each society in this region held for the feminine form of divinity. Though Bhagavati, the female deity, is prominent in the theyyam art form, there are also many deities like Vettakkorumakan, Kathivanoor Veeran, Sree Muthappan and many others representing the male pantheon of gods. The Gulika Daiva played by Rishab Shetty in Kantara is the Gulikan in theyyam. The deity is believed to have come from the toes of Lord Shiva and was blessed with his divine powers. The Gulikan is also known to be the God of death. This theyyam is performed post midnight in the sacred groves of Malabar by the Malaya community. The local folklore tells that Gulikan will be a secret companion or a divine presence throughout a person's life witnessing all his karmas from his birth to death. Every single aspect of the village festival has a bearing on the societal wellbeing of the people. Depiction of divinity through these art forms stimulates the collective spiritual progress of the society and leads its people to take strides in their personal pursuits for spiritual wellbeing. Kantara as a movie, has not only succeeded in helping the viewer touch the realm of magical realism but also a well knit phantasmagoria of village life, fantasy, innocence, romance, spiritual power and also had established a deeper connection between the theme and the viewer's spiritual cognizance.

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## 5 killed, 18 wounded in Colorado LGBTQ nightclub shooting: Police

WASHINGTON: At least five people were killed and 18 wounded, police said Sunday, in a mass shooting at an LGBTQ nightclub in the US city of Colorado Springs. "It's with a heavy heart I have to tell you that we had a shooting at a local club this evening," said police spokesperson Pamela Castro. "We have 18 injured and five deceased. That number is subject to change as the investigation continues," she said. Castro said police received an emergency call just before midnight on Saturday (0657 GMT Sunday) saying that there was an active shooting at a local club known as Club Q. She said medical teams and officers responded and "they did locate one individual who we believe to be the suspect inside." Club Q responded by saying it "is devastated by the senseless attack on our community." "We thank the quick reactions of our heroic customers that subdued the gunman and ended this hate attack," it posted on Facebook Sunday.

The club had posted earlier on Saturday about an LGBTQ event starting at 8 pm.

"We're celebrating Transgender Day of Remembrance with a variety of gender identities and performance styles," the post read. The Colorado Springs Police Department said there would be an 8:00 am news conference on the shooting.

The US Gun Violence Archive defines a mass shooting as a single incident in which at least four people are wounded or killed. On June 12, 2016, a gunman opened fire inside the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people and wounding more than 50 in what was then the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.

US President Joe Biden marked the fifth anniversary of the Orlando shooting last year, taking the rare step of saying he would designate the club as a national memorial.

## Kathua rape-murder victim's family awaits trial of accused Shubam Sangra in Pathankot

NEW DELHI: Seeking justice for over four years, the family of the eight-year-old Kathua rape-murder victim is eagerly waiting for the start of the trial against Shubam Sangra, who will be treated as an adult following a Supreme Court order.

The lawyer for the victim's family, Mubeen Farooqi, told PTI from Malerkotla in Punjab that the trial should take place in Punjab as was done for the other accused and not anywhere else.

If needed, they will approach the Supreme

Besides ordering daily in-camera hearings, the bench, which also comprised Justice D Y Chandrachud, who is now the Chief Justice of India, and Justice Indu Malhotra, had made it clear that "as this court (Supreme Court) is monitoring the matter, no court shall entertain any petition pertaining to the case".

"Though the apex court in 2018 gave all protection to Sangra, who was treated as a juvenile at that time, things have changed after Wednesday's order. Hence, the trial should start at Pathankot only," Farooqi said.



Court again to get clarity on this issue, he said. "We can't have two appellate courts for the same case," the lawyer said.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held Sangra, a key accused in the sensational gangrape and murder of the girl from a nomadic community in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir in 2018, was not a minor at the time of the offence and ordered his trial as an adult. The top court also observed that a casual or cavalier approach by courts in such cases cannot be permitted.

A bench of justices Ajay Rastogi and J B Pardiwala said though there was a "clear and unambiguous case in favour of the accused person's juvenility on the basis of his birth certificate and school records, he cannot take shelter under such documents when a heinous crime has been committed".

It also chastised the CJM and the high court over their "casual and cavalier" approach while deciding the accused was a juvenile when the crime was committed.

The minor girl was kidnapped on January 10, 2018 and was raped in captivity in a small village temple after being kept sedated for four days.

She was later bludgeoned to death.

Farooqi cited the 2018 order of the Supreme Court under which the trial of the case was transferred to Pathankot in Punjab and a day-to-day hearing was ordered after some lawyers in Kathua had prevented the Crime Branch officials from filing a charge sheet. "Now this is clear that the trial of the case has to be held in Pathankot only and if need be, we will approach the Supreme Court again to get clarity on this issue," he said.

The three-member bench of the Supreme Court headed by the then chief justice Dipak Misra had ordered shifting of the trial from Kathua and also made it clear that the District and Sessions Judge of Pathankot shall himself take up the trial and not assign it to any additional judge.

Mohammed Yusuf, who had adopted the girl, was also hopeful that the trial in the case would begin as soon as possible.

The special court had on June 10, 2019 sentenced three men to life imprisonment till their last breath for the ghastly crime that shook the nation.

Sanji Ram, the mastermind and caretaker of the 'devasthanam' (temple), where the crime took place in January 2018; Deepak Khajuria, a Special Police Officer, and Parvesh Kumar, a civilian - the three main accused - were spared the death penalty, a punishment sought by the prosecution during the year-long in-camera trial.

The three were convicted under Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) sections relating to criminal conspiracy, murder, kidnapping, gang rape, destruction of evidence, drugging the victim and common intention.

The other three accused - Sub Inspector Anand Dutta, Head Constable Tilak Raj and special police officer Surrender Verma - were convicted for the destruction of evidence to cover up the crime and handed down five years in jail and Rs 50,000 fine each. All three are out on parole now.

The trial court had acquitted the seventh accused Vishal Jangotra, son of Sanji Ram, giving him the benefit of doubt.

The trial of Sangra is expected to cast a shadow on Jangotra's discharge.

"There is a statement of Sangra pointing at his involvement and we are sure that the court will treat that statement as extracted from an adult and revisit the case," a senior official associated with the case said.

Sangra is at present lodged in a juvenile home in Kathua under the custody of a Chief Judicial Magistrate. The crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir police will be serving the order of the Supreme Court soon after which the accused is likely to be shifted to normal jail in Jammu before a decision on where to conduct the trial is taken.

## Top Iran football coach among 8 summoned for comment on Mahsa Amini's death protest

TEHRAN: The coach of one of Iran's best-known football teams is among eight celebrities and politicians interrogated for their comments about protests which have shaken the country, the judiciary says.

Yahya Golmohammadi, coach of Persepolis FC, was questioned along with two former

reformist members of parliament, Mahmoud Sadeghi and Parvaneh Salahshouri, about "the publication of non-documented or offensive content," the judiciary's Mizan Online website said. Golmohammadi has strongly criticised players of Iran's national team for not

"bringing the voice of oppressed people to the ears of the authorities." The comment came after Iran's national team last week met President Ebrahim Raisi ahead of their appearance in the World Cup which begins Sunday in Qatar.

The Islamic Republic has been rocked by protests since the September 16 death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian of Kurdish origin, after her arrest for an alleged breach of Iran's dress rules for women. Thousands of people have been arrested after what officials call "riots" which they allege have been fomented by foreign enemies. The two ex-MPs have used Twitter to support the protests and have denounced authorities' use of force against demonstrators.

At least 92 killed in Iran's Mahsa Amini protests: Human rights group According to Mizan, five actresses including Mitra Hajjar and Baran Kosari were also summoned, for publication of "provocative

content." "Following comments are written without proof on the recent events, as well as the publication of provocative material in support of these riots by political personalities and celebrities," the eight individuals were called in on Saturday by Tehran's public prosecutor, Mizan Online said.



On Sunday the Instagram accounts of Golmohammadi and Kosari were no longer available online.

Prominent Iranian ex-footballers have voiced support for the protesters, and national team players have faced calls from activists to use the World Cup to show solidarity with demonstrators who have been killed.

Fans urged to chant Mahsa Amini's name at Iran World Cup games

In a friendly against Nicaragua earlier this month, just two players sang the national anthem. The rest stood in silence.

Figures from Iran's film industry have also spoken out for the protesters.

Late Saturday Iranian director Emad Aalebrahim Dehkordi won the Etoile d'Or top award at the Marrakech International Film Festival for his debut feature "A Tale of Shemroon".

He dedicated his prize to "all the women of Iran".

## Activists fear major Iran crackdown in Kurdish-populated town

PARIS: Activists on Sunday expressed alarm that Iran was implementing a major crackdown in a Kurdish-populated town that has seen intense anti-regime protests in the last few days.

Reinforcements of the security forces were sent to the city of Mahabad in western Iran, rights groups said, while images and audio files of heavy gunfire and screams were posted overnight.

Iran's clerical leadership has been shaken by more than two months of protests sparked by the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman of Kurdish origin who had been arrested by the Tehran morality police. The very first protests took place in Kurdish-populated areas of Iran including



at Amini's funeral in her home town of Saqez, before spreading nationwide.

Rights groups had earlier posted footage of defiant protests in Mahabad, including after the funerals of victims of the state's crackdown on the protests, with people staging sit-ins in the streets and setting up barricades. The Norway-based Hengaw rights group said "armed troops" had been despatched to Mahabad from Urmia, the main city of West Azerbaijan province. "In Mahabad's residential areas, there is a lot of gunfire," it wrote on Twitter. The group posted footage of helicopters flying over Mahabad which it said carried members of the Revolutionary Guards sent to quell the protests. Business owners throughout the area were going to observe a strike on Sunday to protest against the violence by the security forces, it said.

Critical situation The Iran Human Rights (IHR) group, also Norway-based, posted footage overnight Saturday-Sunday that it said showed gunfire echoing around the city. Its director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam wrote that authorities "cut electricity and machine gun shooting is heard... Unconfirmed reports of protesters being killed or wounded."

He posted an audio file in which screams are clearly heard amid continuous gunfire.

Kurds makeup one of Iran's most important non-

Persian ethnic minority groups and generally adhere to Sunni Islam rather than the Shiism dominant in Iran. Protests swell on anniversary of lethal 2019 crackdown Iran's Tasnim news agency accused "rioters" of "spreading terror" in the town by setting fire to houses belonging to security and military personnel and blocking streets. It claimed most of the perpetrators had been arrested, with nobody killed, saying security had returned and denied the reports of a general strike. Mahabad has particular resonance for Kurds as the main town of the short-lived Republic of Mahabad, an unrecognised Kurdish statelet which sprung up with Soviet support in 1946 in the aftermath of World War II but existed for less than a year before Iran reasserted control.

Hengaw had on Saturday warned the situation was "critical" in the town of Divandarreh in the western province of Kurdistan, where government forces had shot dead at least three civilians.

It also expressed concern on Sunday about the situation in other Kurdish-populated towns with explosions heard in Bukan and Saqez, as well as gunfire in Bukan.

Biggest challenge

Hengaw also posted footage it said was from the town of Sanandaj, also in the region, which it said showed a woman being fired upon in a river bed by security forces as she tried to escape.

With the protests cutting across social classes and ethnicities in Iran, the movement represents the biggest challenge to the country's clerical leadership under Ayatollah Ali Khamenei since the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

The state has responded with a crackdown that IHR said in an updated toll Saturday had left at least 378 people dead, among them 47 children.

Iran protesters set fire to ex-supreme leader Khomeini's ancestral home

Protesters have been killed in 25 of Iran's 31 provinces, including 123 in eastern Sistan-Baluchistan where the protests had a distinct origin but have fed into the nationwide anger, it said.

Authorities have also issued death sentences to five unnamed people over the protests, with Amnesty International saying at least 21 people so far have been charged with crimes over the demonstrations that could see them sentenced to death.

Khamenei on Saturday vowed "punishment" for "murders" and vandalism during the protests across the country. He was quoted by state television as saying foreign powers "were trying to get people out on the streets" and "exhaust the authorities", but said they had failed.

# BOOST Model for Ports

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government has decided to adopt the Build, Own, Operate, Share and Transfer (BOOST) model for the development of non-major ports in the State. Under the new Odisha Port Policy, 2022, the non-major ports (both existing and upcoming) will be offered for commercial development through private sector participa-

initially invited for selecting suitable promoters on a competitive basis and will be selected as per technical and financial evaluation. A Special Purpose Company (the Port Company) will be formed to implement and operate the non-major port. The port company can include the anchor user industries/projects as its stakeholders. However, aggregate investments of anchor industries/projects should be at least Rs.2,000crores over a period of five years, as per the Policy.

The lands for the port backup area will be procured by the port company and by its nominated agencies on behalf of the Commerce and Transport (Commerce) Department. The Department would then lease the land to the port company as per the existing land policy guidelines.

The entire project will be on the principle of Build, Own, Operate, Share and Transfer (BOOST), which will be initially remained for 30 years, after considering a maximum of 4 years of the construction period, with a provision of extension for two additional

periods of 10 years each based on the merit of the application, to a maximum cumulative total of 50 years. The BOOST period for more than 30 years could be considered for projects which entail sizable capital investment on account of site-specific marine conditions and backup infrastructure such as road, and rail linkages and which are either part of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) / Petroleum, Chemicals and Petro-chemicals Investment Regions (PCPIRs) and or included as anchor entities of such SEZs and PCPIRs developed as per the Acts /Rules of Government of India and Government of Odisha. The company responsible for developing and running the port will fix the port tariff for all the services till a regulatory body is set up for this purpose. Apart from handling cargo, the port can also construct and provide facilities for passenger water transport and leisure cum water sports activities. In such cases, the Odisha Maritime Board will fix tariffs and recover dues as applicable. A Logistics Cell will be established at Odisha Maritime Board (OMB) to augment the logistics infrastructure in the State.

Railway linkage projects for Greenfield ports will be structured on a joint venture or non-government railway model, or any new amendments or policies replacing the existing Policy issued by the Ministry of Railways. The presence of a number of rivers represents the State's immense potential for transporting cargo to its hinterlands through the inland waterways. Integrating the waterways with the Greenfield ports through inland waterways will be instrumental in improving the evacuation infrastructure of Greenfield ports in Odisha. Therefore, the OMB and the State Government will encourage the development of inland waterways and their integration with ports in the State. The OMB would identify and prioritise inland waterway routes based on social and environmental impact assessment and commercial attractiveness.



tion. BishnupadaSethi, Principal Secretary Commerce & Transport has been instrumental in conceptualizing the new Policy, while talking to all stakeholders in the Port and Logistic Sector, officials say. For the selection of promoters for the ports identified for commercial developments, bids would be

## Shock and awe: Elephants in the killing fields of Odisha

Bhubaneswar (KCN): In October 2018, a big herd of elephants walked past Kamalanga village in Dhenkanal. Some members of the group came in contact with a high-voltage live wire. Social and sentient as they are, other elephants of the herd tried to help those in distress only to pay with their lives. That was the biggest elephant electrocution tragedy in the state - seven elephants perished in one go.

Four years hence, very little seems to have changed on the ground. Odisha government may have been pumping in crores of rupees to give safe passage to wild elephants but power lines are one of the biggest unnatural killers of the gentle giants.

Information furnished by the Forest and Environment department before the State Assembly would show that between 2011-12 and 2021-22, about 935 elephants died in Odisha. A whopping 135 of those casualties were caused by electrocution alone. Only Assam rivals the state in the sheer volume of elephant electrocution deaths.

Changing crop patterns, habitat loss, displacement by mining and infrastructure projects, climate change and growing intolerance of communities living close to elephant-occurring forests have wreaked havoc. Experts also point at a curious fact - increasing elephant movements outside the forest areas are drawing these long rangers to their death. Data reveals that the percentage of electrocution cases against overall elephant deaths, shockingly, has been on the rise in the State. From an average of 10 to 15 per cent, it has jumped to nearly 25 per cent in the current year. Statistics suggest elephant deaths caused by electrocution are constantly on the rise since 2019-20. From seven in 2019-20, it grew to eight in 2020-21 and 13 in 2021-22. In 2022-23 alone, the death toll due to electrocution has touched an alarming 14, surpassing figures of the previous three years.

At least seven elephants fell to electrocution - either accidental or deliberate - in the state since October first week. Half of the 14 elephant electrocution deaths this financial year were reported from Athamallik, Bamra, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Khurda, Satkosia and Ghumusar South wildlife division and occurred in one month and a half.

Eight years back, alarmed by the deaths, the state government created a new scheme that aimed at creating power systems that provide elephants a safe passage and protect them from accidental deaths. The government every year spends crores of rupees for ground clearance of the electrical transmission networks, insulated cabling and other rectification works to protect the pachyderms.

Data accessed by The New Indian Express show that the Energy Department has allocated around Rs 520 crore to the distribution companies under the 'System Strengthening for Elephant Corridor and Movement Areas' scheme in since 2013-14.

Last year, the department provided around another 445 crores to increase the ground clearance of electrical networks and replace bare conductors in elephant corridors and their movement areas.

All this funding notwithstanding, the work progress has remained slow. Out of the 3,814 km of transmission lines identified in vulnerable stretches of elephant movement areas, cabling has been completed over less than 2,500 km.

Similarly, of 13,606 points identified for rectification of sagging points, tilted poles and fixing of spikes and interposing poles, work has been completed in a little over 3,500 points. Forest officials point out the number of pending works could be even more if one looks into details of the progress of energy infrastructure strengthening at the divisional level.

In Keonjhar, for instance, sources said, 476 km of cabling is yet to be done for 11 KV and 33 KV networks. This district, a hub of mining activities, remains a graveyard for the jumbos. The electricity infrastructure hazard analysis of the Keonjhar territorial division, home to a large number of elephants, reveals sagging needs to be reduced at 1,850 interposing poles and fencing is required for around 646 transformers on a priority basis. Besides, spiking needs to be carried out in 3,430 electricity poles in

elephant movement areas of the division.

During a coordination meeting of the forest, energy departments and discom officials in May, officials of the Keonjhar division expressed strong disappointment over poor rectification work. "There was no progress in the cabling of lines and fencing of open transformers. Besides, the tripping data was also 'not being shared' by the energy officials despite a number of review meetings under the chairmanship of the collector," said an insider.

The discoms - owned by Tata Power - have their own sorry tales. Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPNODL) officials, on conditions of anonymity, attributed the delay to pending court cases, cost escalation of materials and delay in the finalisation of the tender process. Similarly, TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited (TPWODL) officials point out that getting the right contractor for proper implementation of the project is a big worry. While discom officials say accidental electrocution has reduced compared to deliberate electrocution carried out by poachers in recent years, wildlife experts say coordination of the energy department, distribution companies and local administration is a must for the forest department to prevent electrocution even if it is deliberate.

In the last five years, at least 26 elephants have fallen to accidental electrocution which refers to the big animals coming in contact with power lines. Another 40 walked into live wire traps set up by villagers - either to prevent crop-raiding animals or for bush meat hunting. Either way, elephants have paid for their lives.

"Without initiatives of district administrations, discoms, as well as police, deliberate electrocution, cannot be contained," says honorary wildlife warden for Angul Aditya Chandra Panda who points out that deliberate electrocution for poaching has reached a very disturbing proportion.

"Though it is primarily intended for bush meat hunting, it caused a significant number of wildlife casualties including the death of elephants and leopards. The forest department and provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act are still not equipped to contain it fully. This needs to be addressed at the earliest," Panda said. Electrocution death of wild animals must be treated as a law and order issue instead of a mere wildlife crime, he says.

The Forest department maintains that joint forest patrolling involving linemen and other field staff of discoms has been increased to minimise electrocution incidents. The drive was launched in wildlife and territorial divisions where elephants are vulnerable to electrocution deaths. A list of villages where poaching by deliberate hooking of electric transmission lines has been provided to the energy department to take effective measures to avoid deliberate electrocution said.

RCCF Angul and Satkosia field director M Yogajayanand said forest divisions in the circle marked ranges and beats into different vulnerable zones. "Joint patrolling by forest and electrical staff is carried out twice a day in these zones that have been found to be more vulnerable," he said.

Keonjhar DFO Dhamdhare Dhanraj Hanumant said the joint patrolling is held every day, while during the inspection, the teams maintain a record of details of vulnerable electrical infrastructure, where power lines are dangling or transformers don't have barricades and there is the possibility of hooking etc.

While PCCF Wildlife SK Popli was not available for comments, a senior official from Wildlife Wing reiterated that increased coordination between the energy department and discoms can prevent decelerate electrocution of wild animals.

Apart from sending staff for joint patrolling and inspection of vulnerable pockets, the energy department must bookcases against persons arrested in electrocution cases under Electricity Act. "We have already requested the department as well as discoms to initiate measures in this regard," he said. Energy secretary Nikunja Bihari Dhal couldn't be reached for his comment in this matter.

## Odisha CM to lead BJD

### campaign in Padampur bypoll

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will lead 40-star campaigners of BJD for the Padampur by-election scheduled to be held on December 5. State BJP president Samir Mohanty who had successfully guided the party to an emphatic victory in the just concluded Dhamnagar bypoll will again take the leadership role for Padampur from the saffron party. In the case of Congress, AICC in-charge of Odisha A Chella Kumar will steer the campaign machinery of the party and will be assisted by AICC co-in-charge G Rudra Raju among others. As electioneering is hotting up in Padampur, which is set for a three-cornered contest between the BJD, BJP and Congress, the three parties on Saturday released the list of 40-star campaigners each.

Similarly, Congress MLA from Barabati-Cuttack Mohammed Moquim has been dropped from the star campaigners list ever since he crossed the party line and voted for Droupadi Murmu during the presidential election. Apart from the chief minister, nine ministers and senior BJD leaders including Pranab Prakash Das, Prasanna Acharya and Debi Prasad Mishra are among others on the list of star campaigners.

BJP's list has key leaders including Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Arjun Munda, Bisheswar Tudu, leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra, national general secretaries Sunil Bansal, D Purandeswari, Vijaypal Singh Tomar and Baijyanta Panda. The newly-elected BJD MLA from Dhamnagar Suryabanshi Suraj, also on the list, has already started campaigning for party candidate Pradip Purohit.



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# Indian-American Punit Renjen announces retirement as Deloitte CEO

Washington: Indian-American Punit Renjen on Friday announced that he would retire as Deloitte Global CEO on December 31 and would be replaced by Joe Ucuzoglu.

"It has truly been an honour and privilege to lead Deloitte over the past several years," said Renjen. As Deloitte Global CEO since 2015, Renjen developed and executed a global strategy that resulted in Deloitte revenue growing from USD35 billion to more than USD59 billion in just seven

years. "More important than any commercial outcome, I am proud



of the incredible societal impact we have been able to make as a purpose-driven enterprise.

And I am looking forward to some exciting endeavours, including dedicating

time to several societal causes about which I am deeply passionate, including sustainability and

climate," Renjen said.

Under Renjen's leadership, Deloitte

people for a world of opportunity based on the belief that when society thrives, business thrives.

Renjen also spearheaded Deloitte's World Climate initiative, which includes near-term (2030) greenhouse gas reduction goals, which have been validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) as 1.5C-

aligned, science-based targets.

"The Deloitte Global Board and I want to thank Punit for leading Deloitte to extraordinary growth and meaningful societal impact, and for his decades of commitment to the organisation," said Sharon Thorne, Deloitte Global Board Chair. Speaking of his successor, Renjen

said, "Joe is an

exceptional leader. We have worked together side by side for many years, and I believe he is an excellent choice to serve as the next Deloitte Global CEO. He has been a member of the Deloitte Global Executive team for the last several years, and I am confident that, under his leadership, Deloitte will continue to deliver outstanding

results for our people, clients, and the communities in which we live and work."

Ucuzoglu said he believes deeply in Deloitte's responsibility to lead through the unprecedented pace of change the world is experiencing, and to meet the rapidly expanding needs of our stakeholders. I want to thank Punit for his excellent leadership of Deloitte," he said.

## ONGC to reverse oil, gas output decline; sees 18% jump in production in FY25

NEW DELHI: India's largest oil and gas producer ONGC will this year reverse years of decline in production and gradually raise output thereafter as it invests billions of dollars to produce from newer discoveries, the company's management told investors in a call. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in the fiscal year 2021-22 produced 21.707 million tonnes of crude oil, which is refined to produce petroleum products like petrol and diesel, and 21.68 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas, which is used to produce electricity, manufacture fertilizer and as CNG in automobiles. In the current fiscal year (2022-23), crude oil production is slated to rise to 22.823 million tonnes and gas to 22.099 bcm. In the following fiscal year, oil production will climb to 24.636 million tonnes and to 25.689 million tonnes in 2024-25, the management told investors in a call post-announcement of second-quarter earnings last week. Natural gas production is slated to rise to 25.685 bcm in 2023-24 and to 27.529 bcm in the following year. "We have reversed the declining trend," ONGC Director (Finance) Pomila Jaspal said. ONGC, which contributes around 71 per cent to India's domestic production, has reported a gradual decline in output for over a decade now primarily because its fields are old and ageing. The government has considered giving away ONGC's biggest oil and gas fields to private and foreign companies in an attempt to boost output but this has faced internal resistance. ONGC is now investing Rs 59,000 crore in 20 major projects, including in bringing to producing oil and gas reserves found in deepsea KG block KG-DWN-98/2 (KG-D5) and the fourth phase redevelopment of mainstay Mumbai High fields. While investment in KG-D5 will bring additional

output, spending on the redevelopment of currently producing Mumbai High and other fields would help arrest the natural decline that has been set in the ageing fields.

Officials assisting Jaspal at the investor call stated that the company will hook up a floating production system (FPSO) and subsea facilities during the fair weather window starting in January.

The first oil from KG-D5 is expected in May 2023 and a peak output of 45,000 barrels per day of gas (2.25 million tonnes annually) and about 12 million standard cubic meters per day of gas will be in 2024-25.

The block is likely to yield 1.935 million tonnes of oil and 2.784 bcm of gas in 2023-24.

Jaspal said ONGC will continue to invest around Rs 30,000 crore per year on capital expenditure aimed at arresting the decline in output and subsequently increasing it.

"Our capital expenditure has been in the range of Rs 30,000 crore (per year), which we have been maintaining," she said.

The firm has a little less than 600 hydrocarbon discoveries.

Most of them were either in production or action had been initiated to monetise them.

The roadmap for increasing output addresses monetisation plans of all the discoveries of ONGC, barring about 42 finds which are isolated/far from existing infrastructure, or have very low volumes or are located in difficult areas.

## BJP Is trying to Destabilizing Soren Government in Jharkhand: TNPRF Leader V S Nayak

Continued from page-1

have been made on the forehead of Hemant Soren. The people of Bharatiya Janata Party are plotting to defame the Hemant Soren government by adopting (all blame Nandu Ghosh's policy) to which Dalit tribal community will give a befitting reply in the coming days, otherwise ED will open its scope of investigation. Increase before 2019 otherwise against ED also now in Jharkhand will be widely performed. Today, ED is working towards saving the head of the previous Bharatiya Janata Party government, Mr. Raghubar Das, and is playing a game of discrediting an elected democratic government, which the people of Jharkhand, especially the Dalit tribal community, will not allow this game to succeed in Jharkhand and its There will be stiff resistance. Mr. Nayak further said that why the scope of ED's investigation is revolving around Hemant Soren, why not why the previous Raghuvhar government before December 2019 is also not being taken under the scanner. It is a very thoughtful question and the people of Jharkhand want to know that the charge sheet. In 2019, the ED itself did the work of confessing that before December 2019, 233 tracks were illegally excavated from the railway siding and sent out of Sahibganj, even after that only 18 tracks were sent out of the railway siding to make a big issue of Hemant Sarkar's tenure. The people of Jharkhand are working to understand this working. He said in clear words that ED is conspiring to defame Hemant Soren's government by being inspired by malicious intent and at the behest of the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the center, it is a very condemnable matter and the people of Jharkhand should tell ED that After all, why is Raghuvhar doing the work of saving the government. In the case in which Raghuvhar Das had given a clean chit to Pooja Singhal, today Pooja Singhal is in jail in the same case.

Mr. Nayak also said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has done the work of playing the game of corruption.

It has been involved and now it is crossing the limits only for 18 rack sidings, such a conspiracy is creating such an atmosphere that all the illegal mining and loot that has happened in Jharkhand has happened under the leadership of Hemant Sarkar only. Illegal mining was done widely in Sahibganj under the leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party and it is trying to blame all its sins on the forehead of Hemant Soren. Which now the Dalit tribal natives of Jharkhand will not tolerate.

# War brought new challenges to global economy, says RBI governor

Hyderabad(KCN): The war in Europe brought with it new challenges, just when the economy was about to normalise fully despite the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and suddenly, the world encountered a severe food and energy crisis, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Saturday.

Delivering the inaugural address at the annual research conference of the Department of Economic and Policy Research of RBI here, Das said the COVID-19 pandemic crisis created an opportunity to explore and harness the power of big data and strengthen direct feedback mechanisms while working from home.

He further said the pandemic also posed new research issues and analytical challenges for policy-making as it caused a demand shock

globalisation of inflation and policy makers were presented with a new set of research issues understanding the magnitude and likely persistence of these shocks, the transmission channels of these shocks and the effectiveness of alternative policy tools, the regulator said.

As countries took recourse to trade policy measures (tariff and non-tariff) and fiscal measures (price freeze, tax cuts and subsidies to the vulnerable), the suitability of such measures in the Indian context also required focussed research attention, he added.

According to him, since March 2020, three major shocks the COVID-19 pandemic, war in Europe and the aggressive tightening of monetary policy across countries have posed very different set of challenges for



or a supply shock, the size and nature of policy stimulus required, and their effectiveness, among others.

The RBI Governor said the first major challenge was data collection during the first wave of the pandemic and the associated statistical break in data. During the second wave which was more lethal, collecting information on sector level stress became even more important for designing targeted policy interventions.

"The war in Europe brought with it new challenges, just when the economy was about to normalise fully despite the third wave of the pandemic. Suddenly, the world encountered a severe food crisis and an energy crisis.

A new risk emerged in the form of fragmentation of the global economy driven by fast changing geopolitical considerations, that brought to the fore the need for reducing dependence on any single source for critical supplies," Das said.

Commodity prices skyrocketed and supply chains knotted further. These factors led to

economic research, he said.

The aftereffects of the three shocks are still unfolding and would warrant constant vigil. The research function of the RBI, therefore, must remain prepared to respond to these multiple possibilities as it has done in the past, he cautioned. The war in Europe brought with it new challenges, just when the economy was about to normalise fully despite the third wave of the pandemic. Suddenly, the world encountered a severe food crisis and an energy crisis, he further said.

A new risk emerged in the form of fragmentation of the global economy driven by fast changing geopolitical considerations, that brought to the fore the need for reducing dependence on any single source for critical supplies, he opined.

Central banks have a culture of diligently building synergies between research and policy making and research departments are thus empowered to work as the workhorse and as the think tank for ensuring continuous supply of reliable processed information, analytical research and new ideas, he said.

## FIFA World Cup: All you need to know about the groups, teams and key players

**GROUP E**  
GERMANY (11th in FIFA ranking)  
Best World Cup performance: Winners in 1954, 1974, 1990, 2014

Other honours: European Championship winners in 1972, 1980, 1996; FIFA Confederations Cup winners 2017

How they qualified: Finished first in European qualifying Group J

Key player: Despite a wealth of options between the sticks, Germany's captain and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, 36, remains his side's most important player. Alongside Thomas Muller and possibly Mats Hummels, Neuer will be one of only a few members of Germany's victorious 2014 World Cup squad to make the trip to Qatar. Besides his leadership, experience and familiarity with the sizeable Bayern contingent, sweeperkeeper Neuer is essential to the way Flick's Germany want to play. Neuer, who has won two Champions League titles and is on a record streak of 10 consecutive Bundesliga titles with Bayern Munich, enters the tournament under a significant injury cloud, having missed most of October due to a shoulder problem.

**COSTA RICA** (31st in FIFA ranking)  
Best World Cup performance: Reached quarter-finals at 2014 World Cup.

Other honours: CONCACAF Championship /Gold Cup winners: 1963, 1969, 1989

How they qualified: Defeated New Zealand 1-0 in a CONCACAF-Oceania playoff. Advanced to play-off after finishing fourth in CONCACAF qualifiers behind Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Key player: Keylor Navas, the 35-year-old goalkeeper, is an icon in his homeland, beloved after his heroics at the 2014 World Cup where he saves in a penalty shootout win over Greece helped Costa Rica reach the quarter-finals for the first time. He produced another man-of-the-match performance in the last eight against the Netherlands despite finishing on the losing side in the shoot-out. Blessed with agility and superb reflexes, Navas enjoyed a dazzling career with Real Madrid, winning three Champions League titles in 2016, 2017 and 2018, before joining French giants Paris Saint-Germain in 2019.

**SPAIN** (7th in FIFA ranking)  
Best World Cup performance: Winners in 2010  
Other honours: European champions in 1964, 2008, 2012



How they qualified: Spain finished first in European qualifying Group B

Key player: Talented Barcelona youngster Pedri has become essential for club and country at just 19 years old. The midfielder was named the Euro 2020 Young Player of the Tournament and was in the Team of the Tournament after a string of brilliant performances which helped Spain reach the semi-finals, where they were beaten by Italy. In 2022 Pedri has improved his finishing, which was the one area of his game which needed work, and he will be Spain's creative hub in Qatar.

**JAPAN** (24th in FIFA ranking)  
Best World Cup performance: Last 16 in 2002, 2010, 2018

Other honours: Asian Cup winners 1992, 2000, 2004, 2011

How they qualified: Japan finished second behind Saudi Arabia in Group B in the third round of Asian qualifying.

Key player: Wataru Endo, 29, is the gumshield-wearing midfield lynchpin who holds Japan together. A non-playing member of the squad in 2018, Endo won the AFC Champions League with Urawa Red Diamonds before moving to Europe. He played for Sint-Truiden in Belgium and then joined Stuttgart, the side he now captains and for whom he scored the stoppage-time goal that kept them in the Bundesliga on the final day of last season.

**GROUP F**  
CROATIA (12th in FIFA ranking)

Best World Cup performance: Runners-up in 2018  
Other major honours: Quarter-finalists at Euro 1996 and 2008

How they qualified: Winners of European qualifying Group H

Key player: Luka Modric: The veteran midfielder won the player of the tournament award as he led Croatia to their first ever World Cup final in Russia. He ended Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi's stranglehold on the Ballon d'Or in the same year. Modric has showed few signs of slowing down since, winning his fifth Champions League crown with Real Madrid last season. Now aged 37, Qatar will likely be Modric's last World Cup. The captain has made a record 154 appearances for Croatia.

**CANADA** (41st in FIFA ranking)

Best World Cup performance: First round in only previous appearance in 1986

Other honours: CONCACAF Championship /Gold Cup winners in 1985, 2000

How they qualified: Canada finished first in the CONCACAF zone final qualifying standings

Key player: Alphonso Davies: Canada have forged a close-knit men's squad based on hard work, discipline and a clear tactical framework. Yet Bayern Munich's Davies is one of the few players capable of providing an X-factor for the Canadians. Comfortable playing as a full-back or winger, Davies of-

fers blinding speed on the counter-attack as well as a proven ability on the biggest stages. He was a key member of the Bayern team which lifted the 2020 UEFA Champions League and also played a key role during Canada's successful qualifying campaign.

**MOROCCO** (22nd in FIFA ranking)

Best World Cup performance: Second round in 1986  
Other honours: African champions in 1976

How they qualified: Morocco defeated the Democratic Republic of Congo in a play-off

Key player: A standoff between Chelsea winger Hakim Ziyech and Halilhodzic led to the change of coaches. The Bosnian accused him of feigning injury to avoid playing in warm-up matches last year, publicly calling it "unacceptable behaviour". Ziyech, 29, responded by retiring from international football until Moroccan football officials intervened and dumped Halilhodzic. Regragui has hailed the Netherlands-born attacker as a "fighter who gives everything for his adopted country" but there are concerns about his lack of game time at Chelsea -- he played just 17 minutes during October. There have been reports of a post-World Cup move to AC Milan.

**BELGIUM** (2nd in FIFA ranking)

Best World Cup performance: Third place in 2018  
Other major honours: Euro 1980 runners-up

How they qualified: Winners of European qualifying Group E

Key player: Kevin De Bruyne, who plays for Manchester City, finished third in the recent Ballon d'Or voting and will be Belgium's go-to man when in need of inspiration. Injury-prone captain Eden Hazard has only made 11 starts for Real Madrid since the start of last season and striker Romelu Lukaku has struggled for full fitness since returning to Inter Milan on loan from Chelsea. De Bruyne scored a careerbest 19 goals for English champions City last term and has already notched 12 assists this campaign following the signing of Erling Haaland.

**GROUP G**  
BRAZIL (1st in FIFA ranking)

Best World Cup performance: Winners 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002

Other honours: Copa America winners 1919, 1922, 1949, 1989, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2007, 2019; Confederations Cup winners 1997, 2005, 2009, 2013;

How they qualified: Unbeaten winners of the single South American qualifying group

Key player: Having reached the age of 30, Neymar

knows this could be his last chance to win a World Cup after the agony of 2014 -- when his tournament was ended by injury before he saw his team-mates collapse against Germany -- and the disappointment of 2018. The former Santos prodigy left Barcelona for Paris Saint-Germain in a world record deal in 2017 but his move to France has not brought him the collective or individual honours he craves. He has not won the Champions League at PSG and he has still never won a Ballon d'Or. None of that will matter if he can lead Brazil to World Cup glory.

**SERBIA** (21st in FIFA ranking)

Best World Cup performance: Group stage in 2010 and 2018

Other notable performances: Yugoslavia were European Championship runners-up in 1960 and 1968  
How they qualified: Winners of European qualifying Group A ahead of Portugal

Key player: Serbia have formidable attacking options, none more so than Dusan Vlahovic. The 22-year-old forward is a robust presence up front but does not lack for pace or skill. After starting out at Partizan Belgrade, he joined Fiorentina and quickly became a prolific goal-scorer in Serie A. That earned him a 70 million-euro move to Juventus last January. In Turin he has so far averaged almost a goal every second game despite his club's recent struggles. Given his age, his peak years still lie in the future, but Serbia will hope he thrives on the World Cup stage in Qatar.

**SWITZERLAND** (15th in FIFA ranking)

Best World Cup performance: Quarter-finals in 1934, 1938 and 1954

Other notable performances: Euro 2020 quarter-finalists

How they qualified: Winners of European qualifying Group C

Key player: Forward Breel Embolo, 25, has pace and power in abundance and is hoping to take his early-season form with him to Qatar after leaving Borussia Moenchengladbach for Monaco in the summer. Born in Cameroon, he will get the chance to face the country of his birth in Switzerland's opening group game. Embolo moved to Europe with his mother as a boy and went on to start his footballing career at Basel, where he was given his debut by Yakin. A big-money move to Schalke in 2016 was marred by injuries but as long as he stays fit he could have a key role to play in Qatar.

**CAMEROON** (43rd in FIFA ranking)

Best World Cup performance: Quarter-finalists in 1990

Other honours: African champions in 1984, 1988, 2000, 2002, 2017

How they qualified: Cameroon defeated Algeria in a play-off

Key player: Bayern Munich's Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting, 33, goes to Qatar in outstanding form having scored in seven consecutive matches for the German giants in all competitions. Born in Hamburg to a Cameroonian father and German mother, he has a point to prove at the World Cup after being largely ignored during the Cup of Nations this year. Choupo-Moting was furious at being left out of the quarter-final and semi-final starting line-ups and accused Conceicao of being "disrespectful". He began his senior career with Hamburg, played for three other German clubs and spent time at Stoke City and Paris

Saint Germain before joining Bayern two years ago

**GROUP H**  
SOUTH KOREA (28th in FIFA ranking)

Best World Cup performance: Fourth place in 2002  
Other honours: Asian champions in 1956, 1960

How they qualified: South Korea finished second behind Iran in Asian qualifying Group A

Key player: Son Heung-min is the undoubted star man but his World Cup appeared to be in doubt after suffering a serious facial injury for Tottenham Hotspur against Marseille in the Champions League. He had surgery more than a week ago to fractures around his left eye socket but South Korea believe he will be ready. The Spurs forward is captain of his country and their talisman. Son has scored 35 times in 104 appearances for South Korea. He shared the Premier League golden boot with Liverpool's Mo Salah last season as joint top-scorer with 23 goals.

**PORTUGAL** (9th in FIFA ranking)

Best World Cup performance: Third place in 1966  
Other honours: European Championship winners in 2016

How they qualified: Finished second in European qualifying Group A behind Serbia, and then beat Turkey and North Macedonia in the play-offs.

Key player: Cristiano Ronaldo is the all-time leading goalscorer in international football with 117 goals in a record 191 caps for his country. He has enjoyed a magnificent career but he is now 37 and has endured a difficult start to the season at Manchester United. A five-time Ballon d'Or winner, Ronaldo made his Portugal debut in 2003 at the age of 18 and is now set to play at his 10th major international tournament. However, in many ways he is the key player because some wonder if his presence might hold back the many other outstanding -- and far younger -- talents in the Portugal squad.

**GHANA** (14th in FIFA ranking)

Best World Cup performance: Quarterfinalists in 2010  
Other honours: African champions in 1963, 1965, 1978, 1982

How they qualified: Ghana defeated Nigeria in a play-off

Key player: Opponents of Ghana who consider Thomas Partey, 29, just a defensive midfielder would do well to watch a clip from the recent 5-0 drubbing Arsenal dished out to Nottingham Forest. The Gunners were three goals up when the former Atletico Madrid star, who became a Gunner in 2020, unleashed an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net. The memorable goal confirmed the opinion of long-serving Atletico manager Diego Simeone that the humble footballer from a village in eastern Ghana is "extraordinary when defending or attacking, providing assists, passing, shooting and scoring". Partey was so eager to play in Europe that he forgot to tell his parents he was leaving west Africa until he arrived in Spain 10 years ago

**URUGUAY** (14th in FIFA ranking)

Best World Cup performance: Winners in 1930, 1950

How they qualified: Uruguay finished third in the single South American qualification group

Key player: With Uruguay's top two goalscorers of all time, Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani, both 35 and playing in their last World Cup, Real Madrid midfielder Federico Valverde is the new talisman for this team. Now 24, the hardworking six-foot-tall central midfielder is crucial for club and country. Already a Champions League winner and two-time Spanish champion, Valverde's increasingly mature performances have made him the key cog in Alonso's team. Other honours: Copa America winners in 1916, 1917, 1920, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1935, 1942, 1956, 1959, 1967, 1983, 1987, 1995, 2011 (Concluded)



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