

President Murmu arrives in Odisha, unveils Pandit Raghunath Murmu's statue in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): President Droupadi Murmu Tuesday arrived in Odisha and unveiled a statue of Santali writer and educator Pandit Raghunath Murmu in Bhubaneswar.

She also visited the Adim Owar Jarpa Jager, a sacred place for Santals, in Bhubaneswar and offered prayers.

The President was accorded a warm welcome at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA), where she landed on a special aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to commence her five-day visit to Odisha.

She was received at the airport by Governor Raghubar Das, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and other dignitaries.

People standing on both sides of the roads from



the airport to Niladri Vihar area in the city welcomed the 'daughter of the soil'. She will spend the night at the Raj Bhavan here. During her Odisha tour, she will visit Khurda, Puri and Mayurbhanj districts for various programmes. As per the President's official itinerary, she will leave for Puri at 9am Wednesday and have

darshan and perform puja at the Jagannath temple. She will also attend the 75th-anniversary celebrations of Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya in Puri, the statement said. At noon, she will have her lunch at Raj Bhavan in Puri and then attend the Navy Day celebrations at Blue Flag Beach.

She will return to Bhubaneswar from Puri on Thursday morning and attend the 40th convocation of Odisha University of Agricultural and Technology (OUAT) around 11 am. Thereafter, she will inaugurate the Bhubaneswar-based Judicial Court Complex around 5pm and return to Raj Bhavan around

6.30pm. On December 6, Murmu will interact with residents of Uparbeda village, her birthplace. On the same day, she will interact with students and teachers at the Mahila Mahavidyalaya in Rairangpur.

On December 7, the President will lay the foundation of Bangiriposi-Gorumahisan, Buramara-Chakulia, and Badampahar-Kendujhargarh railway lines, a tribal research and development centre, Dandbose airport and a sub-divisional hospital in Rairangpur, the statement said.

Bhubaneswar DCP Pinak Mishra said a three-tier security arrangement has been made for the President's visit. Over 40 platoons, including traffic forces, will be deployed.

Lok Sabha passes Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill

New Delhi(KCN): The Lok Sabha Tuesday passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which allows bank accountholders to have up to four nominees in their accounts.

Another proposed change relates to redefining 'substantial interest' for directorships, which could increase to Rs 2 crore instead of the current limit of Rs 5 lakh, which was fixed almost six decades ago.

The Bill piloted by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was approved by a voice vote. Replying to the debate on the Bill, Sitharaman said depositors will have the option of successive or simultaneous nomination facility, while locker holders will have only successive nomination.

She also said that since 2014, the Government and the RBI have been



extremely cautious, so that banks remain stable.

"The intention is to keep our banks safe, stable, healthy, and after 10 years you are seeing the outcome," Sitharaman said. The bill proposes to increase the tenure of directors (excluding the chairman and whole-time director) in cooperative banks from 8 years to 10 years, so as to align with the Constitution (Ninety-Sixth Amendment) Act, 2011.

Once passed, the bill would allow a director of a Central Cooperative Bank to serve on the board of a State Cooperative Bank. The bill also seeks to give

greater freedom to banks in deciding the remuneration to be paid to statutory auditors.

It also seeks to redefine the reporting dates for banks for regulatory compliance to the 15th and last day of every month instead of the second and fourth Fridays.

"The proposed amendments will strengthen governance in the banking sector and enhance customer convenience with respect to nomination and protection of investors," Sitharaman said while moving the bill for consideration and passing.

Ekta Kapoor meets Majhi, thanks him for making 'The Sabarmati Report' tax-free in Odisha



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Film producer Ekta Kapoor Tuesday met Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and thanked him for making 'The Sabarmati Report' movie tax-free in the state.

Kapoor met Majhi at his chamber in the Assembly.

"I thanked the CM for making 'The Sabarmati

Report' tax-free in Odisha. He said that all of his ministers have watched the movie. Besides, we talked about Odisha and Bhubaneswar," Kapoor said.

The film, starring Vikrant Massey, Raashii Khanna and Ridhi Dogra, has been directed by Dheeraj Sarna and produced by Shobha Kapoor, Ektaa Kapoor, Amul V Mohan and Anshul Mohan. It was released November 15.

Odisha is the seventh BJP-ruled state after Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat, to exempt 'The Sabarmati Report', based on the Godhra train burning incident, from entertainment tax.

"List the matter before a bench of which I am not a part," the CJI said. Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and lawyer Prashant Bhushan said the previous bench headed by Justice Khanna had issued the notice and passed interim orders in the matter and

they had no objection if he continued hearing the matter.

Justice Khanna, who became the 51st CJI after former CJI D Y Chandrachud demitted office, said the cases would now be listed before another bench in the week commencing January 6, 2025.

At the outset, the CJI, who was sitting on the bench with Justice Sanjay Kumar, told the advocates appearing for six separate petitioners that he couldn't hear the pleas now.

"Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and lawyer Prashant Bhushan said the previous bench headed by Justice Khanna had issued the notice and passed interim orders in the matter and

commissioners under a 2023 law. Interfering with the selection process would lead to "chaos and a virtual constitutional breakdown", it noted. The pleas have challenged the validity and sought a stay on the operation of Section 7 of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (ECs). The 2023 Act introduced significant changes to the appointment process of election commissioners, replacing the earlier provisions of the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991. The most contentious aspect of the new legislation is the exclusion of the CJI from the selection committee.

The petitions questioned the constitutional validity of Sections 7 and 8 of the selection committee.

Instead, appointments are now made based on the recommendations of a three-member panel comprising the Prime Minister, a cabinet minister and the Leader of the Opposition or the leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha.

Section 8 of the Act further empowers the selection committee to regulate its own procedure transparently and allows consideration of candidates beyond those recommended by a search committee led by the union law minister. The law has been challenged by several petitioners, including Congress leader Jaya Thakur, the Association for Democratic Reforms, the People's Union for Civil Liberties, and Lok Prahar.

Odisha MLAs demand salary hike, raise in pension for ex-legislators



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha MLAs across party lines Tuesday demanded an increase in their salaries and enhanced pensions for former lawmakers.

The issue was raised during Zero Hour by Opposition chief whip Pramila Mallik, supported by members from both Congress and BJP.

Mallik emphasised the need to increase the pension of former MLAs, saying they were struggling to manage due to rising market prices and medical expenses. She pointed out that a committee formed by the previous government had already submitted a report recommending an increase in the salary of MLAs to Rs 2.5 lakh per

month and the pension for former MLAs to Rs 70,000.

Mallik added that if necessary, the Speaker could form a new committee to review the matter.

Mallik also called for an increase in the MLA Local Area Development (LAD) fund from Rs 3 crore to Rs 5 crore.

Supporting her request,

Deputy Chief of Opposition PK Deb stressed the need to raise the MLA LAD fund to Rs 5 crore.

Congress Legislature Party leader Rama Chandra Kadam echoed the demand, saying the fund should be increased alongside the salary and pension hikes.

Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati said

people in his constituency had numerous demands for development, which could not be met with the current fund levels. He also suggested increasing health insurance coverage for journalists to Rs 20 lakh, a proposal that was supported by few MLAs.

Madhei called for swift action on increasing

MLA salaries and pensions, urging the government to implement the earlier committee's recommendations during this session of the Assembly.

BJP MLA Sanatan Bijuli also voiced concerns about the low salaries of MLAs, given their expenses.

Acknowledging the concerns raised by members, Speaker Surama Padhy assured the House that she would communicate these issues to the state government. She expressed her agreement that the demands of the lawmakers were genuine and directed the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to present the matter to the government.

Hari Meena said that they arrested more than 160 protesters at around 1.30 pm under Section 170 of the Bhaatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The provision allows the police to carry out arrests to prevent the commission of a cognisable offence. Among the arrested were women and several

farmer leaders like Khalifa and Pawan Khatana the state president of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Western Uttar Pradesh), according to the police. The protesters were taken to the Luksar jail in Noida, officials said. Khalifa told PTI on phone that they will continue to fight for their "just demands".

More than 160 protesting farmers arrested in Noida



World Odisha Society to Celebrate Pravasi Odia Divas on January 11th

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): World Odisha Society (WOS) is all set to celebrate Pravasi Odia Divas (POD) on 11th January 2025 at Bhubaneswar in Hybrid mode. The POD will be observed after the conclusion of three days long Pravasi Bharatiya Divas scheduled to be held on 8th, 9th and 10th January 2025 at Odisha's capital. In a statement Chairman of WOS Kishore Dwibedi disclosed that Non Resident Odias' Day will be organised to commemorate the Fourth Foundation Day of World Odisha Society. To mark the grand occasion a spectacular Cultural Extravaganza entitled "Utkala Utsava", showcasing the rich



performing arts forms, vibrant cultural heritage and lofty traditional ethos of Odisha will be staged, Shri Dwibedi added. The decision to host Pravasi Odia Divas was taken in a joint meeting of WOS's Executive Body and Working Committee held in online platform under the presidency of Shri Dwibedi. Members and office bearers of World Odisha Society across the globe, prominent NROs and representatives of Odia Samaj spreading all over the world are expected to take part in the Mega Event. The Mahakumbha of Odia Diaspora world wide will also witness the conferment of First Pravasi Odia Samman and Ratnashri Puraskars

to eminent Odias in recognition to their outstanding contributions towards enriching their Mother State Odisha's name, fame and fortune in National and International arena. A colourful Souvenir is slated to be published during the Celebration. It may be mentioned here that World Odisha Society was founded during the auspicious day

of Makarsankranti in 2021 with Twenty countries as members. The prime motto of this apex institution of Global Odias is to unite around one and half crore Odias staying outside of Odisha under one platform and channelize their material and metaphysical resources towards all round development of Odisha. Now after three years of existence the

society has substantially enhanced its presence in major parts of the globe and at present Odia representatives of around 72 countries of the world have become members of WOS. The online meeting was

attended by WOS's Founder Dr Arundhati Debi from India, Adviser Dhirendra Kar from USA, President Kuwait Chapter of WOS Biswaranjan Sahoo, General Secretary and President Members Amiya Mishra from Dubai and Pradeep Kumar Rath from Abu Dhabi, International General Secretary Kaveri Behera from India, Cultural Joint General Secretary Dr Bhagyashree Singh from UK, Joint General Secretary Brand Promotion Sanjay Das from Zimbabwe, Chief Co-ordinator and General Secretary of New Delhi and NCR Branch Umakant Jena and Jnana Prakash Jena respectively, President of Assam Odia Mahasabha Jagesh Suna and others from India include senior members Satyabrata Mohanty, Manasmita Jena Nayak, Rajaram Padhi and Youth Wing member Nandan Dwibedi.

Rajendra Chintan Samiti Organizes Tribute Ceremony on Dr. Rajendra Prasad's 140th Birth Anniversary



New Delhi, December 3 (KCN): A special ceremony was jointly organized by the Rajendra Chintan Samiti and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) at the statue of Dr. Rajendra Prasad near Parliament House to commemorate the 140th birth anniversary of India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. Eminent dignitaries paid floral tributes to Dr. Prasad, recalling his exemplary contributions and his simple yet impactful life.

Key attendees included former Haryana Chief Minister Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, MP-actor Ravi Kishan, former Delhi Minister Shri Somnath Bharti, and NDMC Vice Chairperson Kuljeet Chahal. Several notable individuals, such as poet Shivkumar Bilgrami, retired IAS officer Suresh Kumar Bhandari, author Dr. Darshini Priya, social worker Rajendra Singh Yadav, Editor Kodal Channappa, and journalist Haider Ali Ashrafi, were felicitated with mementos.

Speaking at the event, former Haryana Chief Minister Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda said, "Dr. Rajendra Prasad's life epitomizes truth,

nation. NDMC is proud to have played a part in organizing this event." Retired IAS officer Suresh Kumar Bhandari paid homage, saying, "On Dr. Rajendra Prasad's birth anniversary, I bow to his extraordinary leadership, simplicity, and spirit of service. His life is an inspiration for every Indian, and we must follow his principles to strengthen our nation."

Journalist Haider Ali



dedication, and duty. His leadership not only gave India its Constitution but also established a strong democratic foundation. His ideals continue to guide our nation toward progress."

MP-actor Ravi Kishan remarked, "On the birth anniversary of our first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, I pay my humble tributes. His sacrifice, commitment, and service to the nation inspire us to build a better India every day."

Dr. Yoganand Shastri, former Delhi Assembly Speaker and President of the Rajendra Chintan Samiti, paid homage, stating, "Dr. Rajendra Prasad symbolized Indian culture and value systems. His life demonstrates how simplicity and discipline can achieve monumental tasks. Personalities like Dr. Prasad are rare in

history, and his life will always remain a source of inspiration for every generation."

Vijayashankar Chaturvedi, Vice President of the Rajendra Chintan Samiti, added, "From the days of the freedom struggle, Dr. Rajendra Prasad dedicated his life to serving the nation with unwavering commitment. The best tribute we can pay him is by walking the path he showed us."

Former Delhi Minister Shri Somnath Bharti said,

"Dr. Rajendra Prasad taught us through his life to remain steadfast in our duties, even in the face of the toughest challenges."

NDMC Vice Chairperson Kuljeet Chahal stated, "The ideals and values of Dr. Rajendra Prasad inspire us to contribute meaningfully to the

Ashrafi, one of the honorees, paid tribute by stating, "Dr. Rajendra Prasad's ideals, simplicity, and leadership will forever inspire us."

The event witnessed participation from various social and cultural organizations, with attendees expressing their gratitude for Dr. Prasad's contributions and pledging to follow his ideals. The Rajendra Chintan Samiti and NDMC played a vital role in making this event a success, providing citizens a unique opportunity to honor the legacy of Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

The coordinators of the Rajendra Chintan Samiti, Pankaj Sharma, Monika Sharma, and Mrs. Devyani, extended their heartfelt gratitude to all attendees for their participation



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Prakash Jha shares update on sequel of Raajneeti, Gangaajal: Work in progress

Prakash Jha returns to acting with Amar Aaj Marega, which premiered at IFFI, Goa. In an exclusive chat he discussed his journey and shared updates on the sequels to Raajneeti and Gangaajal.

The filmmaker shared that Raajneeti 2 and Gangaajal sequel scripts are in progress.

He has no plans to release his older films in theatres.

Filmmaker Prakash Jha is all set to tap into his acting skills once again with Amar Aaj Marega. The Rajat Kariya-directed film was recently premiered at the International Film Festival of India, Goa. On the sidelines of the event, Jha spoke exclusively to

India Today Digital, sharing insights into his acting journey and providing updates on the sequels to his popular films Raajneeti and Gangaajal.

Prakash Jha shared that there's a different kind of excitement when promoting his films as an actor.

He added that, fortunately, he manages to keep both roles separate. "When I am on set as an actor, my only focus is on performing in front of the camera. I am working for someone else's vision. I never want to complicate things by interfering in a



director's job. I have definitely started enjoying acting and am on the lookout for something that can challenge me and is pivotal to the film. I am reading a few scripts and hope to announce something soon," he shared.

With the recent trend of films being re-released in cinemas, we asked the filmmaker if he had any

projects in mind to bring back to theatres. "Actually, no. All my films have been watched multiple times by my audience. I meet people who say they have watched Gangaajal 40-50 times, so I don't really think there's any need to release it in theatres again," he mentioned.

When asked about the update on the sequel of

his films, Prakash Jha said, "We are working on Raajneeti 2, the script is being written. We are also working on the Gangaajal sequel, work is in progress on its script too. The police-society dynamics always have issues, and that makes for a good film. While we do make films for entertainment, it sometimes does leave an impact on the people, and that's quite a great thing." He also admitted that they are also thinking of making a film on Sunanda Pushkar, which according to him is an 'interesting subject'. Jha also shared that a capsule of new episodes of Ashram will also drop soon.

Talking more about the

show, the filmmaker said that while they always believed in the show, they never expected the web series to gain so much popularity. While Ashram 3 gained love, it also garnered protests from different sections of religious groups. Addressing the same, Jha said, "Honestly, it's a constant process. When we say something at home, it sometimes evokes different reactions, and sometimes it's also taken out of context. Similarly, a content piece may not be taken the same way by everyone, and there would be dissent but one needs to keep working on it."

Ashram stars Bobby Deol in the lead role.

No Hera Pheri: Suniel Shetty, Paresh Rawal, Akshay Kumar reunite for Kudo event

Actors Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal and Suniel Shetty recently attended a Kudo Tournament. Sharing posts from the event, the actors clarified that their reunion was not related to the next Hera Pheri installment.

After they shared pictures from the event, rumours were dispelled about Hera Pheri 3.

Actors Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal and Suniel Shetty recently attended the 16th Akshay Kumar International Kudo Tournament 2024 held in Surat, Gujarat. Sharing pictures from the event, Akshay and Suniel dispelled rumours that their reunion has any connection with the third installment of their popular franchise, Hera Pheri.

Sharing a video from the tournament on November 12, Akshay Kumar wrote, "At the 16th Akshay Kumar International Kudo Tournament 2024, two Guinness World Records were shattered, making it a truly memorable day—no 'Hera Pheri' involved! (sic)"



Prabhas's Spirit to release in 2026, producer shares update on Ranbir's Animal Park



Prabhas and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit is expected to go on floors later this year. Producer Bhushan Kumar shared an update about Spirit's release and Ranbir Kapoor's Animal Park. Prabhas and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit will begin in December 2024. Producer Bhushan Kumar, in a recent interview with Connect Media, shared updates on the release of Spirit and Ranbir Kapoor's much-awaited sequel, Animal Park. Spirit marks Prabhas's 25th film in his career and fans are eagerly waiting to see his collaboration with director Sandeep Reddy Vanga of Arjun Reddy and Animal fame.

In an interview, producer Bhushan Kumar said, "Spirit is a

dream combination of Prabhas and Sandeep Reddy Vanga. This combination will explode like anything. Prabhas is super excited about Sandeep."

When asked about Animal Park, the producer explained, "We will finish Spirit and release it in mid 2026. After Spirit, [Sandeep Reddy Vanga] will spend six months on writing. He has the idea in mind, and we will

start filming in early 2027. That's for sure and even the actor [Ranbir Kapoor] is locked."

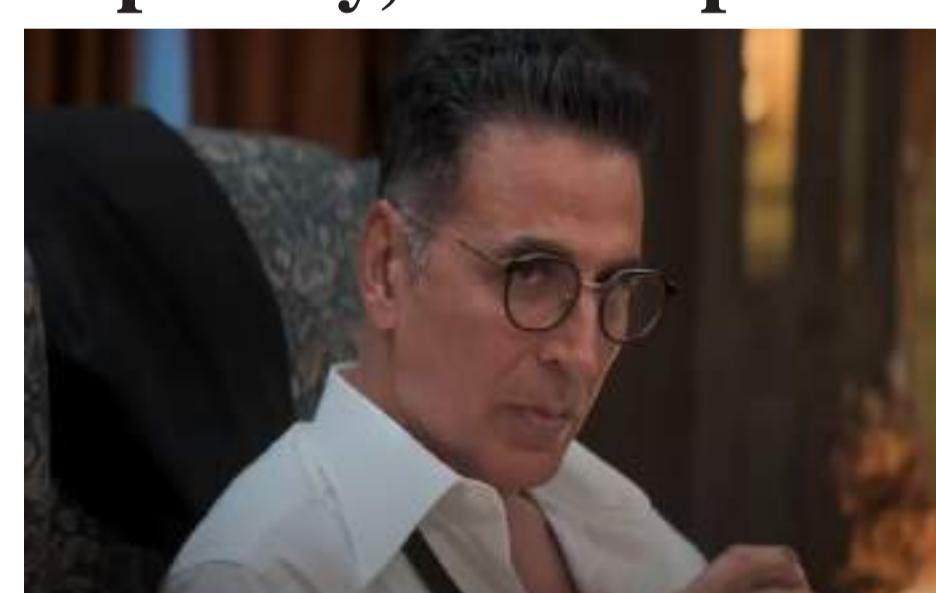
Coming to Spirit, the film is expected to be launched in a grand manner in December 2024. Sandeep Reddy Vanga has been involved in music sessions with Harshavardhan Rameshwar.

As reported earlier,

Prabhas will play the role of a cop in Spirit. Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga had mentioned previously that the film will be made on a massive budget of Rs 300 crore. He confidently added that it will rake in Rs 150 crore on its opening day.

The pre-production work for Spirit is underway. Soon, the makers will announce the cast and crew of Spirit.

Khel Khel Mein director on Akshay Kumar's low phase: Form is temporary, class is permanent



Mudassar Aziz, director of Khel Khel Mein, discussed Akshay Kumar's recent career challenges, comparing them to a cricketer's temporary dip in form while affirming his enduring talent.

The filmmaker compared the actor's low phase to a cricketer who is out of form. A lot has been said about Akshay Kumar's career graph in the last two years. The superstar saw a string of flops at the box office, leading many to believe he had lost his charm. However, in a chat with India Today, Mudassar Aziz, director of his film Khel Khel Mein compared the actor's low phase to a cricketer who is out of form, emphasising that even during such times, their class remains intact.

Aziz discussed his experience working with him and what Akshay felt about the negative online chatter surrounding him. He shared that he has been interacting with him for the last three years, from the time he conceived the film. Aziz also mentioned that his relationship with Akshay extends over 30 years. The filmmaker further revealed that the superstar pays close attention to what is being said about him. "It all started when I as a little boy went to see Garam Masala in a theatre and laughed my lungs out. From then to coming to know him personally and now working with him, it has been such a wonderful ride. Also, he is an extremely perceptive, intelligent and aware person. It's not that a lot of this chatter does not land on his ears, it does.

He is not someone to carelessly brush that aside. It may not determine his next choice but he pays careful attention to what's being said about him," Mudassar Aziz said.

He further added, "There is a very important phrase in cricket, 'Form is temporary, class is permanent'. Every time

The director also revealed how it's not just with Akshay but the entire Khel Khel Mein cast fell in love with each other while shooting. "We did not have to ask them to be friends as that camaraderie was very much already there by the time we started shoot. We have a WhatsApp group and we keep sharing reviews, posts, and even memes on it and laugh about it. The entire experience has been so satisfying. Also, none of us have the cockiness to claim we made a good film because we had trust and pride in our product."

After Khel Khel Mein and Stree 2, Akshay Kumar announced his next comedy project Bhooth Bangla, his comeback collaboration with Priyadarshan

THE SEAFARING STORIES OF ODISHA THROUGH FOLKLORE

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Ancient Sea Voyages of Odisha...

The Odisha coast's geography is uniquely suited and conducive for maritime trade, with natural harbours and deltas facilitating establishing and setting up ports. The presence of rivers and abundant water, such as the Ganges, Mahanadi and Godavari, allowed for efficient transportation of goods from inland areas, bypassing the need for land-based trade routes. The availability of precious and semi-precious stones from the western Odisha mountains made them valuable commodities to trade. During medieval times, some of India's most operational ports were located along the coasts of Odisha, including Tamralipti, Chandraketugarh, Nanigai, Katakadarma, Kannagara, Salihundam, Dharanikotam situated in present-day West Bengal, Puri, Cuttack, Konark and Andhra Pradesh respectively. The maritime history of the coasts in India is a complexity woven with the threads of trade, adventure, commerce and cultural exchange. These harbours were gateways for

international trade and crucial travel methods for vibrant internal trade along the Indian subcontinent. The periodicity of the monsoon winds dictated the flow of maritime activity. The routes chosen by the traders are very well documented in 'Periplus of the Erythrean Sea' a Roman-era text on trade routes and in the accounts of Chinese Buddhist monks who traversed these seas in pursuit of sacred knowledge.

Ships from the port of Tamralipti heading to Southeast Asia would often stop at either Sri Lanka or the Andaman-Nicobar Islands to pick up supplies. Travellers said the journey from Tamralipti to the Nicobar Islands was covered in a month. From there, the ships would navigate the open waters towards Sumatra. Upon reaching Sumatra, they had three options: sail down the coast of Sumatra, all the way to Java and Bali; engage in trade along the Sumatran coast; they could traverse the narrow Malacca Strait, venturing northward towards Cambodia, Vietnam, China, and Japan, or southward towards Borneo,

renowned for its coveted spices, a trade secret fiercely guarded by Indian merchants.

These voyages were fraught with danger, with storms and shipwrecks ever-present threats. However, Indian merchants had cordial relationships with the locals and often settled in the region. Many earned the favour of local rulers, becoming advisors or even establishing royal dynasties through strategic marriages. The dharmic culture brought by Indians seamlessly intertwined with the local culture and became a rich tapestry that still forms the maritime cognisance of the modern nations of Southeast Asia. This rich legacy stands as a testament to the enduring impact of ancient Indian maritime trade, a story of daring voyages, cultural fusion, and the enduring

spirit of the Indian merchant.

Maritime Folklore of Seafaring Activities of Odisha...

An annual festival named Bali Yatra is celebrated in Cuttack, Odisha. It is observed during Kartik Purnima around Oct – Nov when the monsoon winds turn southeast. Earlier, during this time, the ancient mariners and traders from Odisha used to go for their nearly six-month voyage to distant destinations, commonly Bali, Java, Sumatra, Vietnam and Cambodia. And their families used to gather at the shore to bid them farewell. They also used to pray for their safety on the high seas and foreign lands. The practices are still followed; when people gather at the banks of the Mahanadi River, they float paper boats, sing songs, and light sky

lanterns as a symbol of good wishes for the sailors to remember and commemorate Odisha's rich maritime history. This festival is also associated with Tapoi (a legend from a famous folk ballad).

The strength and influence of the Kalinga empire are often reflected in ancient texts, including the Ramayana. The knowledge of Kalinga in ocean trade is also mentioned in Kalidas's play Raghuvamsa; here, the King is referred to as Mohodadhipati (King of the Ocean). In many texts, the King of Kalinga is often called King of the Seas, such as some versions of Odia Mahabharat, Yosawant Das's Tika Govind Chandra, etc. The traveller's account also has a unique and crucial

place in Odia literature with the particular accounts of Lavanyavati and Vaidehi Vilasa, which speak about seagoing voyages; the Odia version of the Mahabharata also has accounts of shipbuilding, Rasakallola by Dinakrushna Das has stories of shipwrecks by sea storms, and Kavya Parimala by Narasimha Sinha references Kalinga's trade with Sri Lanka. One of the most significant narratives within Odisha's extensive mercantile history is the ballad of Tapoi. The ballad's lyrical storytelling encapsulates personal emotional experiences and reflects the complexities of trade and cultural exchange that characterized the era.

The trade traces of Odisha...

There is a lot of evidence of trade activities between India and

Southeast Asia, known as Suvarnabhumi, a land of gold by Indian sailors. The fertile lands of Suvarnabhumi were home to a vibrant culture, where artisans crafted exquisite goods that would be traded along the fabled spice routes. The merchants of Kalinga were mainly renowned for their expertise in high-quality textiles, including the coveted blue cotton cloth known as Kalingam. Artefacts such as glass, agate and terracotta beads have been discovered in Odisha, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines, highlighting the long-lasting and extensive trade networks that traversed the region.

The excavation of Pottery and seals found in Chandraketugarh has yielded Kharosthi script-inscribed pieces, which date back to Gandhara. The artefacts have carvings of ships and shells on them and seem to portray the ships that set sail from the ports east of the subcontinent. Ashoka's edicts also mention trade voyages from Kalinga to distant lands. Epigraphical evidence from Malaysia and Indonesia reveals that the people known as the Kling referred to the inhabitants of Kalinga.

Orissa's rich maritime heritage is characterized by its long-standing legacy as a significant maritime hub, dating back to the ancient ports of Puri and Chandipur. As we navigate through the currents of history, Orissa still stands as a vibrant testament to humanity's enduring bond with the sea, a narrative poised to be shared and revisited across generations.



The 'Earn while you learn' scheme needs to be strengthened and made meaningful

Priyanka Saurabh

Strengthening the 'earn while you learn' scheme is imperative for meaningful vocational education and skills training. This approach integrates practical experience with theoretical learning, thereby enhancing employability.

Adequate support, industry collaboration and policy adjustments can enhance its effectiveness, link education with real-world demands and promote skilled employment.



industry, targeting college students pursuing undergraduate courses or graduates aged 18 to 25. It aims to provide these young individuals with an opportunity to receive practical training in the tourism sector, while simultaneously earning an income.

Important Aspects of the 'Earn While You Learn' Scheme: The "Earn While You Learn" scheme includes several important aspects that make it beneficial and effective. These aspects include skill development. The scheme offers short-term training programs focused on the travel industry, which enhance the skills and knowledge of participants in areas such as customer service, hospitality and communication. Participants have the opportunity to earn income while training, which can help support their education and provide financial independence. Through this scheme, participants join as student volunteers, gain practical experience and apply their

theoretical knowledge in real-world situations. Participants establish contacts within the tourism industry, interact with professionals and expand their network for future employment opportunities. The scheme empowers college students and young graduates by equipping them with skills and knowledge that enhance their employability and increase their chances of securing suitable jobs in the tourism sector. The scheme aims to create a skilled and knowledgeable workforce capable of contributing to the development and growth of the tourism industry in India. The "Learn While Earn" scheme facilitates and strengthens vocational education and skill training, making participants job-ready

and enhancing their employability. The scheme enables participants to earn income while training, thereby reducing financial barriers to accessing vocational education. This financial support not only encourages participation but also motivates individuals to actively invest in their skills development. By providing practical training and industry exposure, the scheme enhances the employability of participants. Participants gain industry-relevant skills and knowledge, leaving them well-prepared to enter the workforce and succeed in their chosen field. The scheme promotes collaboration between academic institutions

and the travel industry. This collaboration ensures that vocational education and skills training programmes are designed in consultation with industry experts, incorporating their insights and requirements. It strengthens the alignment between academic institutions and industry needs, making vocational education more effective and industry-ready. Strengthening the "Earn While You Learn" scheme ensures that vocational education and skills training courses are aligned with industry requirements. This plan allows students to gain practical, hands-on experience in their chosen fields, which is vital to developing the skills and confidence

needed to excel in the workforce.

By earning income while continuing their education, students can partially or fully cover their education expenses. Strengthening the "Earn while you Learn" scheme contributes to bridging the skills gap by producing skilled workers who are better equipped to meet the demands of the job market. Enhancing Industry-

Academic Collaboration: This collaboration ensures that the vocational education system stays up to date with the latest industry trends and technological advancements, ultimately benefiting both students and employers. The scheme promotes a culture of lifelong learning, as students adapt to the ever-changing demands of the job market.

The "Earn while you Learn" approach can better equip students with the skills and knowledge required for successful careers.

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One lakh plots will soon be provided to poor families: CM Haryana

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN): Haryana government will provide One lakh plots of 100 square yards each to the poor families soon. This was announced by the Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini during 'Dhanyawadi Daura' of his assembly constituency.

The Chief Minister said that under the state government's commitment to providing housing for the poor, one lakh plots of 100 square yards will soon be allotted in the first phase. Financial assistance for building houses on these plots will be provided under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. He said that the government's aim is to ensure that every poor individual in the state has a place to live. Earlier, the state government had already provided 15,230 plots of 30 square yards each in 14 cities.

Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini on Monday visited the villages of the Ladwa Assembly constituency, namely Beed Pipli, Khanpur, Babain, Mangoli Jattan, Chapra, and Gobindgarh. The visit was a part of the Dhanyawadi daura being conducted by the Chief Minister to express his gratitude to the people of the State for giving such a huge mandate to his government for the third consecutive time.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced the fulfilment of 12 demands for Beed Pipli through respective departments and sanctioned Rs. 20 lakh for the village. Besides this, additional grants of Rs. 20 lakh each were announced for Khanpur and Chapra villages, and Rs. 30 lakh for Babain village. The Chief Minister directed the officers to draft

estimates for the construction of village streets in Babain village. He said that construction of a government college in the Babain village will be done after checking the feasibility. Addressing the gatherings, CM Nayab Singh Saini said that Prime Minister, Narendra

Modi has ensured that the benefits of government schemes directly reach the poor. He said that the government has fulfilled the dreams of those who never imagined getting a government job. The state government has provided government jobs to deserving youths without

'Parchi'. The welfare schemes of the state government have brought happiness and prosperity to the poor today, said the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister claimed that in the interest of farmers, the state government has decided to procure all crops at MSP.

He said that the government has worked uniformly for the development of every sector. Recently, Rs. 900 crore has been allocated for development works in Panchayats. The Chief Minister assured that there would be no shortage of funds for development works

across the state, including Ladwa constituency. He directed the officers concerned to prioritize road improvements works and ensure that necessary repairs are carried out promptly. Additionally, new roads will be constructed where required to enhance transportation facilities, said Saini.

Expressing his gratitude to the villagers, he said that the blessings of Ladwa residents have given him the opportunity to serve the public. The BJP government has been formed in the state for the third consecutive time, and now development works will proceed three times faster. The Chief Minister said that even before taking the oath, the government had provided 25,000 government jobs to youth without any favouritism, bringing happiness on the faces of thousands of poor families. Moreover, the government has ensured the availability of gas cylinders at Rs. 500 for BPL families, free dialysis for kidney patients, and free medical treatment under the Ayushman Bharat scheme for senior citizens aged above 70 years, said CM Nayab Singh Saini.

While criticising the Opposition, the Chief Minister said that the illusions created by opposition parties have now been shattered. He alleged that previous governments have always exploited the poor and failed to deliver the benefits of government schemes to them, whereas, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has worked to ensure that the benefits of schemes reach the last mile citizens.



An unforgettable day of life lessons for The Pointers through Bobby Chakraborty's 445th Anti Addiction Campaign

Kolkata, (KCN): The afternoon of 2nd December saw the packed auditorium of South Point High School, Kolkata, comprising of eager students from the 8th grade, going through a rollercoaster of laughter, infotainment, raw emotions, confessions and euphoria like never before.

The reason being none other than Mr. Bobby Chakraborty, who is an actor/teacher of method acting by profession and an activist, fighting against addiction and harmful social trends among the youth globally, free of cost, by passion. His award winning session as we all know is named 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND', which has been changing lives of the youth for many years, was on a repeat mode here again. This was Bobby's 445th session globally and his 36th in this school since 2014.

The socially responsible Principal, Rupa Sanyal Bhattacharjee, The Coordinator Brita Sarkar



along with each and every teacher, were equivocal about this being an unprecedented, mindbending event, which could keep the children glued to their seats, miraculously for more than 2 hours, without any distraction! The Official Photographer of the session was soldier Aniruddha Das, an extremely hardworking, obedient student, who was assisted by soldier Abhijay Ganguli, who was also conferred upon the all important title of 'The 1st Soldier'.

The reason for this global awareness program has been the mishap in Bobby's family, which was destroyed due to the addiction of his younger uncle, who died at a young age of 29. Other burning issues of smoking, alcoholism, substance abuse, smart phone addiction, inappropriate behaviour online, online gambling through games, evils of internet, abusive language etc...and the ways to stay free from them were discussed and demonstrated through interesting social experiments with soldiers

Ushnish and Debshubro, with a whole lot of interaction from the 'soldiers' of Bobby's army. The formula of HCF (Health Career Family) became favourite among the soldiers. The ceremonial title of 'The Trendsetter' went to soldier Sarah Shaikh, who was also one of the winners of the concluding surprise contest, with soldiers Srinika and Srijani, who along with Aniruddha, were given special HCF Tshirts, other prizes and

community service certificates by Bobby. The spectacular event came to an end with everyone shouting out the mantra of a soldier's life "I AM THE KING OF MY MIND" from their heart. Later we caught up with Bobby who said "My platforms on IG, FB and Yahoo have been flooded by comments, mails and messages from the soldiers and their parents. I am very satisfied with the feedback, as awareness is all I want.. nothing more, nothing less."

PMGSY Status in West Bengal

Kolkata. (KCN): In a written reply to the unstarred question raised by the Lok Sabha MP Smt Rachna Banerjee in the House regarding the total funds allocated and released to West Bengal under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during the last five years and the current year, the total number of villages provided road connectivity with these funds, whether some funds of PMGSY for West Bengal could not be released by the Government and if so, the details thereof and whether some proposals sent by West Bengal Government under PMGSY are pending with the Central

Government; and the reasons behind, the Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Shri Kamlesh Paswan stated that the Central funds under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are released to State Governments and funds are released at district and sub-district level by the State Governments. The release of funds to States/ UTs for implementation of PMGSY is done on the basis of the proposal received from the State and depends, inter-alia, on works in hand, execution capacity of the State, unspent funds available with the State and compliance with

programme guidelines. Shri Paswan added, a total of Rs. 1847.805 Crores has been released to the State Government of West Bengal as Central share during the last five years and the current year (as on 28.11.2024) for implementation of PMGSY. The State of West Bengal has submitted the proposal for releasing the first instalment of the PMGSY program fund for the year 2024-25, he said. The Minister further pointed out that the State has been requested for crediting total liability of Rs. 124.36 crore during 2024-25 for maintenance of PMGSY roads in the maintenance fund

account in accordance with Paragraph 19.11 (vi) of the PMGSY III programme guidelines for consideration of the proposal.

The Minister added that the unit for PMGSY is habitation and not a Revenue village or Panchayat. Under PMGSY-I, provision has been made for all-weather connectivity to unconnected habitations of population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-Eastern States, Himalayan States and Himalayan Union Territories as per 2001 census) in the core network. Since inception, a total of 13,087 habitations have been provided connectivity

under PMGSY I in the State. He said, the State of West Bengal has been sanctioned all projects under PMGSY-I & II. The State of West Bengal has been allocated a target of 6,287.50 Km of road length under PMGSY-III, out of which 4236.62 Km Road length has been sanctioned to strengthen rural connectivity and accelerate economic growth in the State. Final compliance report for sanction of remaining length of 2026.52 km is awaited from the State. Clearance by the Central Government is considered after receipt of compliance report to the Empowered Committee evaluation of the proposals.

Shri Choudhary added that the agricultural

for college students from various parts of West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, on the basis of which 69 teams with 138 students were selected for participation in State-level rounds. The State-level round of the RBI90Quiz for West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands was conducted at Kolkata a few days back. The RBI90Quiz is being conducted in multiple stages. The online phase was conducted from September 19-21, 2024. The winning team will now have to compete in the Zonal round, which will take place tomorrow. The national final will be held thereafter at Mumbai.

Agricultural R & D Institutes Working in West Bengal

Kolkata, (KCN): In a written answer to the unstarred question raised by the Lok Sabha MP Shri Khalilur Rahman regarding whether the agriculture research institutes are working for the development of agriculture sector in West Bengal and also whether the said agriculture research centres and development institutions have undertaken agriculture developmental works during the last three years and if so, the details thereof, the Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Bhagirath Choudhary stated that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 4 research institutes and 10 regional research stations in the State of West Bengal. These institutes are catering to the agricultural technology needs of the State of West Bengal besides other parts of the country. In addition, at district level, 23 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have also been established in West Bengal for training and demonstration of the technologies developed by ICAR. Shri Choudhary added that the agricultural

research institutes/ centres located in West Bengal have undertaken research for the development of various field crops, pulses, oilseeds, fibres, horticultural crops, climate resilient varieties; poultry and fisheries sectors; development of ergonomically improved tools & equipment and women friendly tools and machinery; demonstration, training and skill development programmes for farmers and stakeholders etc. During the last three years (2021-2023) and 2024 a total of 132 field crop varieties were developed and released for West Bengal. These include 69 varieties of Cereals; 16 of Oilseeds; 22 of Pulses; 11 of Fibre Crops; 8 of Forages and 6 of Sugarcane. The Union Minister pointed out that the agricultural growth depends upon various policies and schemes of the Union Government, State Governments and this research carried out by the Agriculture Research Institutes. In West Bengal, over the last three years, agricultural research and development institutions along with Government policies and support have made significant strides in improving agricultural

On 150th year of Nicholas Roerich, Russian painter & writer was remembered in Kolkata

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Internationally acclaimed Russian painter, writer and Russian cultural icon Nikolai Konstantinovich Rerikh better known as Nicholas Roerich (October 9, 1874 – December 13, 1947), was remembered on 25th November 2024 at Gorky Sadan in Kolkata as a part of his sesquicentennial year celebration. A book titled Roerich's World in Poetry written by Nikolai Roerich translated into English by Professor Meeta Narain was launched in Kolkata. Hindi

translation is by Sakshi Aggarwal. Nikolai Roerich was deeply interested in Spiritualism and explored various facets of spiritual practices in his time. Nikolai Roerich deeply appreciated Hindu philosophy & culture during his stay in India. Roerich was influenced by Himalayas and he painted many facets of Himalayas. Roerich was also a archaeologist, theosophist, philosopher, and public figure. In his youth and he was influenced by Russian Symbolism, a



movement in Russian society centered on the spirituality. The program was attended & addressed by Consul General of Russia in Kolkata Mr. Maxim V. Kozlov, Mr. Harsh Neotia Chairman of Ambuja Neotia group and Prof. Meeta Narain. Many diplomats, art & culture aficionados also attended.

Shri Harsh Neotia spoke on Roerich's painting on Himalaya and its spiritual significance. Consul General Kozlov spoke on Nikolai Roerich's role in enriching India-Russia cultural understanding.

Roerich's World in Poetry is an outcome of Prof. Meeta Narain's interest in Culture Studies its comparative and contrastive transference and projection from one language into another. The translation of 25 poems into English as well as life and works of Roerich, present in the book, are her understanding of the famous Russian, multifaceted figure N. K. Roerich. The work depicts not only the veracity of the artist in translations, but also serves towards promotion of the field of Translation and Comparative Studies. In association with The International Centre of Roerich, Russia, Pushkin Medal awardee Professor Meeta Narain has worked intensively on the Life and Works of Roerich and has presented several papers and special lectures on various aspects of the life of Roerich, highlighting his love for India - its culture, the beauty of the Himalayas as well as his philosophical-spiritual understanding of the subcontinent.

ICAR-CIFRI organized an interactive meeting with Fisheries Department, Nagaland for aquatic resource management



KOLKATA (KCN): ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore organized an interactive meeting with Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Government of Nagaland on 30th November, 2024. The meeting was held at the premise of the Directorate of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Kohima. From ICAR-CIFRI, Dr. B.K. Das, Director, Dr. Raju Baitha, Senior Scientist and Dr. Simanku Borah, Scientist participated in the meeting, while from DoF&AR, ShriRongsenungba, Director, ShriNeithoKoutso, Joint

Director and host of other officials including district officers attended the meeting. During the interaction, ShriRongsenungba, Director, DoF&AR, Nagaland highlighted the strengths and constraints facing the fisheries sector in the state. Sustainable development of reservoir fisheries, mapping of resources, cataloguing of fish diversity, conservation of fisheries and aquatic resources, skill development of fish farmers, fish seed shortage were some of the key points discussed in the meeting. Dr. B.K. Das stated that ICAR-CIFRI will support the Department in

GISmapping of fisheries and aquatic resources as well as in cataloguing of fish diversity of the state. Besides he also assured to conduct one state level training for fisheries officials of the state and skill development trainings for fish farmers and fishers on cage culture. Besides, it was also decided to take necessary steps to improve fish yield of Doyang reservoir from both parties. Further to increase awareness among people on ornamental fisheries and fish culture, Director, ICAR-CIFRI stated that the Institute will deliver aquariums in 50 schools of the state. In the next day, Dr. B.K. Das,

Director, ICAR-CIFRI as special guest inaugurated the angling event organized by DoF&AR, Nagaland as part of the internationally famed Hornbill Festival of the state. The fish angling festival which is one of the main attraction is a ten-day long program scheduled from 1st to 10th December, where anglers from the country as well as from foreign countries take part. During his interaction with fisheries officials, he stressed upon the need to promote sport fisheries as a hobby and recreational activity for better mental and physical health of common people.

Farmers seek govt help as untimely rainfall ruins crop



Chhatrapur (KCN): With incessant rains causing heavy damage to standing paddy crops in different parts of Ganjam district, farmers have appealed for immediate intervention and help from the government. According to reports, the hapless farmers have urged Communist party leaders Nilakantha Dash and Janardan Reddy to look into their grievances and help convey their miseries to the government. The district

is still experiencing heavy drizzle, which started since Thursday afternoon, worsening the condition of the already inundated paddy fields and other seasonal crop plantations. The unseasonal rain at a time when the crops were growing well has marred prospects of good harvest, they said. To salvage the losses, some farmers have resorted to cutting down raw paddy plants and left those dry under polythene sheets.

This is even though the measure is only going to add to their woes. The rains have also wreaked havoc on well-grown vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage, tomatoes, radish, brinjal, among a few. The looming crop loss due to untimely rains has threatened to ruin the farmers financially as many of them have taken loans, either from banks or private lenders, in anticipation of a good yield of

paddy or vegetables which could translate into handsome returns from the sale proceeds. The income would not only have helped them in making the loan repayments, but invest in future agricultural engagements. However, with the weather threatening to snatch away their hard labour and hope, the farmers desperately look for government aid for succour.



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Reasons why an Hair & Care Oil in Serum is the perfect haircare essential this party season

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The party season is here, bringing endless celebrations and glamorous nights. While your outfit and makeup shine, your hair is the ultimate showstopper, making it essential to keep it healthy, radiant, and frizz-free. Frequent styling, pollution, and weather changes can leave your hair dull, but an oil-in-serum is the ultimate game-changer for party-perfect hair.

Infused with Vitamin E, an oil-in-serum leaves your hair smooth, shiny, and effortlessly party-ready. Its lightweight formula provides weightless nourishment without any greasy residue, making it perfect for both daily care and party styling. Versatile enough to use on wet or dry hair, it's the ultimate multitasker for flawless, manageable locks. Combining the nourishment of oil with

the lightweight styling of a serum, Hair & Care Oil in Serum is your go-to solution. Enriched with almond oil and Vitamin E, its ultra-light formula tames frizz, adds silky shine, and keeps hair smooth and manageable—all without weighing it down. Just apply 2-3 drops to damp hair for a silky, shiny look. This season, let your hair steal the spotlight with the magic of an oil-in-serum!

Shriram Finance Launches Inspiring Campaign #TogetherWeSoar with Legend Rahul Dravid

Mumbai (KCN): Shriram Finance Ltd., the flagship company of the Shriram Group and one of India's leading financial services providers, has launched an inspiring new brand campaign titled '#TogetherWeSoar'. This campaign reflects Shriram Finance's commitment to partner with aspiring India, highlighting the power of connection and unity.

Today, many Indians are embracing the 'So, what?' philosophy, reflecting the aspiration to overcome any challenges in their journey to success. This campaign aims to celebrate this spirit and depict partnership as a means to soar ahead, with a slice from Rahul Dravid's own life.

The message is clear: "Together, we soar. By building strong relationships with our customers, we help them step into their power and achieve their dreams." Star Power Behind the Campaign

Cricket legend Rahul Dravid features as the brand ambassador, embodying the values of teamwork and resilience that Shriram Finance also stands for. His presence reinforces the

brand's commitment to nurturing partnerships that inspire growth.

Adding to the campaign's impact, renowned actor Naseeruddin Shah lends his voice to the Hindi version of the ad film, titled 'Har Indianke Saath: Judenge, Udenge.' Having acted and directed in films for more than 50 years, the Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri Awardee has received multiple accolades for his exceptional contributions to Indian cinema. His powerful voice to the message of Shriram Finance emphasizes the dedication to helping individuals achieve their dreams through meaningful partnerships.

The campaign also features lyrics penned by Academy Award winner K.S. Chandrabose for the Telugu version and acclaimed lyricist Madhan Karky for the Tamil version, ensuring a heartfelt connection with audiences across multiple regions.

A Nationwide Initiative With a comprehensive 360-degree media approach, the '#TogetherWeSoar' campaign will reach audiences through print, digital, television, social

media, and outdoor platforms, as well as select theatres across India. Shriram Finance has partnered with the Pro Kabaddi League, and viewers will catch the ad during PKL. Over the next two months, the campaign will be showcased nationwide, targeting diverse urban and rural audiences to reinforce Shriram Finance's commitment to partnering with customers at every stage of their financial journey.

A Message of Partnership Elizabeth Venkataraman, Executive Director of Marketing at Shriram Finance, shared insights about the campaign: "Together, We Soar" symbolizes our promise to stand by every Indian, supporting their aspirations—whether it's fixed deposits, financing vehicles, nurturing small businesses, or providing quick access to funds via Gold or personal loans, etc.

On this occasion Debate, Poster, Slogan, Quiz, Essay and Sit & Draw competitions, Panel Discussion, Street Play, Fete, Mega Sports were organized for PwDs (Divyangjan), Patients & Students on

Bengali Daily Newspaper Ei Samay Expands Its Horizon: North Bengal Edition Unveiled

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Ei Samay, announces the launch of its North Bengal Edition. This is the first major newspaper to debut in the region in 22 years, setting the stage for a new era in Bengali journalism.

The print edition is will provide extensive coverage across Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Dinajpur, and Maldah. It will address regional issues while connecting them with state-wide concerns, Ei Samay aims

to bridge gaps and unify voices across Bengal, ensuring a shared narrative for the entire state. At the onset of this launch, Ei Samay Online introduced a dedicated North Bengal section, offering readers

real-time updates and insights. This digital expansion is amplified through robust social media engagement, ensuring the pulse of North Bengal resonates globally. With millions of active users and a growing international

audience, Ei Samay Online continues to redefine digital news consumption for Bengalis worldwide.

Ei Samay is not just growing but transforming the landscape of Bengali media.

NILD Organises Awareness Rally for PwD (Divyangjan) Students and Staff



Kolkata, (KCN): The United Nations observes International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) annually on 3rd December around the world. This year's theme of IDPD-2024 is "Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future".

National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan), Kolkata organised an Awareness Rally for PwDs (Divyangjan), students and staff this morning. It was inaugurated by Dr. Lalit Narayan, Director, NILD. In awareness Rally approx. more than 1,500 Divyangjan, students and staff from National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (Divyangjan), Kolkata participated.

On this occasion Debate, Poster, Slogan, Quiz, Essay and Sit & Draw competitions, Panel Discussion, Street Play, Fete, Mega Sports were organized for PwDs (Divyangjan), Patients & Students on

Monday (December 2, 2024) and today. In Mega Sports Cricket Match organised for the Locomotor & Visual Impaired from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. BLKD Ventures Pvt. Ltd. India sponsored jacket and India Autism centre sponsored T-Shirt for Divyangjan.

The programme was

inaugurated by Dr. Lalit Narayan, Director, NILD, Kolkata, in his inaugural address he appreciated officials and professionals for his contribution and encouraged them for best services for Divyangjan. Dr. Ameed Equebal Asstt. Director (Training) delivered the keynote address and gave credit to Divyangjan and the organising team for the success of the program. In Panel Discussion Dr. Shantanu Sen, State Secretary, Bengal IMA was Chief Guest and Dr. Sujoy Chakraborty Chairperson, Howrah Municipality Corporation, Dr. Subhash Chakraborty Secretary, IMA, Dum Dum and Medical Doctors were present.

During the programme, Prof. (Dr.) Ramji Singh, Director was also present and at the end of the program a cultural programme was presented by the

PwDs (Divyangjan) & students. Director, NILD awarded to winners of the competitions. On the occasion National Award winner Divyang Mr. Korok Biswas and Mr. Rupanjan Sen and Talented Divyangjan also felicitated by the Director, NILD. Mr. Sougato Banerjee, Dy. Director (Admin.) delivered a vote of thanks to the participants and guests of the programme.

Raj Petro Specialities strengthens its leadership team with Prasad Vaze's appointment

Bhubaneswar: Mr. Prasad Vaze has been appointed as the Senior Director – Lubricants Business at Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd., a Brenntag Group company. He will lead the comprehensive lubricants Business Units, including Speciality, Industrial and Automotive lubricant businesses.

Mr. Prasad Vaze is a result-oriented business leader with more than 25 years of extensive experience in customer-centric roles. Mr. Vaze has served in numerous senior leadership roles, including leading retail operations, profit centre management, developing business strategy and channel

development & management.

Commenting on the appointment of a new member in the leadership team, Mr. Mehul Nanavati, Managing Director, Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd. stated, "We are thrilled to have a seasoned industry leader join our team. With Prasad onboard, we are confident that he will assist Raj Petro in reaching new heights."

On his appointment Mr. Prasad Vaze said, "I am very thrilled to take on this new role. My vision is to create a world class experience for our consumers and channel partners. Our aim is to leverage Kyros, Onwo and Zoomol brands, explore humongous potential that India and international markets offer and grow the Lubricant business profitability."

Ms. Archana Gharte - Head HR said, "We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Prasad Vaze, our newest member to the LT team. He will be

taking on the important hat of managing Raj Petro's Lubricants Business, and we wish him all the best for his journey! With his knowledge and extensive experience, we are confident that Prasad will assist Raj Petro in reaching new heights."

On his appointment Mr. Prasad Vaze said, "I am very thrilled to take on this new role. My vision is to create a world class experience for our consumers and channel partners. Our aim is to leverage Kyros, Onwo and Zoomol brands, explore humongous potential that India and international markets offer and grow the Lubricant business profitability."

Annual General Meeting of Vitesco Technologies

Regensburg: Vitesco Technologies, a leading international developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge drive systems for sustainable mobility, held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) today. The AGM was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

In separate votes, the shareholders formally approved the actions of all the Executive Board members during their term of office in the 2021 financial year. The actions of all members of the Supervisory Board in office in 2021 were also approved for their respective terms. "We are delighted to have received this vote of confidence from the Annual General Meeting.

LV Prasad Eye Institute Organizes a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk

Bhubaneswar: L V Prasad Eye Institute's Mithu Tulsi Chanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar organized a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk on 8th May 2022. This walk is part of the 'Whitathon' event organized by LV Prasad Eye Institute across its campuses in Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and

Vijayawada. Celebrity actor, Mr. Sabyasachi Mishra, will be flagging off the walk.

Whitathon is L V Prasad Eye Institute's annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma – a Life and Vision-threatening Eye Cancer in Children. One of the most common

symptoms of Retinoblastoma is White Reflex (white glow) in a child's eye. Through this walk, LVPEI aims to raise awareness among the public that if they spot a 'White Reflex' in a child's eye, it could be a sign of eye cancer that needs immediate medical intervention. Hence, the event is named 'Whitathon'.

Dr. Devyoti Tripathy,

Ocular Oncologist, Mithu Tulsi Chanrai Campus, Bhubaneswar, L V Prasad Eye Institute said, "Our aim is to raise awareness about early detection and treatment of retinoblastoma eye cancer in children. No child should die of eye cancer because of lack of awareness and treatment. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Sabyasachi Mishra for joining us for

the Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk and spreading awareness about Retinoblastoma. We also acknowledge the support received from Aroh – Giving Hope, an NGO working for children with Cancer and their families."

Dr. Tripathy further added that it is time to make detailed eye check-ups a part of mandatory paediatric examinations.

Mahagram offers door to door banking services through Kirana stores

Bhubaneswar: Mahagram is a social enterprise focusing on Financial Inclusion that has enabled banking from the mom-and-pop store around the corner through fintech solutions. The company's mission is to enable rural women to save money at the local Kirana (or grocery) stores, instead of traveling miles to the nearest bank branch.

Recently, Mahagram has tied up with a public sector bank – the Bank of Maharashtra to roll out the 'Bank Sakh' project in Odisha. The fintech would provide financial technology

and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion. As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the Bharat ATM platform to help the rural citizens avail themselves of basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores.

Mahagram aims to increase the ratio and habit of household savings in rural India. "At Mahagram, we are indulged in offering basic banking services

Amazon.in launches 'Back to School' store

Bhubaneswar: With the opening of schools and resuming of offline classes, Amazon.in announced the launch of 'Back to school' store – a one stop destination to simplify the shopping needs of children. The specially curated store offers deals on a wide range of products across study essentials like stationery, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, PCs, headsets & speakers, printers, Amazon devices, home furnishing among others

to help parents, teachers and students with school supplies and to create an effective learning and productive environment. The offers and deals will be available till 12th June 2022. Here are some popular products customers can choose from the 'Back to school' store on Amazon.in. All offers & deals are from participating sellers. HONOR MagicBook X 15, Intel Core i3 Anti-Glare Thin and Light Laptop – It has stylish

Siraj rediscovers the joy in his bowling

New Delhi: It was on these shores four years ago that Mohammed Siraj burst onto the international scene, holding his own in a wild series that saw him go from debutant to India's most experienced seamer in a span of three Test matches. The steady and continuous rise thereafter in red-ball cricket thereafter appeared to have hit a snag in this home season when the 30-year-old admittedly grew desperate to be among the wickets. As it turned out, that desperation resulted in him managing just six wickets from four Tests (vs Bangladesh & New Zealand) averaging as many as 58 runs per wicket in the latter of the two series.

One Test into the Border Gavaskar Trophy series, Siraj is already close to matching the haul from the home season after rediscovering the joy of bowling. "I could feel that I wasn't enjoying my bowling," he said after the pink-ball warm-up game in Canberra. "As a person I am someone who gets a different feeling when I'm enjoying my bowling, even if I'm not getting wickets. And when I wasn't getting wickets, I went a bit deep into why I wasn't getting them. In India you know that spinners bowl most of the overs, so there it is a little tough to get wickets in [the] five-six overs [you get]. So I just became a bit upset about why I wasn't getting wickets.

Mehidy to lead in West Indies ODIs in Najmul's absence



Dhaka: The Bangladesh Cricket Board announced on Monday that all-rounder Mehidy Hasan will lead the 15-member ODI squad in the absence of regular skipper Najmul Hossain in the upcoming three-match series, scheduled from December 8 at St Kitts. Cricbuzz earlier reported Mushfiqur Rahim and Najmul Hossain were unlikely to feature in the ODIs as they were recovering from their respective injuries while the team management was sweating over Towhid Hridoy after he sustained a groin injury while playing football.

"All-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz will now lead the Bangladesh side in

ODIs for the first time in the absence of Najmul Hossain Shanto who is still recovering from a groin injury," BCB said in a statement. "Hridoy had complained of pain in his right groin region and subsequent investigations have confirmed the presence of a medical condition. He has been advised rest and we will reassess him in two weeks to determine his readiness to play," added BCB Sports Physician Monzur Hossain Chowdhury. Wicket-keeper batter Liton Das, Parvez Hossain Emon, Afif Hossain Dhrubo, Rishad Hossain, Nasum Ahmed, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Nahid Rana

New Delhi: Four days is long enough to gain a feel of a foreign city, learn the basics of how to sail a yacht, or fall in and out of love. But is it long enough for Sri Lanka to find a way to rescue their suddenly sagging WTC campaign?

It had better be, because four days is all the Lankans will have between the end of their historic thumping in the first men's Test at Kingsmead and the start of the second match of the series at St George's Park. Lose in Gqeberha and their prospects of booking one of the two available spots at Lord's in June will be significantly poorer.

Sri Lanka went into the Kingsmead Test in third position in the WTC standings, with the

home side fifth. But that was before they dismissed the Lankans for 42, their lowest ever total, in 13.5 overs in the first innings with Marco Jansen taking 7/13 - the best figures by a fast bowler in Durban.

South Africa completed their victory, by 233 runs, after lunch on Saturday. The result catapulted them into second spot. Sri Lanka slipped to a share of fourth with New Zealand.

The action is scheduled to resume at St George's Park on Thursday, and about the only positive for the visitors is Sunday's news that Gerald Coetze has been ruled out for the rest of the summer with a groin injury.

What remedies could the Lankans possibly apply in four short days

between matches? It is an unanswerable question, unfair even. But Dinesh Chandimal had a go anyway during a press conference on Saturday. "The first innings total will be key," Chandimal said. "If we are batting first and we can get close to 300, we will stay in the game because we have really good, talented fast bowlers like Asitha Fernando, Lahiru Kumara and Vishwa Fernando. We can get those guys into the game if we can score 300. That's the plan and I hope our batters will come good in the next match."

Anyone who has the vaguest idea of how Test cricket works - and doesn't work - wouldn't disagree. But it's one thing trotting out an orthodox argument, quite another putting it into practice.



But now I am having a lot of fun."

Help was forthcoming from different quarters for Siraj through this lull. Pace ace Jasprit Bumrah advised him to not go chasing for wickets and asked him to bowl consistently in one area. Morne Morkel reinforced his belief by calling him 'a warrior'. But it was a timely call to former India bowling coach, Bharat Arun, a man who played an instrumental role in Siraj's rise through domestic cricket, that put the Hyderabad seamer at ease once more.

"I spoke with Bharat Arun sir, that this is what's happening with me," Siraj said. "Because he has known me for a while and he has seen my bowling from long time back. So

he just told me to enjoy and not run after wickets. Just enjoy and you'll get wickets. And before travelling, I met Dilip sir [fielding coach] in Hyderabad and we practiced together as well. So it felt good and

now I'm enjoying. "Morne [Morkel, India's current bowling coach] keeps telling me that you are a warrior. 'You'll get us wickets, but you just keep enjoying your bowling'. I always keep talking to Jassi bhai

[Bumrah]. Even before the first match, I spoke with him about what I was going through. And he just told me one thing - don't run after wickets, just keep bowling consistently in one area and enjoy your bowling. If you still

don't get wickets, then you come ask me. So I enjoyed my bowling and I got wickets as well."

Siraj, who claimed five wickets across two innings in India's big win in Perth, was in rhythm again in the rain-affected game in Canberra ahead of this week's Day/Night Test in Adelaide. He took the opening wicket and gave away just 18 runs in the seven overs he bowled as he sought to acclimatise himself with the pink ball, something he hasn't played with at Test level.

"This [pink] ball has a synthetic feeling," he said. "This is different to the red ball we play with. There can be a bit of confusion due to the ball, but it's just one

match so we just have to focus on that and practice for it and we'll improve day-by-day. The seam is very hard. It's bright, and quite big. The more you practice with it, the better you get.

"I think that with the pink ball, it's better to bowl back of length. Because pitching it up, there's not a lot of swing, so the more you hit the deck and get it to seam, it will be better for us. I have heard that the ball swings a lot under the lights but I haven't yet bowled with it under lights. So when we go to Adelaide and practice, we will try that. And the more practice we get, we'll know more about what we have to do."

PV Sindhu to get married this month



New Delhi: India's star shuttle PV Sindhu is all set to marry Hyderabad-based businessman Venkata Datta Sai. The wedding festivities will kickstart on December 20 in Udaipur.

India's badminton star PV Sindhu, a double Olympic medallist, is all set to begin a new chapter in her life. The 29-year-old is all set to be married to Hyderabad-based Venkata Datta Sai, Executive Director of Posidex Technologies, on December 22 in Udaipur. The celebrations are planned to be grand yet elegant, starting with pre-wedding festivities on December 20.

Squad: Mehidy Hasan Miraz (Captain), Litton Kumer Das (WK), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Soumya Sarkar, Parvez Hossain Emon, Md Mahmudullah, Jaker Ali Anik, Afif Hossain Dhrubo, Rishad Hossain, Nasum Ahmed, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Nahid Rana

Sindhu's family confirmed that the reception will be held in Hyderabad on December 24. The wedding has been scheduled carefully to ensure Sindhu can return to the international badminton circuit in January, as the next season promises to be

crucial. "The two families knew each other but it was only a month ago that everything was finalised. This was the only possible window as her schedule will be hectic from January," Sindhu's father, PV Ramana, told PTI. "So that is the reason

the two families decided to have the marriage ceremony on December 22. The reception will be held in Hyderabad on December 24. She will start her training soon after, as the next season is going to be important."

Sindhu, one of India's most celebrated athletes, boasts an enviable career. She has five World Championship medals to her name, including a historic gold in 2019. Her Olympic success includes a silver medal at Rio 2016 and a bronze at Tokyo 2020. In 2017, she reached her career-best world

ranking of No. 2, which solidified her place among badminton's elite. Just recently, Sindhu ended a title drought by winning the Syed Modi International in Lucknow, proving she is back in form and ready to take on the world again. The wedding, set in the picturesque city of Udaipur, promises to be a celebration of love and joy. Known as the City of Lakes, Udaipur provides the perfect backdrop for Sindhu's big day. Fans and well-wishers are already buzzing with excitement, eager to celebrate their champion's special moment.

Australia not expecting to bowl out India for 36 again: Alex Carey

New Delhi: Australia are not expecting to bowl out India for 36-all-out again, said Alex Carey ahead of the pink ball Test in Adelaide. Australia have a terrific pink ball record at home

where they are yet to lose a Test match. Australia wicketkeeper batter Alex Carey said that the hosts are not expecting India to be bowled out for 36 in the pink ball Test match at

Adelaide Oval. Speaking to the media ahead of the Day-Night Test match, which starts on December 6, Carey said that an incident like 36-all-out is historic and does not

keep repeating itself. Carey stressed that Australia were proud of their pink ball record at home - as they are yet to lose a Day-Night Test at home - and are following required

processes to stage a comeback in the series. "There are obviously amazing days in cricketing history but we are not going there expecting to do that again."

Sri Lanka have four days to fix a shaky campaign



Especially when what had gone so wrong is difficult to explain. In their first 10 innings in the 2023/25 WTC cycle in Tests played outside of Asia, Sri Lanka were bowled out for fewer than 200 only twice. They made 355 and 302 in

anchored on stands that featured Chandimal - 95 with Dhananjaya de Silva and 75 with Kusal Mendis. That, too, was tinged with shadow. Coetze's last significant act on the field this season was to return from receiving treatment for his injury to induce Chandimal to close the face of his bat too early as he looked to steer the ball to midwicket. Coetze gobbled the resultant leading edge and roared in triumph. By then a Sri Lankan win was out of the question, but the dismissal was the first of four South Africa earned across 34 balls to seal victory.

Coetze returning to the field, despite an injury, to strike that blow chimed with Wiaan Mulder opting to bat at No. 3 - rather than his usual No. 7 - in the second innings because the finger he had broken in the first innings allowed him to only play straight-bat shots. The South Africans were willing to go above and beyond the call of duty to win. The Sri Lankans weren't willing, it seemed, to battle it out for longer than 13.5 overs. The contrast was glaring.

"We didn't assess the conditions well," Thilina Kandamby, Sri Lanka's batting coach, told reporters on Monday. "The options that we took were wrong. On the first two days the pitch was challenging due to overcast conditions and wind. But we could have shown more patience. The more time you spend in the middle, the easier it gets." The Lankans' dismal first innings could be ascribed, as Kandamby said, partly to conditions that made the ball swing and seam, and partly to Jansen's sniping bowling. But being bowled out for 42 took more than that, and left plenty to ponder. "It was unexpected, we were really shocked," Chandimal said. "In cricket these things happen, but as a good team you need to learn from that and you need to go forward. We all know it is not an easy task to bat in the fourth innings in South Africa. But we managed to score almost 300. That's a plus point." It is, but it's also a moot point. Because this is about what happened in the first innings. And another first innings looms.