

Nobel Peace Prize to activists from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine

KYIV(KCN): Human rights activists from Ukraine, Belarus and Russia won the Nobel

ist Ales Bialiatski, the Russian group Memorial and the Ukrainian organisation Center for Civil Liberties.



Peace Prize on Friday, a strong rebuke to Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine has outraged the international community, and to the Belarusian president, his authoritarian ally.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2022 prize to imprisoned Belarus activ-

Yan Rachinsky, one of the founders of Memorial rights group, and Oleg Orlov, one of Memorial leading activists, meet with the media after the group was co-awarded the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize along with Belarus' human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Center for Civil Liberties, in Moscow

the Nobel Commi-CONTINUED ON: P-7

Calcutta Citizens Initiative will focus on socio economic issues

Kolkata (KCN): Advocate Narayan Jain, President Calcutta Citizens Initiative said that their NGO will focus on socio economic issues in 2022-23. He was addressing the Annual General Meeting of the NGO in which he was re-elected as the President. Other office bearers and committee members include Pawan Paharia, IPP; Mahesh Shah (CS) and O.P. Agarwal both Vice Presidents,



CA KN Gupta General Secretary, L.N. Purohit, Treasurer; Rajendra Khandelwal, KS Adhikari, CA Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, CA Soumendra Poddar, Debojit Dutta, Prof Pradyot Banerjee, Gopeshwar Agarwal, Piyush Doshi, Prof SB Roy, Prakash Parakh, Gouri Shankar Jain, Kamal Jindal, BC Surana, RD Kakra, Deepak Jain, Santanu Pal and Sonali De. The past presidents in advisory board include Samir Dutt, GM Kapur, BG Roy, Shishir Bajoria (Chairman IIM, Shillong), Mahesh Shah, Ashok Purohit, Heena Gorsia and Advocate Mamta Binani. The AGM was followed by an Interactive session on How to Lead a Happy Life by Ramakant Burman, a philanthropist in which members actively participated.

KCR shifts focus to Delhi after party's name change

HYDERABAD(KCN): A day after the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) renamed itself Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) on Dasara on Wednesday, the party leadership has shifted focus to Delhi and the southern states.

On Thursday, party leaders rushed to Delhi to meet the Election Commission of India to inform about the party's name change and seek its approval.



Party leaders also found a temporary accommodation for the BRS office in Delhi and initiated steps to get in touch with farmer, Dalits and tribal organisations to start BRS-affiliated units in the southern states. Party sources said the immediate focus of the BRS was not to enter into the electoral fray in other states but to build the party's organisational structure CONTINUED ON: P-7

PM Modi to address public meeting in HP's Chamba on Oct 13

SHIMLA(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra

This will be Modi's second visit to the hill state in nine days. Earlier, he visited Bilaspur and Kullu districts on October 5.

In a statement, Thakur said the prime minister will address a public meeting at the famous Chamba Chowgan during his visit.

The prime minister will also inaugurate 180 MW Bajoli hydro electric project, lay foundation stones of 48 MW Chanju-III hydro electric project and 30.5 MW Deothal Chanju hydro electric project, the chief minister said, adding that Modi will also launch Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-III) on October 13.



Modi will address a public meeting in poll-bound Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district on October 13, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said on Saturday.

High Academic Performance by KISS Students

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The world's largest residential tribal institution, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) has always excelled in various fields due to the proper care of students and a conducive educational environment. This year the students of KISS have achieved high academic performance. Four KISS students have succeeded in Odisha Civil Services Exam. They are Raimat Tudu, Mantu Khamari, Hemant Puta and Nilamadhav Patra. Raimat Tudu came from Mayurbhanj district, Mantu and Hemant came from Balangir district and Nilamadhav came from Kalahandi district and studied in KISS. This year, a total of 392 candidates have passed the Odisha Civil Services Exam, including four students of KISS. Apart from this, 25 students of KISS have qualified for the National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribes (NFST) for the year 2021-22, the results of which were announced today. Each



successful candidate will receive a fellowship of Rs. 35,000/- per month from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), New Delhi. Similarly, 17 KISS students have succeeded in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), while 3 students cleared JEE Advanced. Founder of KISS, Dr. Achyuta Samanta has always striven to provide quality education to students. From time to time appropriate training and coaching are given for the overall development of these students with the advice of Dr. Samanta. These students have been consistently achieving success in academics, sports, and employment. The students who have achieved success in various academic fields this year thanked the authorities and expressed their gratitude to the founder Dr. Samanta. This success brings glory to not only KISS, but the entire tribal community.

Govt announces annual work plan to curtail Left-wing extremism menace

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The Odisha government on Friday announced annual work plan (AWP) of Rs 85.85 crore for 2022-23 to continue activities in the State to curtail left wing extremism (LWE). The AWP was approved at the State level committee meeting held under the chairmanship of

Chief Secretary Suresh Thakur presented the updated situation for Mahapatra in Lok Seva Bhavan. IGP, Operations Amitabh



civilians and security personnel on duty has been enhanced from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh and Rs 20 lakh to Rs 40 lakh respectively. The Chief Secretary said adequate logistical support should be provided to the armed forces engaged in anti-terrorist operations. The primary CONTINUED ON: P-7

Notification for Dhamnagar bypoll out, voting on Nov 3

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): A formal notification for bypoll to Dhamnagar Assembly constituency scheduled on November 3 was issued by the office of Sub-Collector, Bhadrak on Friday. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) SK Lohani

told mediapersons that voting for the election will be held between 7 am and 6 pm in 252 booths. The polling process



will be webcast live in 50 per cent of the booths. The CEO said the Model Code of Conduct has come into force across Bhadrak district with immediate effect with the announcement of the by-poll. There are CONTINUED ON: P-7

Ayurveda more effective with modern system: Naveen Patnaik

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday said traditional

knowledge of ayurveda along with modern healthcare system have been helpful in making the healthcare system more effective. Addressing an induction programme of 143 ayurvedic medical officers at Lok Seva Bhavan here, the Chief Minister said ayurveda is age-old knowledge of life science that has been traditionally helping millions of people in India in maintaining good health and controlling diseases. Now this knowledge, along with modern healthcare system, has been revived with structured studies to help society with more effectiveness. Welcoming the new medical officers, he asked them to follow the 5T initiative to boost the State's transformative journey in healthcare. Speaking on the State's commitment to ensure universal access to quality healthcare services, he said the size of the budget of the Health department has been increased to over `12,000 crore in 2022-23 which is almost double of what it was three years ago.



Supp Budget move begins Plan for Ultra Curb

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government has initiated the process for the Supplementary Budget 2022-23, which is likely to be presented before the Assembly in November, 2022. Principal Secretary Finance, Vishal Kumar Dev has issued detailed guidelines for all the Departments to prepare their supplementary proposals expeditiously and in accordance with the pre-

remains to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through faster reduction of poverty, increasing farmers' income by crop diversification and direct benefit transfers, providing piped drinking water to all, making available quality affordable health care facilities, enabling quality education & skill development, and providing quality physical infrastructure for improving

allowed to augment the provision in one unit only by locating equivalent savings in some other unit of expenditure," Mr.Dev instructed. High impact new Capital projects, announcements made by the Government from time-to-time and proposals for enhancing livelihood activities will be fully funded.

The Departments were asked to recoup the advance taken from Odisha Contingency Fund (OCF) in the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure.

Sufficient provision has already been made for Pay and DA in BE 2022-23. Besides additional provision under the unit salary will only be allowed, if the provision becomes inadequate due to filling up of posts or otherwise. Wherever required, the Departments were asked to meet it by locating savings from the existing provision for re-allocation.

Mr.Dev also informed that the Proposals involving additional requirements under units, where expenditure till 30 September, 2022 is less than 40 Percent of Budget provision, will not be considered for inclusion under the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 2022-23.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With significant improvement in curtailment of left wing extremism (LWE) activities in the State,

Bala and IGP Operations, Amitabh Thakur was present in the meeting. While giving nod to the AWP, the

in the communities. "People's confidence and participation would go a long way in rooting out of LWE

The fund provision of Rs.85.85 cr for AWP-2022-23 was about 50% more than that of the AWP-2021-22. The AWP-2021-22

to provide adequate logistic support to the armed forces engaged in anti-terrorist operations. The main activities



Government Friday rolled out Annual Work Plan (AWP) of Rs. 85.85 cr for continuing anti-terrorism operations during the current year.

The AWP was approved in State Level Committee meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra here.

ACS Home Sanjeev Chopra, Director General Of Police Sunil Bansal, Director Intelligence Sanjeeb Panda, Special Secretary Home, Santosh

Chief Secretary directed officials to intensify community mobilization and confidence building activities in the suspected left wing infected pockets. He specifically directed to stay connected with the people and community, know their concerns and raise their confidence level.

Mr.Mahapatra also directed to support better alternative livelihood activities, and children education

activities from the suspected pockets," he said.

Discussions in the meeting showed that the extremism activities were well under control in the State. Swabhiman Anchal in Koraput, once considered to be the epicenter of extremists could be made free of them with growing developmental interventions in the area. Well planned intelligence based actions were being taken to counter them as and where their ugly hands appear.

was rolled out with budget outlay of around Rs 50.56 cr. The funds for AWP 2022-23 would be shared by both the Central and State Government on 60:40 sharing basis.

With increase in budget provision, the amount of ex-gratia grant for the civilians and security personnel on duty was enhanced from Rs.2 lakhs to 5 lakhs, and Rs.20 lakhs to Rs.40 lakhs respectively. Mahapatra directed

under AWP-2022-23 included procurement of modern ammunition, adequate logistic support to armed forces, training for State police force, community policing, additional fortification of the police posts, and rehabilitation of LWE cadres.

Besides, the affected civilians and security personnel would be extended ex-gratia grant and property damage grant as per the specified guidelines



vailing economic condition. And all the Departments have been asked to submit their proposals by 31 October, 2022.

Elaborating on the present status of State's Economy, Mr.Dev said, "Despite the challenges of inflationary pressures, external spillovers and geopolitical risks, the Indian economy remains on the path of recovery. India's growth would be around 7 Percent as per forecasts of different multilateral agencies."

However, he said, the growth expectation of Odisha can be pegged at 8% in 2022-23. The own revenue collection till August, 2022 has shown an increase of about 16 Percent. The total expenditure (other than debt servicing) till August, 2022 is 24 Percent of the Budget Estimates, 2022-23 compared to 28 Percent previous year. The expenditure needs to be expedited, while enhancing the capacity at the execution level to increase the pace of expenditure particularly Capital Expenditure to enhance the level of economic activity, the Principal Secretary told the Departments.

Informing about the priority of the State Government, he said, the priorities in the medium-term still

economic activities. The State Government is in mission mode to empower women in every sphere of economic activities, modernize the health facilities at PHC level and building world class tertiary healthcare facilities in the State and providing quality primary education at the village level, so that the State could achieve an inclusive growth, he stated.

While formulating the Annual Budget, 2022-23, the limit of fiscal deficit of 3 Percent of GSDP was fully employed for financing the Budget. Though there is availability of additional fiscal space for more borrowing during the year 2022-23, the facility would be available at the appropriate time to fund the development expenditure requirements of the State, he pointed out.

"However, the expenditure relating to livelihood and completion of the ongoing CAPEX projects are to be assessed by the Departments in a holistic manner, so that economic activities in the State will get the required boost. Hence, Supplementary Statement of Expenditure, 2022-23 is proposed to be an exercise for reprioritization of the Budget in which the Administrative Departments would be

Road accidental deaths drop

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Due to constant monitoring and proper strategy put up by Commerce & Transport Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi, Odisha has registered negative growth in road accidental deaths in the month of July as compared to July, 2021. The fatalities have come down by 4.01 %. In July 2021, 399 people died in road accidents. However, in July 2022 the number came down to 383.

It is pertinent to note that in the first quarter of the year, the State has recorded a negative growth of 10.37 in accidents and 7.55 negative growth in fatalities.

The State recorded 2895 road accidents resulting in 1359 deaths during the same period whereas 3230 accidents and 1470 deaths were registered during the first quarter in the previous year.

However, the second quarter of 2022 saw a substantial increase in accidents and fatalities in comparison to 2021 for the same period.

"During Covid-19 period, restrictions were imposed on movement of vehicles which resulted in less number of accidents. The high growth in accident and fatalities during the 2nd quarter of 2022 is due to regular movement of vehicles," said Lalmohan Sethi, Additional Commissioner Transport, Road Safety & Enforcement.

The negative growth in fatalities has been achieved due to strict enforcement of road safety norms across the State. During 2021-22, a total of 2, 47,945 e-challans were issued whereas in 2022-23, a total of 2, 86,682 challans have already been issued between April-September, he said.

The frequency of enforcement drive has been increased and a consistent effort in this regard will help us reduce road accidents in the state, Sethi added.

Odisha has adopted a four-fold strategy to

make the roads safe through 4Es- enforcement, education, improvement in road engineering and emergency care.

The state has scored 66 per cent and categorized as 'high performer' in implementing



road safety measures during an audit conducted by the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety. The Supreme Court Committee has also rated some of Odisha's initiatives as best practices and suggested recommendations to neighbouring states.

Till date, around 11,000 first responders staying near accident prone areas have been trained across Odisha under Operation Rakshak. In yet another bid to improve road safety scenario in the State, Odisha has initiated refresher training programme 'Vahak' for

heavy vehicle drivers of the State to hone the skills of drivers and in turn help in reducing accidents in the state.

So far around 1500 HMV drivers have been trained at HMV Driving School, Chhatia. The Transport Department is planning to scale up the training programme with an aim to train around 1 lakh HMV drivers in the State.

Recently, Odisha organised National Road Safety Short Film Festival, 2022 a first-of-its-kind event in the country. There was an overwhelming response for the festival. A total of 230 entries were received in 6 languages from 8 States. The top films are being screened in the movie theatres across the State to create awareness about road safety.

With an aim to make roads in Odisha 100% road signage compliant, the Transport Department has started a unique initiative of road signage audit. Audit of 3059 KMs of NH and SH in the state has already been completed and the report has been submitted to the stakeholders for necessary rectification. Further, an additional 5000 km road audit has been proposed.

The Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) project is implemented in Sundargarh District covering the municipal areas of Sundargarh, Rajgangpur and Birmiritrapur. Soon the command-and-control centre for CCTV/ANPR will be functional and the footage will be monitored continuously for issuing e-challans to the traffic violators.

As per Supreme Court Committee guidelines, the State Government is working towards construction of truck terminals and comprehensive Trauma System Care.

Road Safety training is being provided to Engineers, commercial drivers, traffic police personnel, highway engineers and planners in a systematic process through a well-planned training calendar.

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Plea filed seeking injunction against movie 'Adipurush' claiming inaccurate portrayal of Hindu gods

NEW DELHI: A plea has been filed in a court here seeking an injunction against the upcoming movie "Adipurush", alleging it has depicted Hindu gods in an "unwarranted" and "inaccurate" way in its promotional video. The matter has been listed for hearing before senior civil judge Abhishek Kumar on Monday. The plea filed by advocate Raj Gaurav on Fri-

Hanuman in a very unwarranted and inaccurate way in the teaser or promotional video of their upcoming movie Adipurush," the plea claimed. While the traditional picture of Lord Ram was that of a serene and calm person, who believed in forgiveness, the defendants in the promotional video had shown him as "atrocious, revengeful and angry", wearing a leather strap and modern footwear made of

panzees", the plea alleged. "That prima facie the teaser or promo of the movie is so atrocious wicked and diabolical that it along with the pursuant movie which is to be released on January 12, 2023, should be outrightly banned in its present form in the interest of religious feelings, sentiments and aspirations of Hindus of India and elsewhere," the plea said.



day sought a permanent and mandatory injunction against defendants - producer Bhushan Kumar and director and co-producer Om Raut - alleging they had manipulated the basics of the epic Ramayana. "The defendants have hurt the religious, cultural, historical and civilizational sentiments of the plaintiff and other Hindus by the depiction of Hindu gods Lord Ram and Lord

leather, the plea alleged. The plea further claimed that Lord Hanuman was depicted in an "atrocious manner", wearing leather straps all over his body and his appearance was against the description in the religious verse of Hanuman Chalisa. Also, the character of Ravan, a staunch Brahman, was "awfully cheap and appalling", while the vanar sena was shown as a "whoop of chim-

Therefore, the court could grant ex parte and ad interim stay of the movie in its present form along with a permanent injunction restraining the defendants from depicting Lord Ram and Lord Hanuman as shown in the promotional video, the plea said. It also sought directions mandating the defendants to remove the promotional video of the movie from all social media platforms.

Sonakshi Sinha-Huma Qureshi starrer 'Double XL' to release on November 4

Double XL headlined by Sonakshi Sinha and Huma Qureshi will hit theatres on November 4. The film was earlier expected to

Double XL is a slice-of-life comedy challenging bodyweight stereotypes. Sonakshi and Huma play two plus-sized women

The film was shot in India and the UK. It was conceived by Mudassar Aziz, who is heading the writing department. Double XL is pre-



release on October 14. Directed by Satramm Ramani, as they navigate a society that frequently associates a woman's attractive-

ter, an aspiring fashion designer named Saira Khanna.

what! Her dreams are BIGGER and she's out to achieve them! #DoubleXL paired opposite the leading ladies, alongside the supporting cast. sented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series, Wakaoo Films and Mudassar Aziz.

Compulsory Tax Audit Penalty can't be imposed in which cases Part 3

Contd from 3.10.2022)

14. Reasons which have been held as "reasonable causes" for delay in furnishing tax audit report by different courts:



a) Delay of completion of audit of earlier year caused delay in completion of audit shall be

- treated as reasonable cause irrespective of fact whether delay in the audit of earlier year was for reasonable cause or without a reasonable cause or whether or not penalty was levied in earlier year - ACIT v. Kamlesh R. Agarwal (HUF) [2006] 100 TTJ (Ahd.) (TM) 194.
- b) Delay due to illness of accountant - Karthika Entrepreneurs v. ITO [1993] 45 ITD 70 (Coch.); CIT v. Ramkrishna Stores 253 ITR 175 (Cal.)
- c) Delay due to the accountant left services and partners not competent to complete accounts - CIT v. Ashoka Dairy [2005] 279 ITR 32 (P&H); 200 CTR (P&H) 211.
- d) Delay due to illness of accountant, who ultimately expired, could be considered a reasonable cause for delay in furnishing tax audit report- CIT v. Ramkrishna Stores 253 ITR 175(Cal.) : 172 CTR (Cal.) 525.
- e) Delay due illness of partner who was looking after the accounts - Asst. CIT v. Deshray & Co. [1996] 55 TTJ (Ahd) 38; Sibonaryan Patro & Bros. v. ITO [1996] 54 TTJ (Ctk) 644.
- f) Delay due to bona fide belief that section 44AB was not applicable based on legal opinion - Buildwell Construction Co. v. ITO [1995-96] 27 BCAJ 231 (Mum).
- g) Assessee a transport booking agent, arranging commercial vehicles /trucks for various parties from the market for carrying goods to different places and charging normal commission from truck owners which was shown in the P & L a/c as commission income. The assessee had **bona fide belief** that receipts are not the turnover. Whatever freight is charged from parties by assessee is paid to the individual truck owners who actually carried the goods. Assessee's position is similar to that of Kuchha Arhatia and the turnover is only the commission received from truck owners and supplier of goods.

Hence, in view of Circular

Narayan Jain

27 (Uttarakhand).

- No.452, dated 17.3.1986, assessee was not required to get its accounts audited u/s 44AB. Further, since assessee was under a bona fide belief that freight receipts were not its own receipts and it was not liable to get its accounts audited, no penalty u/s 271B could be levied - ITO v. Bindra Ban Bansi Lal [2001] 78 ITD 228 (Asr) : [2004] 90 TTJ (Asr) 747. Similarly where assessee transports from own truck and engages truck of other transporters and gets commission, the proceeds collected for other transporters are not the turnover of assessee - Paras Transport Co. v. ITO 92 TTJ (Agra) 607.
- h) Assessee filed audit report but did not enclose P & L a/c, Balance Sheet or other annexures. No malafide intention could be established. It is a technical fault - Gavs Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. v. DCIT [2004] 90 TTJ (Del.) 307; ITO v. B.R. Spinners Pvt. Ltd. 91 TTJ (Chd.) 437.
- i) Delay due to bona fide belief that turnover of dealing in shares made on behalf of several buyers and sellers in the capacity of sub-broker was not includible for determining applicability of section 44AB and A.O. not initiating penalty proceedings for the earlier years - R. Wadiwala & Co. v. Asst. CIT [2001] 72 TTJ (Ahd.) 34.
- j) Assessee having 3 proprietorship concerns but got his accounts audited for only one concern under a bonafide belief that proprietorship concern in which turnover exceeds Rs.40 lakhs is only to be audited. No willful default on the part of the assessee - **ACIT v. Dr. K. Satish Shetty [2009] 310 ITR 366 (Kar.)**. However Delhi Bench of the ITAT in the case of **ACIT v. Smt Bharti Sharma [2010] 6 ITR (Trib.) 48 (Del.)** has held that penalty in such cases is to be restricted to half a per cent of turnover of business whose accounts have not been audited and not of the whole business.
- k) Assessee entitled to deduction u/s 80P was under bonafide belief that he is not required to get tax audit of accounts in view of deduction u/s 80P. No penalty is to be imposed - **CIT v. Iqbalpur Cooperative Care Development Union Ltd. [2009] 23 DTR (Uttarakhand) 60; [2009] 179 Taxman**

- l) Assessee, a financier, financed Rs. 1.44 crore and received a gross interest of Rs. 1.85 lakhs. On the basis of an opinion published by the Bombay Chartered Accountants Society wherein it was opined that in case of banking business, gross receipts will be considered for determining the requirement of tax audit and amount of money lent is not to be taken into account. The assessee did not get his accounts audited. No penalty is to be imposed - **ITO v. Sachinam Trust [2010] 320 ITR 445 (Guj.)**.
- m) It has been held that "**reasonable cause**" or "**sufficient cause**" should receive a liberal construction so as to advance substantial justice when no negligence nor inaction nor want of bona fide is imputable to the party - Dinabandhu Sahu v. Jadumoni Mangaraj AIR 1954 SC 411; Addl. CIT v. Dargapandinath Tuljappa & Co. [1977] 107 ITR 850 (AP)(FB); Collector, Land Acquisition v. Mst. Katiji & Ors. [1987] 167 ITR 471 (SC).
15. **If income of a person is below taxable limit but his turnover exceeds Rs. 1 crore:** The object of audit u/s 44AB is only to assist the assessing officer in computing total income of an assessee in accordance with provisions of the Act. Therefore, even if income of a person is below taxable limit of a particular year, he will have to get his accounts audited and to furnish such report u/s 44AB, if his turnover in business exceed Rs.1 crore.
16. **In case of a person whose income is specifically exempt in Income-tax Act :** In Asst. CIT v. India Magnum Fund [2002] 74 TTJ (Mum) 620, Income of the assessee was exempt u/s 10(23D). It was engaged in business of shares and securities. In order to claim refund on account of TDS it had to file its return of income. On receipt of the return the A.O. imposed penalty u/s 271B for non-furnishing of audit report u/s 44AB as the turnover of business exceeded the specified limit (which was Rs.40 lakhs during that year). Mumbai "A" Bench of ITAT observed that section 44AB becomes operative only when there is computation of profits and gains of business or profession as a part of total income and that it would be inapplicable if there is no computation of total

income or, for that matter, no computation of profits and gains of business or profession as a part of computation of total income, hence provisions of section 44AB do not apply in relation to incomes enumerated in Chapter III and held the assessee was not liable to obtain any audit report u/s 44AB.

17. **Whether tax audit is required in speculation business where delivery of shares or units has not been taken or made:** In the case of Babulal Enterprises v. Asst. CIT [1999-2000] 31 BCAJ 788 (Mum), the total turnover of the assessee was Rs.3.99 crores but physical deliveries of shares did not take place and only the difference in price was settled on the basis of contract notes. Mumbai "B" Bench of ITAT held that as per the Sale of Goods Act, 1930, the delivery of goods is must to constitute sale and since delivery did not take place, transaction cannot be regarded as sales or turnover. Similar view was expressed in yet another case of Growmore Exports Ltd. v. Asst. CIT [2001] 72 TTJ (Mum) 691; [2001] 78 ITD 95 (Mum) and **Banwari Sitaram Pasari HUF v. ACIT [2013] 240 ITD 320 (Pun.)**.

In context of section 80HHC while interpreting the word "turnover", Mumbai bench of ITAT in Royal Cushion Vinyl Products Ltd. ITA No. 7859/Bom/1992 held that where no delivery of shares take place, no turnover can be envisaged.

18. **Whether an agriculturist having no income other than agriculture is required to get his accounts audited where his agricultural sale proceeds exceed Rs.1 crore:** No, since generally an agriculturist is having no taxable income, he is not required to file his Income tax return, the question of his furnishing audit report along with return does not arise.
19. **Where a Chartered Accountant has been approached for audit at the last moment and the Chartered Accountant is of the opinion that it is not practical to complete the audit within the specified date:** A Chartered Accountant should not accept an audit which he cannot complete within the specified date. (Concluded)

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

Energy – make it bird-friendly

Every year, World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is celebrated twice in a year. On Saturday, 9th October people all over the world will be celebrating World Migratory Bird Day to raise awareness of migratory birds and the need for international cooperation to conserve them. Firstly it is held on the Second Saturday of May and again on the Second Saturday of October. It is observed to spread awareness for the need to conserve migratory birds and their habitats. The day originated in 2006, when the United Nations decided the need to make the global population aware of the migratory linkages between regions all over the world. Since then around 118 countries have participated and hosted the event. In fact, birds are very important to life on earth. They help to pollinate plants, spread seeds, and have been part of human life for thousands of years.



Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Unlike rats and mice, birds are not pests. Over the past few decades, the world's governments have endorsed many international agreements relevant to the conservation of biodiversity, demonstrating their willingness to cooperate in tackling important environmental issues. The challenge now is to harness this commitment and ensure that concrete actions are taken where they are most needed. In several countries, the engagement of civil society and indigenous peoples' organisations has resulted in impressive progress. There are signs of increasing action in the private sector, too.

Birds can be found everywhere: in cities and in the countryside; in parks and backyards, in forests and mountains, and in wetlands and along the shores. They connect all these habitats and they connect us, reminding us of our own connection to the planet, the environment, wildlife and each other. Through their seasonal

movements, migratory birds are also regularly reminding us of nature's cycles. In other words, birds are nature's ambassadors. So, it becomes imperative to restore the ecological connectivity and integrity to boost the natural movements of the migratory birds. These are important to ensure migratory birds' survival and well-being. The number of migratory birds is decreasing with each passing day due to various threats including illegal killing, destruction of natural habitat, and toxins released in the environment. As migratory birds connect nations, people, and ecosystems, World Migratory Bird Day highlights creating more measures for their conservation. Its aim is to safeguard breeding, non-breeding and ensure a healthy bird population. Today, one in eight bird species is threatened with global extinction, with 189 species. Migration is a perilous journey and involves a wide range of threats, often caused by human activities. Climate

change, habitat loss, plastic pollution are just a few of the diverse threats that the birds face. As migratory birds depend on a range of sites along their distribution area, the loss of wintering and stopover sites could have a dramatic impact on the birds' chances of survival. Most birds migrate at night. They have been doing this for eons, as a night sky typically means calmer air space and fewer predators. Nocturnally migrating birds include ducks and geese, plovers and sandpipers, and songbirds of all kinds. These birds may travel thousands of miles between their breeding and non-breeding grounds. World Migratory Bird Day 2022 is therefore not only a celebration of birds, it is also an important moment to reflect on our own global relationship with nature and to highlight our collective desire to do more to protect birds and nature in a post-pandemic world. Bird day is not just a day. Celebrate our migratory birds 365 days a year.

B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra, Satellite, Ahmedabad

Evidentiary value of presumption

Presumption sometimes plays a vital role in Criminal Law. In the absence of direct evidence or the chain of circumstantial evidence, a legal or factual supposition is drawn from the existence of certain facts. Presumption of facts deals with uncertainties but from various facts a presumption is drawn which remains intact unless it is proved contrary. Though presumption is based on indirect evidence, the same is treated inevitable and unimpeachable unless it is overcome by contrary proof. The term "presumption" is final about the existence of a fact in question. As per the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the case of Izhar Ahmad Khan Versus Union of India AIR 1962 SC 1052 the term "presumption" in its largest and most comprehensive signification, may be defined to be an inference, affirmative or dis-affirmative of the truth or falsehood of a doubtful fact or proposition drawn by the process of probable reasoning from something proved or taken for granted. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has also dealt the issue of presumption in the case of Suresh Budharmal Pallani Versus State of Maharashtra (1998) 7 SCC 337 that presumption can be drawn only from the facts and not from other presumption by a process of probable and logical reasoning.

It is relevant in a criminal case on the part of the court to follow the rule of caution while relying upon an evidence led against an accused on presumption. In the case of Kashmira Singh Versus The State of Madhya Pradesh, 1952 SCR 526 the three judge bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the rule of caution is that "save in exceptional circumstances" one accomplice cannot be used to corroborate another, nor can he be used to corroborate a person who though not an accomplice is no more than one. It is not proper or desirable for the prosecution to examine a witness the magistrate who recorded the confession. Presumption in law of evidence may be a rule indicating the stage of shifting of the burden of proof from certain fact or facts, a court can draw an inference that would remain intact unless such presumption or inference is either disproved or dispelled. In the case of M. Naringa Rao Versus State of

Andhra Pradesh (2001) 1 SCC

691 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has held at para 17 as under:

"Presumption is an inference of a certain fact drawn from other proved facts. While inferring the existence of a fact from another, the court is only applying a process of intelligent reasoning which the mind of a prudent man would do under similar circumstances. Presumption is not the final conclusion to be drawn from other facts. But it could as well be final if it remains undisturbed later. Presumption in law of evidence is a rule indicating the stage of shifting the burden of proof. From a certain fact or facts the court can draw an inference and that would remain until such inference is either disproved or dispelled."

The similar view was also taken by a Division Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the case of State of A.P. Versus C. Uma Maheshwar Rao & Anr., (2004) 4 SCC 399 while dealing with a case under Prevention of Corruption Act at para 16 of the judgment reproduced as under:

"Presumption is an inference of a certain fact drawn from other proved facts. While inferring the existence of a fact from another, the court is only applying a process of intelligent reasoning which the mind of a prudent man would do under similar circumstances. Presumption is not the final conclusion to be drawn from other facts. But it could as well be final if it remains undisturbed later. Presumption in law of evidence is a rule indicating the stage of shifting the burden of proof. From a certain fact or facts the court can draw an inference and that would remain until such inference is either disproved or dispelled."

Further the Supreme Court of India while considering a criminal appeal relating to Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 on presumption has held that presumptions are devices by use of which the courts are enabled and entitled to pronounce on an issue notwithstanding that there is no evidence or insufficient evidence. The term "presumption" is used to designate an inference affirmative and dis-affirmative of the existence of a fact conveniently called the presumed fact as held at para 15 and 18 in the case of Kumar Exports Versus Sharma Carpets (2009) 2 SCC 513 are

Radha Shyam Jena

reproduced as under:

"15. Presumptions are devices by use of which the courts are enabled and entitled to pronounce on an issue notwithstanding that there is no evidence or insufficient evidence. Under the Evidence Act all presumptions must come under one or the other class of the three classes mentioned in the Act, namely, (1) "may presume" (rebuttable), (2) "shall presume" (rebuttable), and (3) "conclusive presumptions" (irrebuttable). The term "presumption" is used to designate an inference, affirmative or disaffirmative of the existence of a fact, conveniently called the "presumed fact" drawn by a judicial tribunal, by a process of probable reasoning from some matter of fact, either judicially noticed or admitted or established by legal evidence to the satisfaction of the tribunal. Presumption literally means "taking as true without examination or proof".

18. Applying the definition of the word "proved" in Section 3 of the Evidence Act to the provisions of Sections 118 and 139 of the Act, it becomes evident that in a trial under Section 138 of the Act a presumption will have to be made that every negotiable instrument was made or drawn for consideration and that it was executed for discharge of debt or liability once the execution of negotiable instrument is either proved or admitted. As soon as the complainant discharges the burden to prove that the instrument, say a note, was executed by the accused, the rules of presumptions under Sections 118 and 139 of the Act help him shift the burden on the accused. The presumptions will live, exist and survive and shall end only when the contrary is proved by the accused, that is, the cheque was not issued for consideration and in discharge of any debt or liability. A presumption is not in itself evidence, but only makes a prima facie case for a party for whose benefit it exists."

The adverse inference in rare case can be drawn in respect of allegations not traversed but there is no general rule that adverse inference must always be drawn whatever the facts and circumstances there may be. The Supreme Court of India in most of the judgments has held that presumption

of fact "is an inference as to the existence of one fact from existence of some other facts unless the truth of such inference is disproved". As per the provision under Section 114 of the Evidence Act, 1872 presumption is a rule of evidence unless it is disproved while dealing a case of abduction and murder, the Supreme Court of India in the case of State of West Bengal Versus Mir Mohammad Omar & Ors., (2000) 8 SCC 382 has held at para 33 as under: **"Presumption of fact is an inference as to the existence of one fact from the existence of some other facts, unless the truth of such inference is disproved. Presumption of fact is a rule in law of evidence that a fact otherwise doubtful may be inferred from certain other proved facts. When inferring the existence of a fact from other set of proved facts, the court exercises a process of reasoning and reaches a logical conclusion as the most probable position. The above principle has gained legislative recognition in India when Section 114 is incorporated in the Evidence Act. It empowers the court to presume the existence of any fact which it thinks likely to have happened. In that process the court shall have regard to the common course of natural events, human conduct etc. in relation to the facts of the case."** As per Advanced Law Lexicon Dictionary (4th Edition) the "presumption of legal knowledge" or knowledge of the laws of the State in every citizen is a positive rule of law and applies to all cases where acts are knowingly done which are expressly forbidden by law and gives rise to a conclusive presumption or criminal intent. As per the said dictionary "presumptive evidence" consists in the proof of minor or other facts incidental to or usually connected with the facts sought to be proved which when taken together inferentially establish or prove the fact in question to a reasonable degree of certainty. Therefore, in the interest of justice under Section 114 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 the court is empowered to presume the existence of certain facts for passing an appropriate order unless they are disproved. The relevant Section 114 is reproduced as under:

The author is a Advocate Supreme Court Advocate, 209, New Lawyers' Chamber, BhagwanDass Road, New Delhi-110001, Email id: rs.jena@yahoo.co.in

'Birds of Bhubaneswar'

Bhubaneswar: For the first time birds available in Capital City are listed in a well-researched book "Birds Of Bhubaneswar" is now available for nature lovers.

Thanks to the efforts of an ardent nature lover and veteran IFS Officer, Rajiv Kumar Chair-



person of Odisha Biodiversity Board (OBB) the book has been released in the wildlife Week Celebrations held here on 7 October here.

Department of Forest, Environment & Climate Change observed the "68th Wildlife Week" from 2-8 October, 2022. In this occasion while observing Wildlife Week on 7 October, 2022.

In the State level function a book on "Birds of Bhubaneswar: Glimpses of Avifauna in Diversified Habitats" was released prepared by Odisha Biodiversity Board.

Rajiv Kumar, IFS, Chairman, OBB has been is guiding force behind this effort, said a senior scientist of OBB.

This book provides key features for identification of species, description, common names, scientific names, vernacular names,

residential status, IUCN status, size, special features, food habit, habitat ecology, voice, occurrence and breeding behaviour of the birds along with their taxonomic details and nomenclature of 204 species of birds (out of total 244 documented in the city) occur-



ring in the Capital City of Bhubaneswar.

In addition to this, various common interesting facts associated with some of the species have also been mentioned in the book which makes it interesting for common readers. It is a fact that Bhubaneswar as a city is growing rapidly with lots of anthropogenic activities. However, it is a matter of surprise and great satisfaction that population of faunal species especially the rich diversity of birds in the city has been found significantly encouraging. It is expected that the book not only will help researchers and students to enrich their knowledge but also help to create awareness among common urban public which ultimately will lead towards the conservation of these beautiful creation of nature in urban habitats. Ace Mandarin Satyabrata Sahu, who was recently ACS Forest Environment and Climate Change was instrumental in publication of the book for which OBB Officials have expressed their 'Sincere Thanks' for the initiative. Senior OBB Official said it is because of pursuing efforts of Mr.Sahu the book could be released on 7 October.

Congress pushed North-east to violence and anarchy: Amit Shah in Assam

GUWAHATI: Union home minister Amit Shah launched a frontal attack on the Congress here on Saturday, alleging that the 70 years of the grand old had party pushed Assam and the northeast into violence and anarchy. Addressing party workers and booth committee members, Shah, accompanied by BJP president J.P. Nadda, said, "Seventy years of Congress pushed Northeast to violence and anarchy. BJP's eight years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought it back into the mainstream."

people were addressed, and five tribal agreements were signed."

Assam was identified by violence, terrorism and protest, he said, adding, "Now, it is known for peace, infrastructure and development." Expressing gratitude to veteran party workers who held the flag of the party aloft during its fledgling, Shah said, "We never imagined we would form government on our own in Assam during my Vidyarthi Parishad days. Today, the BJP's consecutive rule in the state is ensuring all-round development."



Lauding the BJP regime, Shah said, "The northeast has marched ahead on the path of peace and development during eight years of BJP rule. BJP has established peace in Assam with 9,000 people laying down arms and joining the mainstream."

Targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he said, "Rahul Gandhi gave Congress an agenda to remove the Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) from the northeast if they came to power (in 2019). That was for appeasement. When it was asked from me, I said we'll first bring peace to the northeast and will remove AFSPA but won't do it only for appeasement."

Stating that more than 60 per cent of Assam was out of AFSPA, he said, "Under PM Modi's leadership, the issues of Karbi, Boro and Bru

He also recalled that during the Congress regime of Chief Minister Hiteshwar Saikia, BJP protesters, including himself, were assaulted.

Earlier, Shah and Nadda inaugurated the party's headquarters in the presence of Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, state party head Bhabesh Kalita, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and others.

Shah also chaired a regional meeting on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' in Assam to discuss the drug scenario in the north-eastern states and ways to mitigate it. Chief Ministers and Directors-General of Police of all northeastern states participated in the meeting.

Nitish says Prashant Kishor had asked him to merge JD(U) with Congress

SITAB DIARA: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday claimed that poll strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor had asked him to merge his JD(U) with the Congress.

Speaking to reporters in Sitab Diara, the birthplace of socialist icon Jayaprakash Narayan, Kumar claimed that Kishor was working for the BJP.

"He came to meet me recently of his own accord. I did not invite him. He speaks so much but hides

commitment I have made in return for any post," said Kishor.

Kishor, the founder of political consultancy I-PAC, was inducted into the JD(U) in 2018 by Kumar and was elevated to the national vice-president's post within a few weeks.

However, a squabble with Kumar over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) led to his expulsion from the



the fact that once he had asked me to merge my party with the Congress," said Kumar.

The chief minister was responding to Kishor's claim that he spurned a recent request by Kumar to lead the JD(U).

"Let him speak whatever he wants. Whatever he says, does not make any sense. Four-five years ago, he had told me to merge with the Congress. Now, he is working for the BJP," said Kumar.

Kishor had on Tuesday claimed that Kumar had called him to his residence about 10-15 days back and asked him to lead JD(U).

"I said it is not possible. I cannot go back on the

party in a couple of years.

In May, he announced the 'Jan Suraj' platform, and is at present on a 3,500-km-long march that would cover every nook and corner of the state.

Meanwhile, the chief minister paid floral tributes to Jayaprakash Narayan on his death anniversary, and reviewed the development works undertaken by his government in and around Sitab Diara.

He also visited a primary health centre (PHC) named after Narayan's wife Prabhavati Devi. "This health centre will have all medical facilities and villagers will not have to go to the district town for better treatment," he said.



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Hackers steal tokens worth USD 570 million from Binance-linked blockchain

BENGALURU: Binance, the largest cryptocurrency exchange, has to suspend the blockchain 'BNB Chain', as hackers stole tokens worth USD 570 million. The crypto exchange

contained and funds are safe, this hack raises serious questions about the safety of users' money.

According to data from blockchain analytics firm Chainalysis, a total

of around USD 1.4 billion has been lost to breaches on cross-chain bridges since the beginning of this year. BNB Chain in a blog post said that decentralised chains are not designed to be stopped, but by

and 44 in total in different time zones. This delayed closure, but we were able to minimise the loss," it said. "Bridges allow blockchains with different cryptocurrencies to communicate with each other and trade



said a cross-chain bridge that links with the BNB Chain was hit. Cross-chain bridges enable the transfer of tokens from one blockchain to another. Though Binance CEO Changpeng Zhao said the issue has been

of around USD 1.4 billion has been lost to breaches on cross-chain bridges since the beginning of this year. BNB Chain in a blog post said that decentralised chains are not designed to be stopped, but by

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Ethiopian Airlines showcases service network linking India

HYDERABAD: Ethiopian Airlines hosted a seminar for its travel partners in India. Acknowledged as the largest aviation group in Africa, the airline showcased its service network across India and multiple destinations in Africa, the Americas and

a 4-star certification. We have initiated Vision 2035 for the growth of our network."

Srinivasan Jayaseelan, regional manager, south India, STIC GSA, took the audience through the history of the airlines and aspects like hospitality and visa.



Europe.

The airline said it operates to 130 plus international passenger and cargo destinations across five continents. It claimed an average growth of 25 per cent in the seven years prior to Covid-19.

Addisu Ermias, traffic and sales manager, south India, while thanking the travel fraternity present, said, "After humble beginnings, Ethiopian Airlines is now Africa's most profitable air carrier, which also enjoys

Anju Wariah, director, group business development, STIC Travel Group, said, "Hyderabad has always been welcoming. Our tie-up with Vistara and Air India provides seamless connectivity from Hyderabad to Bengaluru."

Surabhi Rana, assistant general manager, airline marketing, Bangalore International Airport Limited, highlighted the regional connectivity of the Kempe Gowda airport at Bengaluru.

Govt invites bids for IDBI Bank privatisation; Govt, LIC to sell 60.72 pc

NEW DELHI(KCN): The government on Friday invited bids from investors for privatising IDBI Bank by selling a total of 60.72 per cent stake in the bank.

The last date for submission of bids or Expression of Interest (EoI) is December 16.

Currently, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) holds 529.41 crore shares representing 49.24 per cent stake in IDBI Bank, while the government holds 488.99 crore shares or 45.48 per cent stake.

Of this, the government will sell 30.48 per cent and LIC will sell 30.24 per cent stake, aggregating to 60.72 per cent of the equity share capital of IDBI Bank, along with transfer

of management control in IDBI Bank, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said while inviting



bids. Shares of IDBI Bank closed at Rs 42.70, up 0.71 per cent over previous close on the BSE. At the current market price, the 60.72 per cent stake would be valued at over Rs 27,800 crore.

Notification for Dhamnagar bypoll out, voting on Nov 3

Continued from page-1

adequate number of EVMs and VVPATs for the by-election and a team of ECI officials will start inspecting them from Saturday, he added.

A total of 2,38,360 voters including 1,23,013 male and 1,15,314 female will cast their votes in the poll. The constituency also has 4,956 PwD voters and 7,206 voters above 80 years of age. The CEO said PwD voters, those above 80 years of age, Covid-infected and Covid-suspect voters can exercise their franchise through postal ballot.

The CEO said as the Election Commission of India (ECI) has not issued any fresh Covid guidelines for conduct of the bypoll, advisory issued by the Odisha government will be followed for the exercise. The last date to file nomination is October 14.

KCR shifts focus to Delhi after party's name change

Continued from page-1

by launching BRS-affiliated units.

While addressing the TRS state general body meeting at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had announced that he would pick launch the farmer wing of the BRS in Maharashtra. From there, the BRS' activity would extend nationwide.

The plan was to reach out to farmers, Dalits and tribals by showcasing welfare schemes being implemented by the Telangana government in the last eight years, and promise to extend them to the entire country if the BRS plays a key role in the central government after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Party leaders have identified a bungalow in Sardar Patel Road in Delhi, believed to belong to the Marwar rulers of Jodhpur, to start the BRS office. The permanent office will be at Vasant Vihar where a building is under construction.

The CM had laid foundation on September 2 last year for the building on a 1,200-square yard plot allotted by the Centre. It is expected to be completed by Ugadi in March 2023.

Govt announces annual work plan to curtail Left-wing extremism menace

Continued from page-1

activities under AWP-2022-23 include procurement of modern ammunition, adequate logistics support to armed forces, training for State police force, community policing, additional fortification of police posts and rehabilitation of LWE cadres.

The fund provision of `85.85 crore for AWP-2022-23 is 50 per cent more than 2021-22. The AWP-2021-22 was rolled out with a budget outlay of around Rs 50.56 crore. The funds for AWP 2022-23 would be shared by both the Central and State government on 60:40 sharing basis.

The Chief Secretary said community mobilisation and confidence building activities should be intensified in the LWE infested pockets. He directed officials to stay connected with people and community, be aware of their concerns and raise their confidence level. Steps should be taken to provide better alternative livelihood activities to people and promote education of children in the affected pockets.

"People's confidence and participation would go a long way in rooting out LWE activities from the suspected pockets," Mahapatra added. As per a release issued by the office of the Chief Secretary, LWE activities are well under control in the State. Swabhimanchal in Koraput district, once considered to be the epicentre of Maoists is now free of LWE with enhanced developmental interventions in the area.

Well planned intelligence based actions are being taken to counter the extremists. DGP Sunil Bansal, Additional Chief Secretary Home Sanjeev Chopra, Special Secretary, Home Santosh Bala and intelligence wings participated in the deliberations.

Nobel Peace Prize to activists from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine

Continued from page-1

tee for honouring Bialiatki, with the spokesman calling its choices in recent years so politicised that Alfred Nobel got tired of turning in his grave.

Asked whether the Nobel Committee was intentionally rebuking Putin, whose 70th birthday is Friday, Reiss-Andersen said the prize was not against anybody but for something.

This prize is not addressing President Putin, not for his birthday or in any other sense, except that his government, as the government in Belarus, is representing an authoritarian government that is suppressing human rights activists, she said.

It was the second straight year that Putin's repressive government was implicitly rebuked with the prize. It was awarded last year to Dmitry Muratov, the editor of independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta, and Philippine journalist Maria Ressa, for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression. Both have struggled in the past year.

This year the prize comes amid the largest war in Europe since World War II, a conflict that has displaced millions from their homes, destroyed cities and killed a still undetermined large number.

"We are talking about two authoritarian regimes and one nation fighting a war and we would like to highlight the importance of civic society," Reiss-Andersen said.

Bialiatki was one of the leaders of the democracy movement in Belarus in the mid-1980s and has continued to campaign for human rights and civil liberties. He founded the non-governmental organization Human Rights Center Viasna.

He was detained following protests in 2020 against the re-election of Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko, a close ally of Putin. He remains in jail without trial and faces up to 12 years in prison if convicted.

"Despite tremendous personal hardship, Mr. Bialiatki has not yielded one inch in his fight for human rights and democracy in Belarus," Reiss-Andersen said, adding that the Nobel panel was calling on Belarusian authorities to release him.

Exiled Belarus opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, visiting Paris, told The Associated Press she felt honoured and delighted that Bialiatki was among the laureates.

For sure, it will attract more attention to (the) humanitarian situation in our country, she said. Tsikhanouskaya, whose husband is also imprisoned, said Bialiatki is suffering a lot in punishment cells in Belarus.

Memorial was founded in the Soviet Union in 1987 to ensure the victims of communist repression would be remembered. It has continued to compile information on human rights abuses and track the fate of political prisoners in Russia. The country's highest court ordered it shut down in December, the latest move in a relentless crackdown on rights activists, independent media and opposition supporters.

Tatyana Glushkova, a board member of the Memorial Human Rights Defense Center, said she and her colleagues were "very, very happy to have the importance of their work recognized.

Glushkova said one of the reasons the Kremlin views Memorial as a threat is because Memorial understands the parallels between Putin's regime and the Soviet regime ... Stalin's regime. And it makes these parallels published and informs everyone about how all these regimes are similar.

She also noted that some previous Nobel Peace Prize winners were heads of state, but in modern Russia working for peace, it's not the work of the state, it's the work of civil society, and the fact that Memorial was awarded the prize this year highlights that.

Glushkova said the award was handed to the group on the day when it once again had to appear in court in Moscow this time on a case related to its office building in central Moscow.

The Center for Civil Liberties was founded in 2007 to promote human rights and democracy in Ukraine during a period of turmoil in the country.

Lyon still in trouble after draw with Toulouse in Ligue 1

LYON: Lyon ended a four-game losing streak but blew the lead against promoted Toulouse in a 1-1 draw in the French league.



The result on Friday did not relieve the pressure on Lyon coach Peter Bosz, who was booed by the fans when the stadium announcer read his name before kickoff. At full-time, Lyon supporters loudly jeered their team. Lyon remained in seventh place, eight points outside the top three spots. "Nobody is happy with that result," Lyon midfielder Corentin Tolisso said. "It's not good enough. Everyone must put himself into question."

Lyon took the lead in the second minute with

a deflected shot from Brazilian winger Tete, who notched his fifth league goal.

Toulouse substitute Rafael Ratao capitalized on some poor defending from the hosts to level in the 67th by beating goalkeeper Anthony Lopes from close range.

"Once again, we were shaky defensively," Lyon striker Alexandre Lacazette said. "I felt that we were in danger each time they had the ball. It's a bit of a worry

this season." Lyon could have added a second goal in the first half but Toulouse goalkeeper Maxime Dupe denied Karl Toko Ekambi in the 12th, saved Lacazette's chip in the 23rd, and pushed Corentin Tolisso's header behind in the 41st. Toulouse nearly equalized against the run of play in the 43rd when a long-range strike from Stijn Spierings rattled the bar.

Paris Saint-Germain leads the league from Marseille by two points and visits Reims on Saturday, while Marseille will host Ajaccio.

IAS officers given charge of Hockey World Cup venues

BHUBANESWAR: Ahead of the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2023, the State government has

ment, Managing Director of IPICOL and IDCO Bhupendra Singh Poonia will remain in charge of

charge of OSD of Sports and Youth Services department for the Hockey World Cup at Bhubaneswar.

where the opening ceremony is expected to be held. MD of Odisha Mining Corporation

Deaf Cricket: India enter final, beat SA by 7 wickets in Qualifier 1



AJMAN: India cricket team for the hearing impaired entered the final of the Deaf International Cricket Council T20 Champions Trophy beat-

ing South Africa by seven wickets in the Qualifier 1 encounter, here on Saturday. India had earlier won all their three round-robin matches against

Bangladesh, Australia and South Africa. Batting first, South Africa managed only 100 runs and then India cantered home in 15.5 overs, losing only three

wickets. India's Sai Akash was the top scorer with 36 runs. Among bowlers, Kuldeep Singh took three wickets and was adjudged 'Man of the Match'.



appointed two IAS officers as Officers on Special Duty (OSD) for the venues where the matches will be played. As per an order issued by the General Administration and Public Grievance depart-

OSD of Sports and Youth Services department for the Hockey World Cup at Rourkela. Similarly, Director of Technical Education and Training Reghu G has been allowed to remain in

The Men's World Cup Hockey will be played at both Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in January next year. The State government is developing the country's biggest hockey stadium at Rourkela,

(OMC) Ltd and IDCOL Balwant Singh has been given additional charge of the Vice-Chairman of Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and Managing Director of Bhubaneswar Smart City Ltd (BSCL).

India beat Bangladesh by 59 runs in Women's Asia Cup



SYLHET: India defeated Bangladesh by 59 runs in a Women's Asia Cup match here on Saturday.

Opting to bat, Shafali Verma smashed a quickfire 55 off only 44 balls while in-form Jemimah Rodrigues used the

long handle to good effect with an unbeaten 35 as India managed a par 159 or 5.

Shafali and stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana (47 off 38 balls) added 96 for the opening stand while Jemimah and Deepti Sharma (10)

added 29 runs in just 2.3 overs.

The Indian bowlers then defended the target easily, restricting the hosts to 100 for 7. Captain Nigar Sultana top-scored with 36 while Fargana Hoque made 30.

For India, Shafali Verma and Deepti

Sharma picked up two wickets apiece.

Brief Scores: India 159 for 5 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 55, Jemimah Rodrigues 35 not out; Rumana Ahmed 3/27) vs Bangladesh 100 for 7 in 20 overs (Nigar Sultana 36; Shafali Verma 2/10, Deepti Sharma 2/13).



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