

NEWS ITEMS ON CAG/ AUDIT REPORTS (22.06.2022)

1. After Girish Murmu as CAG, Odisha's Mayurbhanj set for another distinction with Draupadi Murmu declared NDA presidential candidate (theprint.in) June 22, 2022

After Girish Murmu as Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), Odisha's Mayurbhanj district is all set to have another distinction with Droupadi Murmu declared NDA presidential candidate for the top constitutional post.

BJP-led NDA on Tuesday announced former Governor of Jharkhand Droupadi Murmu's name as a Presidential candidate for the upcoming elections.

Speaking exclusively to ANI over the phone, Murmu said she was surprised to learn about her candidature and was unable to believe it and noted that she will work according to the powers of the President enshrined in the constitution.

she said she will reach out to members of the electoral college for their support.

"I am surprised, I was not able to believe it. I am thankful, do not wish to speak much (at this stage)," Droupadi Murmu, a former Jharkhand Governor, said.

"Whatever powers are there of President in Constitution, I will work accordingly," she said in response to a query about her priorities if she is elected as president.

Asked about the contest with opposition parties on Tuesday declaring former union minister Yashwant Sinha as their presidential nominee, she said there are candidates in the fray and she will seek the support of MPs and MLAs.

"There are candidates. Our work is go to people, reach out to the members of the electoral college and seek their cooperation. I will request all parties, states for support," she said.

Droupadi Murmu was on Tuesday declared BJP-led NDA's presidential candidate. She is a former Odisha minister.

The voting for presidential elections will be held on July 18. If elected, she will be the first tribal President of India and the country's second female President.

Droupadi Murmu is the first presidential candidate from Odisha of a major political party or alliance. She continues to break barriers and was the first woman governor of Jharkhand. She served as Jharkhand Governor from 2015 to 2021.

Coming from a poor tribal family in a village of Mayurbhanj, a backward district in Odisha, Droupadi Murmu completed her studies despite challenging circumstances. She taught at Shri Aurobindo Integral Education Centre, Rairangpur.

Born on June 20, 1958, she pursued BA at Ramadevi Women's College Bhubaneswar.

She started her political career as Rairangpur NAC vice-chairman. Droupadi Murmu was a member of the Odisha Legislative Assembly from Rairangpur between 2000 and 2004. As a minister, she held portfolios of Transport and Commerce, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. She again served as MLA in the Odisha assembly from 2004 to 2009.

In 2007, the Odisha assembly honoured her with 'Nilakantha Award' for best MLA. She served as a junior assistant in Irrigation and Power Department between 1979 and 1983. She has held several organisational posts in BJP and was vice president state ST Morcha in 1997.

Droupadi Murmu was a national executive member of BJP's ST Morcha from 2013 to 2015 and served as BJP district chief of Mayurbhanj (West) in 2010 and 2013. Between 2006 and 2009, she was chief of BJP's ST Morcha in Odisha. She was a member of the national executive of BJP ST Morcha from 2002 to 2009. <https://theprint.in/india/after-girish-murmu-as-cag-odishas-mayurbhanj-set-for-another-distinction-with-draupadi-murmu-declared-nda-presidential-candidate/1006717/>

2. द्रौपदी मुर्मू को राष्ट्रपति कैंडिडेट बनाकर BJP ने ओडिशा के मयूरभंज को दिया डबल गिफ्ट, इसी जिले के हैं CAG गिरीश (livehindustan.com) June 22, 2022

गिरीश मुर्मू को भारत के नियंत्रक और महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) बनाने के बाद ओडिशा के मयूरभंज जिले से ही आने वाली द्रौपदी मुर्मू को एनडीए की तरफ से राष्ट्रपति पद का उम्मीदवार घोषित किया गया है। यह इस जिले के लिए डबल गिफ्ट है। न्यूज एजेंसी एएनआई से फोन पर बात करते हुए मुर्मू ने कहा कि वह अपनी उम्मीदवारी के बारे में जानकर हैरान थीं और इस पर विश्वास करने में असमर्थ थीं। उन्होंने कहा कि वह संविधान में निहित राष्ट्रपति की शक्तियों के अनुसार काम करेंगी।

उन्होंने कहा कि वह निर्वाचक मंडल के सदस्यों से उनके समर्थन के लिए संपर्क करेंगी। झारखंड की पूर्व राज्यपाल द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने कहा, "मैं हैरान हूँ, मुझे इस पर विश्वास नहीं हो रहा था। मैं शुक्रगुजार हूँ। मैं ज्यादा बोलना नहीं चाहती।" राष्ट्रपति के रूप में निर्वाचित होने पर अपनी प्राथमिकताओं के बारे में एक सवाल के जवाब में उन्होंने कहा, "संविधान में राष्ट्रपति के पास जो भी शक्तियाँ हैं, मैं उसके अनुसार काम करूँगी।"

यशवंत सिन्हा की उम्मीदवारी पर क्या बोलीं?

पूर्व केंद्रीय मंत्री यशवंत सिन्हा को राष्ट्रपति पद के उम्मीदवार के रूप में घोषित करने के लिए विपक्षी दलों के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा के बारे में पूछे जाने पर उन्होंने कहा कि वह सांसदों और विधायकों का समर्थन मांगेंगी। उन्होंने कहा,

"उम्मीदवार हैं। हमारा काम लोगों के पास जाना है। निर्वाचक मंडल के सदस्यों तक पहुंचना और उनका सहयोग लेना है। मैं सभी दलों और राज्यों से समर्थन का अनुरोध करूँगी।"

द्रौपदी मुर्मू को मंगलवार को भाजपा नीत राजग की ओर से राष्ट्रपति पद का उम्मीदवार घोषित किया गया। वह ओडिशा की पूर्व मंत्री हैं।

राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के लिए मतदान 18 जुलाई को होगा। निर्वाचित होने पर वह भारत की पहली आदिवासी राष्ट्रपति और देश की दूसरी महिला राष्ट्रपति होंगी।

झारखंड की पहली महिला राज्यपाल का गौरव

द्रौपदी मुर्मू ओडिशा से किसी प्रमुख राजनीतिक दल या गठबंधन की पहली राष्ट्रपति पद की उम्मीदवार हैं। उन्होंने बाधाओं को तोड़ना जारी रखा और झारखंड की पहली महिला राज्यपाल बनीं। उन्होंने 2015 से 2021 तक झारखंड की राज्यपाल के रूप में कार्य किया।

गरीब आदिवासी परिवार से रहा है नाता

ओडिशा के एक पिछड़े जिले मयूरभंज के एक गरीब आदिवासी परिवार से आने वाली द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने चुनौतीपूर्ण परिस्थितियों के बावजूद अपनी पढ़ाई पूरी की। उन्होंने श्री अरबिंदो इंटीग्रल एजुकेशन सेंटर, रायरंगपुर में पढ़ाया। 20 जून 1958 को जन्मी मुर्मू ने रमादेवी महिला कॉलेज भुवनेश्वर से बीए किया।

2000 में पहली बार विधायक

उन्होंने अपने राजनीतिक जीवन की शुरुआत रायरंगपुर एनएसी के उपाध्यक्ष के रूप में की थी। द्रौपदी मुर्मू 2000 और 2004 के बीच रायरंगपुर से ओडिशा विधानसभा की सदस्य थीं। एक मंत्री के रूप में उन्होंने परिवहन और वाणिज्य, पशुपालन और मत्स्य पालन विभागों का कार्यभार संभाला। उन्होंने 2004 से 2009 तक ओडिशा विधानसभा में फिर से विधायक के रूप में कार्य किया।

2007 में सर्वश्रेष्ठ विधायक का सम्मान

2007 में ओडिशा विधानसभा ने उन्हें सर्वश्रेष्ठ विधायक के लिए 'नीलकंठ पुरस्कार' से सम्मानित किया। उन्होंने 1979 और 1983 के बीच सिंचाई और बिजली विभाग में एक कनिष्ठ सहायक के रूप में कार्य किया। उन्होंने भाजपा में कई संगठनात्मक पदों पर कार्य किया है और 1997 में राज्य एसटी मोर्चा की उपाध्यक्ष बनीं।

द्रौपदी मुर्मू 2013 से 2015 तक भाजपा के एसटी मोर्चा की राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारी सदस्य थीं और 2010 और 2013 में मयूरभंज (पश्चिम) के भाजपा जिला प्रमुख के रूप में कार्य किया। 2006 और 2009 के बीच वह ओडिशा में भाजपा के एसटी मोर्चा की प्रमुख थीं। वह 2002 से 2009 तक भाजपा एसटी मोर्चा की राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारी की सदस्य रहीं। <https://www.livehindustan.com/national/story-bjp-gave-double-gift-to-mayurbhanj-of-odisha-by-appointing-draupadi-murmu-as-the-presidential-candidate-cag-girish-belongs-to-this-district-6675246.html>

3. Astrology pitch to guide football progress ([telegraphindia.com](https://www.telegraphindia.com)) June 22, 2022

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) had hired an astrology firm from south Delhi on a three-month contract in the build-up to this month's AFC Asian Cup qualifiers to ensure India make it to the main round for the second consecutive time.

This came to light when the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators questioned a top AIFF official on the rationale behind engaging an astrology firm.

The official, according to a source with knowledge of the inquiry, is believed to have said that the firm was hired to provide "statistics" for the national team. "When it was pointed out that the Indian team already has a dedicated company for the job, the official said it was done keeping an eye on the qualifiers," the source told The Telegraph.

Sports performance analysis company InStat provides all the data and statistics to India's senior national football team.

It is not known if there was any astrological intervention behind India's wins in the three qualifiers, played in Calcutta.

It has been learnt that an amount of Rs 16 lakh was already bank transferred to the astrology firm by the AIFF before the CoA started to dig into the financial dealings done during the reign of Praful Patel, the ousted president of the federation, and Kushal Das, the general secretary.

"The CoA has instructed the finance department to stop payment of the last instalment. The firm did not hold any meeting with the national team during the last three months. When the official was asked on what basis the payments were made, he passed the buck to another person," the source added.

On Monday, AIFF general secretary Das went on leave on medical grounds after a meeting with the CoA in New Delhi. Former Supreme Court judge Anil Ramesh Dave,

former chief election commissioner SY Quraishi and former India football captain Bhaskar Ganguly are the CoA members.

Forensic audit

AIFF's financial dealings have been under the scanner for quite some time now. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), with the approval of the ministry of youth and sports affairs, is probing allegations of financial irregularities.

The CoA has also decided to carry out a forensic audit as it delves deeper into the mess. Sources said two audit companies — Deloitte and KPMG — have been shortlisted for the job. "A lot of shady deals were allegedly done. Proper investigation will bring out the truth," an official of a state association said.

The Fifa-AFC delegation which arrived in Delhi on Monday held meetings with former president Patel and the CoA members on Tuesday.

"The CoA had a constructive and cordial meeting with the joint team of the FIFA and Asian Football Confederation in New Delhi today (June 21, 2022)," an AIFF media release said.

"The delegation has asked that the elections be held by September; the new constitution will have to be approved by AIFF's general body and it should be sent to Fifa also. The CoA has also assured them that the new constitution will follow Fifa statutes," someone in the know of things said.

However, the 12-member advisory committee formed on Monday by the CoA and headed by entrepreneur Ranjit Bajaj to assist it in the running of day-to-day affairs was disbanded at the delegation's behest. <https://www.telegraphindia.com/sports/football/astrology-pitch-to-guide-football-progress/cid/1871196>

4. Govt-appointed CAs unearth only Rs 1,000 cr mining loss to the State when Shah Commission had estimated the loss to be Rs 35,000 crore (heraldgoa.in) June 22, 2022

The CAG pegged the additional loss at Rs 1900 cr; Notice of only Rs 300 cr sent to mining barons of which a peanut amount of Rs 120 cr has been recovered; Process to auction mining leases likely to be held after three months

PANJIM: The government-appointed chartered accountants (CAs) have unearthed only Rs 1,000 crore loss to the State after conducting a comprehensive audit of the iron ore mining leaseholders and traders, involved in the business when the industry was at its peak in 2007. This is peanuts compared to the RS 35,000 crore estimates of the Shah Commission's findings on mining illegalities in the State.

Interestingly the government is looking into lease violations identified by the Shah Commission under Section 37 of the Mineral Concession Rules but not accepting the total estimate of the illegal mining loss by the same Shah Commission.

In addition, CAG had pointed out Rs 1,900 crore loss to the State. As per Rule 37 of the MCR, the lessee shall not, without the previous consent in writing of the State Government assign, sublet, mortgage, or in any other manner, transfer the mining lease, or any right, title, or interest therein.

The Goa Foundation had calculated the government's own estimated total loss (not the actual total real loss calculated by Goa Foundation) due to illegal mining in excess of the scheduled plan, mining in excess of environmental clearances short recovery of royalty amount and mining audit report as Rs 3,431 crore Goa Foundation Director Claude Alvares had said that all assets of the mining companies should be seized and taken over to recover the dues and pay mining dependents.

The Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant on Tuesday held a review meeting with the officials of the Directorate of Mines and Geology (DMG), Chief Secretary Puneet Kumar Goel, and Advocate General Devidas Pangam, as the government will initiate the process to auction the mining leases, which is likely to be held only after three months.

Speaking to reporters post-meeting, Dr Sawant said that before going for auction of the leases, the government must clear the audit report prepared by the CAs, Comptroller Auditor General of India (CAG), violations under Section 37 of the Mineral Concession Rule (MCR) (as reported in the Justice MB Shah Commission report) and report of Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Sawant said that as per the CAs report, the State should get Rs 1,000 cr from the mining companies, and accordingly, notices were issued to recover Rs 300 crore. "We have managed to recover Rs 120 crore so far. Many have challenged the notices in court," he said.

In 2015, the State Government had appointed 15 chartered accountants to undertake a comprehensive audit of leaseholders and traders of mineral ore in Goa during the past five years. The accountants had submitted an audit report.

The Chief Minister further said that the CAG report is cleared and soon a decision will be taken with regards to Section 37 violations.

“Once the 37 violations are cleared, we will deal with SIT cases,” he said.

Sawant said that the auction process has already started and we have taken SBICAP on board. “We will take another two to three months to reach the auction stage,” he said.

The State government had recently directed 88 mining leaseholders to vacate the lease-bound areas.

The iron ore mining activities in the State have been shut since March 2018 after the Supreme Court quashed and set aside the second renewals to the leases. <https://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Govtappointed-CAs-unearth-only-Rs-1000-cr-mining-loss-to-the-State-when-Shah-Commission-had-estimated-the-loss-to-be-Rs-35000-crore/190851>

5. Goa: Mining leases to be put up for auction by October, Sawant (timesofindia.indiatimes.com) June 22, 2022

PANAJI: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday said that SBI cap has been taken onboard to auction mining leases. Mining leases will be put up for auction by October before which all matters related to illegal mining that are pending before the directorate of mines and geology will be disposed, Sawant said.

“We have started the process of e-auctioning of mining leases and within three months mining leases would be put up for auctioning,” he said.

The state government has asked the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL) to prepare a report on the quantity of iron ore lying at the 88 mining leases that the state government has decided to auction.

The state had initiated the process to take over the 88 leases from lessees whose second renewal was quashed by the Supreme Court in February 2018.

Sawant said that, based on the findings of chartered accountants, the state government was able to recover Rs 120 crore against recovery notices of Rs 300 crore issued to the mining companies involved in illegal mining.

“Some mining companies have challenged the recovery notice,” Sawant said.

The chief minister held review meeting with advocate general Devidas Pangam, chief secretary Puneet Kumar Goel, director mines and geology Vivek H P among others at the directorate of mines and geology office in Panaji.

Sawant said that he took an A to Z review of the mines department before deciding to go in for auctioning of mining leases.

During the meeting, he said, discussions were held on the report submitted by chartered accountants on illegal mining, the report submitted by the comptroller and auditor general (CAG), which pointed out that the mines department failure to monitor unauthorised extraction,

transportation and storage of minerals cost the state exchequer Rs 2,237.7 crore, the report on 37 violations and report by the special investigation team (SIT).

Sawant said that the hearing against the mining companies involved in 37 violations will be completed. “Once we finalise this report and we will take a decision,” he said. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/mining-leases-to-be-put-up-for-auction-by-october-sawant/articleshow/92370552.cms>

6. Chowkidar swindles Rs 38.30L from council’s forest royalty (theshillongtimes.com) June 22, 2022

SHILLONG: The Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council has decided to go soft on a plantation chowkidar Franklin Khyndeit for misappropriating an amount of Rs 38.30 lakh he had taken from the forest royalty the council had received during 2012-2013 fiscal.

The KHADC executive committee has decided to deduct Rs 10,000 from the chowkidar’s salary every month to recover the stolen money. There was no announcement of any legal action against the accused. “He confessed to the misappropriation to the inquiry officer,” KHADC Chief Executive Member Titosstarwell Chyne told reporters here.

Chyne also said the council decided to penalise the chief forest officer (CFO), T. Saiborne since he is the head of the forest department of the council.

“A penalty of Rs 5.30 lakh will be levied on the CFO. We are deducting Rs 1 lakh every month from his salary with effect from March 2022,” he said.

Chyne said this case ended after the High Court of Meghalaya directed the inquiry officer to complete the probe and submit the report to the executive committee. “We have acted according to the recommendations of the inquiry officer,” he said.

Earlier, a report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ending March 31, 2013, revealed the council had suspended four KHADC forest officers in March 2017 on charges of short deposit or misappropriation of forest royalty amounting to Rs 38.30 lakh.

The report was tabled during the budget session of the council in March.

According to the report, the secretary of the council was directed to draw disciplinary proceedings against all the four officers in the case.

The audit observed that the council, in violation of Rule 13 (1) of the United Khasi Jaintia Hills District Fund Rules, 1952, failed to inform the short deposit or misappropriation to the AG (Audit), Meghalaya, immediately after the incidence of misappropriation.

“In response to the request of the AG (Audit), Meghalaya, seeking records relating to the misappropriation case in November 2017, the secretary of the executive committee in December 2017 expressed his inability to furnish the same since the said records were under the custody of the Additional Judge with the ongoing inquiry of the case,” the CAG report stated.

In reply, the council secretary said the departmental inquiry revealed a short deposit of royalty of Rs 5.30 lakh during 2012-2013.

It was further said that based on the order of the executive committee of the KHADC (May 2018), the CFO was demoted and the amount was being recovered from his salary while three suspended officers have been exonerated. “However, since records were not made available to audit, the actual amount of short deposit of forest receipts against Rs 38.30 lakh as mentioned in the initial inquiry and recovery there against could not be ascertained during the audit,” the report said.

While the grounds on which the three suspended officers were exonerated were taken up with the secretary, the latter did not provide any information on the plea as the matter was sub-judice. <https://theshillongtimes.com/2022/06/22/chowkidar-swindles-rs-38-30l-from-councils-forest-royalty/>

7. KHADC to appoint CA to probe irregularities (theshillongtimes.com) June 22, 2022

Shillong: Facing relentless pressure over gross financial irregularities and missing accounts of expenditure and cornered by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the Directorate of Local Fund Audit (DLFA), the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) has decided to appoint a chartered accountant (CA) who will probe the irregularities in the council’s financial accounts.

Disclosing this to reporters after the KHADC executive committee meeting on Tuesday, Chief Executive Member Titosstarwell Chyne said the CA will also guide the accounts staff or head of departments on how to maintain accounts, receipts and cashbooks.

According to him, the CA will submit his report on the irregularities, including the council’s failure to prepare its accounts, on time.

Chyne said the executive committee decided to have an internal audit every quarter to ensure that the accounts are properly maintained. No decision, however, has been made on the timeline to be given to the CA to submit the probe report.

“We will need to ask the CA how much time he/she would require. But we will insist that it is done at the earliest,” Chyne said.

He clarified that the Accountant General (AG) prepared its report on the KHADC accounts only for the year ending March 31, 2013.

“After this, the AG has not prepared the report even though it completed the audit of accounts of the council till 2018,” he said, adding the council discussed the AG’s various observations.

On the observation as regards the council’s assets, he said the EM in-charge of Council Assets, Teibor Pathaw has already constituted a committee to maintain and prepare the records of assets.

Further, Chyne said the council decided that the MDCs will first need to submit the utilisation certificates (UCs) and only then, the funds of the discretionary grants would be released to them. “We are compelled to take this decision as in the past, the MDCs never submitted the UCs after availing of the funds. The non-submission of UCs creates a huge problem while preparing the accounts,” the CEM added. It may be recalled that the CAG had trained its gun on the three autonomous district council for not preparing accounts and maintain records of

expenditure and had written a letter to Governor Satya Pal Malik on June 1, praying for his intervention.

In its letter, the CAG had revealed that the deficiencies were communicated to Chief Secretary RV Suchiang on March 17, 2022, the chief executive members of the respective Councils on March 23, 2022 and Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on March 30, but no action was taken by any of the authorities.

Even the DLFA had detected gross anomalies in the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes under the Special Assistance Grant (SAG) by both the GHADC and JHADC.

It had compiled a report on its findings and submitted it to the District Council Affairs department which wrote to both the district councils in February seeking their response on the findings but is yet to elicit a response from either of the councils. <https://theshillongtimes.com/2022/06/22/khadc-to-appoint-ca-to-probe-irregularities/>

8. HC issues copy of DVAC's preliminary inquiry report to former Minister SP Velumani (thehindu.com) UPDATED: JUNE 21, 2022

Supreme Court had directed the HC to issue the copy and re-hear petitions alleging irregularities in award of tenders

The Madras High Court on Tuesday directed its Registry to give former AIADMK Minister S.P. Velumani, a copy of Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption's (DVAC) 2019 preliminary inquiry report in which he was given a clean chit regarding allegations of irregularities in the tenders called for by Greater Chennai and Coimbatore corporations.

Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and N. Mala permitted the former minister's counsel V. Elangovan to obtain copy of the report as well as other documents that had been filed by the DVAC in a sealed cover. Thereafter, they adjourned further hearing on the petitions filed by R.S. Bharathi of DMK and anti-corruption outfit Arappor Iyakkam to June 27.

The former Minister was allowed to obtain a copy of the interim inquiry report in accordance with orders passed by the Supreme Court on May 20. A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana had directed the High Court to furnish to the former minister the findings of the inquiry conducted by Superintendent of Police R. Ponni.

In its order, the Supreme Court pointed out that the investigating officer had been handpicked by the High Court for conducting the preliminary inquiry after Mr. Bharathi and Arappor Iyakkam had approached the court alleging irregularities. The officer gave a clean chit to the former Minister and the then government too accepted her report in January 2020.

Nevertheless, the petitions filed by the complainants were kept pending until there was a change of regime in the State and after the new government took over, the police registered a First Information Report (FIR) against the former Minister on the basis of the Comptroller and Auditor General's report on the tenders awarded by the two corporations.

Though the former Minister sought copies of the preliminary inquiry report in which he was given a clean chit by the DVAC, the High Court rejected his plea and disposed of both petitions

in November 2021 leading to an appeal preferred before the Supreme Court which restored the two petitions before the High Court and ordered a fresh hearing.

The Supreme Court also permitted the former Minister to approach the High Court with a plea to quash the FIR. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/hc-issues-copy-of-dvacs-preliminary-inquiry-report-to-former-minister-sp-velumani/article65549969.ece?homepage=true>

9. अस्पताल का कोना-कोना खंगाला ([inextlive.com](https://www.inextlive.com)) 22 Jun 2022

वाराणसी। शहर के पांडेयपुर स्थित पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय राजकीय अस्पताल को कैग व प्रधान महालेखाकार की 20 सदस्यीय टीम ने पूरी तरह से खंगाला। कैग की टीम के आने की सूचना से पहले ही अस्पताल प्रशासन पूरे तरह चौकस हो गया था। मंगलवार को अस्पताल में प्रत्येक वार्ड में घूमने के बाद कैग की टीम संतुष्ट दिखी, जबकि कई लोगों ने अस्पताल में हो रही अव्यवस्थाओं को लेकर शिकायत की। निरीक्षण के दौरान कैग व महालेखाकार की टीम ने मेडिकल वार्ड, डायलिसिस सेंटर, ब्लड बैंक, लैब, ओपीडी, ऑपरेशन थियेटर, मेडिसिन काउंटर, पंजीकरण काउंटर, इमरजेंसी व आयुष्मान की जांच की।

कैग की टीम जब डायलिसिस सेंटर में पहुंची तो एक मरीज ने शिकायत की कि नेफ्रोलॉजी नहीं रहते हैं। यदि किसी को परेशानी हो जाये तो कोई देखने वाला नहीं रहता है। एक मरीज ने बाहर की दवा लिखने पर कैग की टीम ने उक्त मरीज का पर्चा लेकर जनऔषधि केंद्र पर पूछा कि इसमें लिखी दवा उपलब्ध है कि नहीं तो दुकानदार ने बताया कि दवा उपलब्ध है। इससे कैग की टीम आश्चर्य होकर वापस हो गई।

मरीजों से की पूछताछ

अस्पताल में निरीक्षण के दौरान एडिशनल डिप्टी कैग संध्या शुक्ला ने अस्पताल में मौजूद मरीजों से भी बातचीत की। इस दौरान मेडिकल वार्ड में भर्ती मरीज और ओपीडी में मौजूद मरीजों का हाल जाना और वहां की व्यवस्थाओं को लेकर पूछताछ की। इस दौरान अस्पताल के कर्मचारी पूरी मुस्तैदी के साथ काम करते दिखे।

निरीक्षण के दौरान ये रहे मौजूद

कैग टीम में एडिशनल डिप्टी कैग संध्या शुक्ला, प्रधान महालेखाकार यूपी वीके मोहंती, सीनियर एडिशनल एकाउंटेंट जनरल धनलक्ष्मी चौरसिया, कल्याण सहायक केएन आर्या, ऑडिटर अंशु राज, अमर काला समेत पं. दीनदयाल के चिकित्साधीक्षक डॉ. आरके यादव सहित कैग टीम व अस्पताल के कर्मचारी मौजूद रहे।

मीडिया के सवालों का नहीं दिया जवाब

निरीक्षण के बाद जब मौके पर मौजूद मीडिया ने एडिशनल डिप्टी कैग संध्या शुक्ला से सवाल पूछा तो उन्होंने ने किसी सवाल का जवाब नहीं दिया और गाड़ी में बैठकर चली गईं। उनका बस यही कहना था कि अभी हमने देखा लिया है बाकी रिपोर्ट बनाकर सौंप देंगे, लेकिन अन्य सवालों से बचती हुई गाड़ी में बैठकर चली गईं।

हास्पिटलों को अपग्रेड करने के लिए एक पायलट प्रोजेक्ट चलाया जा रहा है। इसी क्रम में कैग की टीम ने वाराणसी के डीडीयू को भी देखा है। निरीक्षण के दौरान पूरी तरह से टीम संतुष्ट दिखी। हालांकि हमने अस्पताल में मैन पावर की कमी बताई, जिसे उन्होंने भी माना है। आने वाले दिनों में अस्पताल को और भी

बेहतर बनाने के लिए काम किया जाएगा. डॉ। आरके यादव, एमएस, डीडीयू अस्पताल <https://www.inextlive.com/uttar-pradesh/varanasi/explore-every-corner-of-the-hospital-1655836731>

SELECTED NEWS ITEMS/ARTICLES FOR READING

10. State of spending (*financialexpress.com*) June 22, 2022

While the impact of revenue spending on economic activity lasts for just a year, the impact of capital outlay is stronger and lasts for much longer, according to a study by the Reserve Bank of India.

The share of revenue expenditure in total expenditure for 10 states lies in the range of 80-90%; such high revenue spend results in poor spending quality, especially when it comes to capital and developmental activities.

While the impact of revenue spending on economic activity lasts for just a year, the impact of capital outlay is stronger and lasts for much longer, according to a study by the Reserve Bank of India.

States with high revenue spending and low capital spending will have slower revenue growth and will see much higher interest outgo. <https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/state-of-spending/2568482/>

11. States must bring on their books all off-budget borrowings, take measures to reduce debt to more manageable levels (*indianexpress.com*) June 22, 2022

Over the past few years, much of the discussion on public finances in India has revolved around the fiscal stress at the level of the central government. However, state government finances have also been under pressure. Their space to manoeuvre has been restricted by slowing revenues, a rising share of committed expenditure and higher outgoes on subsidies. Unless the GST Council decides otherwise, they will witness a further fall in revenues once the compensation period draws to a close. A recent study by economists at the Reserve Bank of India notes that 10 states — namely, Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana — have the highest debt burden. Of these, the five most fiscally stressed are Bihar, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and West Bengal. All these states have a debt to GSDP ratio in excess of 30 per cent.

A high debt level translates to higher interest payments. According to the report, the share of interest payments in revenue receipts exceeds 20 per cent for most of these states. Coupled with allocations for pension and administrative payments, the share of committed expenditure for these states is at least 30 per cent of revenue expenditure. With such a large share of their expenditure firmly earmarked, it restricts the fiscal space to spend on more productive avenues. States have also ramped up spending on subsidies. While a distinction needs to be made between merit and non-merit subsidies, politically motivated decisions such as providing free electricity or waiving of outstanding utility bills, profligate from a fiscal view, will aggravate

the stress, and distort the functioning of the market. The failure to turn around the financial position of power distribution companies and opting out of the new pension scheme — Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have recently done so — will only exacerbate the situation.

Over the past few years, some states have also been pushing part of their borrowings off budget, circumventing their ceilings. While there is little clarity on the extent of these obligations, the central government has now taken cognisance of this. It has recently asked states to bring on its books all off-budget borrowing undertaken over the past two years. This will bring about much needed transparency in state finances, revealing their true level of indebtedness. Alongside, states also need to take measures to shore up their revenues, reduce non-merit subsidies, and bring down their debt to more manageable levels. <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/states-debt-burden-state-government-finance-7983031/>

12. Where is India's economy headed after FinMin's twin deficit warning? ([business-standard.com](https://www.business-standard.com)) June 22, 2022

The FinMin on Monday struck a note of caution about the re-emergence of the twin deficit problem. Where is the Indian economy headed? Is there trouble ahead? Find out what an RBI paper warns about

The World Bank recently cut its FY23 real GDP growth forecast for India to 7.5 per cent from 8 per cent, which is slightly more bullish than the Reserve Bank of India's forecast of 7.2 per cent. S&P and the IMF have also recently cut their FY23 forecast for India.

Amid these signs of slowing growth, further shocks could be in store. The finance ministry has warned of a twin deficit problem, with higher commodity prices and rising subsidy burden leading to an increase in both the fiscal and current account deficits.

According to the ministry's latest Monthly Economic Review, an increase in the fiscal deficit might cause the current account deficit to widen and weaken the value of the rupee. This could further aggravate external imbalances, creating the risk, which is admittedly low, at this time, of a cycle of wider deficits and a weaker currency.

But, at the same time, the report also said that even as the world was looking at a distinct possibility of widespread stagflation, India was at low risk due to its stabilisation policies.

Meanwhile, Indian financial markets have witnessed hefty foreign investment outflows the past eight months. A weak GDP growth outlook has exacerbated the situation. However, a paper co-authored by Reserve Bank of India's deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra says that there is only a five per cent chance of portfolio outflows of up to 3.2 percent of GDP in a year in response to a Covid-type contraction in growth.

In a black swan event comprising a combination of shocks, there is a 5 percent chance of outflows under portfolio investments of 7.7 per cent of GDP and short-term trade credit retrenchment of 3.9 percent of GDP.

Create the graphic of a torn scrap of paper with the following text in it: "A black swan event could be characterised by a combination of all adverse shocks experienced in Indian history coming together, leading to a perfect storm."

The warning about a twin deficit begs the question -- Will the government have to prioritise macroeconomic stability over near-term growth going ahead? https://www.business-standard.com/podcast/economy-policy/where-is-india-s-economy-headed-after-finmin-s-twin-deficit-warning-122062200104_1.html

13. India completes ‘One Nation One Ration Card’ implementation ([financialexpress.com](https://www.financialexpress.com)) June 22, 2022

Under the scheme, beneficiaries can get access to highly subsidised foodgrains under public distribution system anywhere in the country. Launched in August 2019, ONORC ensures portability of around 240 million ration cards.

With Assam becoming the last state to implement the one nation one ration card (ONORC) scheme, its pan-India rollout is now complete. Under the scheme, beneficiaries can get access to highly subsidised foodgrains under public distribution system anywhere in the country. Launched in August 2019, ONORC ensures portability of around 240 million ration cards.

It enables migrant ration-card-holders to lift their quota of grain entitlement from any fair price shop (FPS) in the country by using the ration card issued in their home states or Union Territory after biometric authentication on electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices installed at the FPS. Since the launch of ONORC, 710 million portable transactions – 436 million under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and 278 million under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyana Anna (PMGKAY) transactions have taken place under ONORC. According to a food ministry statement on Tuesday, subsidised food grains worth Rs 40,000 crore is delivered to beneficiaries through portability.

A monthly average of about 30 million portable transactions are being recorded, delivering the subsidised NFSA and free PMGKAY foodgrains. As per estimates, 60 million people migrate seasonally to various states in search of livelihoods. Besides, around 80 million e people are intra-state migrants, moving from one district to another in their home state.

To ensure ration-card portability, the Centre had requested states to issue the ration card in the bi-lingual format—local language and Hindi or English. A 10-digit standard ration card number was assigned to beneficiaries, wherein the first two digits denotes the state code. Along with 10 digits, a set of another two digits was appended with the ration card number to create unique member IDs for each beneficiary in a ration card. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/india-completes-one-nation-one-ration-card-implementation/2568642/>

14. FCI to raise Rs 50,000 crore short-term loan from banks next month ([financialexpress.com](https://www.financialexpress.com)) June 22, 2022

The corporation has been relatively comfortable with the cash position over the last one year as the government promptly released the food subsidy amounts to it, after the practice of availing National Small Saving Fund (NSSF) loans for subsidy financing was stopped in FY22 Budget for the sake of transparency of government finances.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) will raise Rs 50,000 crore as short-term loans from banks next month for financing its operations because of the inadequate release of food subsidy expenses from the Centre.

Sources told FE that against demand of around Rs 47,000 crore towards the expenses for April-June, 2022, FCI has been provided with only around Rs 33,000 crore so far under the food subsidy budget.

The corporation has been relatively comfortable with the cash position over the last one year as the government promptly released the food subsidy amounts to it, after the practice of availing National Small Saving Fund (NSSF) loans for subsidy financing was stopped in FY22 Budget for the sake of transparency of government finances.

Sources indicated that after availing the short-term loan in early July, FCI will deploy around Rs 24,000 crore towards repayment of short-term loans availed in the first two months of current fiscal. These loans were availed to finance FCI's operations of procurement, transportation and distribution of foodgrains to states for public distribution system.

FCI is mandated to avail short-term loans which are of 90 days duration from scheduled banks to address cash flow mismatches because of slow release of subsidy. These short-term loans carry an interest rate in the range of 3.85-3.9% per annum.

The finance ministry has provided Rs 10,000 crore as wage and means advance to FCI this quarter which had to be adjusted against the release of food subsidy by March 31, 2023.

The central issue prices of Rs 3, Rs 2, Rs 1 for a kg of rice, wheat and coarse grains respectively, under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), have not been revised since 2013. On the other hand, FCI's economic cost (MSP to farmers, storage, transportation and other costs) of rice and wheat for 2022-23 is 36.70 and 25.88 per kg, respectively.

For 2022-23, central government has allocated Rs 2.06 trillion for food subsidy expenses out of which Rs 1.45 trillion or 71% is provided to FCI. However, following the extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, an additional Rs 800,000 will be spent under food subsidy.

FCI procures and distributes more than 60 million tonne (MT) of wheat and rice annually. The corporation manages procurement, storage and transportation of rice and wheat to states for distribution, mainly for the NFSA and other welfare schemes.

Due to a huge mismatch between rising expenses because of open-ended procurement of rice and wheat under minimum support price (MSP) operations from farmers and cost of carrying excess stocks between 2016-17 to 2020-21, the government had provided its funds from loans taken from NSSF during 2016-17 to 2020-21 in lieu of food subsidy.

However, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech for 2021-22 had announced ending the practice of extra-budgetary borrowing from next fiscal by making provisions of Rs 3.35 trillion towards payment of NSSF loans. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/fci-to-raise-rs-50000-crore-short-term-loan-from-banks-next-month/2568295/>

15. Progress without limits: On clearing of decks for the first auction of radio spectrum ([thehindu.com](https://www.thehindu.com)) JUNE 22, 2022

India must ensure 5G caters to the largest sections of the population

The Union Cabinet last week cleared the decks for the first auction of radio spectrum to facilitate the roll-out of 5G telecommunication services. The Department of Telecommunications promptly issued a 159-page ‘Notice Inviting Applications’, detailing the specifics of the auction including the frequencies that would be up for bidding starting on July 26, and their reserve prices. The speed with which the Government has moved — from the initial announcement in the Union Budget to the telecom regulator’s recommendations, and finally notification of the auction — has been commendable and shows its keenness to ensure India is at the relative vanguard in the adoption of the potentially ‘transformative’ technology. The Government has underscored that its primary motivation is to boost digital connectivity, a laudable objective given that the rapid growth of wireless telephony has perceptibly helped improve the delivery of services such as mobile banking, online education and telemedicine. The rub, however, is in the details. While most of the specific frequency bands that telecom providers consider optimal for the introduction of 5G services have been made available, including in the sub 1 GHz range, a C-Band frequency of 3.3 GHz, and the higher 26 GHz, the Government’s decision to set the reserve price for the spectrum based on the regulator’s recommendations reveals a prioritisation of revenue over the industry’s long-term health. Even considering that an option for a staggered annual pay-out of the licence fee over its 20-year term has been provided, the price is still high.

This is particularly so when one considers the level of financial stress that has shrunk the sector to a near duopoly, and forced the surviving operators to resort to tariff increases to protect their viability and ability to make future investments. With 5G’s adoption for the various possible end uses that leverage machine-to-machine communication such as IoT, smart agriculture, smart homes and others that bank on reliability, including smart grids and autonomous vehicles, still in its relative infancy even in advanced economies, the technology is yet some years away from scale-based economic viability. The relatively small size of the market for just faster downloads of videos and games, especially at a higher cost, makes it near certain that service providers will take an ultra-cautious approach both to bidding for spectrum and in rolling out services. The Cabinet’s decision to allow bids for starting Captive Non-Public Networks that would enable individual companies to run private networks within the isolated confines of the enterprise has also roiled the pitch. It is hard to imagine the urgency to open up 5G for this niche application, particularly as it further undermines the economics for traditional telcos. India must be conscious of the challenges and opportunities of 5G services, and ensure that the technology caters to the largest sections of the population and not remain a deliverer for a high-value but limited, premium segment. <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/progress-without-limits-on-clearing-of-decks-for-the-first-auction-of-radio-spectrum/article65549568.ece>

16. Agnipath is only one pillar of a grand goal ([livemint.com](https://www.livemint.com)) Jun 22, 2022

Just a day after the Centre announced Agnipath, a new defence recruitment scheme, protests erupted in Bihar, later getting violent and spreading to more states. Even though fiscal saving and reforming the military may be the key purposes, the new scheme is being touted as a way to make our forces younger, fitter and more technically savvy. The protesters are dismayed that they will miss out on a chance for a long-term defence job that could entitle them to pensions

(Agnipath will offer four-year contracts, with only up to 25% moving on into long-term employment with the defence forces). Time will tell whether Agnipath proves to be the reform it's being promised to be, but there is no denial that India's armed forces are in dire need of modernization. However, that's easier said than done given the fiscal and political constraints. Mint explains:

Protest hotspots

At the centre of the protests are young defence aspirants from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan, among other states. These four states comprise roughly 38% of Indian troops, hence the anger. High unemployment and a freeze on defence hiring during the pandemic may have added to the angst of the youth who are at the forefront of the ongoing protests.

Aim to downsize?

To begin with, the Centre plans to recruit 46,000 "Agniveers", which will increase to 50,000-60,000 annually in the next four to five years and later to 90,000-125,000. If Agnipath becomes the go-to scheme for defence recruitment at non-officer level, it can replace 15% of the current crop of soldiers, sailors and airmen in the next 4-5 years, Mint calculations show. The current pool typically serves for 10-15 years. With three-fourths of Agniveers retiring every four years, the scheme can bring down the average age of the force while being cost-efficient for the government

Looking for reform

Senior army officers say the scheme will bring down the average age from 32 to 26 years in the next 6-7 years. But can a younger force be necessarily more potent to security threats? Any well-meaning reform should show up most in how threat-ready Indian defence is. India is the third largest defence spender, but the spending is less than a tenth of the US' and about one-fourth of China's. Wages and pensions take up 55% of this, leaving less than one-fourth for modernization. Agnipath could help divert that spending towards a ramp-up of India's defences. But that path is long. Even though the Indian army is the largest in the world, it pales in comparison with China and the US in terms of equipment such as naval vessels and combat aircraft. China, in its modernization effort, has been making its forces leaner and investing more in technology. India, on the other hand, has increased, albeit mildly, its troop size in recent years. Even if Agnipath makes our forces younger and fitter at a lower cost, acquisition and procurement of modern weapons and equipment will have to catch up. A leaner, younger force, without technological aid, alone would not improve our war preparedness.

<https://www.livemint.com/politics/news/agnipath-is-only-one-pillar-of-a-grand-goal-11655832552447.html>

17. Suspended BDPO booked for embezzling ₹ 7.45 crore panchayat funds in Tarn Taran ([hindustantimes.com](https://www.hindustantimes.com)) Jun 21, 2022

A block development and panchayat officer in Tarn Taran district was on Tuesday booked for alleged embezzlement of panchayat funds to the tune of ₹ 7.45 crore, about six weeks after he was suspended in another such case.

Panchayat officer Lal Singh, who is absconding, of Valtoha block in the district had allegedly embezzled the amount from five different schemes during the period from 2019-2022, said district development and panchayat officer (DDPO) Satish Sharma.

The case was registered on the complaint of the rural development and panchayat department of Punjab government with senior superintendent of police Ranjit Singh Dhillon on June 1 following a departmental probe conducted by the Tarn Taran DDPO on the direction of Panchayat Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, who had suspended the accused in May in another case of embezzlement of funds. The minister had received a complaint of misappropriation of crores of rupees in Valtoha block.

The SSP had marked the further investigation of the case to deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Lakhwinder Singh. A case under Sections 406 (punishment for criminal breach of trust) of the Indian Penal Code, and Sections 13 (1) (1a), (13-2) of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act (amendment) at Valtoha police station.

As per the complaint, the copy of which is with HT, social education and panchayat officer (SEPO) Lal Singh was given the charge of BDPO Valtoha. During his posting at Valtoha, Lal Singh had received ₹ 60 lakh grant for panchayat buildings, but he used only ₹ 10.17 lakh for their development. Out of the total grant, the officer has allegedly misappropriated ₹ 49.82 lakh.

Similarly, ₹ 4.48 crore was received in the account of panchayat samiti Valtoha under the border area development programme (BADP) scheme. However, the officer has not utilised the amount 'as per the norms' and caused 'loss' to the panchayat samiti. Moreover, ₹ 3.01 crore was received to panchayat samiti Valtoha under Punjab Nirman Programme. Out of the total ₹ 3.01 crore, ₹ 17.01 crore was allegedly embezzled by the BDPO.

The complaint further says that ₹ 4.40 crore was received by Gharyala village's Baba Atma Singh Panchayat, but ₹ 2.60 crore was misappropriated by the officer from this fund.

Similarly, the BDPO, during his posting in Valtoha, utilised only one instalment of 20 per cent grant of 15th pay commission in the Valtoha Panchayat samiti, and according to the report of a junior engineer, only ₹ 50 lakhs of development works have been conducted, and ₹ 49 lakh are found to be misappropriated by the BDPO. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/suspended-bdpo-booked-for-embezzling-7-45-crore-panchayat-funds-in-tarn-taran-101655823285740.html>

18. White elephant plods on fast track (timesofindia.indiatimes.com) 22 June 2022

Ahmedabad: Two decisions, one by the Centre and the other by the state government, have turned one of the city's most ambitious PPP-based civic projects, SP Ring Road, into a white elephant. The decisions have drained the pocket of Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA).

Due to the central government's demonetization move in November 2016, AUDA paid Rs 3.14 crore as compensation to the concessionaire of SP Ring Road. In the same year, the state government decided to exempt passenger vehicles from paying the toll tax, for which AUDA paid Rs 20.30 crore to the concessionaire as compensation and will pay Rs 42.99 crore more. In all, these two decisions have cost AUDA Rs 66.43 crore.

The 76km SP Ring Road was constructed on the build, operate, and transfer (BOT) model by AUDA in 2006. Ahmedabad Ring Road Infrastructure Ltd (ARRIL), a joint venture between AUDA and Sadbhav Engineering Ltd, was set up for this project.

Sources in AUDA said that after the Union government announced demonetization, AUDA had asked ARRIL to stop collecting toll to rule out the possibility of the circulation of demonetized currencies of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000. ARRIL did not collect toll from November 10 to December 2 in 2016. On March 3, 2017, the concessionaire company wrote to AUDA demanding Rs 3.14 crore as compensation for the toll loss suffered during the 24-day period. Under the provisions of an agreement signed between AUDA and ARRIL, AUDA paid this amount.

On August 16, 2016, the state government exempted passenger vehicles from paying the toll tax. Following this, in October 2017, AUDA scrapped the toll for passenger cars on SP Ring Road. Later, ARRIL demanded that in accordance with the agreement, AUDA pay compensation for the loss of revenue.

Adhering to the state government's formula of calculating the loss in toll tax revenue on state highways, AUDA calculated SP Ring Road's loss of revenue by averaging its last three years' income. AUDA paid Rs 20.30 crore to ARRIL for its revenue loss for the October 2017 to July 2020 period.

AUDA also decided to pay Rs 59.72 lakh per month to ARRIL from August 2020 as compensation till the end of the contract. The SP Ring Road contract comes to an end in 2026 which means that the authority will pay Rs 42.99 crore more to ARRIL.

Sources said that the matter does not end here as now the concessionaire is in the process of demanding compensation for revenue losses suffered during the lockdown imposed because of Covid. According to sources, the company claims that it suffered revenue losses from commercial vehicles as only those commercial vehicles transporting essential commodities were allowed to ply during the lockdown. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/white-elephant-plods-on-fast-track/articleshow/92375833.cms>