

Odisha: Farmers resent govt delay in announcement of input subsidy

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Even as the State government promptly sanctioned Rs 128.58 crore for immediate restoration of public property damaged in the recent floods, the delay in the announcement of a similar pack-

more than 33 per cent.

"The government has been advising farmers to take up short duration paddy or early rabi crop cultivation but it is yet to provide agriculture input subsidy or other financial assistance to the affected farmers. Further delay in the announcement of special package will be of no use," said State BJP president Samir Mohanty.

"Faced with a similar situation in 2020, the State government had announced input subsidy for the flood-affected farmers on September 10. Perhaps the

government is waiting for the crop-cutting reports from districts to announce a package for farmers. It will be of no use if the package is announced a week later," said Dillip Kumar Baral, a farmer of Puri district.



age for farmers who sustained crop loss is baffling.

As per damage assessment reports received from 24 flood-affected districts, 1,26,162 hectares of farmland suffered crop loss of

Revenue Rises by 15.55%

Bhubaneswar(KCN): State's own revenue collection from both tax and non-tax revenue has been increased by 15.55 per cent till August of the current fiscal year 2022-23.



Both the own tax and non-tax revenue have registered a good growth and almost equally contributed to the total collection during April to August of 2022-23.

According to official data, the total revenue collection was Rs 36,454.89 crore during the period while the State had collected Rs 31,548.49 crore during the same period of previous financial year. CONTINUED ON: P-7

No private jets, bus to service for world leaders at Queen's funeral: Report

LONDON(KCN): World leaders preparing to attend one of the UK's most significant and historic events in recent times have reportedly been informed of the strict protocol

not to use helicopters to get around. They have reportedly been told they cannot use their own state cars to arrive at the service at Westminster Abbey scheduled for 11 am

FCDO said it "regrets that, because of limited space at the state funeral service and associated events, no other members of the principal guest's family, staff or entourage may be admitted".

Naruhito, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and French President Emmanuel Macron are expected to be at the service, while Spain is likely to be represented by King Felipe VI.

According to the FCDO documents being quoted, 'Politico' claims King Charles III will host a reception for all the overseas leaders at Buckingham Palace in London on Sunday evening before the funeral service.

Visiting heads of state will also be able to attend the lying-in-state of the Queen's coffin, and sign the condolence book at Lancaster House in London later. While at Lancaster House, the visiting dignitaries will be able to deliver a short tribute to the late Queen.

Following the funeral service next Monday, the leaders will be escorted to Dean's Yard within the grounds of Westminster Abbey to attend a reception hosted by UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly.



that will be in place for Queen Elizabeth II's funeral ceremony at Westminster Abbey in London next Monday, September 19.

According to Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) documents obtained by 'Politico', all international heads of state and their spouses planning to arrive in London for the State Funeral have been asked to arrive on commercial flights rather than private jets and have also been asked

local time and would instead be taken by bus from a site in west London. Westminster Abbey will be so packed for the event that it will be impossible for more than a single, senior representative per country and their spouse to attend, the FCDO notes in the official protocol message regarding the event, which 'Politico' claims to have seen.

In the document, sent to overseas embassies and high commissions late on Saturday night, the

Heads of a state unable to attend may choose someone else as their official representatives, such as a head of government or senior minister. US President Joe Biden had told reporters of his plan to attend the funeral and a few other world leaders have confirmed their intention to attend.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern are also due to attend. Japan's Emperor

Odisha: Preserve traditions, Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal tells young tribals



JEYPORE(KCN): Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal on Sunday urged the young tribals to preserve their age-old traditions.

Speaking at the sixth Durua Adivasi Mahila Mahasangh at Budaguda in Koraput's Kundra block, the Governor paid tributes to tribal freedom fighters of the district and urged people to emulate the sons of the soil. Tribals have been guiding humanity during tough times. They have managed to preserve their art, culture, tradition and language despite the onslaught of civilisation.

"I urge the tribal community to lead their lives in peaceful co-existence with mother nature," he said. On the occasion, the Governor assured the Durua community that their demand for Scheduled Tribal (ST) status will be considered by the government.

He also interacted with some members of the community. Later, the Governor visited Saraswati Vidya Mandir in Jeypore where a State-level essay competition on 'Azadi ka amrit mahotsav' was organised. He interacted with students on various issues.

Odisha government plans tourist-friendly police stations

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): In a bid to project a tourist-friendly image to the world during the upcoming FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in January, the State government has planned to spruce up its police stations and personnel ahead of the quadrennial world championship. Odisha police have already prepared a list of



10-15 places in the State that witnessed a high footfall of tourists in the last few years.

Police stations in the areas will undergo all-around improvement before the world cup. "We will submit the list to the government. Once approved, the capacity of the police stations having jurisdiction over such places will be augmented. The officers of the police stations will also be imparted training on behaCONTINUED ON: P-7

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik to ring BSE opening bell on Mumbai trip

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is slated to ring the opening

ing, fintech, chemicals, renewable energy equipment, plastics and metal downstream.



bell of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) during his three-day tour of Mumbai beginning on Tuesday.

He will visit the commercial capital of the country as part of an investors' meet scheduled on September 14. This is the fourth investment roadshow after Dubai, Ahmedabad and New Delhi ahead of the third edition of the Make-in-Odisha Conclave from November 30 to December 4.

The CM will address potential investors invited from diverse sectors at the Mumbai roadshow. As part of the curtain raiser of the mega industrial carnival, he is also scheduled to meet industry leaders and business tycoons to apprise them of the conducive business environment in the State.

Official sources said the focus at the Mumbai meet will be on new industrial sectors and investors' groups not yet present in Odisha. The target sectors for the event include bank-

As per schedule, the Chief Minister will arrive in Mumbai on September 13. After the one-to-one meeting with industry leaders at The Oberoi between 11 am and 1.30 pm the next day, he is slated to meet Chairman of Aditya Birla Group Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Vedanta

Resources Ltd Anil Agarwal and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra.

The investors' meet will be held at Hotel Trident. Naveen is also scheduled to visit BSE at Dalal Street and attend the ceremony to ring the auspicious opening bell between 9 am and 9.30 am.

Principal Secretary of Industries department Hemant Sharma said the Mumbai roadshow will focus on new sectors that are yet to make their way into Odisha.

"We are expecting investments from diverse sectors during the next Make-in-Odisha conclave. Hopes are high on fintech, IT/ITes, metal downstream and renewable energy equipment apart from chemicals, plastics and advanced electronic manufacturing," he added. Representatives from the industries will attend the roadshow along with their respective business associates to invite them to Odisha.

Barbil police arrested five youth in connection with a robbery



Barbil(KCN): Barbil Police has arrested five accused in case of one attempt to robbery case. According to information, some youths chased a truck bearing registration No. OD 09 P 7786 using one Scorpio and Bullet motorbikes near Birsa Munda chowk in Barbil and stopped it. After stopping the truck, they threatened them with swords and spears and tried to attack them and demanded money from them. The driver of the truck, Mahabir Das, managed to escape cleverly, while the helper of the truck, Krishna Nag, fell victim to their attack. Krishna who is a resident of Barbil station area lodged a written complaint at Barbil police station regarding the incident.

Based on the complaint, Barbil Police investigated the incident. After recording the complaint of Krishna and other witnesses, they arrested Sunil Patra of Damu Hatting, Pintu Dash of Dhobi Hatting, Kebal Singh, Sunil Chatar of Bachhu Hatting and Sanu Nag of Kamar Joda area under Joda police station. One scorio OR 02BX 8253 and one bullet motorcycle are seized from them. Moreover, it has been informed that they have confiscated the swords, iron rods and tools used by them in the said robbery. The police said that the accused are habitual offender and more than 40 cases has been lodged in the name of Sunil Patra at Barbil police station.

RCWA Manipur & Nagaland Sector, CRPF organizes 15 days Cutting and Tailoring course for CRPF families



Imphal (KCN): In an effort towards skill development of the RCWA GC Imphal members, a 15 days Cutting & Tailoring Course was conducted at GC CRPF Imphal campus. About 25 members actively participated and learnt the nuances of cutting and tailoring. After successful completion of the course, Smt Rajni Datta, President M&N Sector

CWA gave away appreciation certificate to the trainer Tailors of GC Imphal and participants. Smt Geetarani Devi, w/o ASI/GD K.Mohendro Singh, 174 Bn stood first in the course and was awarded the best participant prize. The participants were very happy and felt satisfied that such an effort to develop their skill was envisaged.

Health Indicators on Positive Mode

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Member (Health) of NITIAayog, in presence of Shri R a j e s h Bhushan, Secretary, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare released findings of the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for India for 2018-19. In a significant update, various indicators re-

lated to health expenditure in the country have shown encouraging trend, which has been demonstrated on a sustained basis. The NHA estimates for 2018-19 show that there has been an increase in the share of government health expenditure in the total GDP of the country. It has increased from 1.15% in 2013-14 to 1.28% in 2018-19. Additionally, the share of Government Health Expenditure in Total Health Expenditure has also increased over time. In 2018-19, the share of government expenditure was 40.6%, substantially higher than the share of 28.6% in 2013-14. NHA findings also indicate that Government's health expenditure as a percentage of Current Health Expenditure has increased from 23.2% in 2013-14 to 34.5% in 2018-19. It has also been observed that per capita government spending on healthcare has increased by 74% since 2013-14, i.e., Rs. 1042 to Rs. 1815 in 2018-19.



An IIT Kharagpur Alumnus to Head DRDO

Kolkata(KCN): Dr. Samir V. Kamat, an Alumnus of IIT Kharagpur has been appointed the Secretary of Department of Defence Research and Development (R&D) and Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on August 25, 2022. Dr. Kamat has been conducting cutting-edge research and development on materials for various defence applications for the past three decades and has been bestowed the Distinguished Alumnus Award by IIT Kharagpur for the year 2018. As a Distinguished Scientist and Director General, Naval Systems and Materials, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), he is posted at Visakhapatnam. His sense of purpose evoked metamorphism in Defence applications for our country and led to the advanced development towards the service of the nation. Dr. Kamat completed his B.Tech in Metallurgical Engineering in 1985 from IIT Kharagpur and was a recipient of the Institute Silver Medal as department topper. A Ph.D from Ohio State University, USA in Materials Science and Engineering in 1988, he did his Post-Doctoral Fellowship from the Washington State University, Pullman, USA and joined the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), DRDO in 1989 as a Research Scientist. He was appointed the Outstanding Scientist & Director, DMRL, DRDO, Hyderabad in 2015 before taking up his current portfolio at Visakhapatnam.



In his role, first as Director, DMRL, and now as Director General, Naval Systems and Materials, DRDO, Dr. Kamat has provided leadership and direction to several critical materials and naval systems programmes and has played a key role in enhancing the interaction of cluster laboratories with academic institutions as well as industry. He has taken steps to align the programmes of the cluster laboratories with the long-term integrated perspective plans of the Services. Dr. Kamat's contributions in the area of microstructure-mechanical property correlations in advanced materials, such as particu-

late reinforced metal matrix composites, ceramic matrix composites, aluminium-lithium alloys, high strength aluminium alloys and titanium alloys, have led to their development for various defence applications. These include development of Samarium-Cobalt magnets for gyros used in guidance systems of missiles and BLDC motors used in torpedoes, DMR-1700 ultrahigh strength steel for rocket motor casings, titanium alloys for aeronautical applications and advanced functional materials such as piezoelectric, magnetoelectric and magnetic materials for sensor, actuator and energy harvesting devices. Dr. Kamat has also been responsible for setting-up state-of-the-art experimental facili-

ties at DMRL such as Thin Film Lab, Small Length Scale Mechanical Testing Lab and Stress Corrosion Cracking test facility. His work on stress corrosion cracking (SCC) behaviour of ultrahigh strength 250 grade maraging and DMR 1700 steels has resulted in the development of a three-layer coating system for protection of these steels against SCC failure in marine environments. After generating significant contributions to the development of Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) Technology in DMRL, a MoU was initiated by him between DMRL, BARC, IREL and ARCI to launch a Mineral-to-Magnet programme that aims to make the country totally self-reliant in this critical REPM technology.

Dr. Kamat has been part of several committees of national importance and has contributed to the drafting of the National Strategic Materials Policy. Recipient of the DRDO Young Scientist of the Year award twice, he was awarded the Swatantryaveer Savarkar Smarak Award for Science in 2016.

Installation of 2nd Dual Energy Linear Accelerator at AIIMS Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The department of Radiation Oncology is providing state of the art Conformal Radiation Treatment to cancer patients at present. During COVID pandemic the department provided uninterrupted treat-

ment service to the patients without being shut for a single day. In the year 2021 the department has provided clinical service to more than 25,000 cancer patients in form of Chemo, Radiation, Pain and Palliative therapy. For the convenience of cancer patients, the department is going to install 2nd Dual Energy Linear Accelerator having cutting age contemporary technology. With addition of the 2nd LINAC, the patient waiting time shall be shorter and the quality of treatment shall be higher. The machine shall be fitted with attachments for performing all kinds of modern age radiotherapy like SBRT, SRS, SRT,



order to avoid normal tissue damage and deliver higher radiation dose to the tumor. Today the machine installation process began by invoking God and breaking coconut at the bunker site by the Executive Director Prof. Asutosh Biswas in presence of Prof. Dillip Kumar Parida, Head of the Department, Radiation Oncology, Other faculty members, Staff and Students, Dr. Pravas Kumar Tripathy FIC PRO, DDA(I/c) Rashmiranjan Sethy, FA, SE. The work is expected to be completed by Jan 2023 and the machine shall be clinical after getting approval from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Mumbai.

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Rashtra Vijay Utsav Banglar Sona Maa 2022 – An initiative to celebrate 75 Years of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Honouring Daughters with Banglar Sona Ma

Kolkata(KCN,Ankit Agarwal): Rashtra Vijay Utsav Banglar Sona Maa 2022 - An initiative by Sarmista Acharya and presented by Ankit Shaw & The Junction House was held today at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata.



This event is being celebrated to honour the women across the country for their contri-



butions in their respective fields. This is a Noble Initiative to Support & Recognise Tribal Community Women & Acid Victims.



Their vision is to celebrate 75 Years of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Honouring Daughters with Banglar Sona Maa from different walks of life.



The Chief guest of this event was: Laxmi Agarwal, Acid Attack Survivor & Chapaak Movie Protagonist; Chirag Paswan, Member of Parliament, Bihar; Salil Acharya,



Bollywood Actor; Vishal Singh, Bollywood Actor; Dr. Maria Fernandes, WB Commission for Women & VC WBFDC, Govt W.B;

Madan Mitra, MLA; Rajesh Sinha, Councilor and the award winner of Banglar Sona Maa was: Laxmi Agarwal, Acid Attack Survivor & Chapaak Movie Protagonist; Dr. Maria Fernandes, WB Commission for Women & VC WBFDC; Richa Sharma, Actor; Aindrila



Sharma, Tollywood Actress; Jessica Gomes Surana, Educationist; Mallika Banerjee,



Tollywood Actor; Tanusree Chakraborty, Tollywood Actor; Ushoshi Sengupta, Miss Universe India; Ila Pal, Eminent Indian Swim-



mer; Urwas Jaiswal, Ms Asia World 2022; Dr. Rupali Basu, MD & CEO Woodlands Hospital; Santi Das, Additional special superinten-



dent at CID, WB; Ranjita Sinha, Transgender Activist; Megh Sayantani Ghosh, Transgender Lawyer, Classical Dancer & Choreographer;

Sanchayita Jadav, Acid Attack Survivor; Piyali Basak, Mountaineer; Sampa Guha, International Power lifter & Kolkata Police Officer; Sudeshna Roy, Eminent Tollywood actress & Child rights crusader; Poulomi Ghatak, International Table tennis Player, Olympian & Arjuna Awardee; Srovonti Bandyopadhyay, Member: WB Commission for Women & Co founder of The Bengal Ghorana. Speaking to the media, Ms. Sarmista Acharya,



Social Activist said, "It's a daughter's month celebration. It's a salute to the woman who has given birth to such pride in our nation. When you come across a strong daughter, you'll know it the moment she enters the room. She gives off a vibe of self-confidence that anyone could spot from a mile away. She knows what she wants in life, goes after it, and doesn't depend on anyone else for what she wants, so we are presenting such proud daughters of our nation like Laxmi Agarwal



and many others from different generations of the sector." Mr. Ankit Shaw, Celebrity Anchor & National Record Holder of West Bengal said, "We are honoured to celebrate 75th Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav by Honouring Daughters of the Country as Rashtra Vijay Utsav Banglar Sona Maa 2022. Daughters will be felicitated who have contributed to the nation. I feel so privileged to Plan & Organise this esteemed program as this is a Noble message to society that Tribal Community Women are an Integral part of our society." Speaking on the Occasion, Mr. Raj Roy, Director of The Junction House said, "Women are somehow neglected and have to go through a lot in the society, this initiative to bring revolution bringing all the community in one platform. Tribal Women, Transgender, Acid Victims, Bureaucrats, Athlete have been contributing but there are other sections of women who are left behind, we have to come forward and take them ahead. We are so happy that Laxmi Agarwal & other Chief Guests have come to support the cause too."

Open defecation – a national shame

Open defecation is a national shame and India tops in number of people open defecating.



Open defecation in India is a grave issue and needs to be addressed on top priority. According to UN report prompting the Government to admit it as a "huge shame",

India still has the largest number of people defecating in open in the world. Report of WHO and the UNICEF say 597 million people practice open defecation in India. No doubt, most of the people who defecate in open, lack awareness about sanitation. But apart from this, the single major factor which forces people to defecate in open is poverty. One in three people, or 2.3 billion people worldwide, have to share a toilet with multiple families in a community. Open defecation poses a serious threat to the health of children in India. It exposes women to the danger of physical attacks and encounters such as snake bites. According to the UN, countries where

open defecation is most widely practiced have the highest number of

deaths of children under the age of five, as well as high levels of under-nutrition, high levels of poverty and large disparities between the rich and poor.

No country in the world has more open defecation than India, where one in two people defecate outside. Every year, 200,000 children in India die from diseases caused by fecal contamination. Although toilets were built, without adequate motivation to use them, village people often continued to adhere to centuries-old practices, and abandoned the new toilets or put them to alternative uses. In fact there is still a traditional thought that the presence of toilets in the compound makes the later impure. Educated or uneducated, people in rural areas, for want of indoor plumbing use open space for defecating. There are some people who think that open defecation is more hygienic and having an indoor toilet is dirty and filthy. Improving sanitation in the villages has proved

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

to be one of India's greatest development challenges. One of

the main challenges faced in the drive to eliminate open defecation is the inadequate human resource base for sanitation. While leading a non-violent movement for India's independence from the British in 1947, Gandhi spoke about the need to improve hygiene and cleanliness in the country. "Sanitation is more important than political independence," he said.

It is a shame that 70 years after independence and India is still in such a state, where people have no knowledge, no resources to maintain a minimal level of hygiene. It's not that all those 60% people who don't use toilet are not financially able to construct toilets in their homes, actually many of them possess TV, cooler, motorcycles and many other accessories but don't feel the need to have a toilet inside their compound.

No doubt, access to sanitation in rural India is improving, the increase is not equitable. Open defecation is still almost universal

among the poorest 20 per cent of the population. We need a grass root campaign on how many diseases can be avoided by basic cleanliness and how spending on toilets is as important as developing other infrastructure. Whatever welfare measures taken so far by the government has not reached fully the mass. We don't need to build new temples, mosques, churches, gurudwaras etc. Public toilets with good water facility are the need of the hour. In a country like India it is very difficult and takes a long time to change the practice of open defecation in rural areas. Most of the toilets which are started for public use are being neglected by the people due to improper maintenance. It is the matter of hygiene that can attract more people to use toilet.

The implementation of toilet system can be carried out in a phased manner with prior creation of awareness through media. It is not that government is only responsible. People have to take responsibility for their own well being as well.

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

Video recording the court proceedings, an Offence?

Nullum crimen sine lege, nulla poena sine lege is a Latin maxim that means "no crime or punishment without a law." There can be no crime committed, and no punishment



meted out, without a violation of penal law as it existed at the time. This basic legal principle has been incorporated into international criminal law. This is also one of the fundamental principles of law which is incorporated in Part III of the Constitution. In simple words, no person can be proceeded against and punished unless the legislature had made a specific act as an offence and has expressly provided punishment therefor. Nothing is an offence unless the act alleged to be an offence finds incorporated in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or any other legislation. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 is one enactment outside the general law, namely, the IPC, defining an offence and providing for punishment. Section 2(c) of the said Act defines criminal contempt thus:

(c) "criminal contempt" means the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which—

(i) scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court; or

(ii) prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding; or

(iii) interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner;" Sections 12 of the said Act provides for the manner in which such an offence has to be tried, punishment and imposed.

2. The allegation against Dr. Vikram Deshmukh, as could be found in the order dated 11th September, 2019 passed by Shri Justice Ravindra V. Ghuge of the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court, is that he, Dr. Deshmukh, who was present in the Court during the course of the hearing of a petition instituted by his wife, recorded in his mobile the proceedings of the Court. The order further states that the Clerk/Sheristadar of the Court came to notice the same and he, even without waiting for any order of the Court, seized the mobile and handed it over to the Court. The Court thereupon asked Dr. Deshmukh to open his mobile and saw what was recorded and thereafter handed over the mobile to the lawyers on both sides and they too saw what was recorded in it. The order further states that Dr. Deshmukh admitted that he recorded the proceedings of the Court and he being told that he has the choice to opt for either 7 days' imprisonment or

Mathews J. Nedumpara

pay a fine of Rs.1 lakh, without any charge,

without any trial and for what offence he is being punished, frightened, Dr. Deshmukh pleaded guilty, profusely apologized to the Court and offered to pay Rs.50,000/- as penalty. His mobile was confiscated; so too his Aadhar Card, nobody knows under what provision, and the case was adjourned to 30th August, 2019 for depositing the penalty.

3. The above order came to be widely circulated in social media and various NLC groups. Literally, I had to face an avalanche of calls from lawyers, litigant public and common man for my/NLC's response, probably because I have been pursuing the cause of video-recording of proceedings of all Courts and Tribunals in the country, including the Supreme Court, and access thereto to the litigants. I am not much concerned about live telecast of the same, though certainly I am not against it. It were the celebrity lawyers who appear in sensational cases who are keen in the live telecast.

4. Having asked my opinion on the subject, I must say that nothing could have been more painful, nay, heart breaking than the aforesaid order of the Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court. In my opinion, Dr. Deshmukh did not commit any crime because there does not exist any law which makes what he did,

namely, recording of the proceedings of the Court on his mobile, an offence. Equally, there is also no law which provides for any punishment for such an act. He has been convicted and sentenced for something which constitutes no offence and punished for which there exists no law.

5. While I refuse to endorse individual litigants resorting to recording the proceedings of their case without prior permission of the Court, I beg to submit that litigants are forced to do so because of a growing fear amongst the litigants that what actually transpires in the court is seldom recorded in the orders, and also since the judgment of the Supreme Court in Swapnil Tripathi v. Supreme Court of India, AIR 2018 SC 4806, held that freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(d) of the Constitution takes within its ambit the right to have the proceedings of all Courts and Tribunals video-recorded and access to the same, except those proceedings which are required to be conducted in-camera. Suffice to say, my sympathies are always with Dr. Deshmukh who, I believe, has been convicted and sentenced for an offence unknown to the law of the Land

(The author is the President of the National Lawyers Campaign For Judicial Transparency And Reforms)

What's the Evidence for Fluvoxamine in COVID-19?

Fluvoxamine is a type of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor currently approved by the US Food and Drug Administration as a treatment for



obsessive compulsive disorder, although it is also prescribed for depression. An off-patent drug, fluvoxamine is cheap and widely available, making it potentially attractive as a repurposed COVID-19 treatment—if it can be

shown to be effective.

The drug drew splashy headlines last October, when a study reported that it lowered hospitalization risk among COVID-19 outpatients. But debate on this and other fluvoxamine data has been swirling for some months now.

Currently, National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines state there is insufficient evidence "to recommend either for or against the use of fluvoxamine for the treatment of COVID-19." The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) recommends the drug only be considered for COVID-19 in the context of clinical trials.

Recently, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) turned down an emergency use authorization request, filed late last year by University of Minnesota infectious diseases researcher and physician David Boulware, that would have provided official backing for doctors to prescribe the drug

as an early treatment for people infected with SARS-CoV-2.

The agency "determined that the data are insufficient to conclude that fluvoxamine may be effective in the treatment of nonhospitalized patients with COVID-19 to prevent progression to severe disease and/or hospitalization," it announced in a document widely shared online this week.

In the wake of this latest decision, here's a look at the available evidence on the drug's efficacy against COVID-19, as well as perspectives of scientists and health experts about what that evidence means.

What do the clinical data on fluvoxamine show? Despite a recent uptick in media coverage of the drug, most discussions about fluvoxamine's efficacy in COVID-19 patients draw on data from two randomized controlled trials of unvaccinated adults that were published before this year.

The first, dubbed STOP COVID, was launched as a preliminary study in 2020 by Washington University in St. Louis psychiatrists Angela Reiersen and Eric Lenze. Reiersen has written about how she came up with the idea to test the drug while ill with COVID-19, having read that fluvoxamine could dampen inflammation and improve survival in mice models of sepsis.

Different people have come to very different conclusions about whether or not fluvoxamine should be considered a viable treatment for COVID-19. The STOP COVID results, published in JAMA in late 2020, hinted that 100 mg of fluvoxamine taken

Catherine Offord

three times a day for 15 days could reduce an infected person's risk of clinical deterioration, as assessed through a combination of measures including reported shortness of breath and a need for supplemental oxygen or decrease in oxygen saturation.

Limitations including a small number of trial participants and a reliance on patient-completed surveys for data collection meant that "larger randomized trials with more definitive outcome measures" would be needed to determine clinical efficacy, the authors wrote in their paper.

The second published study, which Reiersen and Lenze also worked on, was part of the TOGETHER trial, a multi-arm study designed to evaluate repurposed drug treatments in high-risk outpatients with COVID-19. The fluvoxamine arm included more than 1,400 participants in Brazil, about half of whom took a placebo and half took 100 mg of fluvoxamine two times a day for 10 days.

The results, which sparked the spate of media coverage in October when they were published in The Lancet Global Health, showed that treatment was linked to a statistically significant, moderate reduction in the risk of hospitalization due to COVID-19—provided that "hospitalization" included emergency room visits of at least six hours, a definition the study authors justified based on the way Brazil was operating field hospitals at the time. The drug didn't show an effect on mortality in the study's main analysis.

In addition to these studies, there are at least two unpublished datasets from trials that failed to find evidence of fluvoxamine's benefit as an early COVID-19 treatment.

STOP COVID 2, a follow-up to STOP COVID, tested 100 mg twice a day. This trial was stopped early for futility last year, according to an NIH summary, "after lower than expected case rates and treatment effect were observed." Reiersen tells The Scientist that the team had trouble recruiting patients and is planning to publish its data soon.

A separate trial run by Boulware and colleagues at Minnesota, known as COVID-OUT, was also recently terminated early for futility. That trial used doses of 50 mg, taken twice daily. Boulware tells The Scientist that the team plans to release the COVID-OUT data when possible.

What are health experts saying about the evidence? Different people have come to very different conclusions about whether or not fluvoxamine should be considered a viable treatment for COVID-19.

After undergraduate research with spiders at the University of Oxford and graduate research with ants at Princeton University, Catherine left arthropods and academia to become a science writer. She has worked in various guises at The Scientist, starting as an intern in early 2016 before becoming a correspondent. As senior editor, she now writes articles for the online and print publications, and edits the magazine's Notebook, Careers, and Bio Business sections.

Queen Elizabeth II's funeral on September 19 at Westminster Abbey

LONDON: The State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II will take place at Westminster Abbey in London on September 19 at 11 am local time, Buckingham Palace announced on Saturday.

Prior to the State Funeral, the late British monarch will lie-in-state at Westminster Hall nearby for four days to allow the public to pay their respects.

"During the Lying-in-State, members of the public will have the opportunity to visit Westminster Hall to pay their respects to the Queen," the palace statement said.

"On the morning of Monday 19th September, the Lying-in-State will end and the coffin will be taken in Procession from the Palace of Westminster to Westminster Abbey, where the State Funeral Service will take place," it said.

Following the State Funeral, the coffin will travel in procession from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch in London for its onward journey to Windsor. In Windsor, the State Hearse will travel in procession to St.

George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, the monarch's final resting place with her late husband, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. The last State Funeral was held for former prime

minister Winston Churchill in 1965.

In the coming days, the Queen's coffin, which currently rests in the Ballroom at Balmoral Castle in Scotland where she died peacefully on Thursday, will travel to Edinburgh on Sunday by road, to arrive at the Palace of Holyroodhouse to rest in the Throne Room until Monday afternoon. "It will be especially poignant to see Her Majesty's

coffin begin its journey from her Aberdeenshire home to the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh," said Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

"This is a chance for people to gather together publicly and begin to mark our country's shared loss. We anticipate many, many people will be keen to pay their respects and we ask them to observe public safety messaging to ensure the safety of all," she said.

A procession will be formed on the forecourt of the Palace of Holyroodhouse to convey the coffin to St. Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh.

King Charles III and members of the royal family will take part in the procession and attend a service in the cathedral to receive the coffin.

The Scottish government has confirmed designated viewing stops along the procession route.

"Her Majesty's coffin will then lie at rest in St. Giles' Cathedral, guarded by Vigils from the Royal Company of Archers, to allow the people of Scotland

to pay their respects," Buckingham Palace said. On Tuesday, the coffin will travel from Scotland by Royal Air Force (RAF) aircraft from Edinburgh Airport, arriving at RAF Northolt in England later that evening.

It will be accompanied on the journey by the Queen's daughter, Anne, the Princess Royal.

The Queen's Coffin will then be conveyed to Buckingham Palace by road, to rest in the Bow Room.

"On the afternoon of Wednesday 14th September, the coffin will be borne in procession on a Gun Carriage of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery from Buckingham Palace to the Palace of Westminster, where the Queen will Lie-in-State in Westminster Hall until the morning of the State Funeral," the palace said.

The route of the procession will take in iconic central London sights such as Queen's Gardens, The Mall, Horse Guards and Horse Guards Arch, Whitehall, Parliament Street, Parliament Square and New Palace Yard.

After the coffin arrives at Westminster Hall, the Archbishop of Canterbury will conduct a service assisted by the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster, and attended by the King and members of the royal family, after which the Lying-in-State will begin for the public to pay their respects.

Queen Elizabeth II, the UK's longest-serving monarch, died on Thursday at Balmoral Castle in Scotland after reigning for 70 years.

Modi wants India to become a hub of innovation

AHMEDABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for concerted efforts to make India a global centre of research and innovation, and urged state governments to frame modern policies in the fields of science and technology.

Modi lamented that unlike the western countries, India failed to adequately celebrate the works of its scientists, which turned a large section of the society indifferent towards science.

There is a need to celebrate the achievements of Indian scientists, he said.

Addressing via video link the inaugural session of the Centre-State Science Conclave organised here, Modi said that since 2014, there has been a significant rise in investment in the fields of science and technology.

India is going ahead with the mantra of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan and Jai Anusandhan' (Hail soldiers, farmers, science and research), he said.

"We have to work together on various fronts to make India a global centre of research and innovation in this 'amrit kaal'. We have to take our research in the fields of science and technology to the local level. It is the need of the hour for all the states to lay emphasis on innovation to find local solutions to local problems," he said.

Urging the state governments to frame modern policies related to science, innovation and technology to find solutions to local problems, he stressed the need for more cooperation and collaboration with scientists.

"In order to encourage innovation, the state governments should give emphasis on creation of more and more scientific institutions and on simplification of processes. The number of innovation labs should also be increased in the institutions of higher education in states," he said.

Modi said India's Global Innovation Index ranking improved from 81 in 2015 to 46 due to the efforts of the central government.

There is a need to find localised solutions to issues like affordable housing, climate-resilient crops and waste recycling, he said.

"It is important that to deal with all these challenges, every state should frame modern policies related to science, innovation and technology and implement them. As governments, we should cooperate and collaborate more and more with our scientists. This will help create an environment of scientific modernity in the country," he said.

He also called for "optimum utilisation" of scientific institutions in the states.

"There are many national-level scientific institutes and laboratories in states. So the states should take full advantage of their ability and expertise. We also have to take our science-related institutions out of

silos," he said.

He pointed out how unlike the West, India failed to celebrate the works of our scientists in the early decades of the last century as much as was required, which led to an emergence of feeling of indifference towards science among a large section of our society.

"When we celebrate the achievements of our scientists, science becomes a natural part of our society, it becomes part of culture. Therefore, today my first request is that we celebrate the achievements of the scientists of our country with great enthusiasm," he said.

"Today in every area, Indian scientists are working wonders. The inclination towards science created by celebrating every small and big achievements of Indians scientists will help us in our 'amrit kaal'," he

added.

Modi said his government is moving forward with the idea of science-based development. Since 2014, there has been a significant increase in investment in the field of science and technology, he said.

The record number of patents, innovations and emergence of startups show how fast things were

changing in the country, he said.

"There is inclination for science, technology and innovation in the DNA of today's generation. They adopt technology very fast. We have to support this young generation with all our might. In India, new sectors are being created, opening up for the young generation today," he said.

"Whether it is a space mission, deep ocean mission, national supercomputing mission, semiconductor mission, hydrogen mission, drone technology...works are moving fast on many such missions," he said.

Modi said emphasis is placed on offering lessons in science and technology in a student's mother tongue.

He also talked about "hyper specialisation", and said that the Centre is ready to help states in the development of global-level specialised laboratories.

"You should also work for the increase in programmes in your states, which helps take science and technology at the grassroot level," he said, adding that states should encourage more schools to participate in science festivals and pay close attention to the science curriculum of other states.

"Whatever is good in other states can be replicated in your state. Development of infrastructure related to science and technology in every state is equally important to encourage science in the country," he said.

'Lakes remain thirsty even as Bengaluru drowned': Activists blame land mafias for floods

BENGALURU: The torrential rain in the city that flooded the houses and offices of tech honchos and turned roads into rivers of sorts could not fill most lakes, thanks to the land mafia who turned the feeder canals of these water bodies into a sewerage drain and diverted their flow, environmentalists said.

This mischief by the land sharks in connivance with some vested interests in various civic agencies and in the government led to the death of lakes in the city, Leo Saldanha, coordinator of Environment Support Group alleged.

Bengaluru, which the British rulers had called as a 'City of thousand lakes' for having over 1,600 lakes, has about 400 water bodies today in the Bengaluru metropolitan region.

"Those lakes which disappeared gave way for residential layouts, bus stands, bus terminals and tech parks. Sadly, those 400 lakes are also on the verge of destruction,"

Citing the example of Subrahmanyapur Lake in South Bengaluru, he said it has reduced to a cess-pool and is choked with weeds.

One can hardly imagine that barely 15 years ago, people used its water from drinking and took bath in it, he pointed out.

"Ironically, not only the Bangalore Development Authority developed a layout on another lake 'Venkatarayana Kere' on upstream of Subrahmanyapur Lake, but a powerful builder also constructed two massive residential complexes exactly on the feeder canals of these two lakes -- Subrahmanyapur and Venkatarayana Kere," Saldanha claimed.

ALSO READ | No Master Plan, no Master Plan Scheme...Reason why Bengaluru is flooding Further, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) reduced the width of its feeder canal from 60 ft to a mere 10 feet wide drain in two years. The feeder canal of the lake carries the sewage of

the nearby apartments and residential layouts, he claimed.

The drain does not empty a drop of rainwater into the lake.

Instead, it is diverted to straightaway flow into the subsidiary of the Vrushabhavathi river.

The Vrushabhavathi river is now reduced to a ma-



nor sewage drain, Saldanha said.

"It is a fact that the Subrahmanyapur lake got the attention of the court from 2009 and we are now in 2022. The attention of the court was focused on it. But even with judicial oversight, the Raja Kaluve (feeder canal of the lake) has been destroyed. Apartments have been constructed. This shows the weakness of the system," Saldanha said. Ravi Kumar, a resident of Chikkalasandra in the region, charged within a radius of two km of the Subrahmanyapur lake, land sharks gobbled up Chikkalasandra Lake, Ittamadu Lake and Narayana Kere and turned them into a residential layout ille-

gally while the civic agency finds itself helpless to recover them.

"The civic agencies had removed encroachment of Chikkalasandra lake a few years ago but today once again the encroachers are back.

This time even the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is parking its garbage vehicles inside the lake

bed', allowing others to encroach on it," Kumar alleged.

Noted activist S R Hiremath who led a campaign against the encroachment of government land in Karnataka, especially in Bengaluru said Bellandur Lake, which is the largest water body of the city, had been the victim of rampant encroachment as residential developments happened on its wetland region and its feeder canals.

"I had fought a legal battle against the encroachment with the help of eminent lawyer Prashant Bhushan in the Supreme Court and also fought cases in the High Court. The problem is those who

grabbed the government lands are very powerful and are holding important posts in government institutions as well as all the political parties," Hiremath said.

As water recedes, Mahadevapura residents now fear infections

Due to the heavy downpour in the past one week, the lake swelled to monstrous proportions submerging all those areas, which were encroached upon.

"I live in Bellandur. I am unable to move out due to flooding for the past one week. It's been more than 15 years, since I moved to this place but never ever, I experienced such a flood," an executive of a corporate company told PTI requesting anonymity.

A former IAS officer requesting anonymity said the government is least bothered about the problems of Bengaluru.

"The A T Ramaswamy committee report and V Balasubramanian's report 'Greed and Connivance' are gathering dust in the dingy corners of the government offices.

For the politicians and government officers, these reports are like a can of worms, which they don't want to open," he claimed.

According to noted architect Naresh Narasimhan, the planning of the city is based on land use and real estate and not on climate change and resilience.

"You have to think little ecologically. The root of the word economy is same as the word ecology. Both words have derived from a Greek word 'Ecos', which means home. Until we give importance to ecology, the economy cannot improve," Narasimhan said. The architect opined that the flooding in Bengaluru was an extreme climate change event, which was never seen before.

"If this has happened now, then it can happen again and we should plan accordingly," Narasimhan said. He insisted that the government should demonstrate a strong political will to take harsh decisions.

Green Ship Recycling meet

Gandhinagar: Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal has said that Gujarat is the business gateway of India and one of the world's preferred maritime destinations.

Addressing International Conference on Green Ship Recycling and Vehicle Scrapping in Gandhinagar today he said with a coastline of 1,600 km, Gujarat handles over 40% of India's cargo throughput and contributes 18% of the total cargo transported using coastal shipping.

He said Gujarat was the first state in the country to privatise the port sector, and by virtue of its strategic location, proactive policies,

such as port modernisation, rail, road, cruise tourism, RO-RO & passenger jetties, fisheries, coastal infrastructure, skill development, etc. There are 74 projects worth Rs. 57,000 crore under Sagarmala Programme in Gujarat, of which 15 projects worth Rs. 9,000 crore have been completed, 33 projects worth over Rs. 25,000 crore are under implementation and 26 projects worth Rs. 22,700 crore are under development, he said.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Minister Bhupendra bhai Patel said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gujarat is now moving towards port-led development. Gujarat is India's coastal gateway.



and robust infrastructure has emerged as the flag bearer of India's maritime success story. Shri Sonowal said India is a leading destination for ship recycling and the planned doubling of capacity of Alang-Sosiya shipyard in Gujarat will create a large number of employment opportunities and bring in more economic prosperity to Gujarat and the country.

Taking about the Sagarmala Programme, Shri Sonowal said it has given impetus to the thriving maritime sector in Gujarat with projects

He said the state is home to Alang, the largest ship-breaking yard in the world.

Just as Gujarat has been dominant in ship breaking-recycling sector, it will also be in green recycling. He said Gujarat has the potential and the political will to become a hub for green ship recycling. The Gujarat government is committed to making Gujarat a global centre for green recycling. He said Alang also has a well-developed ecosystem and capacity for vehicle scrapping and will contribute majorly to the vehicle scrapping policy.

Excise Registers 110% Seizure Growth

Cuttack: Top Cop Ashish Kumar Singh is on happy mode as Team Excise has registered a growth of 110 per cent on seizure of NDPS substances till August of the current financial year in comparison to the same period of FY 2021-22.

Odisha Excise officials have seized

different offices.

The registration of NDPS cases has also increased from 243 till August'21 to 739 till August this year, registering a growth of 204 per cent.

Similarly, the number of arrests under the NDPS Act has increased by 193 per cent. While 295 persons were arrested

has also increased during the period.

Till the month of August of the financial year 2022-23, a record number of 23,917 Excise cases were detected against 14,820 that of last year with an increase of 61 per cent in detection of cases.

For initiating the 5T charter, a record

of Excise officials has started and is being organised each month through resource persons.

Vehicles are being provided to each range office and the construction of office buildings of different offices are going on war footing in the entire State.



NDPS materials including brown sugar worth Rs83.05 crores till August of the financial year 2022-23, while such materials of Rs 39.49 crores were seized during the same period of the last fiscal.

Mr. Singh took Excise Review meeting through virtual mode on Monday, Senior Officials including Joint Commissioner of Excise, Cuttack/Headquarter and Superintendents of Excise, EDCs of Enforcement Cell were attended from

on NDPS cases till August of 2021-22, it has been increased to 865 till last month of 2022-23.

The seizure of ganja and brown sugar has been increased by 132 per cent and 191 per cent, respectively. While 9874 grams of Heroin seized this year against 3392 Grams last year till August, the Excise officials have seized 21690 Kg of Ganja till August this year against 9339 Kg last year.

On the other hand, the detection of Excise cases and arrest

number of 640 irregularity reports have been booked against the Excise shops and Rs 70,15,000 has been realized towards composition fees.

This year the digitization of data of Excise cases of the last ten years is going on with the assistance of Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) throughout the state to keep record of each and every accused person and to have coordination with the Police Department.

Further, the training

The Excise Commissioner appreciated the performance/achievement of Excise officers up to August of 2022-23. He instructed all Superintendents of Excise & EIEB Units to strengthen & enhance the enforcement measures in this year 2022-23 and to conduct frequent raids against the illegal manufacturing, distributing and sale of illegal liquor and NDPS items in the State in the coming festive occasion.

Revenue Camp Courts from 15 Sept.

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Camp Courts within their Jurisdiction ev-



Patnaik has directed the Department of Revenue & Disaster Management to resume Camp Courts across the State, which was earlier open before COVID-19 Pandemic.

Accordingly the State Government has instructed the District Collector to ask the Revenue Officials serving in the field Level to hold

ery month from 15 September onwards. Satyabrata Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary Revenue & Disaster Management has written to all the District Collector on 12 September.

Mr.Sahu in his letter has said that Department of Revenue & Disaster Management has undertaken many e-Governance initiatives in order to enable citizens to

avail the services of DoRDM from anywhere and anytime. Under 5T Charter of the State Government several pro-people initiatives have been ushered in by the DoRDM, officials say, adding the Citizens are reaping ebeneffits.

Also DoRDM has reached doorstep of Citizens to deliver various services such as updated Record of rights and various types of Certificates through Rajaswa Rath.

However, case disposal of various Revenue Court as mandated by the extant rules.

Camp Court was being held by Tahsildar, Additional Tahsildars prior to onslaught of COVID-19 Pandemic for hearing and disposal of cases at the doorstep of Citizens.

Mr.Sahu pointed out that the practice of camp Courts at different Revenue Inspectors (RI) Circles, Gam Panchayats, and Revenue Villages reduces the distance between the Government Offices and

Citizens, enforces Good Governance and puts onus on the Tahsildars to deliver services within the timeline stipulated by Odisha Right To Public Services (ORTPS) Act in a fair and transparent manner.

In view of the above, District Collectors have been requested to instruct Revenue Officials in general and tahsildar, Additional Tahsildar in particular to resume the practice of camp Court at the earliest, preferably from 15 September, unfailingly.

All Tahsildars, Additional Tahsildars shall be instructed to hold camp Court in 2/3 days in a week in their allocated RI Circles so as to touch every Gram Panchayat within their Jurisdiction in every month.

ACS Mr.Sahu has said that this will be reviewed by Nodal Officers of the DoRDM assigned to various districts and also in District Revenue Review.



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Inflation rises to 7 pc in August; RBI may hike interest rate again later this month

NEW DELHI: After declining for three months, retail inflation rose to 7 per cent in August due to higher food prices which may prompt the Reserve Bank of India to go for another rate hike later this month to tame price rise. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation, which is factored in by RBI while deciding the monetary policy, has remained

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist with ICRA, said the sequential hardening in inflation was largely driven by broad-based rise across the food segment, with a higher inflation in cereals, pulses, milk, fruits, vegetables, and prepared meals and snacks. "We now foresee a higher likelihood that the MPC will stick to the new normal rate hike of 50 bps in its September 2022 meet-



above the central bank's comfort level of 6 per cent for eight months in a row.

CPI inflation was 6.71 per cent in July and 5.3 per cent in August 2021.

As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday, the inflation in food basket was 7.62 per cent in August, up from 6.69 per cent in July and 3.11 per cent in August 2021.

On an annual basis, the rate of price rise was in excess of 10 per cent in the case of vegetables, spices, footwear, and 'fuel and light'.

However, there was contraction in inflation in egg and almost flat in protein rich 'meat and fish' in August.

Inflation had touched a high of 7.79 per cent in April before declining to 7.04 per cent in May. It touched 7.01 per cent in June and further decelerated to 6.71 per cent in July.

The government has tasked RBI to ensure CPI inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on each side.

The RBI Governor-headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to be held from September 28 to 30.

The key short-term lending rate (repo) has been raised by 140 basis points in three tranches since May this year. The last two hikes were 50 basis points each.

Power discoms' outstanding dues towards gencos to be eliminated by 2026: R K Singh

New Delhi: Outstanding dues of electricity distribution companies (discoms) towards gencos, which remains over Rs 1 lakh crore at any point of time, will be eliminated in the next four years, Union power minister R K Singh said.

The government has converted the total outstanding dues of discoms towards gencos (power generator companies) into Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs).

These EMIs have maximum tenure of four years and thus the total outstanding dues of discoms would be nil by 2026.

"The total outstanding dues of the discoms towards gencos is around Rs 1,13,000 crore. These dues would be totally cleared by 2026," Singh told PTI.

Singh explained that the government has put a very robust payment security mechanism for the power sector knowing about the perennial issue of bulging dues of discoms toward

gencos. He informed that the power ministry has put in place late payment fee Electricity, (Late Payment Surcharge and Related Matters) Rules, 2022 (LPS Rules 2022) which would trigger snapping of discoms' access to power exchanges for procuring supplies in case of non-payment of late payment surcharge.

Earlier in August this year, state-run Power System Operation Corporation Ltd (POSOCO) had asked three power exchanges -- IEX, PXIL and HPX -- to restrict electricity trading by 27 discoms in 13 states for non-payment of late payment surcharge. The directive from POSOCO to Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), Power Exchange of India (PXIL) and Hindustan Power Exchange (HPX) was given to restrict trade of electricity by utilities of 13 states, including those in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil

Noted economist and former Planning Commission member Abhijit Sen dead

NEW DELHI: Economist Abhijit Sen, a former Planning Commission member and one of the country's foremost experts on rural economy, died on Monday night. He was 72. "He suffered a heart attack around 11 PM. We rushed him to the hospital, but it was all over by the time we got there," said Dr Pronab Sen, his brother.

In a career spanning more than four decades, Prof Abhijit Sen taught economics at Oxford, Cambridge and New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, and held several important government positions, including the chair of the Commission of Agricultural Cost and Prices. He was a member of the Planning Commission from 2004 to

2014, when Manmohan Singh was the prime minister. In 2010, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan for public service. When the NDA came to power in 2014, it appointed Sen to head a high level task force to frame a long term grain policy. Sen was a vocal advocate of a universal public distribution system for rice and wheat.

He would argue that the burden of food subsidy on the exchequer was often exaggerated and that the country had enough fiscal headroom to not only support a universal PDS, but also guarantee a fair price to farmers for their produce. Sen had also been associated with several global research and multi-lateral organisations such as

the UNDP, Asian Development Bank, Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the UN, International Fund for Agricultural Development and OECD Development Centre. Sen, whose father Samar Sen was a World Bank economist, studied physics at New Delhi's St. Stephen's college before switching to pursue a doctoral degree in economics from Cambridge University.

Rupee rises 2 paise to close at 79.55 against US dollar

MUMBAI: The rupee pared its initial losses and settled 2

vices. Somaiya further said the ex-



paise higher to close at 79.55 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, tracking positive domestic equities and foreign fund inflows.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.66 against the greenback. It witnessed an intra-day high of 79.47 and a low of 79.72 during the session. It finally ended at 79.55, up 2 paise from its previous close of 79.57.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.89 per cent to 108.03. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.04 per cent to USD 93.81 per barrel.

"Rupee continued to appreciate as the dollar weakened against its major crosses. Market participants remained cautious ahead of inflation and IIP numbers that will be released on the domestic front," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Ser-

vice. Somaiya further said the expectation is that inflation could remain unchanged compared to the previous month.

"Gains in the currency were led also by a rally in domestic equities. Euro did witness volatility but hawkish central bank statements kept the currency supported at lower levels. We expect the USDINR (Spot) to trade sideways and quote in the range of 79.40 and 80.05," Somaiya said.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 321.99 points or 0.54 per cent higher at 60,115.13, while the broader NSE Nifty gained 103.00 points or 0.58 per cent to 17,936.35.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market on Friday as they purchased shares worth Rs 2,132.42 crore, as per exchange data.

Meanwhile, the country's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 3.007 billion to USD 561.046 billion in the week ended August 26, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

Nadu, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. The action was taken under the Elec-



tricity (Late Payment Surcharge and related matters), Rules 2022 notified by the power ministry in June, 2022. Under the payment security mechanism, state utilities can be barred from trading on electricity exchanges for non-payment of dues and other charges to gencos. The POSOCO, a public sector enterprise under the Union power ministry, manages integrated operation of the Indian power system. The minister explained that the discoms also buy power from exchanges to meet their demand in short term.

He further said that the ministry has also put in place mechanisms to restrict their access to long term electricity supplies under the power purchase agreements signed by them with gencos. Discoms generally ink PPAs (Power Purchase Agreements) for supply of electricity by gencos for 25 years under long-term arrangements.

Singh said that now we have made it clear that if a discom does not pay then their access to long term power supply under PPAs would decrease by 10 per cent after every 30 days from the Inter State Transmission System (ISTS or national grid, supplied largely by central utilities and private sector). Therefore, he exuded confidence that the perennial issue of bulging discoms' outstanding dues towards gencos would be eliminated in the next four years.

Revenue Rises by 15.55%

Continued from page-1

The State Government has collected Rs 17,722.22 crore from its own tax sources while the collection from non-tax stood at Rs 18732.67 crore till August.

The own tax revenue collection has witnessed a growth of 20.30 per cent.

Out of the total own tax collection, the State has collected Rs 11799 crore commercial tax, Rs 2454.57 crore from excise, Rs 1476.06 crore electricity duty, Rs 790.22 crore MV tax, Rs 244.23 crore from land revenue, Rs 834.78 crore of stamps and registration fee, and Rs 123.34 crore professional taxes.

Similarly, the non-tax revenue collection till August of the current financial year registered a growth of 11.39 per cent.

Under the non-tax revenue, mining royalty has contributed the lion share. The collection from non-ferrous mining & metallurgical industries was Rs 16,761.14 crore till August 2022, against the collection of Rs 15,878.64 crore during the same period of last year.

The mining revenue has witnessed a marginal growth of 5.56 per cent till last month of this year. The mining royalty collection during the month of August was Rs 2780.55 crore.

Till August, Odisha has been able to collect 38.58 per cent of the total mining revenue of Rs 43,444 crore estimated for the entire financial year 2022-23.

However, the Grants from Centre has been falling down as the Government of India squeezed its fund flow under various schemes and heads, officials said.

The Grants from Centre fell down by 50 per cent till August of the current financial year as only Rs 401.24 crore released by the Centre during the last month.

The State Government has got only Rs 3499.38 crore Grants from the Centre till August 2022 against the receipt of Rs 7004.62 crore during the same of 2021-22 and Rs 11732.58 during April to August of 2020-21.

It means, the Grant fell down by 40.30 per cent till August 2021 and 50.04 per cent till August of this year.

However, the total Central transfer has witnessed a positive growth of 7.56 per cent as the share tax amount has increased substantially by 49.47 per cent till August.

The State has received Rs 14388.78 share tax from the Union Government till August 2022 against the receipt of Rs 9,626.84 crore during the same period of previous financial year. So, the total transfer from Centre stood at Rs 17,888.16 crore till last month.

Odisha government plans tourist-friendly police stations

Continued from page-1

vioural skills to ensure tourists visiting the State leave with a good experience," said a senior officer.

Some of the tourist places which have been included by the police in the list are Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri sea beach, Konark and Lingaraj Temple. At present, tourist cells are functioning at Sea Beach police station in Puri, Konark, Nandankanan, Dhauli, Lingaraj, Brahmagiri (Satapada), Gopalpur and Chandipur.

Commissionerate police have already requested the government to enhance the manpower of tourist cells under its jurisdiction at Nandankanan, Dhauli and Lingaraj police stations. DGP Sunil Kumar Bansal said the draw ceremony to determine the pools of the upcoming FIH Men's World Cup has concluded.

England seal memorable season with South Africa series win

LONDON: England thrashed South Africa by nine wickets in the third and deciding Test at the Oval on Monday, completing a 2-1 series win in just over two days of action.

The home side, who resumed on 97-0,

needed just 5.3 more overs to reach a victory target of 130. Zak Crawley was 69 not out and Ollie Pope unbeaten on 11.

England have now won six of their seven Tests under their new leadership pairing of captain Ben Stokes and

coach Brendon McCullum, having managed just one victory in their previous 17 matches when former skipper Joe Root was in charge.

"I'm delighted," said Stokes. "It's been a great series for us as a team. It has been one of those

series where we haven't had many individual standout performances, but different people have put their hand up for us throughout and that's what you want in team sport.

"You want to be able to turn to people at key times and break the game open with

either bat or ball and that's what we've had throughout."

Defeat means South Africa have suffered

when play started Monday under sunny skies but in front of a handful of spectators, who had

the embarrassment of a 10-wicket defeat.

Crawley hit the winning runs when he

ing the death of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

Fast bowlers on both sides dominated a series in which runs were hard to come by, with South Africa, who boast a world-class pace attack but a fragile top order, managing just one individual fifty -- opener Sarel Erwee's 73 in their

innings-and-12-run win in the first Test at Lord's. England bounced back to win the second Test at Old Trafford by an

innings and 85 runs. Seamer Ollie Robinson was named player-of-the-match at the Oval for his career-best 5-49 in South Africa's first

innings. England earlier this season hammered New Zealand 3-0 before beating India in a Test postponed from last year over coronavirus concerns.

Bumrah, Harshal back for T20 World Cup as selectors opt for safe options

NEW DELHI: Fit-again pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and death overs specialist Harshal Patel were back as the national selection committee didn't spring any surprise in the 15-man India squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia starting October 16.

India will play their first match against Pakistan at the MCG on October 23.

Bumrah, who was suffering from back injury and Harshal, who had a side strain, had done an intense rehabilitation programme at the National Cricket Academy and the BCCI

specialist left-hander in the top-order with Ravindra Jadeja ruled out for indefinite period.

Shami back in T20 mix

Veteran pacer Mohammed Shami was back in the T20 scheme of things as he has been picked for the T20 series versus Australia and South Africa prior to the big event and is also among the four stand-bys who will travel Down Under.

The other three reserve players are Shreyas Iyer, Bishnoi and seamer Deepak Chahar.

Shami wasn't directly picked for the World

their first Test series loss since Dean Elgar took over as captain last year.

England resumed just 33 runs shy of their target after the umpires had halted play on Sunday because of bad light to the disappointment of a capacity crowd. Crawley runs

Alex Lees was 32 notout and Zak Crawley 57 not out -- his first fifty in 17 Test innings --

been let in for free. Lees, having added just two to his overnight score, was dropped off the third ball of the day when he edged Kagiso Rabada, only for diving wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne to floor the chance.

The batsman's luck ran out, however, when he was lbw on review to Rabada for 39, with South Africa at least spared

punched left-arm quick Marco Jansen through the covers for four -- the 12th boundary of his innings.

It meant for the third time this series, a match was won inside three days' playing time. Thursday's play was washed out completely before Friday's scheduled second day was abandoned as a mark

of respect following



medical team has deemed them fit for the marquee series.

The two players, who missed out on World Cup berth were pacer Avesh Khan and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, who was pipped by senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin.

Once Harshal was fit and available, there was very little chance for Avesh to make a cut especially with a death overs economy rate of 18 in recent times.

If there was one player who would feel hard done by, it would be young Bishnoi as he was fantastic against Pakistan in the Super 4s game of the Asia Cup where he had outshone senior wrist spinner Yuzvendra Chahal.

While Chahal was an automatic choice but Bishnoi's fight was always for the third spinner's slot with veteran Ravichandran Ashwin.

Obviously, two leg-spinners wouldn't have added variations but Ashwin's presence on big Australian grounds and his ability to take the ball away from the left-handers got precedence.

Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka (likely Qualifier in India's group) all have a couple of left-handers in top five and if Ashwin is played, he can exploit that advantage.

The batting unit, which hasn't performed up to expectations on big days more or less remained the same and in fact there aren't any new faces from the last T20 World Cup squad save Deepak Hooda, who won't always be an automatic first XI player.

The Rohit Sharma interview of Virat Kohli was a clear indicator that there won't be any change in top three and the only debate that remains unsolved is whether Dinesh Karthik will play or Rishabh Pant, who is the only

T20 as he hasn't played any cricket after England series and the upcoming six T20Is will give Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma chance to check out his rhythm and bowling at the death.

Hardik Pandya, Arshdeep Singh and Bhuvneshwar Kumar will be reporting to the NCA for workload management and conditioning work during the course of the home series against Australia and South Africa.

Bhuvneshwar will miss the South Africa series while Hardik and Arshdeep will skip the Australia series beginning September 20.

Squads:

For World Cup: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), Hardik Pandya, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Arshdeep Singh.

Standby players - Mohd. Shami, Shreyas Iyer, Ravi Bishnoi, Deepak Chahar.

For Australia T20Is: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), Hardik Pandya, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohd. Shami, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Jasprit Bumrah.

For South Africa T20Is: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd. Shami, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Jasprit Bumrah.

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