

## Odisha reels under intense heatwave; mercury soars to 44.6 degrees Celsius in Baripada

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha continued to reel under intense heatwave conditions with the maximum temperature of 44.6 degrees Celsius recorded at Baripada town in Mayurbhanj Sunday.

According to a bulletin of IMD's Bhubaneswar centre, nine places in the state recorded a maximum temperature of 43 deg C or above during the day.

With 44 degrees C, Nuapada town in western Odisha was the second hottest place in the state.

The temperature was 43.8 degrees C at Talcher, followed by Jharsuguda (43.6), Keonjhar (43.6), Angul (43.3), Bolangir (43.2), Sundergarh (43) and Boudh (43). Apart from the above places, 21



other places registered a day temperature of 40 deg C or above.

The temperature was 41.6 deg C at both Bhubaneswar and Cuttack districts for April 22.

The IMD centre has issued heatwave Orange Warning (be prepared) for Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Boudh, Nuapada, Sundargarh, Bargarh, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Sonepur, Bolangir,

Kalabahani, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj. Meanwhile, the Odisha government on Sunday announced

and rainfall are expected to occur in the districts of Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Sonepur, Boudh, Nuapada, Balangir, Kalabahani, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj. Meanwhile, the Odisha government on Sunday announced

summer vacation for school students from April 25 in view of the prevailing intense heatwave conditions in the state.

In a statement, the state government said all schools, including those run by government, government-aided and private, will remain closed from April 25. The government has also announced morning classes from 6.30 am to 10.30 am in schools for three days from April 22 to April 24.

Earlier, the state had ordered the closure of all schools in the state for three days from April 18 to 20 after a severe heatwave situation during which the temperature rose to above 45 deg C, in the state.

## Amit Shah to blow poll bugle in Odisha April 25

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to blow the poll bugle in Odisha by addressing a public gathering at Sonepur of Subarnapur district in Western Odisha April 25.

Speaking to media persons here on Sunday, Golak Mohapatra, Odisha BJP Vice President, said that Amit Shah will address a public rally at Sonepur assembly segment under Balangir Parliamentary constituency April 25.

He will later hold meetings with party leaders in Bhubaneswar to devise a strategy for the upcoming simultaneous elections in Odisha.

"Bharatiya Janata Party will fight on the issue of Maa (Mother), Mati (Motherland) and Matr Bhasha (Mother Tongue) and the dignity of Odias. The party has started a



war for the pride of Odia and against the oppression of Odias, distortion of its language and forcing the youths of Odisha to become bonded labourers. The fight will kick start from Sonepur. Home Minister will blow the poll bugle in the state from Sonepur on April 25," Mohapatra said.

He said that the Home Minister would convey to the people of Odisha what he had said during an interview two days back. He said the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has weakened in the

state and BJP will be the new power in Odisha. Amit Shah during the interview had said that the BJP has decided to go solo in Odisha as its workers in the state believed that the party should fight separately for Odia language, culture, and for the pride of Odisha.

The Home Minister, in the interview, also urged the voters in Odisha to give the responsibility for the state's growth to the BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

BJP party workers in the state expect Home Minister Amit Shah to finally break the silence and launch a direct attack against the ruling BJD and its leaders over various issues.

Both the parties (BJD and BJP) were in talks to fight the elections together but the alliance talks did not materialise.

## Congress fumes as Modi says it will distribute people's property among Muslims; BJP shares Manmohan Singh's video to buttress claim



the country's assets," PM Modi said.

The Congress condemned the statement and said the Prime Minister through his "lies" was again dividing Hindu-Muslims.

Congress leader Pawan Khera accused PM Modi of spreading falsehood and claimed that the manifesto has no Muslim-Hindu references.

In a video message shared Sunday, Khera challenged the Prime Minister to provide evidence to support his claim.

"In the Congress manifesto, there is no mention of Hindu-Muslim. We challenge the Prime Minister to show us if the word Hindu or Muslim is written anywhere in our manifesto," he said.

After Khera's clarification, the BJP hit back at the Congress, sharing on its

official X handle a video of the then PM Dr Manmohan Singh's speech of December 9, 2006, in which he said: "We will have to devise innovative plans to ensure that minorities, particularly the Muslim minority, are empowered to share equitably in the fruits of development. They must have the first claim on resources."

The BJP has asked: "The Congress doesn't trust their own Prime Minister?" Dr Singh had made these remarks at the 52nd meeting of the National Development Council in New Delhi. "Here is Manmohan Singh, on camera saying that Muslims must have first claim on resources," says a social media user while posting the video

clip on X. It has triggered a debate in political circles with some saying that the former PM's statement displays "the subversive nature of Manmohan Singh formulation".

According to some, Dr Singh's remarks buttress the BJP's claims of the Congress being involved in politics of appeasement.

Meanwhile, Khera criticised PM Modi's remarks, suggesting that they reflected a lack of seriousness in the Prime Minister's approach. "This kind of lightness is there in your mentality and in your political values," Khera said. "We have talked about justice for the youth, women, farmers, tribals, middle class, and workers. Do you object to this as well?" he asked.

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## Forest fires in Odisha's Simlipal Tiger Reserve; fight on to douse flames



**Baripada(KCN):** The Odisha government has engaged disaster rapid action force personnel to douse the ongoing forest fires that broke

out outside the Simlipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district, officials said Sunday. Fires were noticed around 31 spots in the STR

Sunday, and the officials with adequate firefighting equipment have been engaged to douse the flames, an official said. Forest officials

have been spotting the fires for the last few days. Around 13 fires were spotted Saturday, and the number increased to 31 Sunday, the official said. "The operation is underway on a war footing in the STR. We have engaged staff and firefighting squads in all sensitive locations to attend the fire points," field director of STR, Prakash Chand Gogineni, said. The Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) team is also assisting us, he said.

# ODRAF Dousing Forest Fire



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Wildlife, Susanta Nanda is serious about the forest fire.

Shri Nanda is continuously monitoring forest fire in Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves and other Wildlife Habitats. Simlipal National Sanctuary is in his foremost mind as he is visiting the Tiger Reserve continuously. For timely

extinguishing of wildfire in Simlipal Tiger Reserve (STR), the State Wildlfie Organization has deployed ODRAF personnel to assist in fire fighting inside the jungle.

"Till Saturday, Simlipal sanctuary had received fire alerts for 115 points this year & all were extinguished by our green soldiers in time before it could cause any damage in scorching heat," Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) wildlife, Susanta Nanda informed on

X. Fire breaks out at 18 points in the north and 25 points in south of Simlipal sanctuary. A 25-member team of Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and Fire Service department engaged to douse the flames, informed STR Deputy Director Sai Kiran said. He termed the fire as manmade and said the situation is under control. The staff are in readiness to combat any eventuality and STR is in safe hands, he said.

## Jaundice outbreak in GCE, Keonjhar



**Keonjhar(KCN):** As many as 18 students at a hostel of the Government College of Engineering (GCE), Keonjhar were diagnosed with jaundice and admitted to Keonjhar district headquarters hospital, reports said Saturday. While some of them have been taken home by their

parents, the rest are under treatment at the hostel, sources said. After the incident, a medical team visited the hostel where the cases were reported. The team took samples of water being supplied to the hostel and inspected the quality of food being provided to the students in the hostel.

"Water samples have been sent to Bhubaneswar for examination. Some students have been taken home by their parents after they complained of health complications and others are under treatment at the hostel," said GCE Principal Trilochan Sahu.

Sources said some days back, one student was found suffering from jaundice by the hostel authorities. Subsequently, 17 students developed symptoms related to jaundice.

Chief District Medical Officer, Keonjhar Dr KC Prusty said, "Out of the total 12 blood samples collected from the hostel, one has been found to be positive in the hepatitis test so far. Among the rest, jaundice was detected in five samples and the rest six were diagnosed with mild jaundice. No such evidence was found in the water samples during the examination".

## Naveen, Kartik Star Campaigners



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Governing BJD today announced its 'Star Campaigners' for ensuing Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the State with naming BJD Supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and 5T Chairman Kartik Pandian at top of the list.

The party has submitted a list of 40 star campaigners for the Phase I and II of the four-phase twin elections in the State, which is scheduled for May 13 and 20. While CM and his close aide are at the top two positions in the list, organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das is at

third position in the list. The party has named many senior leaders for the first two phases of elections, which includes, Debi Prasad Mishra, Ranendra Pratap Swain, Niranjan Pujari, Pratap Jena, Atanu Sabayasachi Nayak, Pratap Keshari Deb, Sasmit Patra, Chiranjib Biswal, Sudhir Samal, Pradip Kumar Amat and Sanjay Das

Burma. The ruling party has named actor-turned politician, Muna Khan and Srimayee Mishra and Elina Das as Star Campaigners.

## Summer Vacation From 25 APR



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** With mercury crossing 45 degrees Celsius mark yesterday, the State Government announced summer vacation for all school students of the State from April 25.

The schools run by government, private and aided ones will remain closed in entire Odisha from April 25, State Information and Public Relation Department said in a tweet today.

The schools will function in the morning hours from 6.30 AM to 10.30 AM for three days from tomorrow (April 22 to 24).

Earlier, the state had ordered closure of all schools in the state for three days from April 18 to 20 after a severe

heatwave situation during which the temperature rose to above 45 degrees Celsius in the state. Today Till 2.30 PM, the highest temperature of 43.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Jharsuguda and Keonjhar while six other places recorded a maximum temperature of above 40 degrees Celsius. Those places are, Hirakud (41.8), Rourkela (41.8),

tropospheric westerly trough with lower level moist air from Bay of Bengal, Meteorological conditions becoming favourable for moderate thunderstorm activity with lightning, gusty surface wind, wind speed reaching 40 to 50 kmph and scattered to isolated rainfall over the districts within next 3-4 days, it said.

The Met Department has issued Heatwave Orange Warning (be prepared) Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Boudh, Nuapada, Sundargarh, Bargarh, Dhenkanal, Jajipur, Bhadrak, Sonepur, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Angul, Khurda, and Cuttack districts for tomorrow.

**Sambalpur University: Assistant Professor suspended over offensive social media posts**



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The authorities of Sambalpur University Saturday suspended Rajat Kumar Kujur, an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Public Administration Department for indiscipline.

As per the order of the Chancellor, the varsity's registrar has put Kujur under suspension.

Kujur was accused of misbehaving with PG council chairperson and posting offensive posts against her on social media. Following the allegation, an inquiry was ordered.

Based on the findings, the suspension of Rajat Kujur was recommended. During the suspension period, he is not allowed to the office of the PG Council Chairperson, a notification issued by the varsity stated.

Further, the authorities have also restricted his entry into the administrative building, any PG department/section or library. He has been barred from attending any meeting of the varsity during the suspension period. However, he will get a subsistence allowance at a rate equal to leave salary, the notification added.



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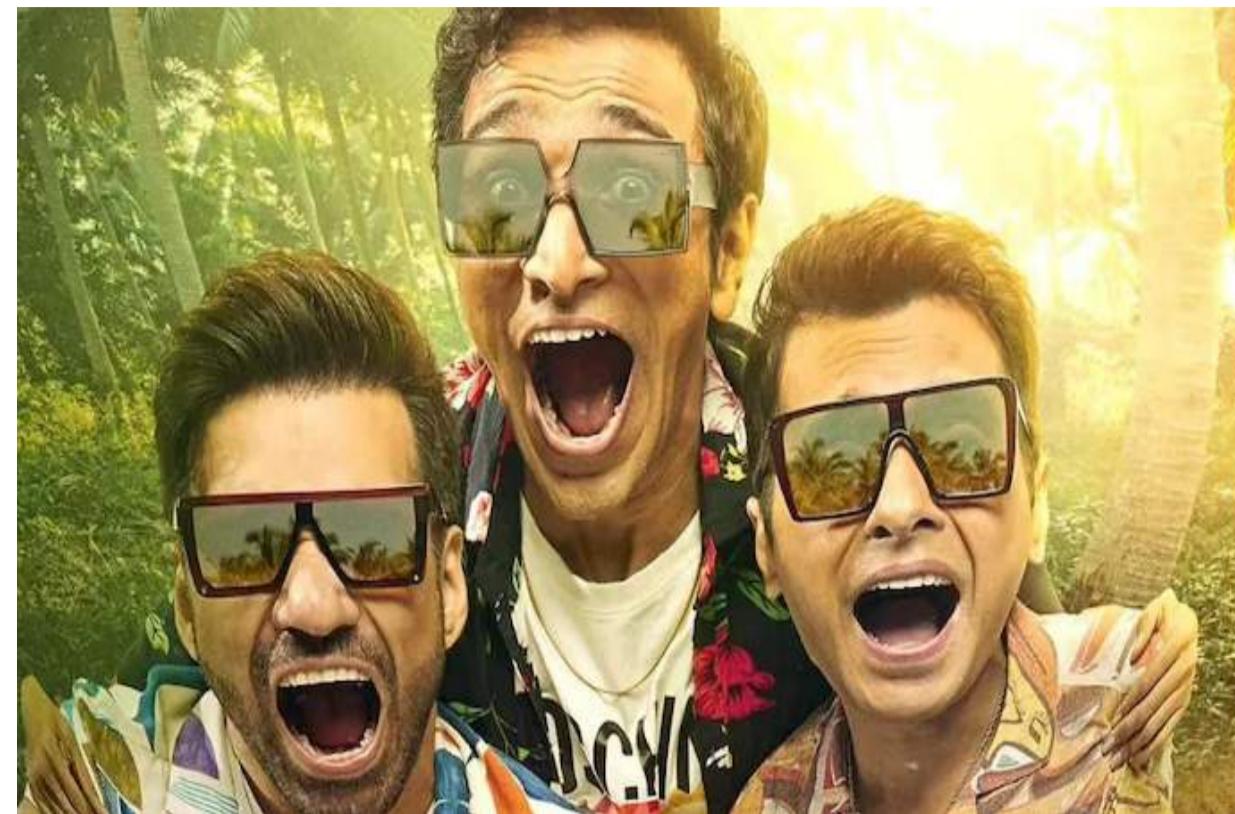
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## 'Madgaon Express' box office Day 2: Kunal Kemmu's film rakes in Rs 4.50 crore



'Madgaon Express' grossed Rs 3 crore on Day 2, doubling its opening day collection of Rs 1.50 crore. It stars Divyendu, Pratik Gandhi, and Avinash Tiwary in lead roles. The film was widely appreciated by fans and celebs alike.

'Uproariously funny' 'Madgaon Express' minted Rs 3 crore on Day 2, earning double

the sum from its opening day (Rs 1.50 crore). The total collection of the film stands at 4.50 crore. It saw an overall occupancy of 17.95 percent in the Hindi belt.

'Madgaon Express' clashed with Randeep Hooda's 'Swatantrya Veer Savarkar' at the box office.

With the tagline "Bachpan ke sapne lag

gaye apne", shining bright right at the top of 'Madgaon Express' poster, the film assures a nostalgic voyage into the dreams of childhood, coupled with oodles of laughter. The trailer is a laughter riot, which promises an unforgettable journey packed with friendship, fun and wild adventures. Directed by Kunal Kemmu and

backed by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar's Excel Entertainment, the film follows the journey of three childhood friends who embark on a trip to Goa that goes completely off-track. It released on March 22, 2024, promising viewers a heartfelt journey. The film also stars Nora Fatehi, Upendra Limaye, and Chhaya Kadamb in key roles.

## Saurabh Shukla-Directorial Dry Day Is The Comedy Drama You Need To See - Here's How You Can Watch It



on December 22. Dry Day is the latest addition to the Prime membership. Prime members in India enjoy savings, convenience, and entertainment, all in a single membership for just ₹1499/- per year. Dry Day is a story of an imperfect hero who challenges societal conventions, rebelling against norms out of love for his unborn child. The trailer of this comedy-drama intricately explores the societal impact of alcoholism, presenting a thought-provoking narrative rooted in social relevance.

Speaking about the film,

"Dry Day is a captivating blend of comedy and

entertain and enlighten the audiences. It brings me immense joy to partner with streaming service Prime Video, Emmay Entertainment, and a talented bunch of actors, collectively breathing life into a compelling and beautiful narrative."

"Dry Day is a captivating blend of comedy and

**Sushmita Sen says her father was 'not happy' about her wearing a swimsuit at pageant, stopped speaking with her because she decided to pursue showbiz**



accordingly. When the bomb was dropped on my father that she is going to Miss India, my father didn't speak to me for a bit," she said. Sushmita said that when she entered the world of pageants, her father was quite concerned as she had not even finished her graduation at that point. "I never went to a college and graduate, which was a big problem for my father because he

always said, 'Beta, do whatever, just have a degree,'" she recalled. Recalling the time she had an "emotional moment" with her father, Sushmita shared that he wasn't too happy about the fact that she would be wearing a swimsuit on stage. "I remember having this very emotional moment with my father when I promised him, I said 'Baba, I have to wear

## Hrithik Roshan's shout-out to Ananya, Siddhant, Adarsh after watching 'Kho Gaye...'

Hrithik Roshan praised the team of 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' on X. He praised the film's star cast comprising Ananya Panday, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Adarsh Gourav and director Arjun Varain for shouldering the genre well.

'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan', which released on December 26, opened to great reviews on Netflix. Hrithik Roshan was one of the latest celebs to watch the film and "thoroughly" enjoy it as well. Taking to



X, he wrote, "Saw Kho gaye hum kahaan a few days back. Thoroughly enjoyed it. Not an easy genre. @ananyapandayy you are a star. What a performance. @SiddhChats and @gauravadarsh. you guys were great. So well directed @ArjunVarain. Congrats to the entire team. It's a must watch! (sic)." Ananya Panday posted Hrithik's tweet on her Instagram story and wrote, "Sir, you just made my day! Thank you so much for your lovely words and appreciation. It's very motivating (sic)." Adarsh too, thanked the superstar. After the film's release in December, Ananya's rumoured boyfriend Aditya Roy Kapur shared in an interaction with Netflix that he really enjoyed the film: "I loved, loved, loved the film. I highly recommend it. Everyone's character was so well etched out and everyone did their job so well. Love. Love. Do watch." "Kahaani" and "Jaane Jaan" director Sujoy Ghosh praised Ananya Panday for her performance in Zoya Akhtar-backed 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan'. The filmmaker wrote on X, "Ananya panday is sooo good in kho gaye (sic)."

Playing the role of Nirmala, actor Shriya Pilgaonkar shares, "The experience of working on Dry Day has been wonderful and enriching in so many ways. It's a film that will entertain you and emotionally strike a chord as well. I really enjoyed building that relationship between Nirmala and Gannu. The story of our film is all about the transformative power of love and it will also draw your attention to certain important societal issues. I'm so grateful to have got the opportunity to collaborate with Saurabh Sir and the wonderful team at Emmay Entertainment. I appreciate."

**Jee Le Zaraa: Real reason behind Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt starrer's delay revealed and it's not date issues**

Jee Le Zaraa is one of the most talked about movies starring Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. The movie was announced a couple of years ago and there has been much excitement around the same as it is. Farhan Akhtar along with Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti are making this all-female road trip movie happen but there have been a lot of hiccups already.

Whether Jee Le Zaraa is being shelved or not, has Priyanka Chopra said no to the script, etc. have grabbed headlines in the last couple of days. But fresh reports revealing the real reason for the delay have surfaced. A lot of fans have questioned Farhan Akhtar about the delay of Jee Le Zaraa which is supposed to star Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt in the lead. There have been numerous reasons that have surfaced for the delay in making of the new movie. Recently, reports surfaced talking about Priyanka Chopra opting out of Jee Le Zaraa because she did not like the script. She was supposed to come down to India during Parineeti Chopra's wedding and sign the contract which did not happen. But that's not the case, as per a report in Koimoi.com, Priyanka is very much a part of the movie. She has not opted out of the project nor has she said 'no' to the script.

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## Income Tax Appeals before CIT(A)/ JCIT (A) PART 4



Adv. Narayan Jain &amp; CA Dilip Loyalka

(Contd. from 15th April, 2024)

24. Whether the assessee can take additional ground not specified in the grounds of appeal in Form No. 35 filed before CIT(A)/ JCIT (A): Section 250(5) specifically empowers the CIT(A) or Joint Commissioner (Appeals) to allow an appellant at the hearing of the appeal to go into any ground of appeal not specified in the Memorandum of Appeal. This power to allow a new or additional ground of appeal to be raised at the hearing is subject to the CIT(A)'s/ JCIT(A)'s being satisfied that the omission of that ground from the form of appeal was not willful or unreasonable as also held in the case of Ramgopal Ganpatrai & Sons Ltd. v. Commissioner of Excess Profits Tax 24 ITR 362 (Bom). If the CIT(A) has exercised his discretion

arbitrarily and not judicially in refusing to entertain additional grounds, the discretion would be open to correction by a higher authority - Manjushree Plantation Ltd. v. CIT 131 ITR 307 (Mad.). The Supreme Court has dismissed the SLP filed by Department in [1983] 144 ITR (St.) 50.

25. Can assessee file an appeal if A.O. refuses to grant stay of demand without even giving him an opportunity of being heard? If the A.O. fails to discharge his duties of giving an opportunity of being heard or his order refusing to grant stay of demand is arbitrary or unjust, the assessee may file a writ under Article 226 of the Constitution of India in jurisdictional High Court, urging for grant of stay of demand. The CIT (A) may also grant stay of demand. It is advisable to approach the concerned CIT or CCIT or ITAT before moving to the High

27. Power of CIT

Court. (A) is coterminous: In this context the following decisions are relevant-

In CIT v. Kanpur Coal Syndicate [1964] 53 ITR 225(SC) it was held that the AAC has plenary powers in disposing of an appeal. The scope of his power is co-terminus with that of the A.O.: The CIT(A) or ITAT can permit assessee to claim deduction not claimed before ITO when relevant materials are on record - CIT v. Motor Industries Co. Ltd. 229 ITR 137 (Kar.).

Similarly, Kolkata Bench of ITAT in the case of Kandi Industrial (P) Ltd. v. DCIT [2006] 100 ITR 462 (ITAT-Kol) held that if assessee is entitled to certain relief, deduction or benefit, assessee should not be denied or deprived of it, even if claim pertaining to same is made for first time before Tribunal during pendency of appeal before it. Also refer CIT v. B G Shirke Construction Technology (P) Limited [2017] 79 taxmann.com 306 (Bombay)/[2017] 246 Taxman 300 (Bombay); CIT v. Britannia Industries Ltd. [2017] 83 taxmann.com 365 (Calcutta), Principal CIT, Bengaluru v. Karnataka State Co-operative Federation Ltd [2021] 128 taxmann.com 1 (Karnataka).

28. Whether CIT (A) is required to give an opportunity of being heard to the A.O. before deciding the appeal: In the case of ITO v. Ace Engg. Co. [2009] 308 ITR (AT) 1 (Amritsar) it was held that when the

duty of deciding an appeal is imposed, those whose duty it is to decide it must act judicially. They must deal with the question referred to them without bias, and they must give to each of the parties the opportunity of adequately presenting the case made.

However, where in view of coercive measures for recovery of tax, assessee advances the date of hearing and the notice of such advancement is given to A.O., it cannot be said that A.O. has not been given proper opportunity - ITO v. Veto Electropowers 8 ITR (Trib.) 76 (Jai.).

29. What should be done if the assessee is not satisfied with the order of CIT(A): If the assessee is not satisfied with the order of the first appellate authority i.e. CIT(A), a second appeal before the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal can be filed. As per section 253 (as amended by the Finance Act, 2023), a taxpayer aggrieved by the following orders may appeal before the ITAT within 60 days of receipt of relevant order -

a. an order passed by CIT(A) u/s 154, 250, 270A, 271, 271A, 271AAB, 271AAC, 271AAD, 271J or 272A.

b. an order passed

by Joint Commissioner (Appeals) u/s 154, 250, 270A, 271, 271A, 271AAC, 271AAD, or 271J. (w.e.f. 1.4.2023) c. an order passed by an assessing officer u/s 115VZC(1)

d. an order passed by Pr. CIT or CIT u/s 12AA, or u/s 12AB or 80G(5)(vi), or 263, or 270A, 271, 272A or an order u/s 154 amending any such order

e. an order passed by PrCCIT/CCIT/Pr DGIT/DGIT/ PrDIT/ DIT under sec 263, 272A or order u/s 154 amending any such order.

f. an order passed by an assessing officer u/s 143(3) or 147 or 153A or 153C in pursuance of the directions of the Dispute Resolution Panel or an order assed u/s 154 in respect of such order;

g. an order passed by an assessing officer u/s 143(3) or u/s 147 or u/s 153A or sec. 153C with the approval of the Pr. CIT or CIT as referred to in sec. 144BA(12) or an order passed u/s 154 or 155 in respect of such order.

h. an order passed by the Principal CIT / CCIT / CIT / prescribed authority under sub-clause (iv) or (v) or (vi) or (via) of clause 23C of section 10. Even prior to the amendment it was held that such orders are

appealable before Tribunal - Dev Bhumi Industries v. CIT [2016] 75 taxmann.com 247 (Himachal Pradesh).

30. Appeal before ITAT by the Department: As per section 253(2), on being directed by the Pr. CIT or CIT, the A.O. may also file appeal before the ITAT against an order passed u/s 154 or u/s 250 by the CIT(A) or w.e.f. 1.4.2023 by Joint Commissioner (Appeals).

Section 253(8) provides that the Central Government may make a scheme by Notification for the purpose of providing faceless appeal to the ITAT u/s 153(2) so as to impart greater efficiency, transparency and accountability. The Finance Act, 2022 has amended Section 253(9) to provide that the Central Government shall issue direction that any of the provisions of the Act shall not apply or shall apply with such exceptions, modifications and adaptations as may be specified in the Notification, provided that no direction shall be issued after 31.3.2024.

31. Whether an order passed by first appellate authority can be rectified: Yes, any order passed under the Income-tax Act by CIT

(A) can be rectified u/s 154(1) in case of any mistake apparent from the record. It may be mentioned that as per section 154(1) any income-tax authority referred to in section 116 is entitled to rectify its order and clause (c), (cc) and (d) of section 116 covers CIT (A). It may also be noted that -

a. CIT (A) may make an amendment of its own motion or,

b. shall make such amendment for rectifying any mistake which has been brought to its notice by the assessee or by the Assessing Officer. However, if any amendment has the effect of enhancing an assessment or reducing a refund or otherwise increasing the liability of the assessee, it shall be made only after satisfying the requirements as per section 154(3), which are-

(i) giving notice to the assessee of the authority's intention to do so; and

(ii) allowing the assessee, a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

Adv. Jain and CA Loyalka are authors of book "How to Handle Income Tax Problems". Email: npjainadv@gmail.com

## AI has enhanced the potential reach and flexibility of academicians



This article is an attempt to look at how universities can encourage the ethical and transparent use of artificial intelligence tools to support learning while guarding against misconduct. Generative artificial intelligence (AI) has stirred great debate and discussion across higher education. Opinion pieces, blogs and social media feeds are full of questions with no clear answers, yet educators are having to grapple with AI concerns in their classes. AI-generated text is widely accessible and constantly evolving, so educators must figure out how to adapt and what to adopt.

AI technology has the potential to revolutionise and elevate the educational journey for students by introducing personalised learning experiences tailored to individual needs. It presents avenues for

enhancing accessibility in education. Nevertheless, it is imperative to address potential ethical issues that accompany its integration, which raise questions including: what is the potential impact on academic integrity? Will technology encourage cheating? To what extent should AI-generated data or tools be allowed for university teaching and learning? How do we adapt our teaching in a world where the majority of people can turn to technology for a response?

These issues are not novel. Plagiarism, cheating and academic integrity have been at the heart of ethical discussion for years. Unfortunately, AI tools have become associated with academic dishonesty. Technological use has been increasingly embraced by teachers over the past 10 years as more information and instruction is delivered online, with mixed success. Such tools have enhanced the potential reach of educators and increased flexibility in instructional delivery but there remain challenges

associated with varied computer access and skills, increased isolation and self-direction. AI-generated text is the latest shift in higher education, prompting us to reflect on what learning means now and in the future. AI enhances the availability of information and can handle complex tasks, analyse large volumes of data and make decisions with minimal human involvement. So, when applied to teaching and learning, the key question is: when does the use of AI or technology become a violation of the learning process?

The use of AI and other technological tools does not inherently hinder learning; the critical factor is how to use the technology while maintaining academic integrity. Information generated by AI can be inaccurate or misleading, meaning it will fabricate research, fake a source, not attribute authors for their work, and obscure students' comprehension of subject matter. This can undermine the educational process. Despite the limitations, it is important to explore the potential

Prof. Sunil Goyal



of technology to enrich students' productivity and learning experience. Instead of taking a punitive stance, educators should model responsible use of new technology and show how AI can support learning, demonstrating potential structures, approaches or perspectives. In academic writing, syntax, grammar use and maintaining originality and clarity are paramount. However, at times, selecting the

appropriate words and structure can be a hurdle. This is where tools like Quillbot and Grammarly step in. These help students to enhance their written work by improving the expression of language and correcting spelling, grammatical errors, punctuation blunders or a w k w a r d phrasing. Tools like ChatGPT-3 and GPT-4 can also assist with effective writing. Students can be asked to assess the tool's

response to a major question or concern in their discipline. This allows them to employ critical thinking skills to determine the quality and depth of the AI response. In this regard, an effective approach has been initiated by Prof. Sunil Goyal, Dean, School of Social Sciences and Management Studies & School of Agriculture and Rural Development, under the guidance and directions of Dr.

Ramdas G. Atram, Vice Chancellor, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University of Social Sciences (BRAUSS), Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (MHOW), Madhya Pradesh, which involves engaging students with generative AI to elucidate theories linked to real-life occurrences. For example, we at BRAUSS have asked our students to use generative AI to examine the Syrian migrant crisis using a specific migration theory. By assessing the practical application of a theoretical concept and related AI response, students at BRAUSS are encouraged to analyse the theory from different angles and build comprehension of that subject area.

In BRAUSS, we believe that future efforts should focus on defining the "appropriate use" of AI tools. For this, students of BRAUSS are being educated not only on the capabilities but also on the limits of AI. In this way, other universities can also follow us to nurture a generation of learners who are adept at harnessing technology but also equipped with critical skills for discernment and effective

application. As AI becomes ubiquitous, we at BRAUSS are equipping our students with the necessary skills and understanding to use these tools responsibly. We are embracing AI thoughtfully to ensure that human interaction, critical thinking and the value of in-depth education are preserved and will likely thrive in this new educational landscape. It is important to strike a balance, whereby AI enhances and supports rather than violates the learning process.

AI can and should be a complement to student learning, not a substitute. The ability to critically evaluate and assess text is an essential academic skill – one that will become increasingly valuable as students encounter more AI-generated content.

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M witnessed the cultural performance and dance drama presentation during the Commemoration of 2550th Bhagwan Mahaveer Nirvan Mahotsav on the auspicious occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi

## Indian Envoy In Sri Lanka Hosts Ayodhya Ram Temple Trust Officials, Discusses Ramayana Trail



**Colombo(KCN):** India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha on Sunday hosted top officials of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust and discussed ways in which India can support the development of the Ramayana Trail in the island nation.

Mr Jha met Swami Govind Dev Giri Maharaj, the treasurer of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust and his accompanying team at India House," the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka said in a post on X.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust is the body responsible for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

"High Commissioner @santjha hosted Swami Govind Dev Giri Maharaj, Treasurer of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust & his accompanying team at India House," the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka said in a post on X.

"Discussed ways in which India can support

(the) development of #RamayanaTrail in Sri Lanka, promoting P2P (people-to-people) connect and economic growth," it said.

Mr Jha also joined the inauguration event of the Ramayana Trail Project in Sri Lanka, endorsed by Swami Govind Dev Giri Maharaj.

The Ramayana is one of the two major Sanskrit epics of ancient India and an important text of Hinduism. There are 52 sites on the Ramayana Trail in Sri Lanka.

"Discussed ways in which India can support

## "No Warranty For Modi's Guarantee": Revanth Reddy On Congress's Chances

**New Delhi(KCN):** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has expressed confidence his party the Congress will win 14 of the 17 Lok Sabha seats in the state.

Mr Reddy became Chief Minister in December 2023 after the Congress defeated K Chandrashekhar Rao's Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

"Every medicine has an expiry date," Mr Reddy told reporters in Karnataka's capital Bengaluru during an informal interaction, adding Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lose the Lok Sabha elections 2024.

The Chief Minister did not tell whether his confidence comes from the party winning the assembly election in the southern state.



The BJP and its ideological mentor Rashtra Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) have been against the well-being and development of southern states, the Chief Minister alleged. "There is no warranty for Modi's guarantees," Mr Reddy said.

He dared the Opposition BRS to win even a single seat in the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP may stand to gain from the votes that the BRS will lose, but the Congress will still be able to take at least 14 seats, Mr Reddy said.

He said the Congress

party, unlike the BJP and the RSS that have been discriminating against southern states, has always been inclusive by appointing leaders from these states to key cabinet and party positions, even when the Congress had swept the Hindi heartland.

Though Mr Reddy criticised Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM of allegedly colluding with the BJP to polarise voters during election season, he admitted that in a city as Hyderabad where terror groups have tried to radicalise young Muslims, the presence of a political party as AIMIM helped in containing radicalisation.

Mr Reddy recently campaigned in Kerala too. He said the BJP will likely be restricted to a maximum of 20 among the 130 seats in the southern states. In the northern states, the BJP's numbers will decrease from what it had got in 2019. The elections are being held in seven phases. Votes will be counted on June 4.

## BJP Poll Candidates Face Farmers' Protest In Punjab During Campaigning

**Chandigarh(KCN):** The farmers on Sunday protested against BJP candidate Dinesh Babu in Batala and party leader Arvind Khanna in Barnala in Punjab as the party leaders continued to face their wrath over their unmet demands.

The BJP candidates and leaders have been facing protests from the farmers who have shown them black flags when they were campaigning for the Lok Sabha polls.

Party candidates Hans Raj Hans from Faridkot seat, Taranjit Singh Sandhu from Amritsar and Preneet Kaur from Patiala have already witnessed the anger of the farmers.

In Fatehgarh Churian in Batala, a group of farmers on Sunday raised slogans against Mr Babu, who is the BJP nominee from Gurdaspur Lok Sabha seat.

Police even tried to stop the protesters from heading towards the venue where Mr Babu and the BJP supporters were holding an election related programme.

One of the protesters at Fatehgarh Churian said they will continue to oppose the BJP leaders. Reacting to the protest, BJP candidate Babu said it was only his party which can resolve their issues while the other political outfits will "use" them for their vested interests.

"We are with the farmers and I am also a farmer. Their issues can be resolved through dialogue," said Mr Babu.

In another incident, BJP leader Arvind Khanna faced the farmers' protest in Barnala where he had gone to campaign. A heavy police force was deployed and barricades were raised.



One of the women protesters slammed the BJP government for not allowing the farmers to go towards Delhi and using "force" against them. Another protester said they came to hold the protest against Mr Khanna in a peaceful manner but the police personnel did not allow them to move towards the venue.

Mr Khanna, however, alleged that it was not

farmer outfits but the workers of the AAP who were "orchestrating" such protests. "The farmers are either in their fields (for wheat harvesting) or mandis (for selling wheat). These outfits are the people of (chief minister) Bhagwant Mann and these are not farmers," alleged Mr Khanna, adding that the Modi government stands

by the farmers. Meanwhile, BJP candidate from the Amritsar Lok Sabha seat Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who has also been facing farmers' ire, said he belongs to a farming family.

He said he emphasised on increasing the income of the farmers. "I am campaigning and I will continue to do so," he said.

The farmers under the banner of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) have already said they will oppose the BJP and will ask the people to "punish" the saffron party in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

The farmers owing allegiance to various farm outfits are upset with the BJP-led Centre for not accepting their demands, including a law on minimum support price.

They were also angry over not being allowed to head towards Delhi, forcing them to camp at Shambhu and Khanauri border points of Punjab and Haryana.

The SKM (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) are spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo' march by the farmers to press the government to accept their demands which include that the Centre should give a legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for the crops.

The farmers have been staying put at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 when their march was stopped by the security forces.

The polling for the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab will be held in the last phase on June 1.

# Odisha: Congress releases candidates list for 2 Lok Sabha, 13 Assembly seats

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Congress Saturday released a fresh list of candidates for two Lok Sabha seats and 13 Assembly constituencies of Odisha. The party has replaced candidates in one Lok Sabha and three Assembly constituencies for which nominees had been announced earlier. The Congress has replaced Mohan Hembram with Binod Aska Parliamentary

Bihari Nayak at the

Keonjhar Lok Sabha seat.

Similarly, the party has fielded Sarat Kumar Pradhan in place of Manoj Kumar Acharya on Kantamal Assembly segment under Kandhamal Parliamentary constituency. Sanjay Kumar Mandal has replaced Bipin Bihari Swain at Kabisuryanagar Assembly seat under

Congress has fielded Dulal Chandra Pradhan on the high profile Sambalpur Lok Sabha constituency where Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan from Bharatiya Janata Party and the

constituency. The party also nominated Krushna Sagaria for Jayadev Assembly segment under Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha seat in place of Jayant Kumar Bhoi. Biju Janata Dal heavyweight Pranab Prakash Das have already hit the campaign trail.

constituency. Debokanta Sharma has been fielded by the Congress from Aska Lok Sabha

the elder son of Khandapada and expelled senior Pipili Assembly leader Suresh Kumar Routray, on Nimapara Assembly segment in Puri Lok Sabha constituency.

Congress also fielded former BJD MLA Sipra Mallick who joined the party April 18 from Kendrapara Assembly constituency.

The party also left two Assembly seats in Sundargarh district, Biramitrapur and Bonai constituencies, to the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and CPI-M, respectively. Meanwhile, Amita Biswal, Manoj Kumar Pradhan and Gyan Ranjan Patnaik have been nominated from Jharsuguda,



## CS Asks For Enforcement



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** In view of the upcoming general elections-2024 in the state, another coordination meeting of the State Level Enforcement Committee was held today under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Pradeep Kumar Jena at Lok Seva Bhawan.

Earlier, a meeting was held in this regard, but in today's meeting, the latest situation was deliberated with the members of the Enforcement Committee.

The members of the state-level committee, which has been constituted to ensure that the upcoming general elections are held in a peaceful manner and strict adherence to the model code of conduct, participated in the discussion on various issues.

Chief Secretary Shri Jena stressed on the need for investigations and raids in various systems to take strict action

against the defaulters of the law.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management and Forest & Environment, Satyabrata Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, General Administration and Public Grievances, Surendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary Home, Deo Ranjan Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Excise, S K Lohani, Principal Secretary, Commerce and Transport, Usha Padhee, Transport Commissioner Amitabh Thakur.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Commissioner of GST, Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director General of Police, Arun Sarangi, Commissioner, Transport, Amitabh Thakur, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief of Forest Force, Odisha, Debidutta Biswal, PCCF Wildlife Susanta Nanda and

others.

In the meeting, the Police Administration has so far held the law and order situation in the state, in the context of the peaceful conduct of the elections, infiltrators and extremists.

Information about the action taken by the police to deal with the activities was presented. In various criminal cases, the police provided information about the activities taken so far, seizure of arms, ammunition etc. since the announcement of elections, steps being taken in liquor and narcotic cases.

Police deployment in various districts, strict vigil at police check posts, excise check posts, forest department check posts, etc., infiltrators indulging in anti-social activities, illegal drug smuggling and illegal cash. The meeting emphasized on keeping a close watch on transactions. In view of the general

elections, the concerned police administration, excise department, forest department, commerce and transport department for strict adherence to the model code of conduct. The heads of various departments have been directed to coordinate and take action.

In the meeting, the excise department has taken a decision so far regarding the seizure of illegal drugs. The principal secretary of the department gave information about the activities.

Similarly, the GST Commissioner presented information related to the action taken against the defaulters of the Goods and Services Tax Act. He informed that regular inter-state coordination meetings are being held in this regard and joint raids are being conducted in coordination with the Departments of Commerce and Transport.

## SUMUM On Organ Service

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** For the second time in nine months, multiple organs retrieved from a brain dead patient at the SUM Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM), a quaternary care hospital here, were flown to other cities on Monday for transplantation providing a new lease of life to two critical patients.

The liver and heart were retrieved from Krushna Chandra Mahabhoi, a CRPF jawan, who was pronounced brain dead in the hospital on March 23

night. The 48-year-old patient, who had suffered kidney failure and was on dialysis, was admitted into the hospital on March 20 and was undergoing treatment in the ICU, hospital sources said. His condition deteriorated subsequently leading to subdural haemorrhage. The treating team conducted an Apnea test on Sunday morning which confirmed he was brain dead.

The family members of the patient then decided

to donate his organs and informed the hospital authorities accordingly. The hospital quickly got in touch with the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) in this connection following which the information reached the Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (ROTO) and National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO).

When the organ viability was tested the patient's

liver and heart were found to be in good condition for transplantation.

As per the allocation of organs made by NOTTO the liver was taken to Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre at Mumbai for transplantation on a patient while the heart was flown to Kolkata for transplantation on another patient under treatment at the Medica Superspeciality Hospital there.



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## Capri Global Appoints Coaching Beyond as Consultant for UAE ILT20 League

**Mumbai:** Capri Global has announced an association with Coaching Beyond, a premier cricket coaching institute, as a consultant for the franchise team of the UAE ILT20 League. The institution will assist Capri Global in appointment of coaching staff and matters related to cricket operations. R Sridhar, former fielding coach of the Indian Cricket Team and one of the founding members of Coaching Beyond, will be the Director of Cricket for Capri Global during the UAE ILT20 League. Capri Global intends to strengthen the cricket ecosystem on the global platform by engaging the right sporting talent and nurturing them. The company aims to play a vital role as an enabler by empowering deserving talent to showcase their sporting strength to the globe. Speaking on the association, Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, Capri Global, said, "Capri Global aims to reinforce the visibility and

popularity of sports nationally and globally and popularize homegrown sports to create opportunities for aspiring talent. We are pleased to associate with Coaching Beyond, a brainchild of sports stalwarts who will assist us in evaluating the deserving talent and offer state-of-the-art sports training infrastructure, world-class technology, and training to sportspeople. Mr. Sridhar's experience as a player and coach is almost unrivaled and his strategic insights, coaching approach, and collaborative style will be invaluable for our franchise team. We see great synergy coming through this alliance, including a host of exciting moments that are set to elevate the cricketing experience for the Indian audience on the global platform."

Coaching Beyond is a premier cricket coaching institute in India that provides performance-driven cricket coaching,

## Ashok Leyland launches industry first 8-wheel truck – AVTR 2620

**Chennai:** Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, launched the industry first 8 wheeler truck – AVTR 2620. With this launch of AVTR 2620, Ashok Leyland becomes the first and only player in the country to have a full range of trucks based on lift axle technology from GVW of 25.5 to 47.5T. This new product can be operated as 25.5 T(6x2) truck with the lift axle down (offering

payload closer to regular 6x2 MAV truck) and a 4x2 truck (18.5T GVW) with lift axle up (lower fuel and operating cost similar to 4x2) during light load/partial load/ return empty. This new product thus offers an excellent operational flexibility to customers to choose the option based on their load, offering best-in-class Total Cost of Operation (TCO) benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head - M&HCV, Ashok Leyland, said, "Ashok

Leyland has a history of introducing products which have disrupted the CV industry. AVTR 2620 with its unique lift axle configuration offers higher TCO advantage to our customers operating in Ecom, Parcel & tanker. AVTR 2620 is a testament of Ashok Leyland's technological prudence & our commitment towards providing better logistical solutions to our customers, aligning with our philosophy of AppkiJeet, HamariJeet."

## Seagram's Royal Stag BoomBox presents a sensational music festival in Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar: Travelling through four youth hubs in India this year, Royal Stag Boombox – The Original Sound of Generation Large – is set to offer a spellbinding musical experience intertwined with art and culture in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on March 30th, 2024. The music festival will bring together the best-loved melodies of Bollywood and the pulsating beats of hip-hop with artists Badshah, Ikka, Neeti Mohan and Ali Merchant. Get Ready to Live it Large with one-of-its-kind music, art and cultural experience. Tickets available on BookMyShow, PayTM Insider and Ticket Genie.

## Nuvoco Vistas Launches Its Second Ready-Mix Plant in Patna



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group has widened its operational presence with the inauguration of its second state-of-the-art Ready-mix Concrete Plant (RMX) as Patna-II. Situated strategically at Ranipur Milki Chak,

Begampur, bypass, this plant marks Nuvoco's continued commitment for providing top-quality building materials to the Patna region. Strategically located approximately 24 kilometers from the first plant, Patna-II is positioned as Nuvoco's regional flagship plant. It

capitalizes on untapped market potential by providing quick access to Nuvoco's Cement Plant in the region. Its proximity to nearby Industrial, Commercial, and Residential developments guarantees high-quality concrete solutions on time.

Mr. Prashant Jha, Chief of the Ready-Mix (RMX) Concrete and Modern Building Materials business at Nuvoco Vistas expressed his excitement at the inauguration of this latest plant, stating, "The launch of the Patna-II plant underscores Nuvoco's dedication to providing

innovative solutions to meet the evolving needs of the construction industry in Bihar. This new facility will not only strengthen our presence in the region but also enable us to serve our customers more efficiently."

The Patna-II facility has a capacity of 60 cubic meters per hour and features a Twin Shaft Mixer capable of producing all grades of concrete. This includes Value Added Products (VAPs) under the brands of XCON - Xpert concrete with Nuvoco mixes, CONCRETO visualizing Self-Compacting Smart Concrete, Light Weight Concrete (Structural & Non-structural grades), Fibre Enriched Concrete, High Strength Concrete, Water & Crack Resistant Concrete, Foundation Expert Concrete, ECODURE - Range of Green Concrete, ARTISTE - Decorative Concrete Floors, and INSTAMIX - Ready to use Bagged Concrete.

## Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

**Mumbai :** Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

## Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

**Bhubaneswar:** Unacademy, India's largest learning platform\*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gamini Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

**Bhubaneswar:** Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to 7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by 2050.

The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Climate Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries.

India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

## Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.



# KKR hand RCB one-run heartbreak at Eden

**Kolkata, (KCN):** In yet another high-scoring game this season, Kolkata Knight Riders held their nerve at the end to seal a thrilling one-run win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru at Eden Gardens on Sunday (April 21).

Chasing a big target of 223, RCB were cruising at one point through fifties from Will Jacks and Rajat Patidar but Andre Russell removed them in the same over to twist the contest. RCB continued to stay in the

hunt through Dinesh Karthik, and a late cameo from Karn Sharma almost pulled it off. With three needed off the last ball, Mitchell Starc delivered a wide yorker and then Phil Salt produced an acrobatic run out to catch Lockie Ferguson well short on the second run, to give KKR crucial two points. Earlier in the afternoon, it was business as usual for the Knight Riders with the bat after being sent in by Faf du Plessis on a dry-looking surface.

For a change, Sunil Narine couldn't get going as RCB executed their wide line plans and yorkers precisely at him but couldn't do the same to his partner. Salt unleashed a 14-ball 48 to ensure that KKR got another riveting PowerPlay score to their list. Narine's scratchy innings was put to an end by Yash Dayal with a deceptive slower ball that got miscued to long-off. Salt then narrowly missed out on his fifty as he holed

out to deep mid-wicket and his dismissal was soon followed by Angkrish Raghuvanshi who fell to a blinder of a catch from Cameron Green at mid-wicket. The Australian then struck with the ball a few minutes later to get Venkatesh Iyer on the short ball. From 56/0, KKR slipped to 97/4 in the space of 25 deliveries.

Despite the fall of wickets, the high run rate prevalent allowed Shreyas Iyer and Rinku

Singh to play with minimal fuss. They still continued to find the fence, albeit with a tone of restraint in the partnership. Shreyas and Rinku were particularly aggressive against spin, using their feet to clear the ropes. The left-hander fell to Green who once again used a short ball to prise out a wicket. Shreyas did get to his first fifty of the season but he also perished to a lovely diving catch from Du Plessis at long-off. It's not always that a

batter overshadows Andre Russell in finishing an innings off, with the West Indian also present at the crease. But Ramandeep Singh did just that, smashing a nine-ball 24 to propel the total past the 220-run mark at a time when RCB would have fancied to restrict KKR to much lower. Russell also got some runs but was nowhere close to his fluent self.

With such a big total to chase, RCB had no option but to go hard from the get-go. Virat Kohli set the tone with a hook over fine leg against Harshit Rana in the first over. Mitchell Starc also got struck for a six in his first over by Kohli but the promise was cut short in Rana's second over. A high full toss saw Kohli checking his shot, only to lob it straight up for a return catch. The former RCB captain was adamant on a waist-high no ball but he had stepped out of the crease. The third umpire eventually sided with the bowler and Kohli had to walk off. After both RCB openers

fell early, the team needed somebody else to stand up. Known for his explosive gameplay at the top of the order, Will Jacks came to the party with Rajat Patidar also joining in. Both were severe on the pacers while Patidar looked equally at ease against spin. Boundaries started to flow, mostly in the form of sixes, and KKR were unable to put a lid on the scoring rate. The pair added 102 off just 48 balls to put the chase in cruise control for RCB.

## Virat Kohli asked the owners to 'honour the girls' at RCB Unbox event: Kate Cross

**New Delhi:** RCB all-rounder Kate Cross revealed that it was Virat Kohli, who asked the team owners to 'honour the girls' after the historic Women's Premier League (WPL) 2024 triumph. Earlier this month, RCB beat Delhi by 8 wickets in the final at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi. Left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux won the Player

of the Match award after she ran through the opposition's top order and picked up 3 wickets. Shreyanka Patil also picked up 4 wickets as Bangalore restricted Delhi to 113 in 18.3 overs. Thereafter, Bangalore chased down the target with 3 balls to spare on the back of Smriti Mandhana's 31, Sophie Devine's 32 and Elyse Perry's unbeaten

35. On Tuesday, March 19, the RCB Unbox event took place at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. During the event, the men's team gave the women's side a guard of honour, showing their appreciation for their achievements. Cross, who did not play a single match this season, said that it was Kohli's idea to give the girls their due respect.

## Sanju Samson backs Riyan Parag to give 'something special' to Indian cricket

**New Delhi:** Assam all-rounder Sanju Samson heaped praise on Parag following his heroics in Jaipur, saying he could give Indian cricket something very special in the future.

Parag scored his third IPL half-century to guide Rajasthan to a fighting total of 185 for 5 in the first innings. The home side then restricted Delhi to 173 for 5 to win the match by 12 runs. Speaking at the post-match presentation, Samson said there's something really special that Parag can give to Indian cricket. Parag scored an unbeaten 84 off 45 balls, hitting seven boundaries and six

maximums. This was Parag's highest score in the IPL, which took him into the top-two run-scorers in IPL 2024. He only trails Heinrich Klaasen of Hyderabad (143 runs) in the race for the Orange Cap. "Riyan has been a big name in the last 4-5 years. Whenever I go back to Kerala, everyone keeps asking me about him and it's great to see him delivering for us. The season hasn't begun yet.

Rybakina, the highest seed remaining in the women's draw, won nearly 82% of her first-serve points but converted only two of her 11 break-point chances en route to securing victory in two hours 33 minutes. In the opening set, Rybakina squandered her first five break-point chances before solving Azarenka's serve to grab a 4-3 lead and she leaned on her astonishing power before closing out the 51-

minute set with a hold to love.

Azarenka refused to go quietly, however, conjuring up a flawless display in the second set in which she limited Rybakina to five points and broke her serve three times to force a decider. Rybakina, after a change of outfit, opened the third set moving much better and broke at the fifth attempt in the fifth game to move 3-2 up when Azarenka splashed a backhand into the net. Rybakina crumbled in

her first chance to serve out the match, however, as Azarenka got a break to get to 5-5 after she chased down a drop shot before her opponent sent a backhand volley into the net. Rybakina, serving to stay in the match, held to love to force a tiebreak and she won the first three points of it before closing out the win. Carlos Alcaraz's hopes for a Sunshine Double came undone in spectacular fashion as the top-seeded Spaniard fell 6-2, 6-4 on Thursday

days ago but fell three wins shy of becoming the first man to clinch the Sunshine Double since Roger Federer in 2017.

Zverev attacked Marozsan's serve and converted three of his seven break-point chances, swatted aside the two break points he faced and won 80% of his first serve points en route to the last four in Miami where he has yet to drop a set. Despite not dropping a set in windy conditions, Zverev had his hands full with Marozsan, who is making his Miami debut and enjoyed top-10 upsets over Holger Rune and Alex de Minaur on the way to the quarter-finals. Up next for Dimitrov will be German fourth seed Zverev, who overcame tricky conditions to beat Hungary's Fabian Marozsan 6-3, 7-5 in the day's first match on the Stadium court.

## Miami Open 2024: Rybakina sets up final with Collins, Dimitrov stuns Alcaraz



## Collins Obuya bows out after quarter-century career



Sangakkara and Aravinda de Silva in succession.

His exploits earned him a place with Warwickshire the following summer, becoming the first Kenyan international to land a county contract. In England his bowling seemed to desert him, and Warwickshire released him after just one season, as a combination of injury and illness signalled the start of a difficult period in Obuya's career. Nonetheless he would force his way back into the national side as a

battling all-rounder, a role he would play for Kenya for another two decades. His proudest achievement with the willow would come at the 2011 World Cup, his unbeaten 98 against an Australia attack that included Mitchell Johnson, Shaun Tait and Brett Lee a rare highlight in what was otherwise a dismal tournament for Kenya. Indeed it was evident that the side were already in steep decline when Obuya took over the captaincy from Jimmy Kamande in the aftermath of that tournament, and the 2011 World Cup would prove Kenya's last appearance on the global stage to

date. Obuya led the side through the 2011-13 World Cricket League Championship, increasingly resuming responsibilities with the ball, but could not prevent the side slipping down the rankings as they were eclipsed by Ireland and a rising Afghanistan. Following a calamitous T20 Qualifier in 2012 that saw Kenya eliminated at the group stage, Obuya relinquished the short-format captaincy to Rakesh Patel, and handed over the 50-over armband before the 2014 World Cup Qualifier.

That tournament would see Kenya finally stripped of the "permanent" ODI status that the ICC had granted them in 1997, bringing an end to Obuya's recognised ODI career, which had spanned 12 years, 104 matches, 2044 runs and 35 wickets. It would be another decade before Obuya finally hung up his boots however, having amassed well over 300 international caps for his country.

## Mumbai's Ranji Trophy players to earn double from next season



**NEW DELHI:** The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has decided to match the match fee its players get paid by the BCCI for the Ranji players. From next season, the Mumbai Ranji players' earnings will double with the most experienced player getting INR 1.2 lakh a day. The BCCI currently pays INR 60,000 per day to a player who has played more than 40 Ranji games, INR 50,000 to those who have played between 21 and 40 games and INR 40,000 for those who've played up to 20 games, with the reserves earning INR 30,000, INR 25,000 and INR 20,000 in the

respective categories. With the MCA doubling the match fee, a senior Mumbai player will earn INR 6 lakh from a five-day Ranji game [knockouts] and up to INR 50 lakh from a season if the team reaches the final. "The MCA proudly announces a groundbreaking initiative aimed at promoting the Ranji Trophy and fostering the growth of red ball cricket in the Mumbai Cricket jurisdiction," the MCA said after an Apex Council meeting where the initiative was proposed by association president Amol Kale. The decision underscores the association's