

## 7 new faces in Naveen's revamped team, 9 ministers retained & 10 dropped

**While Dholakia has been inducted as a Cabinet Minister, six others have been included as ministers of state (independent) charge**



CM and GUV during the BJD-2 oath taking ceremony

Bhubaneswar, June 5: Seven new faces have been inducted in Naveen Patnaik new team that took the oaths of office and secrecy on Sunday. The new members of

the State cabinet are Rajendra Dholakia, Aswini Kumar Patra, Pritiranjana Ghadai, Srikanta Sahu, Rohit Pujari, Rita Sahu and Basanti Hembram. While Dholakia

has been inducted as a Cabinet Minister, six others have been included as ministers of state (independent) charge.

Meanwhile, nine former Ministers have been retained

in the major overhaul on the back of their good performances. They are Niranjan Pujari, Prafulla Kumar Mallik, Tukuni Sahu, Naba Kishore Das, Samir Ranjan Dash, Ranendra Pratap Swain, Ashok Chandra Panda, Jagannath Saraka and Tusharkanti Behera.

Five senior MLAs who were not in the last cabinet were also included in the new team. They are Pramila Mallick, Usha Devi, Pratap Keshari Deb, Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak and Pradip Kumar Amat. On the other hand, 10 members of the previous team have been dropped from the new Cabinet. They are Pratap Jena, Dibyashankar Mishra, Arun Kumar Sahoo, Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, Premananda Nayak, Sushant Singh,



Padmanabha Behera, Sudam Marndi, Raghunandan Das and Padmini Dian.

These BJD ex-ministers paid heavy price for criminal cases, poor performance! In a dramatic turn of events, Pratap Jena, Dibya Shankar Mishra and Arun Sahoo, who were till yesterday among the most reliable and powerful ministers, have been divested from their powers. It has been discussed that they have to pay dearly for their names

being dragged in several criminal cases.

Ex-Law Minister Pratap Jena's alleged involvement in Mahanga Double Murder case had put the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in the dock. At that time, there was a lot of hue and cry for the police having not include his name from the purview of investigation despite the fact that his name was in the FIR.

The alleged involvement of (Page13)

## Juma Protests in Delhi, UP, And Jharkhand Among Other States

**At least two persons allegedly died and over 10 sustained severe injuries after police opened fire in Ranchi to quell protests.**

New Delhi, June 10: Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and West Bengal among many other states on Friday witnessed massive protests over the controversial remarks on Prophet Mohammad by two now-suspended BJP functionaries leaving a few policemen injured in stone-pelting and forcing security forces to resort to lathi-charge, tear gas shelling and firing in the air at some places. The protesters turned violent in some areas and vandalized public property.

As per sources, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had already issued an advisory to all states to be vigilant for trouble ahead of Friday prayers.

o Delhi: Outside the historic Jama Masjid in Delhi, scores of people, carrying placards, shouted slogans against Sharma after the Friday prayers and several arrests were also made by the police. A senior police officer said that while some of the demonstrators left the site after some time, others continued to protest.

Shahi Imam Bukhari of



Jama Masjid has told CNN-News18 that there was no call to protests from the Masjid committee and demonstrations erupted suddenly. "We need to maintain peace. This was a

sudden protest. Slogans were raised. Those behind the protest are not known yet. There was no call of protests by Jama Masjid," he said.

Delhi Police said some of the miscreants behind the

Jama Masjid protest have been identified. "There will be legal action against those behind the protest," the police said.

Delhi Police have registered an FIR against 31 people, including AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and controversial priest Yati Narsinghanand, and filed a separate case against Sharma for allegedly spreading hate and hurting religious sentiments.

The two FIRs were registered on Wednesday after a social media analysis, they had said.

• West Bengal: Protesters clashed with police, who tried to remove road blocks and opened lathi-charge on them, in Uluberia in Howrah district. At least 10 protestors have been arrested and IG South Bengal rushed to the spot with a large contingent of police force.

Demonstrators kept NH-16 blocked at multiple places and also blocked railway tracks at Chengail, Fuleswar, and Santragachi stations in the Howrah-Kharagpur section from 1.22 pm, a South (Page13)

## Tata Steel celebrates 'World Environment Day' at Joda



Joda, June 5, 2022: In line with the theme declared by the United Nations of '#OnlyOneEarth' and reiterating its commitment towards creating a sustainable tomorrow, Tata Steel observed World Environment Day at Joda on

Sunday. As part of the celebrations, mass plantation drives were organised at various locations including Joda East Iron Mine, Khondbond Iron Mine, Ferro Alloys Plant and Bichakundi Manganese Mines. Apart from mass plantation, to

create awareness on environmental sustainability, drawing competitions amongst school children from various schools of peripheral villages along with awareness sessions were organised. The winners of the various competitions were awarded

with certificates and gifts. Apart from this, fruit bearing saplings were also distributed among the School children during the drawing competitions.

Tata Steel Foundation also organised many activities on the day that started with plantation of saplings in various Schools across Joda including UP ME School, Joda, Government Upper Primary School, Khondbond, and Boys and Girls' Residential Bridge Course (RBCs) Centres. To promote sustainability among the children, Tata Steel Foundation also organised drawing competitions among the students.

## Sudhir Mishra gets Pakruti Bandhu award this year in Bolangir.



Bolangir, June 9: The IMO Journalist Sudhir Kumar Mishra was honoured with Pakruti Bandhu award by Divisional Forest Officer Bolangir, Sri Nitish Kumar, at a function held on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5th June, for his contribution to protection and conservation of environment. Sri Mishra has been highlighting various environment issues, forest fire, protection of forest, and wild animals, protection and safety of migratory birds in winter besides encouraging people to take up plantation of trees and protection of forest and wildlife and other issues, like the prevention of forest fire since 2010.

## Row intensifies over 72-ft height of Lord Baladevjew's chariot in Keonjhar

In protest against the construction of the tallest chariot, Baladev Sena of Kendrapara has presented a protest memorandum to the chief administration of Puri Srimandir, Shankaracharya, Gajapati and the district Collector

Kendrapada, June 3: A massive row has surfaced over the construction of famous 72 feet height of Lord Baladevjew's chariot in Keonjhar which has been adjudged as tallest Ratha Yatra chariot by the Guinness Book of World Records.

In protest against the construction of the tallest chariot, Baladev Sena of Kendrapara has presented a protest memorandum to the

chief administration of Puri Srimandir, Shankaracharya, Gajapati and the district Collector.

In their plea, the religious outfit has sought immediate action against the organisers of the Ratha Yatra in Keonjhar for violating tradition.

"This kind of competition in religious festivals is not acceptable at all. Srimandir Temple Administration (STA) should



step in to launch an investigation into the incident and stern action should be

taken against the erring organisers," said a senior activist of Baladev Sena.

"There are certain rules and regulations in constructing chariots for Ratha Yatra. Any organisation shouldn't construct chariots as per their own wish which is a clear violation of religious traditions," said Niranjana Mekapa, senior servitor of Baladevjew Temple in Kendrapara.

Servitors of Srimandir in Puri have also opposed the move by Baladevjew Temple

Administration in Keonjhar.

"Rath Yatra is a religious festival with spiritual significance. The yearly festival of Lord Jagannath is beyond any competition. Constructing the tallest chariot to be placed in the Guinness Book of World Records is like committing a sin," said Ramachandra Dasmohapatra, senior Daitapati servitor of Puri Jagannath Temple.

## Moving bus goes up in flames in Keonjhar, narrow escape for passengers

The private bus named 'Padhi' was on its way from Rourkela to Keonjhar when the fire erupted at around 3 am near Kanjipani Ghat due to a short circuit



Bus goes up in flames in Keonjhar, narrow escape for passengers

Keonjhar, June 11: At least 30 passengers on board a private bus had a miraculous escape after the vehicle caught fire at Kanjipani Ghat in Keonjhar district in the wee hours of Saturday. No casualties or injuries were reported in the mishap, said the fire officials.

As per reports, the private bus named 'Padhi' was on its way from Rourkela to Keonjhar when the fire erupted at

around 3 am near Kanjipani Ghat due to a short circuit.

The bus driver first saw smoke emanating from the engine of the bus. Acting swiftly, the driver and the conductor alerted the passengers about the situation and vacated the bus quickly without any panic. They even managed to bring out the luggage of the passengers from the vehicle before the bus went up in flames.

The local residents helped the passengers in bringing out their belongings from the bus. They also helped the passengers catch other buses to reach their respective destinations.

Subsequently, fire service personnel were called in who rushed to the spot all the way from Telkoi. However, the blaze had engulfed the entire bus gutting it completely by the time fire service personnel reached the spot.

## Trainer aircraft crashes in Kamakshyanagar, trainee pilot injured

Sources said that the trainer aircraft reportedly fell from a height of 15ft. The trainee pilot was flying solo in the aircraft.

Kamakshyanagar, June 6: A trainer aircraft crashed on Birasal airstrip at Kamakshyanagar in Dhenkanal district on Monday.

As per initial reports, a trainee pilot, who was on board the aircraft at the time of the incident, has sustained multiple injuries.

Sources said that the trainer aircraft reportedly fell from a height of 15ft. The trainee pilot was flying solo in the aircraft.

Following the incident, the trainee pilot was



initially rushed to Birasal Community Health Centre (CHC) and was later shifted to Kamakshyanagar hospital.

It is pertinent to mention here that two including trainees were killed a two-seater aircraft crashed here in 2020.

# World woes long-term: WB

## Stagflation looms, rate hike not enough



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

The Monetary Policy of the RBI raising key policy interest rates by 0.5 percent to 4.9, the second in five weeks indicates further tightening and also raises the question how for the last over two years it overlooked the inflation control.

It woke up at a critical juncture when the MPC itself hints at stagflationary trends - growth stagnation and continued price rises - and the World Bank almost confirms it citing investors, bankers, and entrepreneurs discussing chances of recession.

Was the RBI overlooking a ticking bomb or was it too accommodative under covid19 and other pressures? It has been speaking about

inflationary trends since 2020 but apparently was being industry-friendly in keeping the rates low ignoring the concern for safeguarding the interest of the depositors and helping severe profiteering. Since most central banks were following the same policy, including the US, it escaped scrutiny.

It has woken up late even as the US inflation that used to remain low around 2 percent has shot up to 8.5 percent and has become a problem for President Joe Biden and the world economy. Meanwhile the IMF has been harping on it saying that since early 2022, both headline inflation - price of all goods and core inflation - food and energy

were significantly above target in most advanced economies. It leaves it to central banks to manage.

The RBI also needs to stress its own 2016 finding that infra expenses on roads and bridges have negative consequences.

It may be pointed out that the MPC in July 2021 had also discussed stagflationary trends but desisted rate rise despite a dissent note on the price front and cut on taxes. Then RBI deputy governor Michael Patra accepting that inflation was prime concern of the RBI, added, "It is important to bring that down".

But till May, it did not act. The RBI has similarly ignored it in 2008 right after the global financial crisis or the Lehman Brothers meltdown. Then too it appeared accommodative before it resorted to the control mechanism and raised the rates. The large lenders benefited immensely from it as they took huge credit at low rates. At this juncture the first signs of inflation were noticed in January-March quarter 2020 when inflation touched 6 percent.

As consumer inflation (CPI) touches 7.9 percent and wholesale (WPI) 15.1 percent, the highest level in three decades, it has remained complacent and even now it pegging at around 6.7 percent by end of 2022-23 is unreal. In July 2021, it predicted 2022 inflation to be at 5.7 percent. The WPI went up

from 10.7 percent in April 2021. It has reached alarming proportions but RBI speaks only of CPI. It is a bit surprising that despite noticing the malignant trends the RBI remained quiet till May 2022. Now it takes swift action to raise it by 0.9 percent between May 4 and June 8. Some more quick steps are likely to increase repo rates. It still presumes that India's crude oil basket to remain at \$ 105 though market prices are at around \$ 120.

It again is optimistic on growth to remain at 7.2 percent though World Bank predicts global growth to come down to 2.9 percent from 5.7 percent in 2021. The RBI seems still cushy and not using the MPC power. Except in 2021, the dissent has not been there despite uncertainty over economic situation most poignantly pointed out by its Consumer Confidence Survey 2021. It revealed weakness in the bargaining powers of the working class and high prices squeezing the spending pattern.

For quite some time low-cost borrowing had been priority of the RBI despite it affecting the health of the banking sector and yielding low gains for the common man, senior citizens and women. Inflation harms the poor the most. It has to target bringing down CPI inflation to 4 percent but now it also warrants

targeting run-away WPI, a trend that needs deeper study of the changing market dynamics. High WPI accompanied by yet another high CPI means the actual inflation level is around 20 percent.

No wonder the MPC considers stagflation now a greater possibility as does the WB. In the prevailing situation it should have come out with detailed reports on the market functioning in India. It has a contrast. While only high profits are being cornered by select companies, most others and small sector in particular are going into severe losses. The RBI has to suggest the corrective methods because these few companies are cornering the benefits and it has to find out whether the market is getting skewed or not.

In its latest global economic forecast, the WB says even something worse is possible as growth is expected to slow down to 2.9 percent from the 5.7 percent 2021. It is dismayed by growing income gaps, thawing of poverty alleviation measures and hurt by the war induced soaring fuel prices and disruption of international trade. In such situation, the RBI looks more optimistic in its growth forecast.

Monetary tightening has its aftermath too. It can ripple out faster and act as a drag on private

consumption that is already at a low for over a year.

It has to listen to WB president David Malpass, who says, "For many countries, recession will be hard to avoid". The WB is firm that economic slowdown might be severe by the end of 2022 as Ukraine war hit supplies and trade networks to cause food prices to rise alarmingly. It says that if US Federal Reserve' strategy at rate hike interest rates go too high the economy could risk backsliding into a contraction and recession."

It predicts "several years of above-average inflation and below average growth with potentially destabilizing consequences for low and middle income economies. It's a phenomenon - stagflation - that the world has not seen since the 1970s".

The warning is severe and grim. The RBI must take a note of it to attune Indian economy to a low price regime and impress upon the government to desist from investing on infrastructure like roads, railways, cosmetic architecture that are adding to severe inflation, drain of the resources and adding to the woes of the poor. It has to be tough but the flip side would be the higher rates to help the poor hedging savings and help in future growth. 🇮🇳

# CM Dedicates 180 Transformed High Schools

Sundargarh, June 9: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dedicated 180 transformed government high schools in Sundargarh district during the second phase of the flagship High School Transformation Programme Under 5T initiative of the State Govt.

CM dedicated the transformed high schools through VC at a special event organized at Govt High School, Deokaranpur, under Bargaon block on 4th June. 5T Secretary VK Pandian conducted the event.

A total of 180 transformed



government high schools from across the 17 blocks of the district as well as Sundargarh, Birmitrapur, and Rajgangpur municipalities were dedicated to the people by the Chief

Minister.

Addressing the students, CM said, "School life is the best time in life. Every child is gifted with tremendous potential.

The transformation of

schools has added wings to their dreams by bringing in new opportunities for them. The new and transformed high schools have infused optimism and happiness among the students. The transformation program has created opportunities to shape our children in the best possible way," MLA and Chairman District Planning Committee (DPC) Sarada Prasad Nayak said, "The transformed govt high schools in tribal majority Sundargarh district are attracting students from all over.

Sundargarh collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan said that the high school transformation program of the state Govt would be beneficial to students in realizing their dreams.

On November 11, 2021, as many as 67 transformed high schools in the Sundargarh district have been dedicated to the people during the first phase.

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra and Bishnupada Sethi, Secretary, School and Mass Education, were present during the VC at Bhubaneswar while Collector

Nikhil Pavan Kalyan, MLA Rourkela Sarada Prasad Nayak, ZP Chairperson Ms. Kunti Pradhan, Chairman Special Developmental Council (SDC) Binay Kumar Toppo,

senior officials of the district, District Mineral Foundation, and Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation were present along with students, teachers, guardians and members of the school managing committee were present at Deokaranpur School premises.

## DBF & NABARD's WADI Project to Help Tribal Beneficiaries

Rajgangpur, June 9: Dalmia Bharat Foundation (DBF), the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Dalmia Bharat has undertaken the 'WADI' Project, in association with NABARD. The project aims to strengthen the value chain in tribal development and boost the financial growth of tribal families of 38 villages under the Rajgangpur and Kutra Blocks.

Under this initiative, over 420 beneficiaries will receive assistance in mango and cashew plantation on 420 acres of land while 80 beneficiaries will be assisted in apiculture.

Chetan Shrivastav, Unit Head, Dalmia Cement Bharat Limited, said, "Our partnership with NABARD and the 'WADI' model of tribal development goes a long way with successful adoptions in West Bengal and the North East region. We now look forward to extending these synergies in Rajgangpur and Kutra, with a core focus of empowering tribals to lead a sustainable livelihood."

Tapas Behera, DDM, NABARD said. "By undertaking the WADI project in Rajgangpur, in collaboration with Dalmia Bharat Foundation, we want to help tribals enhance their farming capabilities through sustainable agriculture as well as technology and innovation adoption. We are confident that we will be able to improve the livelihood of tribal communities and also hope to see a progressive change in the region's overall socio-economic and environmental conditions."



DBF is expediting various programs under NABARD's 'WADI' project in a bid to make farmers financially independent. These include soil conservation, development of water resources, women empowerment through Self Help Groups (SHGs), training, skill development, income-generating programs such as goat farming, pig farming, poultry, apiculture, earthworm rearing, a community nursery, etc. The project includes health awareness and health check-up camps.

## DCBL Acquisition plan faced Protests

Rajgangpur, June 9: Dalmia Cement Bharat Ltd (formerly OCL India Ltd) 's attempt to acquire land for the expansion of Lanjiberna limestone mines in a phased manner once again met with strong people's protests.

District administration had called a meeting of 3 affected villages i.e. Jolodih (Kukuda Panchayat), Rengalbahal (Alanda Panchayat), and Kunchupada (Keshramal Panchayat) during the second phase of land acquisition, on 3rd and 4th June. Before the public hearing Sundargarh Sub-Collector Administrator, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Abhimanyu Behera, had sent the draft R&R scheme to the above-mentioned panchayats

### For the first time HSM-2 Rolls 1 lakh Tons Slab

Rourkela, June 9: Hot Strip Mill-2 of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant has for the first time achieved 1 lakh Tons of Slab Rolling in a month in May 2022. The previous best was 71485 Tons recorded in March 2022. It is worth mentioning here that, post-pandemic, the Mill started in October 2021 with the rolling of a single coil of 16 Tons. Subsequently, the ramp-up process started with production figures touching 1151 Tons in November 2021, 9868 Tons in December 2021, 31213 Tons in January 2022, 48597 Tons in February 2022, 71485 Tons in March 2022, and 47315 Tons in April 2022.

It is worth mentioning the cumulative HR coil production from the Unit has crossed 3 Lakh Tons (300568 Tons to be precise) on 31/05/22, whereas the total HR Coil despatch have been 2,59,076 Tons till May 2022.



to discuss the Rehabilitation and Resettlement scheme with the displaced families. But villagers vehemently opposed parting with their ancestral land for expansion of the Lanjiberna mines and rejected the proposed R&R package. They did not allow government authorities and DCBL officials to enter their village. Sub-Collector Behera wanted to inform the villagers about the facilities being provided to the displaced people under the

Rehabilitation and Resettlement scheme "Project Asha" issued by the company and also expressed a desire to take suggestions from the people on this occasion. But people did not budge. However, Sub-Collector declared that the public hearing process has been completed on the outskirts of the villages.

The Sub-Collector said the public hearings were meant to appraise the affected families about the R&R package and

include further modifications or demands. Sub collector also claimed that some villagers have accepted the R&R proposal. But villagers contradicted the claim.

Bibol Toppo, President of Forum for Gram Sabha Committee (FGSC), Rajgangpur, who was leading the protest said the land acquisition proposal of DCBL was unanimously rejected at the respective Gram Sabha meetings. Rajgangpur MLA Dr. Rajen Ekka also stood in support of tribal villagers. He said if villagers were not willing to part their land, why the administration going overboard to acquire the land for the cement company.

## Summer Coaching Camp of RSP concludes

Rourkela, June 9: The 34th Annual Summer Coaching Camp, the sporting extravaganza for the budding talents organized by Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) concluded at Ispat Stadium on 31st May. Mr. Atanu Bhowmick, Director In-Charge, RSP was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Congratulating the participants for turning up in large numbers for the camp, the DIC said, "Participation of more than 2000 kids in the camp speaks volumes about the success of the event.

On this occasion, Mr. Bhowmick felicitated the SAIL Hockey Academy players also who won the Silver Medal in the Hockey India Junior National



Hockey Championship held recently at Jamshedpur.

It is worth mentioning here that during the Summer Coaching camp inaugurated on 12th May, more than 2200 participants learned the nuances in 14 disciplines of sports namely Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Chess, Cricket, Cycling, Football, Hockey,

Kabaddi, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Weight lifting and Yoga from expert coaches.

The Summer Coaching Camp of RSP started in the year 1986 and has produced many sports persons of national and international repute in the past and is continuing to bring to the limelight many budding sports stars.

## PM Modi's meeting enthralls, Jspur PRI members



JAGATSINGHPUR, June 11: The prime minister of India Narendra Modi interacted virtually with the Jagatsinghpur district PRI members, beneficiaries, and officials of various welfare schemes under the union government.

The District rural development agency [DRDA] organized this cybernetic meeting at Sadbhabana Sabha Gruha here, connected with Prime Minister Modi who was addressing the rally in Shimla's Ridge Maidan to mark the eighth anniversary of becoming PM.

Project director DRDA Dr. Rudra Narayan Dash, ZP president Manoj Bhoi, CDMO Dr. Khetrabasi Dash, block development officers, ZP members, Panchayat Samiti chairpersons of eight blocks, PRI members from various Gram Panchayats, municipality chairpersons and executive officers and some beneficiaries attended the meeting.

In his maiden address PM Modi revealed as many as 16 schemes and programs spanning under nine central ministries after he assumed office and discussed its success stories, PM added that after coming to power his government has pruned nine Crore fake names from the list of beneficiaries of various poverty eradication schemes.

Be it the PMAY housing scheme or PM Kissan Saman Nidhi meant for farmers or any other scheme we have eradicated the scope of corruption through direct transfer of benefits, we have transferred over Rs 22 Lakh crore to the bank accounts of beneficiaries of various schemes through direct benefit transfer, today also

released Rs 21,000 Crore to 10 Crore farmers as the 11th installment of the PM Kissan Saman Nidhi Yojana, PM revealed.

PM Modi emotionally reiterated, I don't consider myself as Prime Minister but contemplate myself as Pradhan Sevak as a member of the family of 130 Crore Indians and my life is for them; I devoted eight years to the welfare of people and good governance.

Sources informed that the attending newly elected PRI members were seen enthusiastically attached to PM Modi's speech and virtual interaction. Actual many of them do not know the wide-ranging poverty eradication schemes covering housing, availability of potable water, food, health, nutrition, livelihood, financial inclusion, and post-Covid 19 rehabilitation measures that have been effecting by the union government and its implementation process and advantage to beneficiaries, PM Modi clarified its details in his one and half hour speech informed many newly elected PRI representatives.

ZP president Manoj Kumar Bhoi opined that PM's speech mesmerizes all the participating members, PM Modi educated us with regards to central sponsored various welfare schemes, and ZP president added.

This PM interaction will not only highlight the people-centric approach of the union government leading to ease of living for citizens but also enlighten the beneficiaries, PRI members working at the grassroots level and ensure them no one is left behind in the Country's march to progress, said Project director DRDA Dr. Rudra Narayan Dash.

## Uechi Ryu Karate School held an annual award-giving ceremony

JAGATSINGHPUR, June 11: The Uechi Ryu Karate School held its annual karate and Kobudo weapons grading test and felicitation ceremony at Naba Krushna Choudhury [NKC] Stadium here.

As many as 40 Karate trainees mainly students below 10 years of school were participated in the karate and Kobudo test, conducted by international Karate and Kobudo master K V Manoharan and assisted

by Odisha Karate master and state head Sensei Sarat Kumar Rout and Sandeep Kumar Rout including Sensei

Kumar Behera, district manager Subhasini Behera. The test was conducted on Saturday and



Roja Manoharan from Kerala and school organizer Ashok

successfully karate trainees were felicitated in an award-

giving ceremony held in NKC stadium on Sunday. Chief guest scientist Kishor Kumar Sahoo attended the belts and certificate distributions ceremony, district cricket association secretary Devidatta Mohanty, social activist Laxmidhar Swain, scribe Kahnu Charana Nanda, head Uechi Ryu karate school Uechi K V Manoharan, and Sensei Roja Manoharan, parents and guardians of Karate school.

## Pro JSW supporters stall social activist Medha Patkar to enter Dhinkia village



JAGATSINGHPUR, June 11: Apprehending a breach of peace in Dhinkia the proposed JSW project site, villagers mainly project sympathizers restricted a group of social activists led by Medha Patkar from entering the village.

The report said that the Narmada Andolan National repute social activist Patkar

returned from the village outskirts. Patkar was planning to meet anti-JSW leader Devendra Swain's family in Dhinkia village on Monday. He was now in jail causing his involvement in anti-JSW and a police faceoff occurred on January 14, 2022.

Hundreds of Dhinkia villagers including some JSW supporters blocked the road

staging a sit-in and restricted the Patkar-led group from entering the village. Patkar reportedly appealed to the villagers to allow them to enter the village to meet villagers who have been victims of the alleged police brutality and they want to meet jailed Devendra Swain family, however, her pleas fell on deaf ears and Patkar was forced to return, later Patkar met Devendra Swain in Kujanga sub-jail and enquired his conditions.

Village leader Nirvaya Samantray said that we have regard for Patkar when the village committee has decided to restrict any outsider's entry to the village following that decision we debarred Patkar's presence in the village.

## Gana Parishad selects office bearers

JAGATSINGHPUR, June 11: The Jagatsinghpur Zilla Gana Parishad held its general body meeting and office bearer's selection at Sipi village. Parishad's aim and objectives were discussed by its founder advocate Basudev the officer bearers' selection was conducted. Apart from the decision among the attending members Parishad's office bearers were selected as President Dr. Askhya Mishra, Secretary Pramod Kumar Hota, vice president Banamali Moharana, and Prasanna Mohapatra, Siva Charana Sahoo, assistant secretary Satya Ranjan Das, Golekha Behera, treasurer Jagannath Acharya and organizing secretary advocate Basudev.

## CM Naveen inaugurates 75 schools under the 5T transformation program in J'spur

JAGATSINGHPUR, June 11: Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated 75 schools in Jagatsinghpur district under the transformation initiative under 5T. Chief Minister unveiled the initiative through video conferencing from Bhubaneswar while the district administration arranged a cybernetic program in S K Academy here.

Collector Parul Patwari chaired the meeting accompanying the government chief whip and MLA Prashanta Muduli, MP Dr. Rajashree Mallick, Ex-minister Raghunandan Das, MLAs

Bijaya Shankar Das, Sambit Routray, headmasters, teachers, and students from several schools.

Addressing the occasion the Chief Minister said that the transformation of schools has brought joy and excitement among children as it is creating new hope and aspiration to study in a new environment and this transformation of schools allows grooming children like the best.

attending guests on the occasion thanked the chief minister's vision for the development of human resources in the state, and also extended gratitude to school



management, PRI representatives, the alumnus, and teachers for the success of the 5 T high schools transformation program.

Earlier 14 schools in Jagatsinghpur district has included under the 5T program in the first phase, now 75

schools added to the list in the second phase reported block and municipality wise as Balikuda 12, Biridi 9, Erasama 3, Jagatsinghpur 11, Kujanga 9, Naugaon 7, Tirtol 13, Raghunathpur 6, Jagatsinghpur municipality 3 and Paradeep urban body 2.

# The petrochemical industry and port; are a threat to the environment, noted social activist Medha Patkar

Balasure, June 11: Noted Social activist Medha Patkar opposed the establishment of the proposed Subarnarekha port and petrochemical industry in Chowmukh under the Baliapal block of Balasure district. Addressing a meeting organized by Vita Mati Surakshya Samiti (VMSS) at Nahara of Betgadia GP in Baliapal block on Tuesday, the noted social activist claimed that the setting up of the petrochemical industry and port are a threat to the environment globally. The Government may want to highlight by setting up two proposed projects but the residents in the locality and its adjoining areas are not



spending a day happily and are adversely affected by the same. She encouraged a fighter who fought for the motherland is never defeated. "When the people are happy and they are

economically sound by cultivating different varieties of crops, the steps for the proposed project and industry will not give such value to farmers and it will damage the environment and

fertility of lands in the region," claimed the noted social worker.

She said the region is witnessed for Dhana, Pana, and Mina (paddy, betel, and fish) in Odisha and the state

earned revenue from the produces. So, the Government should move a step toward these two issues which will directly affect the economy of the people in the region. She further claimed that the Government should be aware first that the people who are living in the coastal regions are protecting the coastal environment.

Niranjan Patnaik the former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President and Former Finance Minister Panchanan Kanungo said that the two proposed projects are Vinash not Vikash for the people. They encouraged the people to continue their fight not to

allow the proposed projects which will be snatched everything from people in the region.

The Convener of Vita Mati Suraksha Samiti (VMSS) Arun Jena said that with extended cooperation of local people and members of the VMSS is protesting for the two proposed projects in the region. He said that once the people in the region provide lands for the proposed projects, they will be landless and no one is on their back to listen to their plight and give support. For the safeguard of the land of people, the VMSS is always ready to stand for them, he said.

## Cattle smuggling is rampant in the Mayurbhanj district

Baripada, 11 June: Even as the Centre has announced strict rules to prohibit the sale of cattle for slaughter at animal markets across the country recently, the illegal cattle smuggling continues to flourish throughout the tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district due to the alleged nexus of police and middlemen.

Disok Mohanta, Chhutu Mohanta, and Kati Sethy of the Moroda area gave a memorandum to

Mayurbhanj Collector Vineet Bhardwaj and SP Rishikesh D Khilari on Friday seeking help to stop the illegal transporting of cattle while more than five heavy trucks were regularly transporting cattle from the district to West Bengal through shortcut routes are passing through Khuruntia, Dhadasahi, Nuagaon, Chhutraipur, and Tukpalasia via Dantiamuhan, Chitrada, and Moroda early morning every day under Moroda police station. They claimed

that some police officers of Moroda police station were escorting the cattle-laden truck and earning money from the traders.

They are unable to face the armed smugglers to protest directly to stop the illegal practice for the risk of life. The villagers also brought it to local politicians to stop the practice but the villagers received assurance but no needful action was taken by the politicians. On 5 May, as many as two Assistant Sub-Inspectors

(ASIs) and a Constable of Jharpokharia Police Station in Mayurbhanj were suspended by the SP of the district demanding bribes for releasing the cow-laden trucks to pass for West Bengal had gone viral. A scribe of the Jharpokharia police station sent the video clips to SP and later posted them on social media. The suspended police officers were identified as ASI Smruti Ranjan Swain, ASI Chandan Singh, and Constable Deepak Pal.

## Most Anganwadi Centres in Mayurbhanj district-run without electricity facility



Baripada, 11 June: The children, who are getting supplementary nutrition, non-formal pre-school education, nutrition, health education, health check-up, and immunization facility from Anganwadi Centres are found with poor attendants. They are less interested in going to the Anganwadi Centres owing to an uneasy feeling and poor environment due to the absence of power supply facilities. While the temperature continues to rise day by day, the parents do not want to send their children to the Centres for lack of a fan to provide cool air to make a healthy environment.

As many as 13 children who used to come regularly to Laxmipur Anganwadi Centre under Shamakhunta block in the district have

found a poor number of their presents for the last some days as they felt uneasy due to the absence of electricity in the center. Though the government has erected a new pucca building and fan facility is not available for the same cause.

When asked, Chiku Sing, Radhika Soren, and Padmalaya Singh some children of an Anganwadi center said that they do not come to Anganwadi Centres in the summer season due to high temperature. There are no fan and light facilities in the center due to a lack of electricity connection. As many as two Anganwadi Centres in Ward No-15, Purnachandrapur within Baripada municipality are found to have a poor number of child attendants for the same cause.

## Dwindling of forests abet frequent movements of elephants

Baripada, 11 June:- Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti and MP of Mayurbhanj Bishweswar Tudu alleged that rampant dwindling of forests in and outside the Mayurbhanj district abets frequent movement of pachyderms and damaging properties worth lakhs and claims many lives in every year owing to roles of timber mafias. The pachyderms were forced to sneak into human settlements in the district searching for food due to the clearing of forests by the alleged role of timber mafias, the Union Minister said. While the demand for a

regular train communication between Baripada to Puri which is now running weekly would be regularised, as the Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav looked at the matter seriously, the Union Minister Mr. Tudu said adding that Bangiriposi-Garumahisani railway connectivity is yet to reach in a final stage.

The Union Minister said that at least 50 percent of official work for the revival of Amanda Airstrip in Rashgobindpur is completed. The aviation department timely followed up on works for it. The Department of Water Resources Government of India is planning to develop

around 75 water resources in the district for the preservation of water and its crisis. He had targeted the development of more than 80 water resources and presently 35 water bodies were already identified as needs for their renovation. Drinking water supply through mega projects sponsored by the Centre would complete by the end of 2022, and people would get such benefits through pipelines by March 2023.

"The center has decided to set up industries (small scale) in 26 blocks in the district. I visited some blocks last month with some MLAs and met some

investors discussing future production and supply. Now the projects were underway in 9 blocks. Once they are operational it will be sustained the economic condition of the people," the Union Minister added that an official team from the center will visit the district shortly to discuss the revival of the museum and set up of Chhau training centers and sports academy.

Among others, BJP district President Kandra Soren, Badasahi MLA Sanatan Bijuli, Bhaskar Madhei MLA of Udala, and Senior worker Krushnachandra Mohapatra were present at the meeting.

# CM Naveen Patnaik launches luxury houseboat in Chilika

**Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday virtually launched the first luxury houseboat in Chilika Lake.**

BHUBANESWAR, June 10: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday virtually launched the first luxury houseboat in Chilika Lake. The houseboat, named 'Garuda', has been put into service by Vikas Eco Resorts at an investment of Rs 3 crore. The houseboat can be initially booked from the Panthanivas at Barkul and later introduced at Satapada.



**There are two suites and four premium rooms and a bar-restaurant on the boat**

There are two suites and four premium rooms and a bar-restaurant on the boat. It has also an open-air lobby on the

upper deck for meetings and conferences. There is also a small swimming pool for children. The packages include

overnight stay along with full board meals, activities and cruise covering different islands in Chilika.

Launching the houseboat, the Chief Minister said in a video message that the initiative will improve the profile of the Chilika Lake and attract national and international tourists to the State. He said Chilika lake is a major biodiversity hotspot in the country and has potential to transform Odisha as an attractive tourist destination. "My government is keen to develop Odisha as a major ecotourism destination of the country," he added.

# Naveen dissolves advisor, chairperson posts of 23 depts after cabinet rejig

After effecting a major reshuffle in the cabinet, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday ordered dissolution of offices of advisors/chairpersons of as many as 23 departments/Corporations/Boards with effect from June 5.



Bhubaneswar, June 4: After affecting a major reshuffle in the cabinet, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday ordered dissolution of offices of advisors/chairpersons of as many as 23 departments/Corporations/Boards with effect from June 5.

Chairperson of Odisha State Film Development Corporation

Bijaya Nayak-Head of Odisha State Youth Welfare Board

Priyadarshi Mishra-Chairperson of Odisha State Housing Board

The following offices of advisors/chairpersons will cease to exist from June 5:

Sangram Keshari Paikray-Chairperson of Odisha Khadi and Village Industries Board

Debasis Mohanty-Chairperson of Odisha Agro Industries Corporation

Anubhab Patnaik-Advisor of ET & IT Department

Iswar Panigrahi-Chairperson of Odisha State Seeds Corporation

Krutibas Patra-Advisor of Agriculture and Farmer Development

Pravataditya Mishra-Chairperson of APICOL

Utkal Keshari Parida-Advisor of Chilika Development Authority

Asit Patnaik-Chairperson of Odisha Pisciculture Development Corporation

Debasis Mallick-Advisor of Odisha Forest Development Corporation

Amarendra Das-Chairperson of Odisha State Cashew Development Corporation

Janmejaya Lenka-Advisor of Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department

Minaketana Amant-Chairperson of Odisha Rural Housing Corporation

Ramachandra Panda-Advisor of Odisha State Agriculture Marketing Board

Chinmay Sahoo-Chairperson of OSIC

Sanjay Kumar Das Burma-Deputy Chairman of State Planning Board

Srimayee Mishra-Chairperson of OTDC

Dr Lopamudra Buxipatra-Advisor of Mission Shakti

Amaresh Patri-Chairperson of Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation

Puspendra Singh Deo-Member of WODC

Satyabrat Tripathy-

Sudhir Das-Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana

# 9 dead, several injured in separate road mishaps in Odisha

**In Sambalpur district, three people were killed and four others suffered injuries after the auto rickshaw they were travelling in collided with an oil tanker near Tabalakata square on National Highway 49 under Kuchinda block.**



Bhubaneswar, June 6: At least nine persons were killed and several others were injured in separate road mishaps in Odisha on Monday.

three people were killed and four others suffered injuries after the auto rickshaw they were travelling in collided with an oil tanker near Tabalakata square on National Highway 49 under Kuchinda block. The

injured persons were rescued immediately and rushed to Kuchinda government hospital. The accident triggered tension as angry locals staged a road blockade.

road and rolled down to a 20 ft roadside gorge.

In Sundargarh district, an auto rickshaw and an ambulance collided in Bonai area, killing two persons and leaving eight, including two women, injured. The injured persons were admitted to a hospital in Rourkela. All the dead and injured passengers were travelling in the auto and returning from Bonai weekly market. After the mishap, both the vehicles skidded off the

In Jajpur district, three persons were killed in two separate road mishaps.

A Class IX girl student died after being knocked down by a Hyva truck at a place under Sadar police limits in Kendrapara district. The deceased girl was returning from her tuition when the mishap occurred. As the news spread, local people staged a road blockade putting the body on the road, demanding adequate compensation to the bereaved family.

# Mining without forest clearances in Odisha branded 'illegal' by SC

New Delhi, June 6: The Supreme Court was irked that mining companies, which have not been granted forest clearances by the Centre and other authorities, are continuing with the "illegal excavation" of minerals in Odisha

The top court was irked over the fact that the mining companies, which have not been granted FCs by the Centre and other authorities, are continuing with the "illegal excavation" of minerals on grounds that the High Court has passed the status quo orders with regard to the dispute.

been excavated without the forest clearance is illegal. You cannot be permitted to continue with the excavation or extraction of minerals without the forest clearance. It is unfortunate that High Courts are passing such orders of status quo and permitting continuance of mining work," the bench said.



The Supreme Court on Monday took strong note of continuing "illegal mining" of minerals by some firms in Odisha without obtaining forest clearance (FCs) from authorities under the garb of "status quo" orders, and asked the state High Court to dispose of such matters in six months.

"How can the mining be continued without getting forest clearance (from authorities) under the garb of a status quo order from the High Court," a vacation bench of justices M. R. Shah and Aniruddha Bose said.

No clearance, no mining  
The bench, which was hearing the appeal of M/s Balasore Alloys Ltd of Odisha against the High Court's refusal to continue with the status quo order favouring the firm, permitted the company to withdraw its plea.

It said that it would permit the withdrawal but the company cannot be allowed to mine as it does not "have the forest clearance to mine as on today and hence, this is illegal and cannot be done."

that the petitioner is not having the forest clearance at this stage. Merely because the application for forest clearance is pending cannot be treated as having obtained the forest clearance permitting the petitioner to carry on the mining

activities," it said.

"Before parting with the present order, we request, the (Orissa) High Court to decide and dispose of all such pending matters, where the order of status quo is continuing since long and the mining activities have been continued under the order of status quo, within a period of six months from today without fail. With this the present SLP is dismissed as withdrawn," it ordered.

It directed the apex court's registry to communicate the order to the chief justice of the High Court forthwith for necessary action.

# Tenet Of Two Tours In Ten-years



Sirish C. Mohanty

**As Naveen Patnaik readies for his second visit to foreign land, possibility of a 'revolt' looks as remote as the sun rising in the west!**

demanding their ouster for their alleged involvement in criminal acts or shielding of the accused in criminal cases. He waited till he got a thumping, unprecedented victory, first in the back-to-back panchayat and urban elections and then in the Brajaraj nagar by-election, before wielding the axe against them. It was his way of showing that his connect with the people was good enough to win him election after election despite the presence of tainted ministers in his cabinet. Having proved his point, he proceeded to sack the three at a time of his choosing - but took care to make it appear to be part of the larger exercise of a mid-term overhaul of his council of ministers.

Frankly, all this talk of the reshuffle having been undertaken in view of the 2024 elections is bullshit. For all we know, Naveen could have continued with same council of ministers till 2024 without any difference to his political fortunes, if the state of the Opposition is anything to go by. The BJP, which had started having delusions about replacing the BJD as the ruling party after its modestly improved performance in the 2019 elections, has been brought down to earth with successive defeats

in every election since then, the latest being the humiliation in Brajaraj nagar where it lost the deposit. From a high of 297 zilla parishad seats in 2017, it crashed to a mere 42 in 2022. Its performance in the civic polls, where it won just 312 of the 1884 corporator/councilor posts at stake, was nothing to write home about either.

As for the Congress, the party is free to daydream in the wake of its performance in the Brajaraj nagar bypoll that it is now firmly on the road to recovery after a change in the PCC leadership. But it would need nothing short of a miracle to offer a semblance of fight to the ruling party - or even the BJP - if the moribund state of the party organization is anything to go by.

So, Naveen can sit pretty without a care in the world for now. And if he manages to get some big-ticket investment during his impending visit to UAE and Italy, as he is likely to do, he would add a few more points to his already high popularity ratings.

A revolt/challenge would be farthest from his mind as he embarks on his sojourn to these two countries.

A decade after the first, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is all set to embark on his second foreign tour during his 22-year long stint at the helm of affairs in Odisha. But there is a world of difference between the circumstances then and now. In the tour of 2012, Naveen reshuffled the cabinet on return, and in case of the second one in 2022; the Naveen cabinet was reshuffled well before Odisha bid him voyage.

Everyone would recall that the BJD supremo had to abruptly cut short his first visit - to England - in May, 2012 and rush back home as a coup d'état was attempted in the party by his erstwhile mentor Pyari Mohan Mohapatra. The 'revolt that wasn't', however, had begun to fizzle out and the 'rebels' had started trooping back, their tails firmly between legs, to Naveen Niwas, the de facto party headquarters, even before Naveen had reached Bhubaneswar. Pyari Babu fell

by the wayside as Naveen asserted his authority - in the party and the government. The rest, as they say, is history.

As Naveen readies for his second visit to foreign land - first Dubai and then Italy with a visit to the Vatican thrown in - the possibility of a 'revolt' looks as remote as the sun rising in the west! Having learnt his lesson the hard way, the supremo has worked assiduously to make sure that there is not even a hint of a challenge to him - neither in the party nor outside. In any case, the fate of Pyari Babu post the failed May 29 revolt is a massive deterrent for any potential challenger.

It is, however, not just the fate of Pyari Babu that has scotched any possibility of a challenge to his authority. Every single leader in the party who has fallen out with Naveen - including stalwarts like Ramakrushna Patnaik, Prafulla Ghadai, Bijay Mohapatra and Nalini Kanta

Mohanty - has bitten the dust and gone into political oblivion. The latest to suffer the same fate was Dr Damodar Rout, a Biju era stalwart who took on the supremo on the eve of the last elections, joined the BJP and went on to lose the election. Nothing is heard these days about the man who used to be in the news almost on a daily basis. Srikant Jena did win a Lok Sabha election and became a Union minister. But ever since the UPA went out of power, he has been in the political wilderness. Dillip Ray did manage to win a Rajya Sabha election after his fall-out with the supremo. But he too is nowhere to be seen in the political horizon these days.

Nothing, however, illustrates the complete authority over the party, the government and the people that Naveen has come to acquire now than his stubborn refusal to sack Pratap Jena, Arun Sahoo and Dibya Shankar Mishra even in the face of a statewide agitation

## With 7 ministers, BJD sets eyes on Western Odisha for 24 polls

**In the newly-formed cabinet, as many as seven MLAs from the Western Odisha have been given important ministerial berths, while the undivided districts of Keonjhar and Sundargarh go blank.**



With the Biju Janata Dal giving ministerial berths to seven of its MLAs representing Western Odisha, it is being assumed that the BJD is progressing with a strategy to checkmate the Bharatiya Janata Party in the next general elections.

In Western Odisha, the Saffron party enjoys a strong base. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the party had won all five Lok Sabha seats and eight Legislative Assembly constituencies. Western Odisha is also in Congress' focus.

In the newly-formed cabinet, as many as seven MLAs from the Western Odisha have been given important ministerial berths. These newly-appointed ministers are Niranjan Pujari, Pradeep Amat, Naba Das, Tukuni Sahu, Rohit Pujari, Rajendra Dholakia and Rita Sahu. Apart, the post of Deputy Chief Whip has also gone to Western Odisha. The party sent Niranjan Bisi to Rajya Sabha, earlier it had sent Sujit Kumar.

Most importantly, Chief Minister and party Supremo

Naveen Patnaik himself had contested from Bijepur Assembly Constituency.

"Since Western Odisha shares a border with Chhattisgarh, the BJP is enjoying certain clout there. So the ruling party is taking steps to counter the BJP there," said Planning and Convergence Minister Rajendra Dholakia.

"The BJD is trying its best to break the progress of BJP in Western Odisha. But the people of Western Odisha have already measured the rule of BJD's 23 years. The people of Western Odisha will

continue to support the party remains a difficult task to forecast.

In this regard, OPCC President Sarat Pattanayak said, "The party (BJD) is doing politics for votes, not for development."

At the same time, it is also being discussed that senior leaders of Western Odisha were often given short shrift. For example, the families of senior leaders Anang Uday Singh Deo and Prasanna Acharya are no longer accorded the importance they used to enjoy. Apart, two known faces Kalikesh

Narayan Singh Deo and Puspendra Singh Deo, who unsuccessfully contested Bolangir and Kalahandi Lok Sabha seats respectively, have not been rehabilitated.

Similarly, despite being a two-time MLA, Debesh Acharya has also not been given any position. While none from Sundargarh district was taken into the ministry, MLAs Sarada Nayak and Subrat Tarai were also kept out of the Cabinet. Another mining and industrial-rich district Keonjhar remains deprived of a berth in the ministry. Long

back in 1994, the then Janata Dal had sent Rahasbihari Barik to Rajya Sabha as a member from the Keonjhar district. But BJD has never considered anyone from Keonjhar to send even to Rajyasabha. Discontentment is simmering across Keonjhar and Sundargarh against BJD. Several leaders who played pertinent roles in building the BJD have either been cornered or shown the door.

Many politicians of importance opine, "If the BJP does well in the coming election, then the BJD may not get its desired result in both Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. For this reason, possibly, the BJD gives importance to Western Odisha."

It is to be seen how the strategies will pan out in the 2024 big show.

# Having a matching constitution, why do we need new?



Sirish C Mohanty

to it. Indian Constitution is the largest Constitution in the world which guarantees equal rights and powers to all. It was due to the reservations provided to SCs, STs, and BCs, that they are in a better position in society. The Constitution has also given the opportunity people to elect a leader through direct elections to form the government and rule the people for their welfare through the Right to Vote opportunity. After examining the Constitutions of many world nations, Dr. BR Ambedkar drafted the Indian Constitution. It has given the opportunity to even a common man to become the President, the Prime Minister, and the Chief Minister through elections. The debates that happen in the Constitutionally-created Parliament determine the status of our country and contribute to the uplift of our nation. In my view, there is no need to change the present Constitution which provides for the possibility of amendments according to the

Ever since the Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao, pitched for changing the Constitution, it triggered animated discussions in political and legal circles. Consequently, members from different sections of society expressed their views on the subject. Most of them are averse to any such need to change the Constitution.

The basic structure of our Constitution was framed by the founding fathers after extensively studying the Constitutions of almost all countries that had one at that time. It was painstakingly molded and adopted for the Indian scenario. Although it is the bulkiest and lengthiest



Bulldozers roll in UP after Prayagraj clashes

Constitution in the world, it is still the best for a country that stands out as unique in terms of its diversity of culture and religion. There is a debate going on that India needs a new Constitution. To determine if we need a new one, let us ask ourselves six questions. Are we fully aware of the basic laws the Constitution of India guarantees us? Are we electing a proper person as our MP or MLA? Are we abiding by the laws of the country? Do we respect your neighbor's religious practice? Are we tolerant towards senior citizens and/or physically challenged? Do we respect our women the way they should be? If the answers are in the affirmative, then we don't need a new Constitution as we have thoroughly abided by the one we already have.

There is no need to change the Constitution itself which allows for making amendments

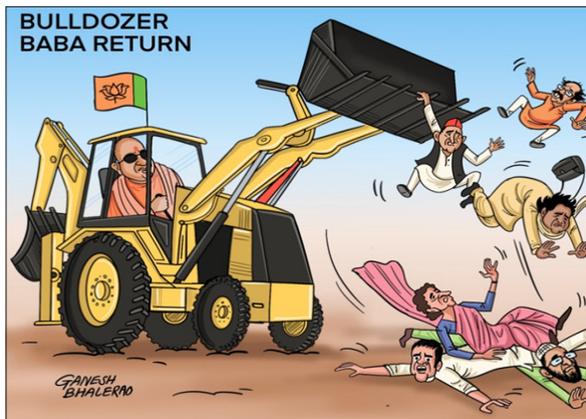
changing times.

### Why do we need a new Constitution?

My question to all those who are asking for a change of Constitution is, what made them think that India needs a new Constitution in place of the existing one? Is it because they are thinking the present Constitution is not relevant to the changing times or is it



Security personnel and locals outside the residence of Javed Mohammad.



Even a common man could become PM only because of our Constitution

because it has complex issues which are coming in the way of implementing some of the decisions taken by the State or Central governments? So let the intellectuals discuss the pros and cons of the present Constitution and then talk of having a new Constitution without clearly knowing; why we need a new Constitution? One cannot simply go on to discuss the issue. It will be meaningless.

### We need guts to implement the already existing laws

Dr. BR Ambedkar had written the Constitution keeping in view all sections of people in the country, and his foresight has ensured that the country progresses and moves forward. The Indian Constitution could be modified and changed as many times as possible to suit the needs and aspirations of the people. Therefore, the debate to bring a new Constitution has no meaning. The only thing needed is the guts to implement the laws and rights already enshrined in the present Constitution.

See the current protests and violence that engulfed the country, especially the UP. The CM shows the guts to spring to action mode and restore law and order instantly with the existing provisions of the law enacted by the constitution

while on the other hand the CMs of Jharkhand and Bengal languish reserved. The Prayagraj violence that took place on Friday and its mastermind Javed Mohammad was arrested by the police within 24 hours. By Sunday, as promised by the CM Jogi; it took five hours and three bulldozers to demolish the 2-story residence of Javed Mohammad, an accused in Prayagraj clashes. He was identified as the main conspirator behind the violence.

A day before, Uttar Pradesh Police said that the accused would be booked under the Gangster Act and all illegal property would be razed. And on Sunday, June 12, bulldozers rolled in Prayagraj in the aftermath of violence that



JNU students protest against the action taken on law breakers

erupted in the city over remarks on Prophet Muhammad by Nupur Sharma and Naveen Jindal.

Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) had put a demolition notice at Mohammad's house, asking him to vacate the house by 11 am today. The demolition notice says the house was "illegally constructed".

Heavy police deployment was seen outside Mohammed Javed aka Javed Pump's home in the Atala area on Sunday ahead of a planned demolition. Police alleged that the house is

an illegal structure and would have to be razed. Javed's family had been asked to vacate the house.

Around 12:30 pm, a bulldozer rolled into the narrow lane where the house was located.

Two bulldozers were soon brought in to demolish the boundary wall of the house. The first digger pulled down the gate after police knocked on it several times to call out Mohammed's family members, who were still inside the house. They had been ordered to vacate the premises before action by the Prayagraj Development Authority to raze



Law breakers bulldozed

the house today.

Five hours later, the two-story house of Javed Mohammad was completely demolished.

Following the demolition of the residence of Javed Mohammad, Prayagraj District

were found on which objectionable remarks have been written against the court.

Apart from this, a flag of the Welfare Party of India was also recovered from Javed's home during the search.

### Javed Mohammad's link to WPI

Top officials told India Today that Javed Mohammad has links to the WPI after a flag of the organization was recovered from his residence.

The head of the Welfare Party of India is Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas, father of former JNU student leader

Umar Khalid, who was one of the conspirators of the Delhi 2020 riots.

Javed's daughter claims women, and children forcefully evicted. Afreen Fatima, daughter of Mohammed Javed, said she is extremely concerned for the safety of her father, mother, and sister, whose whereabouts are unknown to her. Fatima, who is a student leader, claimed that women and small children were forcefully evicted from houses in the middle of the night.

Meanwhile, members of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) held a protest against the 'bulldozer' action taken against Fatima's father.

Shashi Tharoor comes out in support of Fatima

Earlier in the day, Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor came in support of Fatima, who had alleged illegal detention of her family members by the UP Police.

In the conclusion, I just like to pen that the existing set of laws provided by the Constitution is sufficient to maintain law and order and smooth running of the government in a healthy democracy for which the Indian system is vouched around the World.

# Al-Qaeda threatens India and Bangladesh, the suspect is Pakistan

**While Intelligence inputs indicate the presence of Al Qaeda terrorist Ayman Al Zawahiri in Afghanistan, the Taliban denies it and points fingers at Iran.**

The proscribed Al Qaeda in the sub-continent (AQIS) released a statement condemning Bangladesh government for sentencing seven "innocent" persons to death for killings of Islamophobes Shafiu Islam Lilion and Ananta Bijoy on charges of blasphemy.

The AQIS release describes Bangladesh government as "obedient agents of Hindutva menace and Taghut" who did not bring the Islamophobes to justice but has put so-called "innocent" persons on death row while it was AQIS mujahideen who had killed those who defamed Islam.

A day later, AQIS threatened to conduct suicide bombings in Delhi, Bombay (Mumbai), Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat and teach a lesson to "Hindu terrorists" occupying India after the now suspended



A file photo of al Qaeda chief Ayman al Zawahiri

spokesperson of the BJP was accused of blasphemy.

While the threat to India comes after the comments made by the then BJP spokesperson days ago, the government of Sheikh Hasina was blasted for Lilion and Bijoy, both of whom were

done to death for alleged blasphemy in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Intriguingly, the only country which has an axe to grind with both India and its ally Bangladesh is Pakistan, from where this blasphemy storm was generated in the social media

by using twitter handles based in Af-Pak region.

While the Pakistani establishment is aware of the rising radicalisation and spread of terror in the Islamic republic, the Indian worry is the inability of Pakistan Army to stamp out the jihadi factories and radicalisers in that Islamic republic.

The two statements are also indicative of the fact that there is a rise of Al Qaeda in Af-Pak region after the Taliban occupying Kabul and giving shelter to Al Qaeda. Just as the majority cadre of Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) come from Pakistan, the AQIS also gets its cannon fodder from Islamabad.

According to national security planners, the AQIS statements against both India and Bangladesh seem to have been orchestrated by the Pakistani deep state with the

and has conveyed that the Al Qaeda leader is based in Afghanistan under the shelter of the ruling Taliban. Al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden was killed by US troops in Pakistan in 2011.

While the Muslim countries at large have made an issue about alleged blasphemy in India by former BJP spokesperson, fact is that the radicalisation is on the rise in Af-Pak region with Taliban occupying Kabul and giving shelter to Al Qaeda. Just as the majority cadre of Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) come from Pakistan, the AQIS also gets its cannon fodder from Islamabad.

According to national security planners, the AQIS statements against both India and Bangladesh seem to have been orchestrated by the Pakistani deep state with the

sole objective of making New Delhi and Dhaka targets of Islamists on charges of blasphemy. Analysis of social media in the past few days after the controversy indicates that the agenda against India and Bangladesh is driven from Pakistan with the use of unverified twitter accounts and bots.

While India has conveyed the rise of Al Qaeda in Af-Pak region to their US interlocutors, the jihadists are at an advantage as the entire US and the west is focused on Ukraine war. The rising economic instability in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Maldives, and Nepal will lead to more public agitations, which later become fertile grounds of jihadists. AQIS is just a front for Pakistani deep state practising dark arts and spreading radicalization in the entire sub-continent. 

## Online ticket booking limit through IRCTC website, app increased

**As per the announcement, the passengers can now book a maximum of 12 tickets instead of six tickets in a month through a user ID which is not Aadhaar linked.**



New Delhi, June 6: The Indian Railways on Monday announced to have increased the limit of booking train tickets through IRCTC website/app.

As per the announcement, the passengers can now book a maximum of 12 tickets instead of six tickets in a month through a user ID which is not Aadhaar linked.

Similarly, the limit has been increased from 12 tickets in a month to 24 tickets by a user ID which is Aadhaar linked and that one of the

passengers in the ticket to be booked is verifiable through Aadhaar.

As per a PIB release, at present maximum 6 tickets in a month can be booked online on IRCTC website/app by a user ID which is not Aadhaar linked and maximum 12 tickets in a month can be booked online on IRCTC website/app by a user ID which is Aadhaar linked and that one of the passengers in the ticket to be booked is verifiable through Aadhaar. 

## Kanpur clash: 'Illegal properties of violence accused will be demolished', says UP police

Lucknow, June 4: The illegal properties of the accused involved in the violence that erupted in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur district will be demolished, said Prashant Kumar, ADG (Law and Order) on Saturday. "The situation has been brought under control. Identification of the accused is being done. Action will be taken against them, and their illegal properties will also be demolished," Kumar told ANI. A tense situation prevailed in Kanpur after a



### A tense situation prevailed in Kanpur after a clash broke out between two groups belonging to different communities allegedly over a market shutdown on Friday

clash broke out between two groups belonging to different communities allegedly over a

market shutdown on Friday. Two persons and one policeman were injured in the

aftermath of the clashes. The incident began after some people tried to shut down shops which were opposed by the other group, said the police. Police informed that a total of 36 persons were arrested and three cases have been registered in the Kanpur violence case so far. The security in the area was also

beefed up between Yateem Khana and Parade crossroads in Kanpur to maintain the situation."...36 people have been arrested while three FIRs have been registered so far. More people are being identified on the basis of the video," said Police Commissioner, Vijay Singh Meena. 

# Indian mangoes appear in U.S. markets, officials working on more India-U.S. trade

Washington, June 3: With the re-appearance of Indian mangoes in the U.S. market, after the November 2021 U.S. India Trade Policy Forum (TPF) helped overcome a pandemic-induced hiatus in mango trade, officials are looking at what can be achieved at this year's TPF session, likely to be held in November. For the U.S., exporting ethanol and an associated animal feed ingredient, called DDGS (Distillers' Dried Grains with Solubles) to India, is important, in the agricultural goods category, a U.S. government official told The Hindu.



As far as ethanol trade is concerned, the U.S. official said they were aware that India had "some sensitivities" given it has domestic ethanol producers, and that the U.S. could find a way to supplement these sources, to help with renewable energy goals, even if that meant not fully liberalising the market for ethanol. India amended the National Policy on Biofuels in May to advance the 20% ethanol blending target in petrol by five years, to 2025-26. The amended policy also allows the greater use of feedstock for biofuels.

For India, the export of carabeef (water buffalo meat)

to the U.S., as well as table grapes are among the agricultural trade priorities currently under discussion, the official said.

The resumption of Indian wild caught shrimp exports to the U.S. is also an agricultural priority area being discussed. U.S. law prohibits the import of wild caught shrimp and its derivative products if protected sea turtle species are harmed in the process. One way around this is to use Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) while fishing for shrimp; India views this as a technical barrier to trade.

Officials on both sides emphasized that there are priority items in each working

group at this stage, cautious not to emphasize any one good or service as having overarching priority across groups. The TPF goes beyond agri-trade to include goods and services in other sectors - and items on these other lists are also of importance, as working groups negotiate on subjects that fall in their respective areas.

Inter-session Meeting in July

The two sides are expected to meet at an inter-session sometime in July. That is when notes across working groups are compared - and negotiations across goods and service categories begin.

Four working groups were

identified during the TPF - agricultural goods, non-agricultural goods, services and investment (includes digital trade), and intellectual property (IP).

On the U.S. side, greater access to the Indian market for medical devices, as well as digital trade, remain priorities, the U.S. official said.

The Indian side is keen on finalising a Social Services Totalisation agreement - i.e., an agreement that will permit Indians temporarily working in the U.S. to reclaim what they pay into the U.S. system.

India also wants to be reinstated as a beneficiary of the U.S.'s preferential market access program - the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). India was taken out of the GSP program by former U.S. President Donald Trump, in June 2019, for not opening up its markets enough (as per Mr Trump). The program itself expired on December 31 2020, and has to first be renewed before India is re-admitted to it. About \$5.6 billion of Indian exports to the U.S. were covered by the program, although the tax savings for these products amounted to less - about \$ 190 million.

Congress likely to set

higher bar for GSP beneficiaries

The renewal of GSP is featured in the House of Representatives' America Competes Act (2022), and the Senate's U.S. Innovation and Competition Act 2021 (USICA). The two pieces of legislation have passed their respective chambers and are currently being reconciled with each other, so they can be sent to President Joe Biden for his assent. The process could carry on through the end of August, according to a report in the American press.

"GSP is a big one. And I think you know, at this point, it's a little unpredictable where that's going to go ... because we have it has to be reauthorized by Congress," the U.S. official said, adding that the eventual language in the law will determine what the U.S. ask of New Delhi will be, if India is to be re-admitted to the program.

The new House and the Senate language on GSP require GSP beneficiary countries to meet standards on internationally recognized human rights - including the rights of workers and women.

The bills include provisions to ensure beneficiary countries are following their own environmental laws and

international commitments in this regard, that they are engaged in poverty reduction and anti-corruption, have due process rights, access to fair trials and afford equal protection under the law.

The House language is stronger in certain instances, such as on workers' rights. The Senate has a clause on GSP countries being assessed on the basis of their data protection laws - including the extent to which the beneficiary "has refrained from imposing, or has eliminated, digital trade barriers, including unnecessary or discriminatory data localization or data transfer restrictions."

"Digital trade and data related issues is an area where, you know, we want to be engaging much more intensively with the Indian government," the official said.

The U.S. side hoped that India would keep an "open", "transparent" and "consultative" approach to finalising the law around personal data privacy, according to the official. "So that we ensure that we don't have any discrepancies that really, potentially, negatively impact the trade relationship."

# Over 1 lakh trees to be felled for proposed coal mining in Odisha

## Union Coal Ministry seeks expedited forest, environment clearance

Bhubaneswar, June 6: The Union Coal Ministry has sought to rush through the forest diversion process for proposed opencast coal mining, which would require the felling of more than one lakh standing trees in a reserve forest and cause significant disturbance to elephant

of land for the project is 912.799 ha, of which 643.095 ha are reserved forestland and 140.180 ha are village forestland. The remaining is non-forestland.

SCCL is waiting for environment and forest clearance before diverting 783.275 ha of forestland for

in non-forestland. Of the total number of trees to be felled, 31,248 trees have girth above 60 cm, while 74,932 have below 60 cm. Important timber species include Sal (shorea robusta), teak (tectona grandis), Sunari (cassia fistula) and Dharua (anogeissus latifolia). Chara (buchanania), Mahula (madhuca indica) and Tentuli (tamarindus) form non-timber forest produce species.

The company has, however, been allowed to create compensatory afforestation over 1,083 ha of degraded forest (542 ha in Bankamundi reserve forest in Boudh district and 600 ha of degraded forestland in Tikhari reserve forest in Balangir district).

### Threat to wildlife

The important issue flagged by the site inspection team was the threat to wild animals, especially elephants. Though the proposed area for coal mining is not part of any national park, wildlife sanctuary or biosphere, movement of wild elephants

is often witnessed in the northern and southern parts of the lease area. The division wanted a detailed mitigation plan for providing a safe passage to elephants.

The reason behind the Forest Department raising the issue was that the whole area on both sides of State Highway-63 up to Deogarh division had coal reserves and many companies were likely to come in future. If an underpass was not constructed, this could lead to death of elephants in road accidents.

The Coal Ministry preempted in the matter, saying if the Odisha government was planning a get an elaborate study done, it could lead to further delay in operationalisation of the mine.

"It is understood that Odisha is considering engaging the Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun for forestry research, which would take considerable time that may impact on granting environment and forest



A Bear is peeping at the camera from behind a tree in Sundargarh forest division



population in Odisha's Angul district.

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), a joint venture company between the Government of India and Telangana, has proposed to mine coal at Naini Coal Mine in Chhendipada Tahasli of Angul district. The total requirement

the coalfield, which is in the south-eastern corner of the lower Gondwana basin within Mahanadi Valley.

As per the site inspection report submitted by the Angul Divisional Forest Officer, 1,05,092 trees would have to be felled in Chhendipda reserve forest, 1,087 trees in revenue forest and 327 trees

clearance to coal mines located in Angul district of Talcher Coalfields. This may adversely affect the coal production from the coal blocks in the Talcher coalfields and coalfields of Odisha," said M. Nagaraju, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, in a letter addressed to Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra.

"Coal mining plays an important role in the growth of the industrial sector in Odisha. The State accounts for India's 24% of coal reserves, which is a crucial component of the State's

economy," Mr. Nagaraju mentioned.

He requested the State Chief Secretary to direct the Forest Department officers to furnish their comments to the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change at the earliest, instead of engaging the ICFRE for any forestry research.

According to sources, the State government was contemplating asking the Bombay Natural History Society for the study, which is likely to hasten the process.

# Brajrajnagar Bypoll: BJD Wins, but BJP Paid Dearly as Congress Finishes Second

Bhubaneswar, June 4: The Brajarajnagar assembly bye-election outcome on June 3, Friday has dealt a blow to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) hopes of consolidating

**BJD's Alaka Mohanty won the Brajarajnagar assembly seat with a margin of more than 65,000 votes from her nearest rival Kishore Patel of the Congress. BJP's Radha Rani Panda finished third.**

its position in western Odisha, its traditional stronghold, as it prepares for the 2024 general elections.

Biju Janata Dal's (BJD) Alaka Mohanty, the widow of Kishore Mohanty, won the seat with a margin of more than 65,000 votes from her nearest rival Kishore Patel of the Congress. BJP's Radha Rani Panda finished third.

The seat was earlier held by BJD MLA Kishore Mohanty, who died of cardiac arrest on December 31, 2021.

This is the first time since the 2019 general elections that Congress - which was once the main opposition party in the state - has grabbed the second spot in the state election. Congress had lost the 'main opposition party' tag to the BJP in 2019, and its poor

run continued even after that. In all the by-elections held after the 2019 general elections, Congress lagged behind the BJD and the BJP. The party's performance

remained unchanged even in the panchayat and urban polls held in the state earlier this year.

In 2019, BJP had won 23 seats mainly because of the decline of the Congress, which eventually ceased to be the main opposition party in the state. However, despite a BJD victory in the Brajarajnagar bypoll, the Congress appears to be happy this time with its performance as it has succeeded in pushing the BJP to the third spot.

Congress candidate Kishore Patel, a veteran who was the speaker of the Odisha assembly during former chief minister JB Patnaik's tenure, got around 28,000 votes. While BJD's Alaka Mohanty polled 93,953 votes, BJP's



Narendra Modi's 'friendly' relations with Naveen Patnaik; both believed to have a fixed bout in Odisha

Radha Rani Panda, who had won the seat in 2014, could manage to win only 22,630 votes.

Veteran BJP leader Satyabrata Panda said that the result of the Brajarajnagar bypoll was an embarrassment for the party, which needs to change its strategy and work harder to be able to pose a credible challenge to the BJD in 2024. "We may carry the formal tag of being the main opposition party in the state but people are yet to accept us in that role. In popular perception, our role as the main opposition has been diluted because the ruling BJD is often seen as supporting us on various issues. That creates suspicion in the minds of people," he said.

The BJD has supported

the BJP on several issues in the past, including the reading down of Article 370 and the Triple Talaq Bill. It had even voted for BJP's presidential candidate, Ram Nath Kovind, in 2017 and the likelihood of BJD once again supporting NDA's candidate in the upcoming presidential poll is not being ruled out.

According to political analyst Shashi Kant Mishra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'friendly' relations with BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik have created an impression that both the parties are having a fixed bout in Odisha. "This may not be true but this kind of an impression has gained ground because of the prime minister's repeated praise of the chief minister on different issues.

While the BJD may encash it politically, this is not good for the BJP in Odisha," he said.

While it was important for the BJD to retain the Brajarajnagar seat because a loss could have sent wrong signals to the electorate of the state, the BJP was desperate to wrest the seat that it had won in 2014. The BJP had won all the five Lok Sabha seats in the region in the last elections and also done quite well in the western belt in the panchayat elections of 2017.

However, this year's panchayat election results showed that there has been a massive erosion in BJP's voter base in the state. The rural polls were swept by the BJD, which won 766 out of the 852 Zilla Parishad seats. The BJP, which had won 297 Zilla

Parishad seats in 2017, bagged only 42 seats. Congress finished third with 37 seats.

The saffron party, which is yet to win a single by-election in the state after the 2019 general elections, also trailed behind the BJD in the urban polls held after the three-tier panchayat elections. It had high hopes of doing well in the Brajarajnagar bypoll with top party leaders campaigning for its candidate. The party also did not lack resources - a major constraint for Congress. Hence, BJP leaders are finding it hard to come to terms with the humiliating defeat of its candidate who finished behind the Congress.

"We would not have felt bad had we managed to get the second spot but finishing behind the Congress is just not acceptable even though we respect the verdict of the people. We have to revisit our poll strategy," said a senior BJP leader, who did not wish to be named.

"People are aware of the hard work being put in by our chief minister. Hence, they have blessed him and the party," said BJD general secretary Bijay Nayak. BJD's victory in the Brajarajnagar bypoll will set the tone for the party's preparations for the bigger battle two years from now.

## On China's Tiananmen Square Anniversary, US Says Victims Won't Be Forgotten

Taipei, June 4: The efforts of the victims of China's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in and around Tiananmen Square 33 years ago will not be forgotten, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said.

Saturday marks the 33rd anniversary of Chinese troops opening fire to end the student-led unrest in and around the square. Chinese authorities ban any public commemoration of the event on the mainland.

In a statement on Saturday Asia time, Blinken termed the crackdown "a brutal assault".

"The efforts of these



Tiananmen Square anniversary: US termed the crackdown "a brutal assault"

brave individuals will not be forgotten. Each year, we honour and remember those who stood up for human rights and fundamental freedoms," he added.

"While many are no

longer able to speak up themselves, we and many around the world continue to stand up on their behalf and support their peaceful efforts to promote democracy and the rights of individuals."

### Today marks the 33rd anniversary of Chinese troops opening fire to end the student-led unrest in and around Tiananmen Square.

Speaking on Thursday at a routine news conference in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian reiterated the government's standard line about those events.

"The Chinese government has long ago come to a clear conclusion about the political incident that happened in late 1980s," he said.

Later on Saturday, activists will gather in Taiwan's capital Taipei to

commemorate the anniversary, likely the only part of the Chinese-speaking world where such a public event will take place, though in past years there have been large-scale commemorations in Chinese-run Hong Kong.

Taiwan's China-policy making Mainland Affairs Council called on Friday on Beijing "to address the historical facts of the Tiananmen Square Incident with sincerity,

embark on political reforms (and) implement democratic governance."

Last year, police blocked off a Hong Kong park to prevent people gathering to commemorate the anniversary and arrested the planned vigil's organiser.

China imposed a tough new national security law on Hong Kong in June 2020 punishing acts of subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces.

# "Tip Of The Iceberg": Amarinder Singh After 5 Congress Leaders Join BJP

My best wishes to Balbir S. Sidhu, Gurpreet S. Kangar, Dr Raj Kumar Verka, Sunder Sham Arora and Kewal Singh Dhillon for taking a step in the right direction and joining BJP today," Captain Amarinder Singh tweeted

New Delhi, June 5: Former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh yesterday congratulated Congress leaders for joining the BJP, calling the move a "tip of the iceberg". Five Congress leaders and former ministers Raj Kumar Verka, Balbir Singh Sidhu, Sunder Sham Arora, Gurpreet Singh Kangar and Kewal Dhillon joined the BJP on Saturday.

"My best wishes to Balbir S. Sidhu, Gurpreet S. Kangar, Dr Raj Kumar Verka, Sunder Sham Arora and Kewal Singh Dhillon for taking a step in the right direction and joining BJP today. This is just the tip of the iceberg," Amarinder Singh tweeted, in

what was seen as alluding to more likely exits from his former party.

The Congress was voted out of power in the Punjab elections earlier this year. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party, or AAP, unseated the Congress with a big win.

Amarinder Singh left the Congress and formed his own party months before the Punjab elections. He has held the Gandhis responsible for the rout of the party in the assembly elections. Amarinder Singh had said the Congress was "comfortably placed" in Punjab before he was unseated as Chief Minister.



Captain Amarinder Singh congratulated Punjab Congress leaders who joined BJP

He has slammed the Congress Working Committee for trying to put the blame for the defeat in Punjab on him instead of "gracefully admitting" their "own blunders".

While leaving the Congress in November last year, less than two months for the assembly elections, Amarinder Singh in a fiery letter to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi had made a series of

questions and accusations against the party and its individual leaders -- including her son Rahul Gandhi and daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

"...Despite knowing me for the better part of my 52 years in public life and that too at a deeply personal level, you never understood me or my character. You thought I was getting on in years and should be put to pasture," Amarinder Singh had said in the letter.

Two former Shiromani Akali Dal MLAs Sarup Chand Singla and Mohinder Kaur Josh, too, joined the BJP yesterday.

Balbir Sidhu, a three-time

MLA from Mohali, was the Health Minister in the previous Congress government while Gurpreet Kangar, who is also a three-time MLA from Rampura Phul, was the Revenue Minister. Mr Verka, a prominent Dalit leader from Majha region, is a three-time legislator and was the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment and Minorities in the previous government. Sunder Sham Arora, a former MLA from Hoshiarpur, was the Industry and Commerce Minister in the previous Congress government.

All the four leaders lost the 2022 state assembly polls.

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### 7 new faces...

Dibyashankar Mishra, who was then the Minister of State for Home, in Mamata Meher murder case had proved to be the most difficult situation for the BJD to handle it. This incident had proved to be a shot in the arm for the Opposition party as they had the government in the crosshairs continued to corner the government for a long time.

Similarly, it is being discussed that Arun Sahoo has paid the price of his name being dragged in Pari murder case. Bikram Keshari Arukha's name was also entangled in the ACF Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra death case.

However, BJD leader Subash Singh termed the assumptions as baseless. "The Chief Minister has formed a clean cabinet for the

service of Odisha people," he said.

Ex-ministers like Sudam Marndi, Padmanabha Behera, Raghunandan Das, Padmini Dian, Premananda Nayak, Jyotiprakash Panigrahi and Sushant Singh have also been kept outside of the Cabinet. It is being discussed that the axe has fallen on them for their poor performance in the last three years.

"In past, I discharged

whatever responsibilities the Chief Minister gave to me sincerely. But, I honour his decision," said Jyotiprakash Panigrahi.

In his reaction, senior journalist Rabi Das said, "It is not a big thing because it is still the same Naveen Patnaik's cabinet. But when it comes to a just balance from region point of view, it seems to me, it has left a lot to be desired."

### Juma Protests...

Eastern Railway official said. Four trains have been cancelled, while two have been diverted due to the agitation, he said. Meanwhile, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has appealed for peace and sought an urgent update on the law and order situation from the state's chief secretary.

Uttar Pradesh: Protests broke out at several places in the state after the Friday prayers. A senior official at the Uttar Pradesh Police headquarters in Lucknow said sloganeering took place in Saharanpur, Moradabad, Rampur, and Lucknow.

People raised slogans and pelted stones in the Atala area of Prayagraj after the Friday prayers ended. A heavy police force was deployed in the area

to ensure law and order. Senior police and administrative officials have also reached the spot. Additional Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said, "The reports of stone-pelting in Prayagraj are being looked into." He said Friday prayers were held peacefully in most places across the state.

"Some people intentionally tried to disrupt peace today, despite efforts of police and administration. We have arrested 109 people from different districts in this regard as of now. Primary districts being Saharanpur, Ambedkarnagar, Firozabad, Moradabad and Prayagraj," said Kumar.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed to take strict actions

against hooligans after incidents of stone-pelting in the state. Officials like ACS Home Awanish Awasthi, acting DGP, ADG Law and Order, are monitoring the situation from police HQs. "Strict action will be taken against anyone who unnecessarily attempts to disrupt the peace and order situation. I appeal to the people of Uttar Pradesh to maintain harmony," Awasthi told news agency ANI. In UP alone over 230 people have been taken into custody by the police and the number of arrest may rise.

Jharkhand: At least two persons allegedly died and over 10 sustained severe injuries after police opened fire in Ranchi to quell protests by thousands of Muslims who gathered at the Ranchi Main Road near Daily

Market on Friday, June 10. The peaceful protest spiralled out of control as a few protestors began pelting stones after the police attempted to disperse the crowd gathered near the Hanuman Mandir, which is just 150 meters away from Iqra Masjid on the main road.

Maharashtra: A large number of people carry out a protest march in state's Solapur district and Navi Mumbai against Nupur Sharma.

Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil said, "I would like to tell people of the state that situation across Maharashtra is under control and peaceful. Everyone, from all religious backgrounds, must try and continue that peace. Police were prepared. Only peaceful protests were seen in state."

## Eye on Prez polls, Mamata calls Delhi meet, reaches out to Sonia, Vijayan: Report

Mamata Banerjee is also said to have reached out to her counterparts in Telangana - K Chandrashekar Rao (Telangana Rashtra Samithi), Tamil Nadu - MK Stalin (DMK), Jharkhand - Hemant Soren and Punjab - Bhagwant Mann.

New Delhi, June 11: West Bengal chief minister and Trinamool Congress supremo has reportedly reached out to Opposition leaders and her counterparts from states ruled by non-BJP parties as the race for the Rashtrapati Bhavan intensifies.

According to inputs shared by news agency ANI, Banerjee has convened a meeting at the Constitution Club in Delhi on June 15. She is likely to embark on a three-day visit to the national capital during that time.

The TMC supremo has reportedly written to as many as 22 leaders, including Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal, Kerala CM and Left leader Pinarayi Vijayan, Odisha CM and BJD head Naveen Patnaik and Maharashtra's Uddhav Thackeray (Shiv Sena head).

Banerjee is also said to have reached out to her counterparts in Telangana - K Chandrashekar Rao (Telangana Rashtra



Samithi), Tamil Nadu - MK Stalin (DMK), Jharkhand - Hemant Soren and Punjab - Bhagwant Mann.

The Bengal chief minister, who has been seeking to play a prominent national role ever since her massive Assembly victory in the state in 2021, is said to be looking for an initiative of strong and effective opposition against the "divisive forces" ahead of the Presidential election.

The Presidential election will be held on July 18 and the counting of votes, if required, will be conducted on July 21, the Election Commission has said.

# Odisha leaders Draupadi Murmu, Jual Oram front runners in NDA to sit atop Raisina Hil

**Two tribal leaders from Odisha- former Jharkhand governor and State BJP leader Draupadi Murmu and former Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram are at the forefront for the next President of India.**



**Odisha leaders Draupadi Murmu, Jual Oram front runners for the top post**

With the Election Commission setting the ball rolling for Presidential elections and President Ram Nath Kovind is all set to leave the Raisina Hill in July this year, the countdown for picking his successor has gained momentum.

There is speculation within the political corridors that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would either pick a tribal, a woman or a minority candidate for the highest office of the land.

Amid the speculations, two tribal leaders from Odisha- former Jharkhand governor and State BJP leader Draupadi

Murmu and former Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram are at the forefront for the next President of India.

Among others, the names of former Chief Minister of Jharkhand and current Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, serving Governors Arif Mohammed Khan (Kerala), Anandiben Patel (UP), Anusuiya Uikey (Chhattisgarh), Thawar Chand Gehlot (Karnataka) are also doing the rounds. However, it is yet to be cleared who is going to be the candidates of the Opposition.

Meanwhile, Oram said he is

not aware of the development. "Speculations are rife in this regard in different sections of India and I have nothing to speak on the matter," said Oram.

According to the political pundits, NDA may play a tribal card or spring a surprise in the upcoming election.

NDA may play a tribal card in the forthcoming Presidential election and this is why Murmu

and Oram's names are being discussed. Murmu's name was also doing the rounds in the last election. NDA may spring a surprise at the last moment and bring a minority face for the top constitutional post.

As per the equation, the total number of votes for MPs and MLAs in the country are 10,98,882. While NDA has a stake of 48.8 per cent votes, the Opposition parties have 51.1 per

cent votes in their hands. NDA requires 2.2 per cent more votes in a bid to help its candidate win the Presidential election.

In this context, YSRC (with 4 per cent, 43, 644 votes) and BJD (with 2.9 per cent, 31,854 votes) will play a crucial role in the election. Both the parties need to support NDA for the victory of its Presidential candidate.

Meanwhile, BJP's national leaders are trying their best to garner support for their candidate. A couple of days back, YSR Congress chief Jagannathan Reddy and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. Speculations are rife that both the parties will support the NDA candidate.

"Discussion is on with various parties who are expected to extend their support to NDA for this constitutional process.

We are hopeful that there will be no problem in the victory of the NDA candidate in the Presidential election," said State BJP General Secretary Prithviraj Harichandan.

As per BJD, the party supremo Naveen Patnaik will take the appropriate decision at the right time.

"The party will consider the interest of the State and Patnaik will take an appropriate decision at the right time," said senior BJD leader Shashi Bhusan Behera.

On the other hand, Congress will also discuss with all the parties to garner support for its candidate.

"The party will discuss with YSR Congress, BJD and other parties for their support towards the Congress candidate. However, we are sure that BJD will not give us support due to the chit fund scam," said senior Congress leader Saptagiri Ulaka.

## How is President elected in India?



The current and 14th President of India is Ram Nath Kovind. He is the head of the executive, legislature and judiciary of the country. That is the President of India is the head of the state and is known as the first citizen of India.

Articles from 52 to 78 Part V of the Indian Constitution deals with the Union Executive. The President of India acts as a symbol of unity, integrity and solidarity of the nation. Union Executive consists of the President, Vice-President, the Prime Minister, the Council of Ministers and the Attorney General of India.

President is an important part of Union Executive and

is also important in the preparation of the Civil Services Examination for all the three stages whether Prelims, Mains and Interview.

Here, we are covering in detail about the election procedure of the President of India.

### About President of India

As discussed above is the head of the state, part of the Union Executive, the first citizen of India and is a symbol of unity, solidarity and integrity of the nation.

### Election of the President of India or How is the President of India elected?

President is not directly elected by the people but by

the members of the electoral college that consist of:

- the elected members of both the Houses of the Parliament that is the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

- the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states. Here is to note that, the Legislative Councils have no role in this.

- the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry.

### Who does not participate in the election of the President of India?

The nominated members of both the Houses of Parliament, the nominated members of the state legislative assemblies, the

members both elected and nominated of the state legislative councils in case of a bicameral legislature and the nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry do not participate in the election of President.

In the Constitution of India, it is mentioned that there shall be uniformity in the scale of representation of different states as well as parity between the states as a whole and the Union at the election of the President. Therefore, to achieve this, the number of votes that are to be cast with each elected member of the legislative assembly of each state and the Parliament at such election shall be determined as given below:

Value of the vote of an MLA = Total Population of state/ Total number of elected members in the state legislative assembly X 1/1000

Value of the vote of an MP = Total value of votes of all MLAs of all states/ Total number of elected members of Parliament

The election of the

President is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is done by the secret ballot. This system is to ensure that the successful candidate is coming to power or returned by the absolute majority of votes.

Here one thing is important, that a candidate, in order to declare elected to the office of President, must secure a fixed quota of votes.

The quota of votes is determined by dividing the number of candidates to be elected, here only one candidate to be elected as President plus one and adding one to the quotient.

Each member of the Electoral College is given only one ballot paper. The voter who is casting the vote has to indicate his preference by marking 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. against the names of the candidates. We can say that the voter can indicate as many preferences as there are candidates in the fray.

In the first phase, the first preference of the votes

is counted. If in case, the candidate secures the required quota in this phase then he or she is declared elected. Otherwise, the procedure of transfer of votes is set in motion.

Now, the ballots of the candidates securing the least number of the first preference of votes are cancelled and his second preference votes are transferred to the first preference votes of other candidates. This process continues until a candidate secures the required quota.

All doubts and disputes regarding the election of the President are inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court whose decision is final.

Also, the election of the President cannot be challenged on the ground that the Electoral College was incomplete.

If the election of a person as President is declared void by the Supreme Court then acts done by him before the date of such declaration of the Supreme Court are not invalidated and continue to remain in force.

# How are Rajya Sabha MPs elected?



For both the ruling party and the Opposition, every Rajya Sabha seat counts as any Bill, barring those designated as Money Bills by the Lok Sabha Speaker, needs the assent of the second chamber to become law.

Rajya Sabha, or the Council of States, has 245 seats. Leave aside reaching the halfway mark of 123, no ruling party has ever touched the 100 mark in the last three-and-a-half decades. The BJP-led NDA fleetingly touched 100 in April but its strength is down to 95 now after the retirement of five of the nominated members who had taken BJP membership.

The NDA government has so far managed to get crucial Bills - farm laws, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, or the Citizenship Amendment Act - passed with the help of allies and support of other parties such as AIADMK, Biju Janata Dal, and YSR Congress.

Rajya Sabha has a limited role in the case of Money Bills. It cannot amend a Money Bill, but can recommend amendments within a stipulated time, and Lok Sabha may either accept or reject all or any of these.

## How often are Rajya Sabha elections held?

Rajya Sabha is a permanent House and cannot be dissolved. To ensure continuity, one-third of its members retire

after every second year, under Article 83(1) of the Constitution, and "biennial elections" are held to fill these vacancies. The term of a member is six years.

Out of the 245 members, 12 are nominated by the President and 233 are representatives of the States and Union territories of Delhi and Puducherry. Vacancies arising due to resignation, death or disqualification are filled up through bypolls, and those elected serve out the remainder of their predecessors' term.

Under Article 80(3), the 12 nominated members should have special knowledge or practical experience in matters like literature, science, art etc. A nominated member may join a party within six months of taking a seat.

## Rajya Sabha polls: who votes, and how?

Rajya Sabha MPs are elected by MLAs through an indirect election. Article 80(4) provides that members shall be elected by the elected members of state Assemblies through a system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.

The Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for allocation of Rajya Sabha seats to the states and Union Territories, on the basis of the population of each state. For instance, there are 31 Rajya Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh and 1 in

Goa. Elections are held there are more candidates than vacancies; otherwise, candidates are elected unopposed.

## How are the votes counted?

The number of votes a candidate requires depends on the number of vacancies and the strength of the House. If there is only one vacancy, the required quota under the Election Commission's Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, is calculated by taking the number of votes polled, divided it by 2, and adding 1. For example, if 100 votes are polled in an Assembly, the Rajya Sabha candidate would need:

$$100/2 + 1 = 51 \text{ votes}$$

If there is more than one vacancy, the equation is based on an assigned value of 100 for every first-preference vote. The values of the votes credited to all candidates are totalled. The total is divided by 1 more than the number of vacancies, and 1 is added to this quotient.

For example, if 100 members of an Assembly vote for 3 Rajya Sabha vacancies, the required quota by any candidate would be

$$(100 \times 100) / (3 + 1) + 1 = 2501$$

If for any seat, candidates fail to get the specified number, the second-preference votes will be taken into account, but with a lower value.

## How many seats are being contested in the current elections?

Biennial elections are being held for 57 seats across 15 states. But elections were necessitated only in 16 seats from four states - Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Karnataka. The remaining 41 candidates were declared

elected unopposed last week. These include Congress leader P Chidambaram, former Congress leader Kapil Sibal, RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary, and RJD's Misa Bharti.

Elections in Haryana (two vacancies) have become necessary with the entry of a third candidate, media baron Kartikeya Sharma, and in Rajasthan (four vacancies) with the entry of a fifth candidate,

strength after the polls will be 91. Adding to that will be the seven nominated seats that fell vacant, which the BJP could count on.

The Congress has 29 members. Seven of its members are retiring and four of its candidates have been elected unopposed. The party is sure to win four more while there is uncertainty over the fate of two others. So its strength will go up to 30-32.

can be extended by one year at a time by passing a similar resolution.

A similar route can be adopted for recommending creation of one or more All India Services common to the Union and the states. Parliament becomes empowered to create such services.

Also, Rajya Sabha has a role to play if the President, as empowered by the Constitution, issues proclamations in



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman files her papers for the Rajya Sabha elections in Bengaluru.

Subhash Chandra, the founder of Zee and the head of Essel Group, as an independent with the support of the BJP.

In Karnataka, the ruling BJP, the Congress and the JD(S) have put up candidates for the fourth seat, forcing an election. In Maharashtra too, there are seven candidates for six seats.

## To what extent can the results affect the strengths of the NDA and Opposition?

Out of the 57 retiring members, 24 are from the BJP. The party has already won 14 seats, and has the strength to win six of the 16 seats to be decided by voting. Not counting its extra candidates in Karnataka and Maharashtra, the BJP's

The biggest gainer will be the AAP, whose strength has gone up from 3 to 10 because of the clean sweep of Punjab. The strength of YSRCP will also go up from 6 to 9. **Beyond passing Bills, why do Rajya Sabha numbers matter?**

Rajya Sabha enjoys some special powers. If it passes a resolution by a majority of not less than two-thirds of members present and voting, saying that it is "necessary or expedient in the national interest" that Parliament should make a law on a matter enumerated in the State List, Parliament becomes empowered to make a law on the subject. Such a resolution remains in force for a maximum of one year but this period

the event of national emergency, in the event of failure of constitutional machinery in a State, or in the case of financial emergency". Every such proclamation has to be approved by both Houses of Parliament within a stipulated period.

Under certain circumstances, however, Rajya Sabha enjoys special powers. If a proclamation is issued at a time when Lok Sabha has been dissolved or the dissolution of Lok Sabha takes place within the period allowed for its approval, then the proclamation remains effective, if the resolution approving it is passed by Rajya Sabha within the period specified under Articles 352, 356 and 360 of the Constitution. 

# Samrat Prithviraj

**Movie Review: SAMRAT PRITHVIRAJ is an inspiring and entertaining saga of one of the greatest kings of Indian history. The Akshay Kumar film SAMRAT PRITHVIRAJ is an inspiring and entertaining saga of one of the greatest kings of Indian history**

**Rating: 3.5**

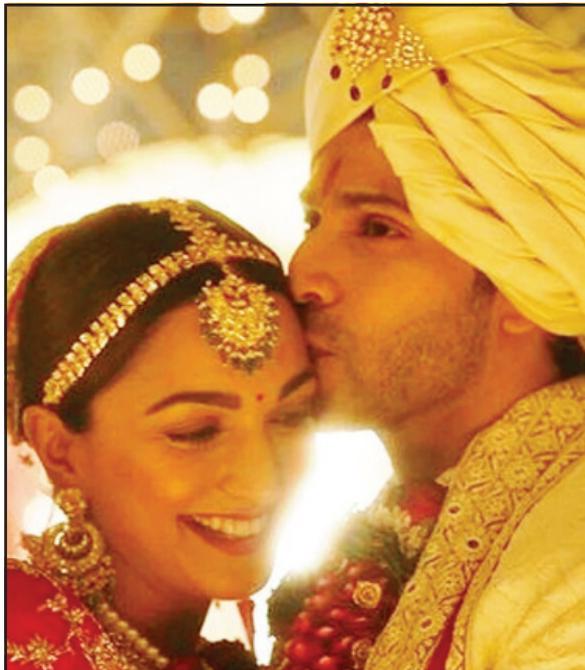
SAMRAT PRITHVIRAJ is the story of a brave king. In the late 12th century, Prithviraj Chauhan (Akshay Kumar) is the king of Ajmer. He's known for his bravery and kindness. One day, Mir Hussein (Anshuman Singh) arrives at his doorstep and asks for his help. He is the brother of Mohammed Ghori

Chauhan. He feels he's the rightful heir to the throne of Delhi. However, Prithviraj Chauhan is elected to sit on the throne. Jaichand then organizes a yagna and Sanyogita's swayamvar. The invitation is given to all the kings but not to Prithviraj Chauhan. Yet, Prithviraj Chauhan arrives at Kannauj and he elopes with Sanyogita.



(Manav Vij), the ruthless king of Ghazni. Mir Hussein fell in love with Chitrlekha (Radha Bhatt), the mistress of Mohammed Ghori and eloped with her. Mohammed Ghori now wants to kill Mir Hussein. Hence Mir Hussein asks for Prithviraj Chauhan's help. Prithviraj Chauhan decides to help him, even if that means facing Mohammed Ghori on the battlefield. The war takes place at Tarain where Prithviraj Chauhan emerges victorious. Mohammed Ghori is caught but Prithviraj Chauhan sets him free. Meanwhile, Prithviraj Chauhan falls in love with Sanyogita (Manushi Chhillar), the princess of Kannauj. She too falls for him though both have never met each other. However, they write letters and send gifts to each other and that's where love happens. Sanyogita's father, Jaichand (Ashutosh Rana) is jealous of Prithviraj

A humiliated Jaichand decides to seek revenge. He sends an invitation to Mohammed Ghori and asks him to help him defeat Prithviraj Chauhan. What happens next forms the rest of the film.



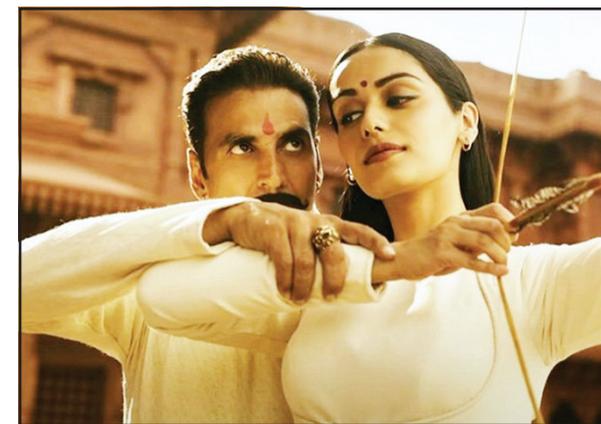
SAMRAT PRITHVIRAJ is based on Prithviraj Raso, written by Chand Vardai. The story is powerful and inspiring. Dr Chandraprakash Dwivedi's screenplay is decent. He has incorporated some very entertaining and dramatic scenes. Dr Chandraprakash Dwivedi's dialogues are weak. Dr Chandraprakash

Dwivedi's direction is fine. He has handled the grandeur very well and a few scenes are executed exceptionally. It is evident that he has given his all to this project. However, a few developments give a déjà vu of films like BAJIRAO MASTANI [2015], PADMAAVAT [2018], PANIPAT [2019] etc. The pacing is neat but, in a few places, the narrative moves quite swiftly. This is especially in the second half, where the second battle of Tarain is just not shown and it hampers the impact.

SAMRAT PRITHVIRAJ starts on an intriguing note. The entry of Akshay Kumar will leave you stunned. The first battle of Tarain is clapworthy. The film then drops and picks up beautifully during the intermission point. In the second half, the sequence where Prithviraj Chauhan asks Sanyogita to sit next to her in the durbar is arresting. The climax is truly applause worthy.

Akshay Kumar looks quite dashing and his

performance in the Ghazni portions is great. In the rest of the scenes, his performance is subdued yet impactful. Manushi Chhillar makes a confident debut. She looks stunning and delivers a decent performance. Sonu



Sood (Chand Vardai) is excellent in a supporting role. Sanjay Dutt (Kaka) gets to play an interesting character but it turns out to be a caricature. Manav Vij is superb as the antagonist. Ashutosh Rana is dependable. Sakshi Tanwar (Jaichand's wife) is okay.

Manoj Joshi leaves a mark in a cameo. Anshuman Singh and Radha Bhatt get no scope.

Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy's music fails to entice. Also, there are far too many songs in the movie. 'Hari Har' is the only song that stands out. It adds to the exhilaration and is quite catchy. 'Hadd Kar De' and 'Yoddha' have been shot very well. 'Makhmali' is nothing special. Sanchit Balhara and Ankit Balhara's background score has a cinematic feel. Manushnandan's cinematography is top-class. Subrata Chakraborty and Amit Ray's production design is detailed and realistic. Franz Spillhaus and Parvez Sheikh's action is sans any gore and contributes to the entertainment factor. Sanjeev Rajsingh Parmar's costumes are royal and authentic. yfx's VFX matches global standards. Aarif Sheikh's editing is neat but too

quick in the second half.

On the whole, SAMRAT PRITHVIRAJ is an inspiring and entertaining saga of one of the greatest kings of Indian history. At the box office, its business will escalate from Day 2 onwards and has the potential to put up impressive numbers. 

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