

DADLS-15



ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

‘ମଇ ଦିବସ’ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ନିଜ ନିଜ ପରିସରରେ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ନିଷ୍ଠାପର ଭାବେ କର୍ମ କରି ନିଜ ପାଇଁ ତଥା ରାଜ୍ୟ ପାଇଁ ଗର୍ବ ଓ ଗୌରବର କାରଣ ହେବା ନିମନ୍ତେ ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଶଶେଶାମ୍ଳା

(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/0029/2223

DADLS-15



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



ମଇ ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

‘ମଇ ଦିବସ’ ଅବସରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଶ୍ରମିକ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭକାମନା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ବିକାଶର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଆଧାର । ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର ଗଠନରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଭୂମିକା ମହତ୍ତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ । ବିକାଶର ପ୍ରତିଟି ସ୍ତରରେ ଅଛି ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କ ନିଷ୍ଠା, ତ୍ୟାଗ ଓ ପରିଶ୍ରମ ।

ସେମାନଙ୍କ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଓ ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ଉନ୍ନତି ପାଇଁ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର ଅନେକ ଯୋଜନା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଶ୍ରମିକ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନାରେ ସାମିଲ ହେବା ସହିତ ଏହାର ସୁଫଳ ନେବା ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଅନୁରୋଧ ।

ନବୀନ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/0029/2223



DADLS-15

ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ମଇ ୧ ତାରିଖ ‘ଶ୍ରମିକ ଦିବସ’ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ।

ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଓ ସାମଗ୍ରିକ ବିକାଶରେ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କର ଶ୍ରମ, ନିଷ୍ଠା ଓ ପ୍ରତିବଦ୍ଧତାକୁ ମୁଁ ସମ୍ମାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ମୁଁ ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ଶ୍ରମିକ ସମାଜର ସୁଖ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଓ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଇଶ୍ୱରଙ୍କ ଠାରେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା କରୁଛି ।

ଅଶ୍ୱିନୀ କୁମାର ଦାସ

(ଉପସଚିବ ଦାସ)

ଜଳ ସମ୍ପଦ, ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକ ସମ୍ପର୍କ ବିଭାଗ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

OIPR-15001/13/0029/2223

Project work damaged heritage site of Puri temple, ASI informs Orissa HC

Bhubaneswar, May 10: A state construction agency might have destroyed archaeological remains around the 12th century Jagannath temple in Puri by carrying out deep excavations to build a corridor around the world heritage site, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) told the Orissa high court on Monday.

"At several locations as seen from the cuttings/section, it is evident that removal of about 15 to 20 feet stratified deposit has taken place, which has caused

irreparable damage to

the heritage site," the ASI said in an affidavit. "During the discussion, Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC) officials were clueless about the method of soil removal and cultural findings from the digging."

Protests had erupted in the temple town in the past two months over excavations as much as 20ft deep carried out using JCB machines, some of which were just 7 meters from the (Page-15)

Keonjhar Jagannath chariot in Guinness Book of World Records

Keonjhar: The famous chariot of Lord Jagannath in Keonjhar has been adjudged as largest Ratha Yatra chariot by the Guinness Book of World Records. Keonjhar Collector Ashish Thakre on Friday informed about the record on the sidelines of a special function.

As per the record mentioned by guinnessworldrecords.com, the Ratha Yatra chariot in Keonjhar measures 22 m (72 ft) x 14 m (45 ft) x 14 m (45 ft). It was inducted into Guinness Book of World Records on 2 August 2019. The outsized Ratha Yatra



chariot is reconstructed every year and is a tradition spanning more than 300 years.

Jagannath chariot of Keonjhar has already been adjudged as the tallest chariot with 72 feet height

The famous chariot of Lord Jagannath in Keonjhar has been adjudged as largest Ratha Yatra chariot by the Guinness Book of World Records. Keonjhar Collector Ashish Thakre on Friday informed about the record on the sidelines of a special function.

by India Book of Records, Asia Pacific Records, Global Records and Wonder Book of Records.


The district administration of Keonjhar has laid out plans for the

development of the Bada Danda (grand road) of the Baldevjew Temple.

A grand corridor will be developed under the plan to improve aesthetic environment, organised

spaces, safety & hygiene, and contextual rejuvenation.

Decorative floral paint of grand corridor, construction of pedestrian pathways and covered drains, organised vending arrangements and peripheral development of Mausima Temple, water body and open areas are some of the development works to be carried out at the shrine.

Thakre also informed that the ongoing construction inside the temple including Bhoga Mandap and Bhajan Mandap will be completed soon before this year's Rath Yatra. 

Woman finds out she won £10,000 a month for 30 years on a lottery

London, May 5: A UK woman has won £10,000 a month for 30 years on a lottery. Laura Hoyel (40) had bought a ticket during the height of the third Covid lockdown on March 1, 2021.

Hoyle and 38-year-old Kirk Stevens matched all five main numbers plus the

after finding out that she won the lottery shows her saying: "I think I'm going to be sick."

It shows Hoyel calling

I um, you know, quit my job."

To which, the executive says, "Right, let me have a look at that for you. So I can

The couple has since bought a house. Laura Hoyle quit her job at a logistics firm to pursue ghost hunting



Laura Hoyel after hearing the confirmation that she had indeed won the lottery

Life Ball to win the top prize in the Set For Life, reported The Daily Mail.

The couple, who have been playing the game since 2019, bought their winning ticket online via the National Lottery app.

A video of Hoyle's reaction filmed by Kirk


the lottery company to double check. "I'm hoping I'm reading this right, but I have got a message in the app saying that I've won £10,000 for the next 30 years every month," she tells the customer care executive. "I'm just checking that's right before

see on March 1 you have won £10,000 every month for 30 years. The top prize on the Set for Life game. I can confirm that is real."

After some laughter from both sides, the customer care executive asked Hoyle, "Do you have any idea what you're going to spend it on?"

"No! Oh my god seriously, I've seriously won the lottery? I've seriously, seriously won the lottery? I think I'm going to be sick," Hoyle said.

Recollecting the conversation, she said, "I was physically shaking as I told the lady, 'I think I've won the lottery!'"

Since then, according to The Daily Mail, the couple has bought a house, Hoyle quit her job at a logistics firm to pursue ghost hunting. 

Sambit Patra attacked with ink and tomatoes in Puri

Patra was in Puri to lodge his protest against the ongoing constructions under the Puri Srimandir Heritage Corridor project.



Puri, May 11: BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra was attacked with black ink and tomatoes by Chhatra Congress workers near Jhadeswari chhak in Puri on Wednesday.

Patra was here to lodge his protest against the ongoing constructions under the Puri

Srimandir Heritage Corridor project. The BJP leader was returning from Puri when the members of Congress' youth wing reportedly hurled tomatoes and also threw black ink on his vehicle.

The Chhatra Congress workers reportedly attacked Patra's vehicle and also show black flags to the BJP leader as a mark of protest against the rising inflation and hike in prices of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders.

The attack on the senior BJP worker was meant to convey the dissatisfaction of the party against the Centre's lack of action against price rise, said sources.

While Chhatra Congress workers flung tomatoes at the vehicle of Patra at Balagandi chhaka, another group of activists threw ink at his vehicle at Jhadeswari Club in the holy town. There was a commotion at the sites with police chasing away the attackers, said sources.


The BJP spokesperson also accused the Odisha government of destroying the State's rich heritage on Wednesday. "I pray before Lord Jagannath to give some good sense to Odisha government and also to MP Pinaki Mishra. This government has destroyed our heritage," he said. 

Tata Steel Organises 'Media Maitri' day-n-night cricket tournament at Joda

Joda, May 10: Tata Steel organizes a day-n-night cricket tournament among the media teams of Keonjhar and adjoining Sundargarh on Saturday, May 7. Media teams from Keonjhar Garh, Champua, Barbil, Koida in Sundargarh, and the media team of Joda. Tata Steel's team participated in the tournament too. The first match was played between Tata Steel's team and Barbil on May 7, where the Tata Steel team was the winner. The final match was played between Keonjhar and Joda media teams and the Keonjhar team clinched the championship of the tournament.

Tata Steel's GM Atul Bhatnagar, Joda unit Chief Saroj Banarjee, Rajesh Kumar, and others encouraged the participating teams. Steel



Company's corporate communications Subhransu Kumar Panda and Ashis Acharya successfully conducted the tournament. 

Price jigsaw, profiteering ravage all

Governance cost up, Growth a mirage



Prof. Shivaji Sarkar
Former HOD in English journalism in IIMC, Delhi

High or as some call it hyperinflation - rapid, excessive, and out-of-control general price increases - has become a serious issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi talking to states about bringing down the fuel prices, supposedly a key reason for the economic trouble.

Soaring corporate profiteering is another reason for the rising prices. The top 20 companies continue to have 70 percent profits, as per Mercilus Investment Managers, and higher product prices in a supposedly subdued market. Unilever, Suzuki Motor, and JSW Steel all are in the game of raising prices.

The problem looks graver as earlier the Reserve Bank monetary

policy committee noted that inflation has become a larger issue than growth with 6.95 percent retail and 14.5 percent wholesale index spurring. It has raised bills for government transportation, and other expenses, and the finance ministry looking for additional support for the budget. Another intriguing issue is the faster rise of wholesale prices than retail. A few years back the trend was a low WPI rise followed by a higher CPI surge. Consumer prices in actuality are rising in double digits.

The RBI wonders how it should increase interest rates to match the inflationary trend. If it raises the deposit rates, lending rates too would move upward. A myth that

the country may not find the borrowing costs affordable prevents it. The corporate is transferring minor additional costs to the consumers to keep their profits high in a distraught market.

Most companies are raising prices in response to the global supply squeeze in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war. It needs a probe.

Despite efforts by the government except in Gujarat and Karnataka, not many states are known to have given relief in their taxes on petroleum products. This is becoming a political issue with the opposition joining the spat and the finance ministry announcing that Rs 78,704 crore of the states' shares of cess are yet to be transferred. The Central government levies excise/cess on petrol of Rs.32.90/liter which includes basic excise duty of Rs 1.40, road & infrastructure development cess of Rs18, agriculture and infrastructure development cess of Rs 2.50, and special additional excise duty of Rs11. There are state duties in addition to it.

This is despite the Brent crude falling to \$ 104 a barrel. For the past two years, the benefits of unprecedented low crude prices were not passed on to the consumers. Fuel prices have risen by 31 percent in eight years.

Even petrol pumps supposed to be benefitting from higher commissions

as fuel prices rise are paying almost double the cost for tankers.

In addition, the rising toll taxes are making goods even more expensive. Tolls also affect inter-region and localized trading.

The country sees an opportunity in the Ukraine situation of globally selling food grains at a higher price. While this may ensure higher remuneration to farmers, there is a flip side. It could cause domestic prices to soar. The prime minister recently said the government was approaching World Trade Organisation for facilitating sales of Indian food grains in the world market. The WTO still has not come out with its terms. The Ukraine situation has created a void as the largest suppliers are unable to meet the world demand. Ukraine exported about 1.7 million tons of grains last month, according to consultant ProZerno. The most-recent volume still is only about half of March 2020. Markets are bracing for more upheavals as deliveries from Ukraine and Russia - which together account for about a quarter of the world's grains trade - turn increasingly complicated and raise the specter of food shortages.

A new market may gradually open up for India. Its ramifications are too early to study. India domestically has been overflowing with food grain. About 80 crore people are being given free

food doles worth over Rs 2 lakh crore a year for the past two years. While India is the second-largest wheat producer with a share of around 14.14 percent of the world's production in 2020, it accounted for less than 1 percent of global wheat exports. The export potential could be large but with corporate domination, dream prices may elude farmers. The ramifications on the domestic market can cast a shadow on the political spectrum.

The Black Sea region's problems are to keep edible oil prices elevated and feed cost pressures could have a spillover impact on poultry, milk, and dairy product prices, according to the RBI governor.

Coal shortage, its higher prices, and dependence on thermal power are increasing power costs per unit from Rs 6 to over Rs 10 or more. This would make the use of electricity for trains, vehicles, farms, and industry an expensive affair.

The inflation is eating volumes of large companies like Hindustan Unilever (HUL) claims CEO Sanjiv Mehta but he has no answer for its high 20 percent operating margins, lower than earlier 24 percent. The rising prices are 'rationalising' consumer spending. High raw material prices are now being compensated by raising product prices. As the company tries to transfer costs, consumers are being thrifty and settling for lower-priced

products. Still, it is having profits at Rs 2203 crore or 8.5 percent. This testifies that high profiteering is the bane.

The consumer buys only what he needs from the FMCG. Many companies foresee a decline in high profits. Intelligent consumer spending is hitting large companies in urban and rural areas. Rising prices are hurting household consumption. Overall market trends can improve if profits are rationalized.

UN Conference for Trade and Development finds that still, the eCommerce trade is growing. It however does not consider this healthy. Total retail sales during the pandemic increased to 19 percent in 2020 up from 16 percent in 2019. It has hurt the least developed countries as well as small businesses. According to UNCTAD, global prices are creating problems all over. It has also led to over 8.81 lakh Indians leaving for greener pastures in the West.

The NDA II needs to follow NDA I of Atal Behari Vajpayee when low prices baffled observers. Vajpayee's management skills need to be studied and used for solving a problem that is rocking the country. Modi needs to consult, set up a committee of experts and act tough to ensure the country goes back to a magic low inflationary phase for concerted growth.

Sundargarh District Awarded for Skill Development Programs



Sundargarh District has been conferred as the 'Most Improved District' in the category of Skill Development at the 'State of the State Odisha' conclave by India Today in a function held at Bhubaneswar.

Sundargarh District was awarded for implementation and successful management and outstanding achievements of various innovative steps in Skill Development Programmes.

Sundargarh Collector

Nikhil Pavan Kalyan received the award from Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra in the presence of CM Naveen Patnaik. The Collector thanked all the officers, functionaries, and partners of various Skill Development Programmes in Sundargarh for the honor.

Over the past few years, the District Administration has undertaken several innovative skill development programs in the district. The program includes Free coaching to

educated youth from the mining-affected areas to help them crack different competitive examinations under the Sudakshya program with 4 centers at Sundargarh, Rourkela, Bonai, and Koira. In another program, meritorious students from mining-affected blocks are being provided free coaching for students of classes 10 & 12 to crack entrance exams like IIT, JEE, NEET, NATA, CLAT, etc. Three centers have been established at Rourkela, Sundargarh, and Rajgangpur to provide the purpose.

The District Administration has also roped in Kota based coaching institutes to provide mentoring and training in Sundargarh to meritorious students from mining-affected, tribal, and underprivileged families to prepare for national-level entrances like Medical, Engineering, Law, etc

Free coaching, hostel, food, study materials, and uniform are provided to each student under 'Sudakshya' and IIT JEE Coaching programs, supported by DMF Sundargarh.

To further expand the scope of employment opportunities, Hotel Management education and training are provided to tribal, mining-affected, and unemployed youths of Sundargarh. The selected

candidates get an opportunity to pursue a degree, diploma, and certificate courses at the government-run 'State Institute of Hotel Management, Balangir'. DMF Sundargarh sponsors the course fee, hostel fees, etc for the candidates.

Sundargarh District Administration has also launched a Job Readiness Training Programme for Youth (JRPY) with Odisha Knowledge Corporation Limited (OKCL) as its technical partner. 10 smart skill development centers have been established in the district to train the candidates in areas like Digital Communication, Computer Education, English, etc.

To train the educated students of Sundargarh in advanced plastics technology, the Central Institute of Petrochemical Engineering and Technology (CIPET) center has been established at BPUT Campus in Rourkela. Recently, all 62 candidates who underwent skilling for Machine Operator Plastics Processing at CIPET got placed outside Odisha in various firms. While 22 candidates were inducted under Odisha Skill Development Authority OSDA, 40 were sponsored by the District Mineral Foundation Sundargarh.

NTPC Hands Over SMCH Infrastructure to State Government



To provide better healthcare services to people of tribal-dominated Sundargarh district and adjacent areas and given robust infrastructure developed by NTPC for the Sundargarh medical college hospital has been handed over to the State government. In a function organized on 26th April at the hospital complex total hospital-related infrastructure was handed over to the district administration.

NTPC General Manager Paresw Gajlewar formally handed over the hospital complex to College's Dean Prof. Dr. Daitary Routray and Executive Engineer of PWD Narayan Patel. They received the related documents and miniature of the hospital on behalf of the government.

The State government had signed a memorandum of understanding with the NTPC in December 2013 to set up this medical college with a preliminary estimation of Rs 350

crore. For this, the State had provided 21 acres of land free of cost. NTPC set up the necessary infrastructure and facilities. In this medical college complex, all kinds of facilities are available. It includes an examination hall, laboratory, smart classrooms, library, conference hall, and restaurant.

Besides accommodation facilities for Doctors, Professors, and students have been built in the complex. It is to be noted that CM Naveen Patnaik laid the foundation of the medical college in 2014. Last year state government granted recognition to it as Sundargarh Medical College and Hospital.

On this occasion Medical College's Superintendent Prof. Pankaj Kumar Parida, ADMO (PH) Dr. Purnachandra Shah, Sundargarh ADM Rabinarayan Sahoo, Sadar Sub Collector Abhimanyu Behera, DIPRO Nandini Mundari, and Medical College's Manager Abhinab Kar were present.

RSP awarded 'Best Integrated Steel Plant' under SAIL



Rourkela Steel Plant has been chosen as the 'Best Integrated Steel Plant' and received the highest award under the SAIL Corporate Awards for Excellence-2020-21. Ms. Soma Mondal, Chairman, SAIL presented the award to Atanu Bhowmick, Director In-Charge of RSP accompanied by B R Babu, CGM (Blast Furnace), and I. Rajan, CGM (Traffic) in an award function held on 28th April at Delhi.

Congratulating the Rourkela Steel Plant collective on winning the award, Mrs. Soma Mondal exhorted it to further enhance its all-around performance to blaze a trail of success.

Dedicating the Best Integrated Steel Plant award to every employee of RSP and their family members, Mr. Atanu Bhowmick said RSP would continue its journey of excellence to become the best steel plant in the country.

RSP Organised Mega Customer Meet

Rourkela Steel Plant organized a Mega Customer Meet on 9th May at Rourkela House. More than 100 high-value customers from across the country attended the Customer Meet.

Atanu Bhowmick, Director In-Charge, RSP, V S Chakravarthy, Director (Commercials), SAIL, M L Agarwal, ED (Sales & ITD), SR Suryawanshi, ED (Works), and PK Satapathy, ED (P&A) with the additional charge of ED (Projects) were also present during the Customer Meet. Senior Officers of Central Marketing Organisation (CMO), International Trade Division (ITD), and RSP were also present on the occasion.

Ms. Soma Mondal, Chairman, SAIL, addressing the Meet through video message said, "The relationship between SAIL

and its customers is time tested over several decades based on mutual trust and comfort many going beyond more than one generation."

DIC Atanu Bhowmick in his address said, "The intrinsic value system of RSP has been predominantly based on the premise of 'Nation Building'. The long and glorious journey of RSP would not have been possible without the support of valued customers like you." Mr. Bhowmick also spoke about the diverse product basket of RSP and their application in major infrastructure projects of national importance.

Mr. Chakravarthy talked about various schemes launched to increase steel consumption and the resultant favorable market scenario witnessed in the country.

Applauding the performance

of RSP, Mr. Agarwal said, that congregation of so many valued customers at Rourkela was a reflection of the special bond with the customers.

Mr. Suryawanshi in his welcome address expressed confidence that the longstanding relationship between RSP and its customers would grow even stronger with mutual respect, trust, and support.

In the interaction session, customers put forth their views regarding different value-added products, newer segments of the market, quality, and delivery. Customers also suggested rationalizing the specifications of the products, especially concerning thickness and width to keep pace with the changing market requirements. They also discussed ensuring the desired chemistry as per customer needs,

testing, availability of Railway Rakes, and its optimal utilization along with a host of other important aspects. "Given the large potential in the automotive sector, RSP should focus more on tapping the market by augmenting its product basket with varied auto-grade steel which will help us to serve our niche customers," said one customer.

The Senior Officers of SAIL discussed the issues in threadbare and assured them to take time-bound measures on the issues.

After the interaction session, all customers were taken for a Plant visit where they witnessed the rolling process in New Plate Mill and Host Strip Mill-2. The customers thanked RSP for organizing such a mega event for customer engagement that provided a platform to directly interact with the top management.

Acid attackers sentenced to 14 years RI and a fine Rs 15,000

JAGATSINGHPUR, May 09: The Additional Session Judge women [ASJ] Jagatsinghpur delivered the judgment on the much-hyped Tirtol acid attack case on Monday and sentenced two accused persons undergoing 14 years rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs 15,000 each.

Both accused persons were identified as Santosh Kumar Bedanta alias Bapi army personnel, resident of Joragadia village under Bhandaripokhari police limits



under Bhadark district, and Biswajit Dalasingh alias Anil from Champagda village

under Nayagarh district.

The occurrence of crime was generated, the accused

Bapi failed in a love affair, and the accused Santosh had fallen in love with a teen-aged girl from Kanakpur Sasan village under Tirtol block, but the girl declined the affair. After being enraged with the victim girl's response Bapi accompanying his friend Anil on 18 April 2009 hurled acid at the victim girl at Kanakpur telephone exchange near Tirtol and fled away after committing the crime.

Locals rescued the girl whose body and face had been completely disfigured later after struggling a few months

at SCB Medical College for the treatment she was cured but her face had been mutilated.

For the initial stage acid affected girl's mother had lodged an FIR in Tirtol police station on 29 April, 2009 police started an investigation but causing unable to gather shreds of evidence and witnesses closed the case in the year 2012.

But an NGO working for the acid-affected victims in New Delhi came forward and lodged a fresh petition in SDJM court here where

the case had been disposed of. Taking the pleas of the victim girl, the SDJM court ordered a fresh probe and the case investigation had restarted. Police picked up both alleged accused persons and filed a charge sheet in ASJ women's court here for trial.

Based on the pieces of evidence and relying on depositions of 18 witnesses supplied by the prosecution ASJ court found the accused men guilty and awarded the punishment on Monday.

Bizwoman arrested for 7cr fraud

Bhubaneswar, May 7: The economic offences wing (EOW) of the state crime branch on Friday arrested a businesswoman for allegedly duping several people, mostly doctors, by assuring them of doubling their investments in the share market.

accused initially paid them dividends. After a few months, the company stopped paying interest to the depositors. The accused claimed that the investors lost their money as the market crashed in the wake of the war in Ukraine.

Kamalakant Sahoo,



The accused was identified by the sleuths as Pallavi Mishra, director of Purple Qualves Financial Services Limited. Mishra and her husband, Satyaranjan Hota, both residents of Dhenkanal district, allegedly collected Rs 7 crore from 43 people, including 20 doctors.

To win the confidence of the investors, the

one of the victims, who had invested Rs 1 crore, lodged a complaint with Dhenkanal Town police station a few months ago. Following his complaint, the police arrested Hota. Last month, the EOW took over the investigation from Dhenkanal police following a directive from the former ADG (crime branch) Sanjeeb Panda.

District Crisis Group meeting held in Jagatsinghpur



JAGATSINGHPUR, May 10: The District Crisis Group [DCG] meeting was organized by civil administration in collaboration with the factory and broilers department in Sadhabana Sava Gruha here on Tuesday, collector Parul Patawari chaired the meeting.

The DCG is the apex body in the district to deal with major chemical accidents

and provide expert guidance for handling chemical misadventures DCG assists in the preparation of the district's off-site emergency plan, the collector said.

As many as 9 hazardous industries are functioning in Jagatsinghpur district from them six industrial houses are recognized sensitive as because they deal with ammonia and chlorine gases. The DCG

reviews all the onsite emergency plans, the risky industries should have been asked to conduct at least one full-scale mock drill at its site each year and DCG will forward a report to the state crisis group, the collector said.

Attending the event as a resource person disaster management institution, Bhopal deputy director Dr. Asit Kumar Patro said the

DCG aims to minimize the impact of any disaster through better planning, preparedness and response. The DCG chairman Paradeep ADM Kanhu Charan Dhir discussed the disasters being made by natural course and human-made. Factory and broilers deputy director Chandra Kanta Dalei presented the reports on DCG functioning in the district.

The meeting was attended by the CISF commandant, CDMO, police personnel, local transport department officials, fire officer, general manager DIC, executive engineers from line departments, a representative from the state pollution control board, and labor officer. The District emergency officer proposed the vote of thanks.

ZP meeting held in Jagatsinghpur

JAGATSINGHPUR, May 11: The first general body meeting of the Sixth Zilla Parishad [ZP] was held in Sadhabana Sava Gruha here on Wednesday, newly elected ZP president Manoj Kumar Bhoi chaired the meeting accompanying minister Raghunandan Das, MP Dr. Rajashree Mallick, MLA Prashant Muduli, collector Parul Patwari, ZP members, Panchayat Samiti chairpersons, block development officers, executive engineers from line departments, project director DRDA and other officials.

The government launches several welfare measures,



schemes, and poverty eradication arrangements through Panchayati raj institutions.

Its implementation and timely completion are paramount so that the beneficiary can avail of its benefit, the meeting resolved. It was emphasized

to maintain transparency during the selection of beneficiaries. The elected public representatives are responsible for working as a bridge between people and government officials for delivering hassle-free services to the general public, the

meeting underlined.

Earlier district administration greeted newly elected ZP members, the resolutions of the last ZP meeting were approved, and a proposal forming new standing committees of ZP was passed.

Srimandir Reception centre to be shifted out of prohibited area

Puri, May 12: The Jagannath Reception Centre, which was being constructed inside the prohibited area under the Srimandir Parikrama Project, will now be shifted to a farther location.

The decision was taken at the Project's Cultural Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting held on Wednesday, informed the Srimandir Managing Committee on Thursday. As per the information, a slew of decisions involving the project was taken in the meeting which was chaired by Puri King Gajapati Divyasingha Deb.

The proposed outer access road to the project will be moved out of the project area and will be constructed after acquisition of more land. This apart, some more changes will be done as per the direction of ASIDG, the Committee said.

Keeping the religious sentiments of the devotees in view, the construction will be held in such a way that the view of the Temple is not obstructed for the devotees. The Parikrama Project, for which the State government has been facing continuous attacks from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over its



legality, is a part of the ambitious Srimandir Heritage Corridor.

Earlier on Wednesday, the sub-divisional judicial magistrate (SDJM) court in the pilgrim town had ordered filing of case against Puri District Collector, Odisha Bridge &

Construction Corporation (OBCC) and Tata Projects. Hearing a petition filed by an advocate over the ongoing project, the court had asked the Singhadwar Police to register the case.

Recently, the Archaeological Survey of India

The Jagannath Reception Centre, which was being constructed inside the prohibited area under the Srimandir Parikrama Project, will now be shifted to a farther location

(ASI) had told the Orissa High Court that the deep excavation and construction works undertaken by the Odisha government most-probably have damaged the archaeological remains around the 12th century shrine.

The Odisha government

came under fire following the filing of the ASI affidavit in the HC. The Opposition also wasted no time in targeting the government for allegedly carrying out the project without obtaining the necessary permission from the ASI.

Aparajita Sarangi slammed State Government over preservation of Haribaldev Jiu property



Baripada, May 12: Bhubaneswar MP and BJP National Spokesperson Aparajita Sarangi on Thursday slammed the State Government who failed to preserve properties in name of Haribaldev Jiu temple in Baripada of Mayurbhanj district called Dwitiya Srikhetra of Odisha. She claimed that at least 44,221 acres 96 decimals of land were in the name of the temple under the Endowment Department, presently only 8 percent to 10 percent of lands are in the name of the temple and the rest were wrongly recorded in the name of private and government sectors. The lands were given on a lease basis and though the lease tenure already expired years

ago are not returned to the record under the endowment department. The lands were illegally occupied due to the inaction of the State Government. As per Odisha Hindu Religion Act-1951, the Endowment Commissioner is the main power holder, can't be sold or transferred to other names without the commissioner's permission. The land can be used for the development of Matha Mandir (shrines), claimed Aparajita Sarangi in a press meet before attending a Ram Mandir Pratishtha Utsav in Bhugudakota.

Telling to reporters, MP Sarangi said that between the period of April 20 September 2021 and 24 September 2021, Additional

Assistant Commissioner Endowment Mr. S Jena inspected through a source to find out the exact land under the endowment department. The inspection report revealed two faults; one is wrongly recorded with other names and another one is the unauthorized occupation of the land of the temple under the endowment department. The commissioners say that the Endowment Department is reeling under an acute financial crisis.

Around 13 April 2022, Principal Secretary in Law conducted a meeting and discussed the issues but the State Government did not take any initiative to address the crisis despite the inquiry report of S Jena submitted to the State Government, said MP Aparajit Sarangi.

Aparajit Sarangi urged that the Citizen Forum of the district which demanded a ring road to prevent the flood threat of Budhabalanga River in the Baripada municipality area is yet to be started. While attending a

Mission Shakti Programme in Baripada before the 2019 general polls, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik assured the people of the erection of a ring road to prevent the flood threat but 9 years passed and people continue to face the threat of flood. She pointed out that the 32-year-old Subarnarekha Irrigation Project (SIP) is yet not functional in full-fledged and lakhs of farmers in both Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts are affected. The interstate dispute between Odisha and Jharkhand over the release of water through canals remains the main issue. The State Government is yet to follow it up on a priority basis at least to solve the issue for the benefit of the farmers. The State Government should think for the revival of spinning mill at Baripada and setting up of steel plant at Rairangpur to cater the employment crisis. She further pointed out that the State Government should discuss with Centre to increase the irrigation system.

Illegal sand mining: Teshsildar suspended after NGT whip in Mayurbhanj

According to a notification issued by the State Revenue and Disaster Management department, Moharana has been suspended with immediate effect

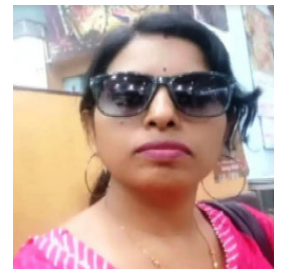
Bhubaneswar, May 7: Mamtaj Moharana, Tehsildar of Badasahi in Mayurbhanj who went missing after receiving severe reprimand from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) over illegal sand mining in the district, has been placed under suspension by the Odisha government.

According to a notification issued by the State Revenue and Disaster Management department, Moharana has been suspended with immediate effect.

"The Governor of Odisha, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of sub rule (1) of Rule-12 of OCS (CC&A) Rules, 1962 hereby places Mamtaj Moharana, OAS-A(JB), Tahasildar, Badasahi. Dist.- Mayurbhanj under suspension with immediate effect," read the official release.

As per the official order, during the period of suspension, Moharana's headquarters will be at Collectorate, Mayurbhanj.

"Moharana shall not leave the headquarters without obtaining prior permission of the Collector, Mayurbhanj and she shall be



entitled to the payment of subsistence allowance in accordance with Rule-90 of Odisha Service Code," it read.

Notably, Moharana went missing just a day before the arrest of a sand mafia Pradeep Bindhani on April 30 for allegedly lifting sand way beyond his lease area. Moharana was allegedly hands in gloves with the accused. As per the NGT ruling, Bindhani mined 200 percent more sand from his stipulated lease and used heavy machinery to mine the sands altering the flow path of the river. It was alleged that the Tehsildar helped him doing so and shielded him from the law until the NGT arrived into the scene.

The NGT had ordered the district Collector to collect Rs 17.3 crore from Bindhani as fine for the 'illegal' lifting of sand.

Odisha tribal leader Draupadi Murmu in race for India's next President

If Draupadi succeeds Ram Nath Kovind, she will be the first Odia and first tribal person to hold the topmost constitutional post.

With President Ram Nath Kovind set to leave the Raisina Hill in July this year, the countdown for picking his successor has begun. Former Jharkhand governor and Odisha BJP leader Draupadi Murmu's name is at the forefront for the next president of India.

The ruling party's good show in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur has put the BJP-led NDA in a comfortable position, but it is short of a majority so it would want a candidate, whom opposition parties could support.

Murmu, fits the bill perfectly for the BJP, as she is

not only a well-known tribal leader but an able administrator which she has proved in her tenure as Jharkhand's governor.

According to political analysts, Murmu's candidature will also get support from Naveen Patnaik led BJD in the presidential elections as she has worked as a minister in the BJD and BJP coalition government in Odisha and still shares a cordial relationship with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Patnaik, who was recently on a three-day visit to Delhi on being questioned if he would prefer a consensus candidate for the top constitutional position of the country, said that it's still early and the party will take a

decision after the candidates are finalised. So, if Murmu will be the BJP candidate then BJD is likely to support her.

Murmu is quite popular among the top brass of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and also shares a cordial bond with everyone. During her term as Jharkhand's governor, Murmu was liked by both the ruling party and the opposition.

Murmu's candidature will also likely gain the support of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) as JMM's supreme Sib Soren and Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren have a warm relationship with her.

So, if BJP chooses Murmu



as their candidate it will not only impact the tribal vote share in the 2024 General Elections but also boost BJP's prospects in Odisha.

If Draupadi succeeds Ram Nath Kovind, she will be the first Odia and first tribal person to hold the topmost constitutional post.

Will put best resources to train youths for World Skills Competition: CM Naveen Patnaik



He announced that from this edition onwards, the gold medal winner in the World Skill Competitions will get an award of Rs 1 crore, while the silver medallist will get Rs 50 lakh and the bronze medallist will get Rs 25 lakh.

Bhubaneswar, May 7: The Odisha government will put the best resources available towards training the winners of India Skills Competition for the World Skills Competition, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said here on Saturday.

Odisha students have got as many as 59 medals at India

Skills Competition 2021 which was held in New Delhi in January 2022. These winners will go through the gruelling preparations for the World Skills Competition scheduled to be held in Shanghai, China in October, 2022.

"Winning is a habit; so is excellence. I believe our

children have now formed the habit to excel, to compete with the best in the world and win." Patnaik said while felicitating the winners of India Skills Competition.

The Chief Minister has announced enhancement of cash incentives for Biju Patnaik Dakhyata Award for the winners of World Skills

Competition (WSC).

He announced that from this edition onwards, the gold medal winner in the World Skill Competitions will get an award of Rs 1 crore, while the silver medallist will get Rs 50 lakh and the bronze medallist will get Rs 25 lakh.

The institution which nurtures the gold medal

winner will get Rs 5 crore for setting up the Biju Patnaik Centre of Excellence, said Patnaik.

He further said: "We have kept the goal of 2-3-4, bringing 2 golds, 3 silvers and 4 bronzes for the country from the youth of Odisha at WSC, Shanghai."

Wishing the competitors at WSC, he said: "From now onwards, may all of you have 'Shanghai on my mind, India in my heart', as you work towards making this dream a reality."

In standing with our commitment to promoting girls in technical education, girls have brought the state national honours in areas that are traditionally male

dominated, he pointed out.

The CM said that Odisha worked for a time when people would ask our boys, girls whether they are just skilled or skilled-in-Odisha.

"We have made skilling aspirational for the youth and it is at the core of all that we do in the area of skilling," he said, adding that "the World Skill Centre in Bhubaneswar, set up with ITEES Singapore as the knowledge partner, stands as a towering testament of our commitment towards the youth of Odisha."

Chairman of Odisha Skills Development Authority (OSDA) Subrato Bagchi said the Chief Minister has done for Hockey, the same will be achieved in skills too.

JSW promotes women empowerment



Bhubaneswar, May 8: Leading steel producer JSW Steel has collaborated with the state government to promote gender equality and to create vibrant opportunity for women empowerment.

The company is also actively engaged in creating a holistic environment for the women in its workplace as well as creating platforms for livelihood generation.

India's First Women's Business Mela, organized under the banner of Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Women's Entrepreneurship Council (IWEC), is an example of its active participation in promoting women empowerment.

COO of JSW Steel, Odisha Ranjan Nayak said, "Women's contribution to the Indian economy cannot be

ignored. They play a vital role for the growth of the economy. JSW also believes that a vibrant MSME ecosystem for women led MSME & startups are important for the growth of the state."

The Mela is India's first Women's Business Mela dedicated completely to women entrepreneurs. Over 150 stalls are set up by women-led businesses.

JSW Steel Project Head (Odisha) Ashesh Kumar Padhy, who was guest speaker in the event, said, "Women are now emerging out of the obscurity of the hearth and seizing leadership roles in fields that were previously thought to be entirely male domains. We have been witnessing examples of female leaders transforming the world

with their knowledge and desire for progress. They have even showed their expertise in mining sector as well."

GM of CSR (JSW Foundation) Prasanta Biswal elaborated that the company is continuously identifying skilled women from its direct impact zone and hand holding them to grow in their respective micro and small business for their livelihood generation.

"As a responsible corporate, we try to increase our procurement from women entrepreneurs. This would help women to have encouraging business opportunities," said Biswal.

Recently, Biswal also met with the Ambassador of Indonesia to India Ina H Krishnamurthy for a formal discussion. Her visit to Odisha was to revive historical business ties between Indonesia and Odisha and converting that into business opportunity from both sides.

IWEC Convener Sukruti Pattnaik thanked mega players like JSW for coming forward to support women led startups and MSMEs in Odisha.

Advanced Medical Facilities Available At Utkal Hospital In Remote Kashipur

RAYAGADA, May 3: (Jogeswar Das) As a part of its relentless pursuit of the health and well-being of this region, the Utkal Alumina International Limited, a subsidiary of Hindalco Industries Limited of Aditya Birla Group has inaugurated CT Scan Center and Microbiology Unit today at its Utkal Hospital

facility. With this CT scan machine, a higher diagnosis of health can be done at Utkal hospital. The culture of the sample can now be done at Utkal hospital rather than sending it to Bhubaneswar or Visakhapatnam. Also, this service would be availed with minimal cost as BPL and APL categories would avail of this service free of cost whereas

President Mr. Mazhar Beig and President Ujjwala Utkal ladies Club Mrs. Hina Beig, and other senior officials from Utkal Alumina.

Speaking on the occasion, the Unit Head and President Mr. Mazhar Beig mentioned that we are always committed to providing expert health care service in this area by bringing advanced technology into



located at Tikiri, Kashipur Block.

The most needed advanced health care facility in the tribal hinterland of Kashipur block would now cater to three nearby districts Rayagada, Kalahandi, and Gajapati as these districts are not having such facilities. The local rural tribals have to travel to Visakhapatnam or Bhubaneswar to avail of this

others can take the services by paying nominal charges. The facility would be manned by certified expert CT scan technicians and Microbiology experts who will generate the reports online within an hour for which any serious and grievous situation can be addressed immediately.

The center was inaugurated by Unit Head and

medical services. Under our CSR, we always strive toward community well-being and improve the health indicators of the region and save more lives in a critical situation at our facility.

In the future, we will be bringing many more advanced medical facilities which would benchmark our health service in the entire state as emphasized by Mr. Beig.

Seven decades of an oxymoron



Sirish C. Mohanty

After delivering on two of the core pledges - abrogation of Article 370 and settlement of the Ram Mandir issue - the clangor is now growing for the Bharatiya Janata Party's third promise, the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). The recent remarks by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the party's core committee meeting in Bhopal have stirred national politics and reignited the debate on the UCC.

The BJP, quite indefatigably and invariably so, has always been a steadfast advocate of the UCC. The issue was included in the saffron party's election manifesto in 2019, and it may be a key election theme in 2024 as well. The vitriolic altercation on hijab has further emphasised the need for a Uniform Civil Code in India. Rakesh Sinha, a BJP member in the Rajya Sabha, tabled a private member's Bill for legislation on the UCC, further fanning the issue. The Delhi High Court is also hearing a similar case filed by BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyaya. And now, in BJP-ruled states, the demand for the UCC is gaining traction. While Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh are working on a draft for the UCC, states like Madhya Pradesh have shown support for the common policy.

In one nation, two different sets of rules based on religion are a growing burden. Without the UCC, India's secularism is a façade to suppressing the rights of the weak.

The Uniform Civil Code (under Article 44 of the Constitution) aims to establish laws that apply to all people equally, regardless of religion, gender, caste, or other factors. A common collection of rules covering personal concerns such as marriage, divorce, adoption, inheritance, succession, co-parenting, the division of family property, guardianship, wills, gifts, charity contributions, and other issues is referred to as the Uniform Civil Code.

"The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India," declares Article 44. However, since the Article happens to fall under the Directive Principles of State Policy, it is presumed to be advisory.

The advent of the UCC is likely to quash all existing codified personal laws and replace them with a single, universal law. Personal laws are also often contradictory and

inconsistent. The UCC will help address this issue.

The Lex Loci Report (1837), set up by the first law commission chaired by Lord Macaulay, revealed India's legal disarray and unpredictability. Almost 200 years later, the issue continues to be discussed with the same trepidation. After Independence, while the Nehruvian dispensation passed the Hindu Code Bill, it dithered on implementing the UCC due to the fear, imagined or otherwise, of offending the Muslim community. The UCC was, instead, added to the list of Directive Principles in the Constitution.

Noted feminist Aparna Mahanta said, "The failure of the Indian state to provide a Uniform Civil Code consistent with its democratic, secular and socialist declarations further illustrates the modern state's accommodation of the traditional interests of a patriarchal society." Professor Paula

Banerjee remarked that this was done to make sure that it would never be talked about again. Later, Nehru expressed that a UCC was a necessity, but he did not want it to be forced upon any community, especially if they weren't ready for it. In contrast, the Hindu community was never even consulted, let alone reached concurrence.

The areas of Muslim personal law have been left entirely to their religious authorities. This explains why regressive practices such as triple talaq, nikah, halala, and female genital mutilation (FGM), among others, continue to remain in practice. Daughters receive only half the inheritance that sons are entitled to.

The UCC is being debated as if it were a contentious and communal issue, which it is not. It is also being touted that if it is implemented, Hindus will gain at the expense of Muslims, which ostensibly won't be so! Attempts by several state governments and the Centre to adopt the UCC in India have been branded "unconstitutional and anti-minorities" by the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB). Instead, the UCC should only be seen from one perspective: Providing "equal" and "inalienable" rights to all beings, including women.

India's courts have been urging successive administrations to implement UCC. They took up this issue in 1985, 1995, 2015, and finally in 2017 when they handed down their verdict in the triple talaq case. To begin with, there was the Shah Bano case in 1985, which ensured Muslim women's maintenance under the CrPC; the Sarla Mudgal case in 1995, which

held that conversion to Islam solely for marriage was void; and in 2015, the SC asked the Central government whether it was willing to bring UCC. In 2017, the Shayara Bano case on triple talaq declared the practice of instantaneous triple talaq unconstitutional.

In a true democracy, there is no space for discrimination based on one's gender and religion. Contrastingly, many Muslim bodies and most opposition parties profess that UCC is not possible in India, and is unconstitutional, so they oppose it. Nevertheless, Goa is the only state in India where all communities, including Hindus, Muslims, and Christians, are governed by the UCC when it applies to marriage, divorce, succession, etc. Although the state became a part of the Indian Union in 1961, the former Portuguese colony decided to continue with the Portuguese Civil Code of 1867 for all communities in the state. At an inauguration ceremony of a new Bombay High Court building in Goa in March 2021, former Chief Justice of India Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde said, "Goa has what Constitutional framers envisaged for India - a Uniform Civil Code. And I have had the great privilege of administering justice under that Code. Because of the UCC, the confrontation between Muslims and Hindus is very rare."

One nation, two different kinds of rules based on religion is an oxymoron. The Modi government introduces the UCC to mark the end of a blatantly discriminatory law in India.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Your editorial is a sarcastic narration of the controversial role of Gajapati Maharaj for his uncalled-for statement on the safety & security of the Jagannath temple, while construction is going on

without clearance from ASI.

It is unbecoming on his part to voice his opinion publicly on the technical civil construction. There is a reason to believe that Gajapati has acted under duress to protect the vested interest.

As rightly ridiculed by you, like Judhisthir in Mahabharat War, succumbing to leverage, Gajapati has made such camouflaging statement which has already tarnished his popular holy sacred image.

Secondly, your special story

scripted a vivid description of the freebie culture promoted by all political parties with a sole motive to woo, influence & win the gullible voters during the election. This unhealthy culture will continue to remain the most effective weapon until & unless

the level of political consciousness of the voters gets improved through political education & awareness.

Bharat Patra
Rtd. Banker & Social
activist, Keonjhar.

Small babus with big pockets



Sirish C Mohanty

When a corrupt subordinate is caught, the superior hardly ever gets the blame whereas he too needs to be hauled up for dereliction of duty. If that was done, there would be better performance, less corruption, and better utilization of government resources.

According to Kautilya, human nature poses corruption. It is the human psyche. He said that it is impossible not to taste the honey that finds on the trip of the tongue. The servant

it was limited. A corrupt was punished strictly so that there was a fear in the minds of corrupts. What is different than in those days corrupt was seen as a criminal and today corrupt is given status and prestige in society. Corruption has become a fashion. There is no fright among the corrupt is precarious.

However, in modern governance effective check and balance can arrest the corruption to a limit. For that holistic approach by the elected leaders is necessary. It is worth recalling that the Biju Janata Dal had played the honesty card before coming to power in 2000. Liberal use of CBI was made to instill a sense of fear among the corrupt. The situation seems to be different now. Serious lapses and cases of graft of gargantuan proportion keep



irrigation division in Ganjam district and the other, relating to a Gram Rojgar Sevak (GRS) working on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar - led to the detection of huge assets, raise important issues like quality of governance and government's response to corruption. In the case of the former, the engineer concerned was the all-important functionary in the division office where he was stationed for 22 years since the day he joined government service as a junior engineer.

Kartikeswar Roul, the Junior Engineer, was never transferred and wielded tremendous power and clout in the office. Searches resulted in the highest seizure of cash during any raid by the State Vigilance. It is to be noted that on April 7, 2022, the second day of the house search, Rs 2.5 crore in cash was unearthed from his house and that of his second wife. Besides, assets worth over Rs 2.76 crore including two flats and one double-story building in Bhubaneswar, bank and insurance deposits of about Rs 37.23 lakh, and seven plots of land including two in the prime area of Bhubaneswar were unearthed. Roul has been arrested.

The case of the Gram Rojgar Sevak, Babuli Charan Padhihari is more revealing. Babuli had joined the job not long ago and earned around Rs 6000 per month and this wage had increased to Rs 8500 when he was arrested by the Vigilance on charges of

corruption. He came under Vigilance surveillance recently when he allegedly sold 18 plots of land in the suburbs of Bhubaneswar. His assets included costly buildings in the city suburbs, a car, a bike, and gold ornaments worth Rs 8 lakh. He was allegedly in possession of 59 plots of land in and around Bhubaneswar. He seemed to be liberally taking advantage of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Fund and was on an enrichment overdrive.

That a humble government employee not even on a regular government pay scale could amass the

economic program execution responsibility to petty officials, with the BDO and supervisory officials remaining occupied perhaps with more important responsibilities.

The case of Roul leads one to believe that the Government could let transferable officials remain in one station for decades if they were good at networking skills or were politically connected. The case of Padhihari revealed the steep slide of supervision responsibility of officials. Both

monitoring, and accountability needs to be ensured. There cannot be a kindly attitude, a forgiving disposition towards corruption. Corruption, in many cases, is an indicator of lack of supervision and in some cases indicates collusion of superiors.

As against about 4 lakh state government employees, the Vigilance set up in the state has limitations of both size and time. In 2020, Odisha Vigilance registered only 245 cases against 381 persons including 53 Class-I, 38 Class-



cases raise the issue of the government's attitude to corruption of officials.

There are about 4 lakh government employees and it is likely that some would be

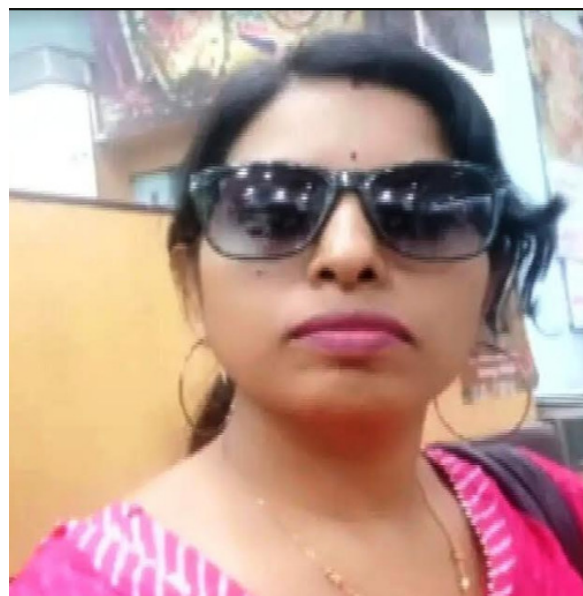
II, 183 Class-III, five Class-IV officials, 26 public servants, and 76 private individuals. Of these, 93 were disproportionate asset (DA) cases involving DA of Rs 124 crore in respect of 24 Class-I and 20 Class-II officers. Since 2019, the Odisha government has compulsorily retired 158 government employees as of March 2022. However, the investigation of many Vigilance cases takes a long time to complete; the rate of conviction is not high. Given these limitations, Vigilance has not been a strong enough deterrent. Much stronger vigil and administrative action seem called for. It is highly improbable that the corrupt practices of a subordinate official remain unknown to the superior officer. When the corrupt subordinate is caught, the superior hardly ever gets the blame whereas he too needs to be hauled up for dereliction of duty. If that was done, there would be better performance, less corruption, and better utilization of government resources.



employed by the government can never locate corrupting. The level of corruption is steady and maybe there could have been marginal fluctuations. In support, he said that the servants are like fish in water. No one can tell when fish drink water or how much water fish drink or whether drink or not-the rule is applied to the government servant also. No one can tell when the servants do corruption; up to what extent it is done always are unanswerable questions. Both the examples; i.e. honey and fish are relevant today also. Kautilya's these thoughts make it clear that corruption has existed in those days also. Because government property was the king's personal property also,

surfacing at seemingly innocuous quarters and lend support to the widespread belief that corruption has now engulfed the state like a forest fire. Corruption impacts the delivery of services; it breeds societal anger and discontent. Steadily but surely, it transforms the huge governing apparatus of NPA. The government bears the cost of a corrupt employee by entertaining him in service but does not get his services the way they should have been - a contingency any government should avoid. A much more effective strategy to curb corruption seems to be the need of the hour.

Like a tip of an iceberg, two recent raids of Odisha Vigilance - one relating to an Assistant Engineer in the



Suspended Tehsildar of Badasahi Mamta Moharana

wealth of this proportion being posted so close to Bhubaneswar only betrayed a wholesome tolerant attitude to corruption and total delegation of important

deficient in probity and integrity. The supervising officers have a big role in ensuring efficiency and honesty in governance. The work of officials needs regular

On Hemant Soren's Mining Lease To Himself, Poll Panel's Tough Question



The Election Commission's move came after the Governor referred the case to the poll body following opposition's complaint. Mr Soren has been asked to submit his response by May 10.

of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951, for acquiring the lease.

In a petition to the Governor Ramesh Bais, the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha has claimed that the lease does not attract Section 9 (A) of the Representation of Peoples Act. The opposition, the JMM claimed, is trying to "create an atmosphere of political turmoil in the state and destabilise the democratically elected Government".

"Stone mining does not

constitute 'works undertaken by the Government', the JMM said in the petition citing Supreme Court ruling in a similar case.

Soren, the party contended, is not in the business of mining and the mining lease agreement he entered into was "not in the course of his trade".

"In any event, the mining lease agreement which was executed by Shri Soren was not acted upon and is not subsisting. Thus, none of the essential conditions stipulated

for triggering Section 9 (A) are present in the case of Shri Hemant Soren," the party contended, requesting the Governor to forward the representation to the Election Commission. While giving a judgment in 2001 in a case involving then Haryana MLA Kartar Singh, the Supreme Court had clarified that a mining lease is not a contract for the execution of any works undertaken by the Government. The court held: "As we see it, it is only when the appropriate Government has undertaken works, such as the laying of a road, the erection of a building or the construction of a dam, and has entered into a contract for the execution of such works that the contractor is disqualified under Section 9-A. Section 9-A does not operate to

disqualify the lessee of a mining lease such as the appellant."

Under Section 9A of Representation of Peoples Act, a person shall be disqualified if and for so long as they have entered into a contract in the state and business with the appropriate government for supply of goods to, or for the execution of any works undertaken by, that government.

According to the JMM, a legislator can be disqualified if he entered into a contract in course of his trade or business; the contract should be entered into with the appropriate Government; that the contract should subsist; that the contract should relate to works undertaken by that Government and the contract should be for the execution of such works.

New Delhi, May 2: The Election Commission has sent notice to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, asking that he explain why action should not be taken against him over allegations of the grant of mining license in Ranchi to himself in June 2021. The Commission's move came after the Governor referred the case to the poll body following opposition's complaint. Soren -- who handles the mining

portfolio -- has been asked to submit his response by May 10.

The mining lease apparently violates Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act, which deals with disqualification over government contracts. The opposition has claimed that Mr Soren is liable to be disqualified in terms of Article 191 (e) of the Constitution of India read with Section 9(A)

ED arrests Mines Secretary Pooja Singhal in money laundering case

Ranchi, May 11: IAS officer and Jharkhand Mines Secretary Pooja Singhal was on Wednesday arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) after her second day of questioning in connection with the ongoing probe of Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to alleged embezzlement of MNREGS funds.



IAS officer and Jharkhand Mines Secretary Pooja Singhal was on Wednesday arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) after her second day of questioning in connection with the ongoing probe of Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to alleged embezzlement of MNREGS funds.

Singhal on Wednesday she again joined the probe after being grilled for 9 hours on Tuesday. The ED, after collecting enough evidence against her, placed her under arrest. The ED sources said that they would scan her transactions of the last three years, to check the suspicious money trail, if any. The agency is also scanning details of all her properties.

A source said that total of four cars of her husband Abhishek Jha's CA Suman Kumar, who was arrested on

Saturday, have been seized, as sources said that someone else had made the payments for luxury cars, which is suspicious.

Cash amounting to around Rs 19 crore was recovered in the raids by the ED. It is said that it was Singhal's money. The ED will try to know from where this cash came from. Apart from the CA, her husband was placed under arrest on Saturday. Suman Kumar was then sent to five days ED custody which is ending on Wednesday. He had come on the radar during the course of the investigation. He also handles accounts of Singhal's husband. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had on Friday morning conducted raids at more than 18 places, including Ranchi, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Kolkata, Muzaffarpur, Saharsa, and in several parts of NCR including Faridabad and Gurugram as well as Noida. They had to take help

of bank officials and a currency counting machine to estimate the amount of cash seized.

The Jharkhand government Thursday suspended mining secretary Pooja Singhal, a day after she was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with its probe into a money laundering case.

Singhal was arrested in a case involving the alleged diversion of MGNREGA funds during her tenure as deputy commissioner in Khunti in 2009-2010. She was produced before a special court, which sent her to ED custody for five days.

The probe is linked to 16 FIRs registered against a former government junior engineer in 2010-2011, but the action comes at a time when Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren is under the scanner for allegedly allotting a mining lease in his favour and a plot of land to his wife.

Liquor consumption in rural Odisha higher than urban, and more than the national average

As per the second phase report of the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS), an average of 18 per cent male persons (over 15 years of age) in India consume alcohol, while the 28.8 per cent males in the same category drink alcohol in Odisha

Bhubaneswar, May 11:

In a startling disclosure, it has been revealed that the percentage of liquor consumers in Odisha is higher than the national average.

As per the second phase report of the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS), an average of 18 per cent male persons (over 15 years of age) in India consume alcohol, while the 28.8 per cent males in the same category drink alcohol in Odisha.

Even, women in Odisha are not lagging behind their male counterparts. With 4.3 per cent women in the State consuming liquor, the rate is also higher than the national average. Around



4.3 per cent women consume alcohol in the State in comparison to 1.6 per cent of national average.

The survey report stated that 22.7 per cent people in urban area and 30.2 per cent people in Odisha consume alcohol.

A total of 6, 36,699 families across the country including 6,476 from Odisha were included in the survey. As per the study,

while 52.7 per cent people consume alcohol in Arunachal Pradesh, 35 per cent people consume liquor in Jharkhand respectively.

Similarly, Chhattisgarh (34.8), Tamil Nadu (25.4), Uttarakhand (25.5), Punjab (22.8), Madhya Pradesh (17.1), Uttar Pradesh (14.6) and Haryana (16.1) are behind Jharkhand in the list.

Madhya Pradesh farmer finds 11.88-carat diamond; it could fetch up to Rs 50 lakh

The small-time farmer, Pratap Singh Yadav, who also works as a labourer, found this diamond from a mine in Patti area in the district.

Panna, May 6: A farmer in Madhya Pradesh had a great stroke of luck as he stumbled upon a 11.88 carat good quality diamond in a small, leased mine in Panna, famous for diamond mines. The small-time farmer, Pratap Singh Yadav, who also works as a labourer, found this diamond from a mine in Patti area in the district, diamond officer Ravi Patel told reporters on Wednesday.

This good quality diamond will be put up for sale in the upcoming auction and the price will be fixed as per the government guidelines. Talking to reporters, Yadav said, "I am



A farmer in Madhya Pradesh stumbled upon a 11.88 carat diamond

a poor man with a small agricultural land. I also work as a labourer. I have been



working hard in this mine for the past three months and got this diamond and deposited it

to the Diamond Office."

The money received from the auction of this diamond will be used for setting up a business and to fund the education of his children. According to private estimates, the diamond may fetch more than Rs 50 lakh at the auction.

Officials said that the raw diamond would be auctioned and the proceeds would be given to the farmer after deduction of the government royalty and taxes. Panna district is estimated to have diamond reserves of 12 lakh carats.

Repo rate hike: Fixed income funds set to become attractive again

However, there is a very high uncertainty and there will be surprise elements in between, and one needs to have flexibility to change that allocation. At the longer-end bonds, there is still very high uncertainty.

It is time investors look at fixed income as an asset class, as yields are on an upward trajectory following the surprise hike in policy rates by the Reserve Bank of India. Given the volatility in

looking at fixed income, given that everything else is so volatile. We have been aligned to the short end of the curve, given that we were expecting this to play out at some point. Since the rate hike cycle is still on, it is best to stick to short-term funds."

Fund managers also believe that due to an appreciable rise in the yields, the middle of the yield curve also remains attractive for



Job market bounces back in April as job-seekers rejoin labour force: CMIE data

"April saw some of these disappointed people, or quitters, coming back into the labour markets," CMIE said.

New Delhi, May 11: Labour force in India saw a substantial bounce-back in comparison to last month as 88 lakh people joined the labor market in April taking the total count to 4.37 crore, data from CMIE (Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy) showed. The increase is because working-age people who were out of the labor force re-joined the labor force last month led by an acceleration in manufacturing and services jobs, it added.

"People who could have been in the labor force but had chosen to sit out were now flooding the labor markets. This is the opposite effect of the phenomenon where disappointed people move out of the labor force. Implicitly, April saw some of these disappointed people, or quitters, coming back into the labor markets," CMIE said in a report this week.

Rise in employment in April after a three-month decline. The latest readings show a four-month high in the



Labour force in India saw a substantial bounce-back in comparison to last month

monthly increases in the labor force. "This is one of the largest monthly increases in the labor force if we exclude the lockdown impacted months when the movement in and out of the labor markets was extraordinarily high."

Along with the rise in the labor force, employment also rose in April, which comes after three consecutive months of decline from January to March. "It may be useful to note that the 8.8 million increases in the labor

force in April come after a 12 million fall in the same during the preceding three months. Labour moved out of the labor markets during January-March and has come back in April," CMIE said. Jobs decline in agriculture; offset by an increase in manufacturing, services. In comparison to March, when the agriculture sector attracted the most number of jobs, in the last month the industry and services sector witnessed an increase in employment. The

agricultural sector shed 52 lakh jobs due to the winding down of the rabi harvesting season, and an intense heatwave. The industry added 55 lakh jobs while services added 67 lakh jobs in April. Jobs rose in manufacturing (of metals, chemicals, and cement) and construction while they declined in mining and utilities. Within the services sector, the increases were in the retail trade, hotels, and restaurants industries.

the equity markets, fixed income experts say investors should start nibbling on fixed income securities across the spectrum. Ahead of the actual hike in rates, investors were being advised to stick to the short-term debt funds, but with Wednesday's hike the cycle has officially turned. Even though real interest rates are not likely to become positive in a hurry, fund managers believe fixed income securities will become more attractive again.

On Wednesday, yields on government securities moved up more than 25 basis points, whereas short-term debt instruments yields rose 20-30 basis points. Investors could consider allocating funds to fixed-income schemes of mutual funds, especially ones at the shorter-end of the curve amid better accruals and decent yields. Sahil Kapoor, market strategist and head - products, DSP Mutual Fund, said: "Following today's rate hike, it is a good time for investors to start

investors, whereas the longer end will continue to see higher uncertainty going forward. Says Pankaj Pathak, fund manager - fixed income, Quantum Mutual Fund, "I think there is opportunity somewhere at the middle of the bond yield curve around five-, six-year bonds, where yields have already moved up a lot and much of the potential rate hikes are already priced. However, there is a very high uncertainty and there will be surprise elements in between, and one needs to have flexibility to change that allocation. At the longer-end bonds, there is still very high uncertainty."

After the RBI's announcement and even hawkish signals from the US Federal Reserve, experts believe that the 10-year benchmark bond yield could jump up to 8-8.5% in upcoming days. "It is likely to be a tough market for all asset markets. Indian bonds could trade later in the range of 8-8.50%," said Sandeep Bagla, CEO, Trust Mutual Fund.

Mahinda quits as Lanka PM; ruling MP dead in clash, leaders' houses set on fire

And another ruling-party politician who was not named opened fire on anti-government protesters in the southern town of Weeraketiya, killing two and wounding five, according to police.

Colombo, May 10: Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa quit on Monday, as an outbreak of political violence killed five people including an MP and wounded almost 200.

Lawmaker Amarakeerthi Athukorala from the ruling party shot two people - killing a 27-year-old man - and then took his own life after being surrounded by a mob of anti-government protesters outside Colombo, police said.

And another ruling-party politician who was not named opened fire on anti-government protesters in the southern town of Weeraketiya, killing two and wounding five, according to police.

Sri Lanka has suffered months of blackouts and dire shortages of food, fuel and medicines in its worst

economic crisis since independence.

This sparked weeks of overwhelmingly peaceful demonstrations against President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, as well as his brother the prime minister.

On Monday, scores of Rajapaksa loyalists attacked unarmed protesters camping outside the president's office on a seafront promenade in downtown Colombo, AFP reporters said. "We were hit, the media were hit, women and children were hit," one witness said, asking not to be named.

Police fired tear gas and water cannon and declared an immediate curfew in Colombo, which was later widened to include the entire South Asian island nation of 22 million people. A total of



A bus burns close to Sri Lanka's outgoing Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's official residence, in Colombo on Monday.

181 people were hospitalised, a Colombo National Hospital spokesman told AFP. Eight were injured elsewhere.

"Strongly condemn the violent acts taking place by those inciting & participating, irrespective of political

allegiances," President Rajapaksa tweeted. "Violence won't solve the current problems."

Mahinda Rajapaksa tendered his resignation as prime minister, saying it was to pave the way for a unity

government - but it was unclear if the opposition would cooperate.

Widespread anger Monday's violence triggered widespread anger, with people singling out Rajapaksa supporters and

attacking them in many parts of the country. Homes of some ministers and politicians supporting the Rajapaksas were also attacked and some set on fire. The DailyMirror newspaper reported that the ancestral home of the Rajapaksa family in the southern district of Hambantota was set on fire.

Shots fired
Shots were fired from inside the Sri Lankan prime minister's official residence on Monday, as thousands of protesters breached the main gate and torched a parked truck, an AFP reporter said. Police sources confirmed that shots were fired in the air to prevent the mob breaching the inner security ring of the residence where Rajapaksa, who resigned as premier earlier in the day, was still holed up with several loyalists.

Delimitation Report On Plan To Redraw J&K Seats Out. Details Here



New Delhi, May 5: The delimitation commission to redraw the electoral map of Jammu and Kashmir today notified and submitted its much-awaited final report. The completion of the controversial delimitation process will pave the way for holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The former state is without an elected government since June 2018.

All five parliamentary constituencies will have an equal number of assembly constituencies for the first time. Nine seats have been reserved for

Scheduled Tribes (ST), another first for the erstwhile state.

Of the 90 assembly constituencies, 43 will be part of the Jammu region and 47 for Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir have been treated as a single entity for the purposes of delimitation. The number of total assembly seats in Jammu has risen from 37 to 43 assembly seats.

All assembly constituencies shall remain within the boundary of the concerned district, according to the delimitation order. The Patwar circle is the lowest administrative unit which has not been broken.

The commission has recommended additional seats in the assembly for Kashmiri migrants and displaced persons from Pakistan occupied J&K.

The commission has recommended additional seats in the assembly for Kashmiri migrants and displaced persons from Pakistan occupied J&K.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, the census of 2011 had to be the basis of delimitation, but the commission eventually said that it would also take into account the political aspirations of various sections of society and factor in accessibility, topography and proximity to the border as part of the consideration to allot seats.

The draft report of the commission that was made public a few months ago has caused a huge controversy after the opposition alleged gerrymandering to help BJP and turning the demographic majority into a political minority in several areas.

Home Minister Amit Shah recently said elections would be held in Jammu and Kashmir after the completion of the

delimitation process.

Political parties have pointed out serious flaws in the delimitation process, which may have long-term and serious repercussions for democracy in the region.

For example, while redrawing parliament seats, the commission has merged the Poonch and Rajouri districts, which were part of the Jammu parliament constituency with the Anantnag Parliament constituency in south Kashmir.

There is no geographical connectivity and the distance between the two regions is more than 500 km via Jammu. An alternate route - Mughal road via Shopian district - remains closed during winter and opens only in the summer months.

Regional political parties have rejected the delimitation proposal and alleged that the boundaries of seats were redrawn only to help BJP achieve its political objectives.

Everyone cuts a sorry figure in the arrest drama of Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga

New Delhi, May 6: The pull-and-push on Friday over the arrest of Delhi BJP spokesperson Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga by the hyper-zealous police forces of three states, apparently acting at the behest of two dueling ruling parties, was a deeply unedifying spectacle. Of course, the violations of the rules of the game that it showcases are not startlingly new. The (mis)use of the police by the party in power, the weaponisation of the penal code to target a political opponent, or the crossing of state boundaries and federal norms in the course of vendetta campaigns, have been seen before. They are, unfortunately, stale news. And yet, no matter which version of Friday's sequence of events you choose to run with, the arrest of Bagga in Delhi in the morning hours, over comments he made against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, by a police team that swooped in from AAP-ruled Punjab, followed by their attempt to spirit him away to Mohali in AAP-land, foiled en route by Haryana Police acting in tandem with Delhi Police, both reporting to BJP governments, points to a hijacking of due process that is vividly flagrant and a cause for serious concern.

At the core of the drama lays freedom of speech, or rather its unfreedom. On this count, the BJP's playing of the victim card is a little too rich - BJP-ruled government have rightly earned themselves a formidable reputation for prickliness and vengefulness. Be it the arrest of

Prickly AAP, zealous Punjab Police, Delhi and Haryana Police as their master's voice

Disha Ravi for dissemination of a toolkit during the farm protests or of Jignesh Mevani most recently for a tweet against the PM, instances of BJP governments setting the police on their critics and political opponents are growing. But if that is the irony, the tragedy is that, increasingly, the BJP's Opposition is playing by the BJP's book. Bagga isn't exactly the paragon of political civility. From assaulting lawyer Prashant Bhushan in 2011 to vandalising his nameplate in 2017, only the terribly foolhardy would venture to defend his well-known incivilities. This time, his tweets against Kejriwal may be crude and offensive but the response of the AAP government to criticism of its leader is so disproportionate that it draws the spotlight squarely back on the party's own display of intolerance and flouting of federal restraints. It is not just its unabashed use of the police in the state it rules, it is also the disregard, in the process, of established norms that govern inter-state action by the police that is striking in the Bagga episode.

Youth held for theft from sister's house in Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar, May 2: In an unusual incident a youth has been arrested in the capital city of Odisha on Monday for stealing property of his own sister. He has been arrested on the basis of the complaint lodged by his sister.

The accused has been identified as Ranjit. As per reports, the youth took away a Scooty vehicle, Rs 50 thousand cash and gold jewellery from her sister's house to woo his girlfriend.

After knowing about this the accused's sister filed a complaint at Chadraskharpur Police station. Accordingly, Police started investigation and

arrested the culprit from Tirtol area in Jagatsinghpur district on Sunday night. The stolen Scooty and cash money has been recovered from possession of the accused.

It has been learnt that a number of cases are pending in the name of the accused in different police stations.

He was living in the house of his sister in Chandrasekharapur area in the capital city. Recently, he took away the above said properties from her sister's house when she was not at home. He took away the cash money and jewelry and fled away from the scene. Later, he will be forwarded to court, Police said.

Videography row: Groups raise slogans outside Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi complex, removed by police

A group of about 50 people raised slogans against the survey, resulting in sloganeering from those in favour of the exercise

New Delhi, May 6: Tense scenes were witnessed outside Varanasi's Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi complex on Friday as members of Muslim and Hindu communities indulged in counter-sloganeering even as a team arrived at the site to carry out a survey and inspection of the Maa Shringar Gauri Sthal, as ordered by a court last month.

"When any procession is held, people get curious to participate. This is why the crowd is there, no other matter is involved. People who disobey court orders should prove whether they are Indians, or from other nations," said Brij Bhushan Ojha, trustee of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, according to news agency ANI.

Meanwhile, Abhay Yadav, lawyer of the Anjuman

Intezamia Masjid Committee, which looks after the Gyanvapi Mosque, said, "There are many things not ordered by the court, being established that way. The court ordered that as per the case filed, only an ordinary commission should be conducted, i.e., note whatever is seen, and submit the report to the court."

According to reports, a group of about 50 people, who were against the survey, raised slogans against the advocate commissioner Ajai Kumar-led team as it arrived to carry out the inspection. This resulted in counter-sloganeering from those in favour of the survey.

As the situation started turning tense, prominent persons from both sides, along with police, intervened, and people indulging in



Sloganeering outside Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi complex

sloganeering were removed from the spot. The current situation, according to the police, is peaceful.

The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee had already announced its opposition to the proceedings. Its lawyers, however, said though they will obey the law, they would complain if anything, which is against the

rule, is done.

On April 26, Ravi Kumar Diwakar, civil judge (senior division), Varanasi, ordered videography of the Shringar Gauri Sthal, which is situated inside the complex, after Eid, which fell on April 3. It also asked the advocate commissioner to present its report on May 10, the next date of hearing.

Jodhpur violence: What United Nations spokesperson said on clashes before Eid

Jodhpur riots: So far 97 people have been arrested in connection with clashes hours before Eid police officials said

New Delhi, May 4: A United Nations spokesperson on Wednesday called on the Indian government and law enforcement agencies to ensure peace and harmony in Rajasthan's Jodhpur as people celebrate festivals, including Eid. UN chief Antonio Guterres' office also urged all communities in the city to work together.

Guterres' office's comments were a response to a question on communal clashes this week before Eid celebrations; five policemen were injured after two violence over the raising of Eid flags, prompting a curfew and suspension of mobile internet services. This was after similar clashes on Monday.

"I think the basic point is our hope that the various communities will work



Police baton charge protesters after clashes broke out between two communities

together and that the government and the security forces will ensure that everyone can go about their activities, including celebratory activities, peacefully," Farhan Haq, the secretary-general's deputy spokesperson, said.

Haq was responding to a question on whether the secretary-general could comment on violence in Jodhpur - the hometown of

chief minister Ashok Gehlot - coinciding with the festival of Eid.

Heavy police presence remains across the whole district today and the curfew is being 'strictly enforced', Hawa Singh Ghumaria, additional director-general (law and order), told news agency ANI this morning, adding, "Every small incident occurring in the district is

being monitored."

So far 97 people have been arrested in connection with the violence.

Chief minister Gehlot on Tuesday described the violence as unfortunate and directed officials to take stern action against those responsible. "It is unfortunate that tension has been triggered due to the clash between two groups... administration has been instructed to maintain peace and order..."

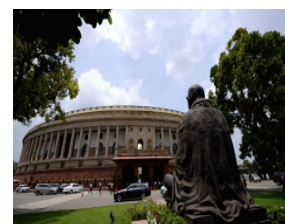
Predictably the violence has also sparked a political blame game, with the opposition BJP ripping into the ruling Congress. The BJP's Rajyavardhan Rathore on Tuesday accused Gehlot of 'appeasement politics'.

Gehlot, meanwhile, has alleged the BJP had a hand in inciting the violence.

ECI issues notification for polls to 3 Rajya Sabha seats from Odisha, election on June 10

Bhubaneswar, May 12: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday released notification for elections to 57 Rajya Sabha seats, including three from Odisha. The elections to the vacant RS seats will be held on June 10.

The term of office of 57 members of the Council of States elected from as many as 15 states is due to expire



notification: May 24, Last date of nomination filing: May 31, Scrutiny of nominations: June 1, Last date for withdrawal of

The term of office of 57 members of the Council of States elected from as many as 15 states is due to expire on their retirement between June-August this year.

on their retirement between June-August this year.

Tenure of three Rajya Sabha members, N Bhaskar Rao, Prasanna Acharya and Sasmit Patro, from Odisha will end in July. Meanwhile, the counting of votes will take place on the same day.

Check the Rajya Sabha election schedule:

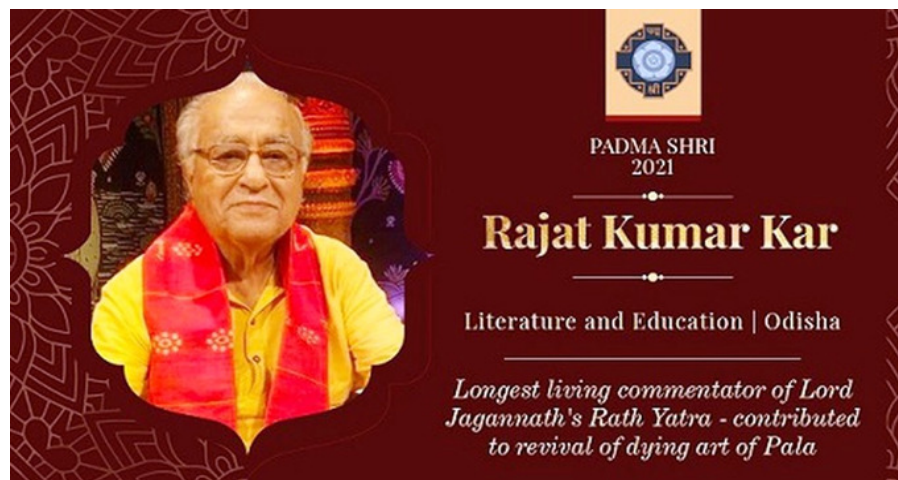
Issuance of election

candidatures: June 3, and Date of election: June 10

Moreover, the Election Commission has directed the Chief Secretaries of the concerned states to depute a senior officer from their states to ensure that the Covid-19 protocols are strictly followed while making arrangements for the elections to the Rajya Sabha seats.

Eminent Odia litterateur Rajat Kumar Kar dies at age 88

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed condolence over the demise of Kar and said his contribution to Odia culture will remain memorable



Bhubaneswar, May 8: Eminent Odia litterateur Rajat Kumar Kar, a Padma Shri awardee, died at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar on Sunday, his family said.

He was 88 years old and had heart-related ailments, they said. Kar complained of

chest pain around 5 pm and when rushed to the hospital, doctors declared him dead, they said.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed condolence over the demise of Kar and said his contribution to Odia culture will remain

memorable. Odisha CM Patnaik said his funeral will be held with full state honours.

Kar was fine till noon and went to take rest after having lunch. However, he complained of uneasiness soon after getting up from the bed,

following which he was taken to the hospital, they added. Kar, who was conferred with Padma Shri in 2021 for literature and education, had heart-related ailments and was under medication.

An orator on Jagannath culture, he was known for his commentary during the annual Ratha Jatra on TV and radio for six decades.

He was also instrumental in the revival of Odisha's dying art of Pala.

He was a prolific writer on Upendra Bhanja literature and has seven non-fictions to his credit. He has also written a few books on Lord Jagannath.

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik, State BJP president Samir Mohanty and many others condoled the death of Kar.

Tata Sons taps aviation veteran Campbell Wilson to lead Air India

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson

New Delhi, May 12: Campbell Wilson, the previous head of low-cost airline Scoot, has been appointed as the new chief executive officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Air India, an official statement said Thursday.

Wilson, 50, has resigned as chief of Scoot to take the top job at Air India.

He has 26 years aviation industry expertise across both full service and low-cost airlines. He is the chief executive of Scoot, a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines.

Wilson's appointment comes after Turkey's Ilker Ayci decided not take on the role of

and hospitality," Campbell Wilson said.

Recently, Tata Sons has effected a major reshuffle in the top management of Air India, with Nipun Aggarwal appointed as Chief Commercial Officer and Suresh Dutt Tripathi as Chief Human Resources Officer.

Aggarwal, who is also Senior Vice President at Tata Sons, replaced Air India



chief executive of Air India after the announcement of his appointment led to opposition in India over his previous political links.

Commenting on the appointment, N Chandrasekaran said, "I am glad to welcome Campbell to Air India. He is an industry veteran having worked in key global markets cutting across multiple functions."

"Further, Air India would benefit from his added experience of having built an airline brand in Asia," he said.

The Tata Group took control of Air India on 27 January, after successfully winning the bid for the airline on 8 October last year.

"It is an honour to be selected to lead the iconic Air India and be part of the highly respected Tata Group. Air India is at the cusp of an exciting journey to become one of the best airlines in the world, offering world-class products and services with a distinct customer experience that reflects Indian warmth

veteran Meenakshi Malik, while Tripathi, who was Vice President of Human Resources at Tata Steel from 2012 to 2021, succeeded AI's Amrita Sharan.

Wilson will be replaced at Scoot by Leslie Thng, the current senior vice president, sales and marketing, at Singapore Airlines.

Brief Profile

Wilson started off as a Management Trainee with Singapore Airlines (SIA) in New Zealand in 1996. He then worked for SIA in Canada, Hong Kong and Japan before returning to Singapore in 2011 as the founding CEO of Scoot, which he led until 2016.

Wilson then served as the Senior Vice President Sales and Marketing of SIA, where he oversaw Pricing, Distribution, eCommerce, Merchandising, Brand & Marketing, Global Sales and the airline's overseas offices, before returning for a second stint as the CEO of Scoot in April 2020.

UP makes singing national anthem compulsory at all madrassas

Lucknow, May 12: Singing of the national anthem "Jana Gana Mana" has been made compulsory at all madrassas in Uttar Pradesh from Thursday, an official said here.

The Registrar of the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board, S N Pandey, also issued an order to this effect to all the District Minority Welfare Officers on May 9.

According to the decision taken in the board meeting on March 24, the singing of the national anthem at the time of prayer at all madrassas across the state has been made mandatory, he said.

He said regular classes at

the madrassas began on May 12 after the Ramzan holidays, and the order came into effect on the same day.

The order said that before the commencement of classes, the national anthem will be sung by teachers and students from the upcoming academic session in all recognised, aided, and non-aided madrassas in the state.

The District Minority Welfare Officers have been tasked to ensure compliance with the order.

General Secretary of Teachers' Association Madaris Arabia, Diwan Sahab Zaman Khan, said that till now at madrassas, usually Hamd (praises to Allah) and Salam (salutations to



Muhammad) were recited before the start of classes.

The national anthem was also sung in some, but it was not compulsory. "Now it has been made mandatory," he added.

The order comes after the state's Minority Welfare Minister Dharampal Singh last month emphasised

teaching nationalism at madrassas.

Minister of State Danish Azad Ansari had also said that the government wants the madrassa students to be "full of patriotism".

At present, there are a total of 16,461 madrassas in Uttar Pradesh and 560 of them receive government grants.

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Mangoes are India's most delicious gift to the world



Sirish C Mohanty

important roads he ordered the plantation of mango trees so that they may provide fruit to the weary travelers when the summer season was at its peak. And at other times the trees and mango orchards would offer shade and shelter to humans and animals. It was

of India which he felt did not equal the fruits of his native Ferghana valley in Uzbekistan. Only in the case of mangoes did he make an exception. He was delighted with mangoes and regretted the fact that the mango season did not last for many more months. An article

landed, he tasted a mango for the first time in his life and after that he was hooked. Da Gama's dealings with the local ruler did not go well so the ships returned to Portugal. But they carried several boxes of mangoes, along with spices and other condiments among the cargo. These were then presented to King Manuel and Queen Maria.

The Indian sub-continent produces almost 40 percent of the world's mangoes. The variety known as Alphonso are among the most sought after varieties in the entire world. Grown mainly in Ratnagiri, these are very popular in Goa and Mumbai are named after Alphonso de Albuquerque, the Portuguese Governor of Goa from 1509 to 1515.

Other internationally popular varieties include the Carabao in the Philippines (which was listed for sometime in the Guinness Book as the sweetest mangoes in the world), Sindhri in Pakistan (along with Anwar Ratool, Chaunsa, Saroli, Samar Bahisht, Fajri, Neelam and Sunhera), Sein Ta Lone in Myanmar, Ataulfo in Mexico,

Hayden (grown in Florida, USA), Julie in Jamaica and Kensington Pride in Australia.

Among the best loved varieties in India are Dussehra, Chausa, Totapuri, Himsagar, Safeda, Neelam, Kesar and Langra (which was given this unusual name because the farmer who first developed this variety was lame). Some rare varieties have imaginative names like Laila Majnu, Husn-Ara, Rashk-e-Jahan, Benazir and Deputy-Pasand (one wonders how that name came about). In Hyderabad all are familiar with Banaganapalli and Himayath varieties. Hyderabad's beloved Banaganapalli variety is named after Banaganapalle town in Kurnool district where it was originally cultivated. It was given a GI tag on 3rd May 2017, by the Geographical Indication Registry.

There are many theories about the best ways to eat mangoes. In many places in India, mangoes are first soaked in a bucket of water before they are eaten. Interestingly, the well known singer Rihanna who belongs to Barbados in the West Indies was seen in social media posts

very recently, dipping a mango in the sea near a beach before eating it. She explained that in Barbados, it is a practice to soak mangoes in the sea before they are eaten. Perhaps this is the same thought process at work.

According to nutritionists, mangoes contain a natural molecule known as phytic acid which is found in several fruits and vegetables. So, when mangoes are soaked in water for a few hours, it helps to remove the excess phytic acid that generates heat in the body. But otherwise, like most fruits, mangoes are healthy. Raw mango is 84 percent water, 15 percent carbohydrates, 1 percent protein, and has negligible fat. For the calorie conscious, it must be noted that the energy value per 100 gm serving of a raw mango is only 60 calories.

So whether we are young or old, we can all take advantage of the mango season to indulge ourselves. If one is diabetic one should eat only limited quantities but anyone else can afford to have a daily feast on the lovely and juicy fruits.



strictly forbidden to cut down mango trees and over the course of time, the mango trees became an important part of Indian culture.

Later in Indian history, the Mughal Emperor Babur wrote his famous Baburnama, an English translation of which is available even today. In most cases Babur was not pleased with the fruits and vegetables

in New York Times has stated that Emperor Akbar had cultivated a mango orchard in Bihar which had one lakh trees located near Darbhanga in Bihar.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in India by sea. On 20th May, 1498, Admiral Vasco Da Gama landed in Calicut (Kozhikode). A few days after his ship

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Project work

temple precincts. Defending the digging, the Puri district administration had said it had approval from the National Monuments Authority

Protests had erupted in the temple town in the past two months over excavations as much as 20ft deep carried out using JCB machines, some of which were just 7 metres from the temple precincts. Defending the digging, Puri district administration had said it had approval from the Monuments Body.

(NMA).

No heritage impact assessment studies were conducted before starting construction of the Srimandir Parikrama project, and no ground-penetrating radar survey was conducted to ascertain the archaeological and historical remains lie buried in the subsoil within a 75-meter radius of the centrally protected monument, the ASI said in the affidavit on

Monday.

"Though the construction work of the project comes within both the prohibited and regulated areas of the temple, the managing director of OBCC said as on date there is no permission or

approval of National Monuments Authority/competent authority for structural activities and its design of Shree Mandira Parikrama Project," the affidavit stated.

In November last year, Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik laid the foundation stone for the 73,200 crores Shrimandira Parikrama project, in which the entire area within

the 75-meter perimeter of the Jagannath Temple will be transformed into a heritage corridor for the benefit of devotees.

According to the project plan, the area around the temple will be divided into nine zones. A 7m green buffer zone adjacent



to the Meghanad Pacheri, or the boundary wall, will be built, followed by a 10m long Antar Parikrama for the ceremonial procession of the deities. There

will also be an 8m long outer pradikshyan for devotees and a 10m public conveyance zone with restrooms, drinking water fountains, information kiosks, shelters, and pavilions.

There have been deviations from the project design submitted by OBCC to NMA,

the ASI said. The height of various structures has been increased and more units have been added, it said. The Foundation trench for the reception center has already

been excavated inside a prohibited area, the affidavit stated. The corridor project is also silent about the development and renovation of monasteries around the temple, ASI said.

The high court started hearing the matter after Puri town resident Dilip Baral filed a PIL in March alleging that construction have taken place within the prohibited zone of 75 meters of the temple.

The ASI's affidavit was refuted by advocate general Ashok Parija, following which the court asked the state government to submit a counter affidavit by June 20.

The project has been dogged by controversies since the state government started razing old monasteries around the temple. The project hit a hurdle in January last year when the monuments authority proposed a draft law that banned

any construction within 100 meters from the temple under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010. It also proposed a further 200-meter area as regulated, where construction is not prohibited but have to be approved by the authority. The NMA withdrew the draft after protests by the ruling Biju Janata Dal in Odisha. Last month, Bharatiya Janata Party parliamentarian Aparajita Sarangi had undertaken a foot march to the temple town to protest the excavations, which she said violated the law regulating ancient monuments and archaeological sites.

She also entered into a war of words with BJD MP Pinaki Mishra, when the latter claimed that only a few restrooms and cloakrooms were to be constructed around the temple.

ED Seizes Rs 133 Crore Fixed Deposit Of Odisha Mines Owner Jitu Patnaik

New Delhi, May 12: Enforcement Directorate seizes Rs 133 crore fixed deposit of Odisha mines owner Jitu Patnaik on money laundering charges.


The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday reportedly seized Rs 69 lakh from the house of mines owner Jitendra Nath Patnaik (Jitu Patnaik). Sri Patnaik was the MLA of Champua constituency from 2009 to 2014 and Chairman of Joda Municipality several times.

According to sources, the ED officials, apart from seizing the cash, also seized hard disks from Patnaik's houses in Bhubaneswar and Joda. Bank passbooks, documents of fixed deposit, and insurances were also seized by the officials.

The ED officials conducted simultaneous

raids at four places linked to Patnaik. They conducted raids at two places in Bhubaneswar, and two places in Joda of Keonjhar district. This includes his house situated near the Sai Temple at Joda and his office at Baneikala Chawak. They also raided another house belonging to him in the Surya Nagar area of the State Capital Bhubaneswar.

The raids were conducted in connection with the money laundering case against the mine's owner.

It is pertinent to mention here that Jitu Patnaik has several mines block in the Joda area. However, he had allegedly carried out mining illegally from 1999 to 2009 due to which the Odisha government had to bear a loss of revenue to the tune of Rs 130 crore. 



DADLS-18

ପବିତ୍ର ଇନ୍-ଉଲ୍-ଫିଡର ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଶାନ୍ତି-ମୈତ୍ରୀ-ହର୍ଷୋଲ୍ଲାସର ଏହି ପର୍ବରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ସାମିଲ ହେବା ସହ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କ ସର୍ବାଙ୍ଗୀନ ବିକାଶ ନିମନ୍ତେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବାକୁ ମୁଁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।


ଶଶେନ୍ଦ୍ରାଲୁଲି
(ଗଣେଶୀ ଲାଲ)

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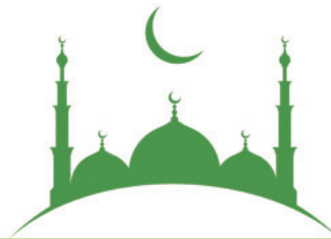
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ପବିତ୍ର ଇନ୍-ଉଲ୍-ଫିଡର ପର୍ବ ଅବସରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜ୍ଞାପନ କରିବା ସହ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।


(ଉପମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ)
ସୂଚନା ଓ ଲୋକସମ୍ପର୍କ, କଳସଂପଦ ମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

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ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

ମାନ୍ୟବର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା



ପବିତ୍ର ଇନ୍-ଉଲ୍-ଫିଡର ପର୍ବ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି ଏବଂ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରୁଛି ।

ନବୀନ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରାଧିକାରୀ
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

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