



ram Pradhan,
Berhampur Reporter,
lalit ballav rout,
Reporter,Talcher,
prasant padhi,
Former BMS Odisha
university
president,ABWJAI
President
journalist Sunil
Kumar Mishra,Sr
journalist pravat Kumar
prusty, General secretary
of OUWJ & IMC
Rajanikanth Samantaray
were felicitated on the
occasion
The Meeting was
anchored by Sonali
Adishree .Vote of thanks
was given by
Paryabekhyak
Bhubaneswar special
correspondent Sanjay
das.

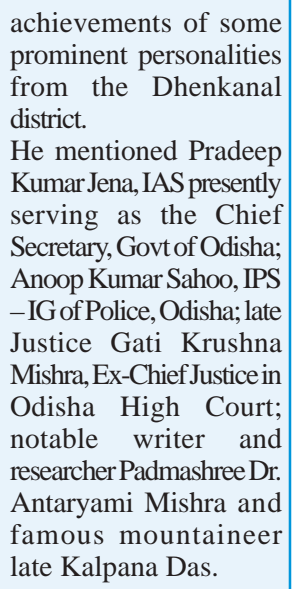
coordinator, loknath
das, Social
activist, satyabrata
Nayak, Youth and
students organise ,
Bhaskar Chandra
Nayak, Blood doner,

Interim Budget 2024-25 Promises Stepping Up Value Addition In Agricultural Sector, Boosting Farmers' Income



efficient) technology and will supply low-cost power to its beneficiary states such as Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Sikkim. The 250 MW project of NTPC-SAIL Power Company Ltd was established in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) to provide reliable power for the steel plant, which is vital for economic growth, he said, adding that the NTPC is developing the Talcher Thermal Power Project, Stage-III, within the old TTPS plant premises in Angul district, was taken over by NTPC from Odisha State Electricity Board in 1995. After completing more than 50 years of service, the old TTPS plant was decommissioned. The upcoming plant will have highly efficient ultra-supercritical technology-based units and approximately three times the capacity of the old TTPS plant.

Information Works In Gajapati, Dhenkanal Dists



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Ranbir Kapoor Visits Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Office Ahead Of Epic Saga 'Love & War' Shoot

On January 24th, 2024, the legendary filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali surprised everyone by announcing his next cinematic spectacle 'Love & War'. The filmmaker has got the biggest casting coup on board with Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, and Vicky Kaushal and has unveiled a title poster that features the handwritten signature of the lead cast.

Ever since Sanjay Leela Bhansali made the grand announcement of the epic saga, the excitement among the masses has been palpable and they're excited to watch the massive combination of Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Ranbir Kapoor, that



is announced for a grand theatrical release on Christmas 2025.

Following the grand announcement of the film, the fans and the audiences were waiting for further updates from the film to come out, and

in a recent development, the lead actor Ranbir Kapoor has been spotted outside Sanjay Leela Bhansali's office for a meeting. This is the first time after the announcement, that Ranbir Kapoor has

visited the Sanjay Leela Bhansali's office.

Ranbir Kapoor is set to put a strong dedication to his character in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's directorial and together they're set to weave the magic on-screen.

Do Aur Do Pyaar To Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya: 4 Rom-Coms You Cannot Miss In 2024

As 2024 unfolds, Hindi cinema promises a delightful mix of films, and at the forefront are some captivating romantic comedies. From endearing performances to unexplored storylines, these rom-coms are set to be the talk of the town. Here's a curated list of four must-watch romantic comedies that will undoubtedly leave you with a smile on your face.

Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam

Prepare to be enchanted by the delightful pairing of Triptii Dimri and Vicky Kaushal in 'Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam'. Scheduled for release on 23rd February 2024, this rom-com promises a captivating blend of charm and stellar performances.

Do Aur Do Pyaar

Featuring eclectic fresh casting of Vidya Balan, Pratik Gandhi, Ileana

D'Cruz and Sendhil Ramamurthy "Do Aur Do Pyaar" has been generating buzz since its first look. This slice-of-life rom-com, produced by Applause Entertainment and Ellipsis Entertainment, is set to steal hearts when it hits the screens on 29th March 2024.

Mr and Mrs Mahi

Get ready for a heartwarming tale as Janhvi Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao come

together in "Mr and Mrs Mahi," slated for release on 19th April 2024. This rom-com is sure to stir your emotions and take you on a rollercoaster ride of love and laughter.

Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya

Mark your calendars for 9th February 2024 as Kriti Sanon and Shahid Kapoor grace the screen with their fresh on-screen pairing in "Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya."

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

Jitendra Kumar-starrer 'Dry Day' is a powerful and emotional story that delves into the complexities of addiction, love, and the extent of a man's sacrifices for his family. Directed by Saurabh Shukla, and produced by Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhojwani, and Nikkhil Advani, under the banner of Emmay Entertainment, the comedy drama features Jitendra Kumar, Shriya Pilgaonkar, and Annu Kapoor in pivotal roles. The film is set to premiere exclusively on Prime Video in India and across more than 240 countries and territories

worldwide 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/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, Director Saurabh Shukla



said, "The movie is a social satire presented with a hilarious tragic-comedy of errors with lots of drama and emotions. Dry Day gives an important and relevant message about alcoholism and I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to craft this film, aiming to 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 drama, offering a

rollercoaster of emotions," shares actor Jitendra Kumar. "It was an exhilarating experience playing the character of Gannu in the movie. Getting into the skin of this intriguing character was like adding a new skill to my toolbox. The character's struggle of defying all odds in pursuit of trust adds depth to the narrative of the film. I'm excited for audiences to witness this unique journey on screen. The film's fusion of heartwarming moments and compelling storytelling is something I can't wait for people to experience and appreciate."

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."

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

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

Sushmita Sen created history when she became the first Indian to win the Miss Universe pageant back in 1994. While Sushmita has always spoken about how supportive her family was, in a recent interview, she opened up about how her father did not speak to her when he learnt that she would be participating in Miss India. Even when she had to wear a swimsuit for one of the rounds in the pageant, her father was quite upset about it. Talking to Mid-Day, Sushmita said that she was all of 18 when her life changed, and at that point, her father wanted her to be an IAS officer. "My father wanted me to be an IAS officer, so



I was studying 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 a swimsuit, it is a part of the show. I cannot not wear it but I promise you I will add respect to it. It won't be crass.' He was not very happy with that, but when I won Miss India and I told my father that I will represent my country, that, for my father, being a defence person, he had balled his lungs out," she recalled. In 1994, the Miss Universe pageant was held in Manila, The Philippines, and while her mother and brother had traveled with her, her father was in India and watched the show on television. Sushmita Sen said that he watched the delayed broadcast with the rest of the country.



Small tax demands to be waived



Despite the reduction in rates for corporate tax and personal tax, collections on the tax front are higher. But lot of appeals are pending. The Finance Minister has said that the Government aims to reduce the tax litigation and waive small tax demand of upto Rs.25,000 pending upto asst year

2010-11 and demand within Rs.10,000 from asst year 2011-12 to 2015-16 will be waived. It is a welcome step. However the amount to be waived should be revisited and fixed upwards to make it more meaningful. Here is Para 93 of Budget Speech: Moreover, in line with our Government's vision to improve ease of living and ease of doing business, I wish to make an announcement to improve tax payer services. There are a large number of petty, non-verified, non-reconciled or disputed

direct tax demands, many of them dating as far back as the year 1962, which continue to remain on the books, causing anxiety to honest tax payers and hindering refunds of subsequent years. I propose to withdraw such outstanding direct tax demands up to ? 25,000 pertaining to the period up to financial year 2009-10 and up to ? 10,000 for financial years 2010-11 to 2014-15. This is expected to benefit about a crore tax-payers. As a result of proposed waiver of demands, the taxpayers will be

Narayan Jain
permitted to withdraw their appeals which may be pending before Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeal) or in Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT). It may be noted that Income Tax department is not permitted to prefer any appeal before the ITAT if the tax effect is within Rs.50 Lakhs. In para 92 FM has announced, "In keeping with the convention, I do not propose to make any changes relating to taxation and propose to retain the same tax rates for direct taxes and indirect taxes including import duties". However, certain tax benefits to start-ups and investments made by sovereign wealth or pension funds as also tax exemption on certain income of some IFSC units are expiring on 31.03.2024 and the same have been extended to 31.03.2025, to provide continuity in taxation. This proposal is also well thought of and welcome. The number of income-tax payers in India rose to 93.7 million in FY23 from 52.6 million in FY14. The tax deducted

at source (TDS) emerged as the largest component of direct taxes, reaching ?8.17 lakh crore in FY23, almost double the amount in FY18. As stated by V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to Government of India, our country has projected around 7% growth this fiscal, which is much better than USA and many other countries. Even after global impact of Pandemic, India remains the fastest growing nation with sustainable and inclusive development for all its citizens including its farmers and labours. Government of India has played a pivotal role in creating an atmosphere for boosting better compliance, increase in tax revenues and economic growth. Now processing of I-T returns is being done almost in 10 days and most of refunds are also being issued in about one month of furnishing of Income Tax returns. This has been possible with use of technology. The number of individuals filing

income-tax returns has more than doubled in the past 10 years to 77.8 million in 2022-23, helping direct tax-to-GDP ratio to climb to 6.11% from 5.62% during the same period. The cost of tax collection fell to 0.51% of total collection in 2022-23 from 0.57% of total collection in 2013-14. Earlier it was as high as 1.36% of the total collections.

Author is National President of All India Federation of Tax Practitioners. The views expressed are personal views

Nothing Spectacular in Interim Budget 2024



There is nothing spectacular in Interim Budget 2024 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharama. Budget is heavy on fiction and ornamental language with new definition of terms like GDP (Governance Development Performance), FDI (Fast Developed India), 1 Crore Lakhpati Didi etc. There is no change in Direct Tax and Indirect Tax including Import Duties. It seems there is no increase in Health and Education Budget. There is nothing to address Cost of Living Crisis. Converting 40,000 general coaches of Railway to Bande Bharat Coach will negatively affect poor and middle class passengers. There is no measure to address inflation issues and unemployment issues including MSME sector. Youth is grossly neglected in the budget. Fiscal Deficit is 5.8% in FY23 and target is 5.1% for FY24 which is very doubtful as India has highest level of Debt since Independence. Fiscal Consolidation and Fiscal deficit are serious issues. The Indian economy has witnessed a profound positive transformation in the last 10 years, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on

Thursday in her pre-election Budget, which is technically a vote on account and popularly termed an interim Budget. Sitharaman said people of India are looking ahead to the future with hope and options. She further said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi covered all aspects of inclusivity. Structural reforms, pro-people programmes and employment opportunities helped the economy get new vigour, the finance minister said. After contracting by 5.8% in 2020-21, the economy recorded a growth of 9.1% in 2021-22. However, per capita growth declined to 5.1% which is 21 years lowest level. Expressing hope that the BJP-led government will be blessed again by the people with a resounding mandate in the forthcoming general elections, the minister said: "Based on stupendous work, we expect our government will be blessed again by the people with a resounding mandate." She also said India overcame challenges of Covid-19, created foundations for self-reliant India. India was facing enormous challenges when the Modi government took office in 2014, and it overcame those in right earnest, Sitharaman said. As many as 11.8 crore farmers were provided financial assistance under the PM KISAN Yojana, Sitharaman said. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

(PM-KISAN) is one of the world's largest Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes. Under the PM-KISAN scheme, the government provides a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year in three equal four-monthly instalments. The money is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country through DBT mode. As many as 1.4 crore youth were trained and upskilled under the Skill India Mission, the finance minister said while presenting the interim Budget on Thursday. The mission focuses on skilling, re-skilling and upskilling through short-term and long-term training programmes. The government is addressing systematic inequalities, which have plagued society, Sitharaman said. Presenting the interim Budget 2024-25, Sitharaman said economic management over the past decade has complemented people-centric inclusive development. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) courses have seen enrolment of 43% women, the highest in the world, she added. About 2 crore more houses to be constructed under housing scheme, and govt to launch a scheme for deserving middle class living in rented houses/slums/unauthorised colonies. In last 10 years, 25 crore people got freedom from multi-dimensional poverty, said FM. Direct benefit transfer of Rs

Pradeep Kumar Panda
34 lakh crore through Jan Dhan accounts have resulted in savings of Rs 2.7 lakh crore. Under PM Mudra Yojana, 43 crore loans aggregating to Rs 22.5 lakh crore were extended. The next 5 years will be years of unprecedented development and golden moments to realise the dream of Rs 75,000 crore will be extended to states to realise dream of developed India. Fiscal deficit expected at 5.8% of GDP in FY24, down from 5.9% estimated earlier and 5.1% fiscal deficit expected in FY25. Tax receipts for 2024-25 projected at Rs 26.02 lakh crore. We continue on path of fiscal consolidation to reduce fiscal deficit to



developed India by 2047 said FM. Rooftop solarisation to ensure 1 crore household free electricity of up to 300 units per month, household to save Rs 15,000-18,000 annually. FM Sitharaman announces plans to increase milk and dairy production. Capital spending for 2024-25 raised by 11% to Rs 11.11 lakh crore or 3.4% of GDP. Tripling of capex in last 4 years resulted in a multiplier effect on economic growth and employment generation. 50-year interest-free loans of

development and employment generation will be increased by 11.1% to Rs 11,11,111 crore, that will be 3.4% of the GDP. On reforms in the states for 'Viksit Bharat', she said that a provision of Rs 75,000 crore rupees as a fifty-year interest-free loan has been proposed to support milestone-linked reforms by the state

passengers. We have also placed orders for over 1,000 new aircrafts," she said. "Under PM Fasal Bima Yojana, crop insurance has been given to 4 crore farmers," she said. She said that Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) has integrated 1361 mandis, providing services to 1.8 crore farmers with a trading She also mentioned rooftop solarisation and "muftbijli", saying that 1 crore households will obtain 300 units free electricity every month through rooftop solarisation. "Each household is expected to save Rs 15,000 to Rs 18,000 annually due to rooftop solarisation," she said. On Ayushman Bharat, she said that healthcare cover under Ayushman Bharat scheme will be extended to all ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and helpers. On agriculture and food processing, the Finance Minister said that Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana has benefitted 38 lakh farmers and generated at least 10 lakh employment. "Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Yojana has assisted 2.4 lakh SHGs and 60,000 individuals with credit linkages," she said. "A corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore will be established with fifty-year interest-free loan to provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors and low or nil interest rates," she mentioned about research and innovation for catalysing growth, employment and development. Interim Budget 2024 could have been more proactive and could have addressed present issues and challenges of India like Inflation, Unemployment, Malnutrition, Rural Distress etc.

Economist, Bhubaneswar

Army Goodwill school Hajinar participate in Young Creators Awards



Aasif Malik: Kupwara K a s h m i r (KCN):Students from the Innovation club of Army Goodwill Higher Secondary School Hajinar got an opportunity to participate in the Young Creators Awards 2024, our students Fazdha Mushtaq, Raja Affan and Mohd Yousaf under the adept leadership of Fazdha Mushtaq represented the School and proudly participated in the National Level exhibition held at Plaksha University Mohali, Punjab, the total number of more than 50 project were showcased and Selected for final round. The team of AGS HAJINAR involvement in the exhibition showcased their dedication to innovative projects, with a particular focus on their initiative named "Carbon Monoxide Exhausting System." Fazdha Mushtaq's leadership played a crucial role in guiding the team towards developing a solution that addresses carbon monoxide emissions, contributing to

environmental sustainability. We would like to thanks Team Bharti Foundation, especially Anil Bhat, Mr. Mudasir Shah and Mr. Mir Aatif for your continuously support in making our school project a reality. Your dedication to our school and community development has left an indelible mark, and we are profoundly thankful for your generosity. The event, backed by notable entities such as Bharti Foundation, the Indian Army, and Army Goodwill Higher Secondary School Hajinar, as well as the commendable support from Bharti Foundation, OIC AGS HAJINAR Lt.Col. Mohit Joshi Sir and Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khawaja Principal AGS Hajinar. These student-led initiative aligns with ARMY GOODWILL SCHOOL HAJINAR T A N G D A R commitment to nurturing young minds and encouraging them to take an active role in addressing global challenges. Tahir Gaffar, Bharti

Foundation School Coordinator and Rashid Fareed ATL Incharge Army Goodwill Higher Secondary School Hajinar has played a pivotal role as the Teacher Incharge, overseeing the development and implementation of the project. His dedication and leadership have been instrumental in shaping the project's success. The collaboration with Bharti Foundation, the Indian Army, and Army Goodwill Higher Secondary School Hajinar underscores the importance of fostering creativity and environmental consciousness among the youth. The entire team expresses gratitude to the supporting organizations, mentors, and collaborators who made this experience possible. The National Level exhibition at Plaksha University served as a platform for these students to showcase their talents, share their vision, and inspire others to engage in similar initiatives for a brighter and greener future.

JOINT SEARCH OPERATION AT CHERAMUNJI NEAR MAGAM FOREST YIELDS SIGNIFICANT RECOVERY



Aasif Malik: Handwara(KCN): In a joint search operation today at Charamunji near Magam, Kupwara, Army and Jammu & Kashmir Police have achieved a major breakthrough against the terrorist activities, resulting in a significant recovery of

ammunition and Warlike stores. The operation was a result of Human intelligence received from a reliable source. A meticulous operation of search and destroy was launch based on the input which resulted in the recovery of 9x

UBGL shells, 4x IED receivers, 30 x Commercial grade detonators housed in their original factory packaging, 138 rounds of AK47, a loaded magazine of sniper rifle with 7 rounds, 24 blank rounds of AK 47 and 4x magazines of 9mm pistol.

Farewell to senior grocer Balaram Behera

Cuttack (KCN): Senior Kirani of Mahanadi Bihar Women's Higher Secondary School, Cuttack has retired from his professional rank on January 31. After spending 34 years of working life under the state government since 1989 (with 662 categories), the pitiful sight of retiring with empty pension at the end has disturbed everyone. Senior columnist Dr. Laxman Sahoo, Principal,

Mahanadi Vihar Women's Degree College, attended the valedictory function organized by Higher Secondary School Principal Mita Patnaik, who praised his colleague and friend Mr. Balaram Behera for his performance in the past decade and expressed his displeasure at the state government's incompetence. On this occasion, retired Principal Dr. Savitri Shastri, faculty member Niharika Naik,



faculty member Dr. Keerthi Manjari Sahu, faculty member Manswini Mishra, faculty member Anupama Nand, working assistant clerk Amulya

MCAPS - Carving student's future with advanced career counseling

Bhubaneswar(KCN):Mo College Abhijan, the active society under HED, is stepping up every next day towards empowering and educating students in terms of skill, career counselling, sports and other such activities to prepare students towards a golden future. Among several initiatives, one such recent Initiative was the seminar on 'Skill Training and Advance Career counsel associated with Mentroz, a career excellence platform which helps students to choose the right career with skill training using advanced intelligence. The pilot counselling program was held at BJB Autonomous College, Khordha and Udayanath Autonomous College of Science & Technology, Adaspur, Cuttack. BJB Autonomous College, one of the leading educational institutions of state, organised the skill training & career counselling program on Wednesday. The introductory speech was given by BJB career counselling cell



coordinator, Dr. Lipsa Mishra where she briefed the purpose and initiatives being taken at the institution towards career development. Principal of BJB College, Prof. Itishree Padhi highly praised this initiative by Mo College where she felt the students are going to embark on the journey beyond the college walls. She also urged bright minds to prioritize career planning. Believing the seminar is going to be a pathfinder for their students, Prof Padhi stated "Students should set goals, and embrace the opportunities that align with their aspirations. Our Students success is our pride, and thoughtful career planning is the key to unlocking the limitless potential." Principal of Udayanath

Autonomous College, Prof. Arun Kumar Swain observed the programme thoroughly with Mo College Coordinator Shri Nirmal Pradhan, College Staffs, Members of College Counselling Cell and around 250 students were present during the event. "Employment is the need of the hour and educating & guiding students regarding career is the precise method to shape up the budding future of all these students." stated Prof. Swain during the event. The program ended up with an Interactive Q-A session. Shri Manas Mohanty, a serial entrepreneur and founder of Mentroz, highlighted the importance of career planning and also focused on how to achieve excellence. He inspired and motivated

the students on how to choose their careers by giving diverse real-life examples from his 15+ years of experience. "Mo College Abhijan is constantly working towards shaping up Students career with innovative seminars, webinars and Career guidance program. Mentroz is proud to be the part of Mo College to conduct such inspiring event across the state," stated Shri Mohanty. "The need of career planning is crucial for graduates offering direction, helps to set goals, and ensures a strategic approach to professional growth. By identifying interests, skills, and aspirations early on, graduates can make informed decisions, increasing the likelihood of fulfilling and successful careers.

We are very much thankful to Mo College Abhijan and Mentroz for providing this informative session for our students." says Dr. Sampriti Panda, MCAPS coordinator of BJB College. Subhakanta Behera a final year student of Anthropology Hons stated that 'program helps us to understand various scope & provide an opportunity to explore various options, receive personalized guidance, and develop a clearer understanding of professional goals.' Jyotismita Behera another Final year student felt that Mo College have been playing the role of a Catalyst through career counselling program to shape the future of students. Interactive sessions with learned experts often keep us glued to such programs. We got idea about various career options and opportunities available to prosper ahead.' 'Mo College is eyeing to ensure more such events at different colleges and universities across state' says an official of Mo College.

Vakati Karuna in Court Contempt Case Justice Showcause to Vakati Karuna in Contempt Court Case

Hyderabad (KCN):On 24 August 2023, the High Court gave a judgment regarding the appointment issue of 2010 batch Kakatiya University teachers. Due to judgement was not being implemented by Kakatiya University, Dr Vintha Naini and Dr Anjan Rao approached the high court and filed a contempt case based on Section 10-12 of the Contempt of Court Act - 1971 against Prof. T. Srinivasa Rao, Registrar

of KU and Vakati Karuna, Principal Secretary of Higher Education. It is mentioned in the affidavit filed in the High Court that those who do not implement the orders of the High Court should be punished. The Assistant Advocate General had argued in the court last month and attached a plea on behalf of the Government Advocate General seeking time to reply to the court that the file



related to the case is with the government as the new government has been formed. The university filed a counter on 11 January of

this year. On the last month, the High Court Judge K. Laxman issued a show cause order to Karuna and the show cause orders stated that

he must appear in person before the High Court at 10.30 am on February 2. Besides, the show cause order also stated that he should answer why he should not be punished for the offense of contempt of the High Court. The judge also stated in the order that he must attend each adjournment in person till the final order of the court. In these circumstances, there is excitement about the 2010 batch of teachers in KU.

Indian Army Rescued pregnant woman amid snowfall in Monabal langate Kashmir

Srinagar, (KCN) : Army's 30 RR on Thursday rescued A pregnant woman amidst heavy snowfall in Monabal area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. "At 11:30 AM, Indian Army received a distress call from the manzoor Ahmad khan husband of pregnant lady, Locals requesting for urgent rescue and medical evacuation of a pregnant lady who was in critical condition," Reports said "Due to heavy snowfall, Monabal road was completely blocked and very slippery....Realising the criticality of the situation, rescue team and medics from Haril Camp immediately responded to distress call, risking their own safety," sources said, adding, "In spite of heavy snow and sleet formation on the road, the rescue team reached the location on time and the patient was carefully and safely evacuated to SDH langate,". According to our Correspondent the medical staff and Qalamabad police were already on standby at haril to receive the patient and attended to her immediately. "The family and doctors expressed their gratitude to the Army's 30RR and Qalamabad police for their swift action and timely assistance as it saved the lives of mother and child,"

" JIS Maha SAMMAN " 2024 presented to two eminent Scientist & Doctor

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):"JIS Maha SAMMAN" 2024 was presented to two distinguished personalities- one scientist and one doctor for their pioneering contribution in their professional area. JIS Maha Samman 2024 was conferred to Dr. Suman Chakraborty, Professor & Dean at IIT Kharagpur, and Dr. Partha Sarathi Bhattacharya, an eminent Pulmonologist. Dr. Suman Chakraborty, Professor & Dean at IIT Kharagpur, known for his substantial contributions to mechanical engineering and a source of sheer motivation to numerous engineering aspirants; along with Dr. Partha Sarathi Bhattacharya, an eminent Pulmanologist, recognised for his compassionate and proficient approach to simplifying what is often a very complicated and confusing area of health care, specially in treatment of COPD patients. "JIS Samman" is a series awards launched by JIS group to honour excellence in academic, business, cultural, sports area.



" JIS Samman " was presented on 1st February in Kolkata on 104th Birth Anniversary of late Sardar Jodh Singh founder of JIS group. Sardar Jodh Singh was visionary with entrepreneurial drive who transformed every challenges in to opportunity and played important role in upliftment & transformation of lives of millions. Sardar Jodh Singh had entrepreneurial vision of creating a difference in the society by educating people. Sardar Jodh Singh's aspiration to serve the society by imparting

knowledge and ensuring employability culminated into JIS Group Educational Initiatives. Sardar Taranjit Singh, Managing Director, JIS Group, highlighted the role of JIS Samman is to promote & honour excellence in academic, business, cultural, sports area. Today, under the visionary leadership of Sardar Taranjit Singh the group is the expanding into new business areas as well as promoting Research and Development in new frontiers of science and technology to improve & enrich quality of life.

First World Odia Language Meet On 3 FEB

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In the context of the first World Odia Language Conference being held for three days from 3-5 February 3 to 5 at Janata Maidan, Minister of Odia Language, Literature and Culture, Ashwini Kumar Patra and Secretary Odia Language, Literature and Culture, Sujata Rout Karthikeyan have appealed to make the Ceremony a “Grand Success”.

Shri Patra and Shrimati Sujata addressed a Media Meet. Principal Secretary Information & Public Relations Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director Information & Public Relations Saroj Kumar Samal and Director Odia Language, Literature and Culture, Dilip Routrai was present. The Minister has requested for the wholehearted cooperation of the Odia brothers and sisters living within and outside

the state to make the global conference, which is being held under the guidance of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, a success. Secretary Shrimati Sujata gave detailed information about the contours, objectives and various programmes to be organized. The conference will be attended by a number of internationally renowned scholars- Padma Shri Prof. Harman Kulke, Prof. Uwe Skoda, Prof. Arlo Griffiths, Prof. Ante Schmedichen and many national-level scholars. Dr. Debi Prasanna Pattanayak will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to Odia language and linguistics. Apart from this, Jnanpith award winners, Padma Awardees, Sahitya Akademi awardees, Kabir



Samman awardees, State Academy's highest award winners are also being honoured. The conference will showcase a well-crafted exhibition of Odisha's glorious past and changing present and inspiring future. The exhibition is organized on three broad themes and timelines i.e. ancient, middle and modern. The exhibition will showcase the origin and evolution of Odia language and script,

ancient stone archives, copperplates, palm leaf potshis, Kalinga-style temple architecture, paintings related to Odisha's naval trade through beautiful paintings. A renaissance of medieval Oriya literature will be on display. Odisha's art and sculpture, dance and music traditions will be on display. The arrival of the printing press and its impact on the spread of Odia language will be

displayed along with appropriate artworks and photographs. Contemporary newspapers, magazines and modern thinkers will be showcased. The present era is driven by science and technology. The Odia language and literature will meet the challenges of the future by joining hands with the rapidly changing world. This conference will not only deliberate on this issue but will also prove the progress of Odia

language towards the larger world. It will highlight odia virtual academy displays, Wikipedia and Odia fonts. It will showcase her journey towards the digital age of Odia language. A special tribute will be paid to Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das on 4 February 2024. A concept of “Let's Read” will be showcased through a mobile library, buses and mobile book art to promote reading habits among school children and youth. Images and oil paintings will be displayed commemorating the contributions of the past's rich saga. Odia signatures of eminent personalities will be displayed. Postal rooms and information boards will be displayed to make the exhibition more palatable for children.

A full-fledged ‘Konark Ashwa’ statue will be placed at the central site as a symbol. Intellectual sessions and conference programmes will be telecasted live. An International Literature Festival will be organized by the University of Education and Research at KIIT, Bhubaneswar. A seminar on the role of Odia cinema and stage will be organized by Ravenshaw University along with Odia Film and Theatre Festival. Apart from this, Ekamra Utsav will be organized in Bhubaneswar city by BDA and BMC. The conference is a collective festival of the people of Odisha. Due to this, various programs, competitions have been organized among the students at the university, college and school level. A special ‘Gram Sabha’

is being organized in all panchayats interested in Odia language and literary activities to partner with the conference. These programmes will also be conducted at the block level. Instructions have been issued for paying homage to the statues of eminent personalities and sons of Odisha. The conference is being organized with the active support of all departments, stakeholders, organizations, individuals and volunteers. In order to commemorate this conference, the State Government has requested the Odia brothers and sisters living in the state and abroad to sing the song “Vande Utkal Janani” simultaneously on February 3 and at 11.30 am on the occasion of the inaugural festival

Prusty Takes RDC Charge

Sambalpur(KCN): Senior IAS Officer, Srikanta Prusty has taken over as Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) Northern Division, Sambalpur. 2003 Batch IAS Officer, Shri Prusty took the charge as RDC ND here on 31 January afternoon. 2005 Batch IAS Suresh Chandra Dalai, who was RDC ND superannuated on today. Shri Prusty was earlier serving as Special Secretary Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water. Known as a proactive IAS Officer, Shri Prusty chalked out programs to



review people oriented schemes implemented under 5T Charter, adding grievance redressal mechanism will be activated. Similarly review of activities of National

Highway Authority of India (NHAI), which is implementing National Highway Projects is on card. Notably, earlier Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had raised concern over

slow progress of expansion work of the 265-km Cuttack-Sambalpur NH-55 resulting in frequent road accidents. So Shri Prusty has decided to review the progress of NH-55 and will be expediting the project works. Similarly various Railway Projects and other infrastructure issues will be reviewed by the new RDC, said a senior official. Irrigation Projects, land acquisition and issues relating to social sector will receive attention of the new RDC, said he.

Ekamra Utsav Form 3 FEB


Bhubaneswar(KCN): Vice Chairman Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) Balwant Singh has announced the launch of the Ekamra Utsav, a vibrant festival celebrating the rich tapestry of Odia language and culture. Scheduled from 3-9 February, 2024, the event coincides with the “Biswa Odia Bhasha Sammilani” as planned by the State Government. Shri Singh said that this gathering holds special significance as it marks the inaugural World Odia Language Conference, highlighting the state's dedication to preserving and showcasing its linguistic heritage. A press conference in this regard was today held in the Convention Centre at Lokseva Bhavan. The press conference was attended by Mayor of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Sulochana Das, BDA VC, Balwant Singh, Director, Fisheries-cum-Officer on Special Duty, BDA for Ekamra Utsav, Md. Siddique Alam, BMC Commissioner, Vijay Amruta Kulange and Secretary BDA, Kabindra Kumar Sahoo. BDA VC urged city



residents to participate in the festival in large numbers while BMC Mayor sought co-operation from citizens to make this event a grand success. Comprising three distinct components, the Ekamra Utsav promises a diverse array of experiences. The main event, Sangitara Murchana, will take place at the IDCO Exhibition ground, featuring captivating performances by acclaimed artists from across the nation and region. This cultural extravaganza will enchant attendees with live music, band performances, and various other forms of performing arts. All the performances will be based on Odia language and culture. 3 February – Smruti Tume Akshay Mohanty Evening, 4 February

Sangitara Tale Tale Anuradha Paudwal, Suresh Wadkar, 5 February – Abhula Atita Ananaya Sritam Nanda, 6 February – Bhasa Hi Bhabisyata Padma Shri Aruna Mohanty, Kuna Tripathy, 7 February – Basantara Swara Raturaj Mohapatra & Sona Mohapatra, 8 February – Murchana Ra Bhinna Eka Sandhya Sonu Nigam and 9 February – Tume Chanhila Boli Jubin Nautial In addition to Sangitara Murchana, the festival will include the Food Festival – “AMA BYANJAN,” offering attendees the opportunity to immerse themselves in the vibrant traditions and flavors of Odisha. The Food Festival – “AMA BYANJAN” aims to showcase the diverse and flavorful regional cuisine of Odisha. Hosted at the IDCO Exhibition

Ground, this gastronomic extravaganza will feature delicacies representing various districts of the state, tantalizing visitors with authentic local delicacies. The food area will serve as a vibrant community hub, complete with experience zones and a bustling flea market, inviting attendees to savor, explore, and connect. Visitors can also enjoy other cuisines including continental in the food area. The Ekamra Haat (Night Flea Market of Ekamra Utsav) is scheduled from 3rd to 9th February 2024 and will take place at the Ekamra Expo Area in Bhubaneswar. This event promises to showcase the cultural vibrancy of Odia heritage against the city's lively backdrop, running from 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM daily. Besides, a drone show will be held on February 7, 8 and 9 on Odia language, art and culture. As many as 200 drones will be used for this purpose. In order to promote language, the Madhusudan Marg leading to the venue will also display designs based on Odia language, art and culture.



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Balasore School triumphs as State Champions in Intach's National Heritage Quiz.

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH), Odisha Chapter, held the Finals of the State level inter-school quiz competition on 15th Oct 2023 at the Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar. The INTACH National Heritage Quiz is the biggest event of its type held on a pan-India level. It is an effort to raise awareness and cultivate affection for cultural and architectural heritage. The Quiz was based on the heritage and culture of India, and aimed to increase awareness about our glorious

nation among school children. Students from classes 7th to 10th were eligible to participate in teams of two. In an exciting show-case of knowledge and heritage, the State Final Round saw the emergence of St. Thomas Convent, Balasore as the victor, securing their place in the next round which is the National Level Quiz. The questions asked during the quiz comprised from various topics like India's heritage, history, crafts, art forms, architecture, wildlife sanctuaries, National parks, cultural heritage, art-forms, dances etc. with

a special focus on Odisha's legacy and famous personalities. Altogether it was a passionate approach which was put forward as a learning experience for the students. Quizmaster Bivash Rath Attreya conducted the quiz. Four teams from different districts participated in the final round. The teams were from the St. Thomas Convent, Balasore; Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala, Baripada; Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala, Balangir and Blossoms School, Bhubaneswar. The team of Aryashree Das Adhikari and Dibyajoti Das from St. Thomas Convent



Balasore were the first and the team from Odisha Adarsh Vidyayala were runners up. They will go to New Delhi for the National Finals to be held in November. Anil Dhir, Convener of I N T A C H ' s Bhubaneswar Chapter, said that the Heritage Quiz was a part of INTACH's initiative for heritage awareness among School children. Amiya Bhushan Tripathy IPS (Retd), State Convener of Intach gave away the prizes and certificates to the participants.

Dalmia Bharat Celebrates Empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Dalmia Bharat Group, India's leading conglomerate with businesses in cement and sugar, announces the successful empowerment of 18000 women on International Day of Rural Women. Through the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), these women are provided essential skill training and access to vital resources for sustainable livelihood development. In collaboration with various organisations like NRLM, NABARD, etc. Dalmia Bharat organizes various training initiatives like micro-enterprise development, handicraft production and others in both farming and non-farming sectors. All these activities are conducted in communities settled around their regions of operation across 12 states in India. These initiatives aim to upskill rural women to empower them, diversify their income sources and provide access to formal credit systems. Two notable initiatives in Odisha include Project Hastakala – upskilling women artisans and enterprise development via mushroom cultivation in communities

surrounding its facilities in Cuttack, Rajgangpur, and Lanjiberna Mines. Dalmia Bharat has enabled over 10,000 women in Odisha to become financially independent earning a monthly income ranging from Rs.4000 to Rs8000, significantly improving their individual well-being and the ability to support their families. Commenting on the company's initiatives on International Day of Rural Women Mr. Ashok K. Gupta, CEO, Dalmia Bharat Foundation said, "Rural women in developing countries play a vital role in food security and economic development but face severe marginalization, including limited land ownership, higher illiteracy rates and unequal earnings compared to men. Dalmia Bharat is dedicated to uplifting marginalized rural women through holistic programs that bolster their income while managing household responsibilities. Our commitment aligns with UN Sustainable Goals, promoting self-reliance and gender equality for an inclusive and sustainable India, where empowered women drive community and national development." Project Hastakala is an

'earning with joy' skill development programme where women are trained in the unique tie & dye batik products. This project is conducted in tribal areas of Jhagarpur & Katang panchayat in Odisha. After witnessing immense success at national exhibitions, Dalmia Bharat introduced the SADRIe brand for promoting the handmade batik products like bedsheets, handkerchiefs, scarves etc. through multiple marketing platforms. Another successful initiative includes enterprise development through mushroom cultivation. Dalmia Bharat actively facilitates training programs and market linkage support for SHG women, equipping them to earn an additional monthly income of Rs. 5000 by establishing their own cultivation units. International Day of Rural Women, observed annually on 15th October, celebrates the vital role of rural women in agriculture, food security, and rural development. It highlights the need to empower them, address inequalities, and aligns with global goals for gender equality and sustainable development.

Eastern Command of Indian Army & Red FM Celebrate Vijay Diwas With The Guts & Glory - Salute 71

Bhubaneswar : 93.5 RED FM, India's leading private radio and entertainment network is thrilled to announce its partnership with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to commemorate Vijay Diwas with a grand celebration titled "Guts and Glory - Salute 71." This event aims to pay tribute to the historic victory of the 1971 war and honor the brave soldiers who made it possible. As part of this unique initiative, Red FM will captivate its audience on-air with narrations of intriguing

war stories that depict the valiant efforts of the Indian armed forces during the 1971 war. Listeners will have the opportunity to learn about the heroic deeds of our soldiers, their unwavering spirit, and the sacrifices they made to ensure our nation's victory. Red FM will also collate all stories as episodes under a podcast, which will be available on various audio streaming platforms. Reflecting on the announcement, Lieutenant General

Rana Pratap Kalita, said "I am delighted to know that Red FM has taken the initiative to narrate stories of valour and courage of our soldiers who fought in the 1971 war. In our vision to salute the bravery of the heroes, we are delighted to present to you Guts & Glory - Salute 71, as part of this year Vijay Diwas Celebration. We are hopeful to present a deeper insight into the triumphant moment of Indian history." Speaking on the announcement, Nisha Narayanan, Director &

COO, RED FM, and Magic FM, said, "On the occasion of Vijay Diwas, we are elated to be joining hands with the Eastern Command of the Indian Army to honor the lives of the 1971 war veterans. Our army men live through times that are unimaginable to us. The sacrifice of our veterans is truly unfathomable but as a brand, we are looking forward to commending the valor of the keepers of our nation. The Guts & Glory - Salute 71 initiative will also

recognize the unsung heroes who walk amongst us as common citizens. We are hopeful that these stories will enrich us with empathy and esteem for the gallant troops who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom." The initiative will be rolled out in 12 East-Indian stations namely, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Asansol, Siliguri, Agartala, Patna, Muzzafarpur, Jamshedpur, Guwahati, Shillong, Aizwal, and Gangtok. Tune in to 93.5 RED FM to listen to these stories.

Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

Bhubaneswar: To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes. Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience."

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLiv, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a S\$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the Airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around

1,150 customers within their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The Airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said:

"Extensive customer engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy thoughtfully curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey."

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

Barcelona: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality. The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge

production, policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called "Universities' Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective". Adding to his views Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is

making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,

Fit-again Prithvi Shaw in Mumbai's Ranji Trophy squad



Mumbai:Prithvi Shaw is set to make his comeback. The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has included him in their Ranji squad. The decision comes after he received clearance from the National Cricket Academy (NCA), which deemed him fit for competitive cricket. Consequently,

Shaw has been added to the squad led by Ajinkya Rahane, and they will face Bengal at the Eden Gardens starting from February 2. Shaw, aged 24, has been sidelined since August of the previous year due to a knee ligament injury. On January 20, Cricbuzz reported about the delay in return to action by

Shaw as the NCA wanted to subject him to higher volume of workload to test his preparedness. The NCA had informed the MCA, stating, "Prithvi Shaw is progressing well in his batting and fielding drills. He will undergo higher volumes of acceleration, change of direction, and agility

drills over the next 3 weeks to develop the required robustness for his injured knee ligament before making a return to sports." On Wednesday, the NCA granted him clearance to participate in the Ranji Trophy. With Shaw's inclusion, Mumbai will have a 17-member travelling squad. Mumbai currently lead the Elite Group B Ranji points table with 20 points from four games, boasting three wins and one loss. **Mumbai squad:** Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Shivam Dube, Prithvi Shaw, Jay Bista, Bhupen Lalwani, Amogh Bhatkal, Suved Parkar, Prasad Pawar (WK), Hardik Tamore (WK), Suryansh Shedge, Tanush Kotian, Atharva Ankolekar, Aditya Dhupal, Mohit Awasthi, Dhaval Kulkarni, Roystan Dias and Sylvester Dsouza.

Marsh, Gardner take top honours at the Australian Cricket Awards

New Delhi:Mitchell Marsh and Ashleigh Gardner emerged as the big winners at the 2024 Australian Cricket Awards. Marsh became the first all-rounder since Shane Watson in 2011 to win the coveted Allan Border Medal whereas Gardner won the prestigious Belinda Clark Award, her second overall. Marsh totalled 223 votes, 79 ahead of Pat Cummins who had a pretty incredible year himself. Gardner polled 147 votes to finish in front of Ellyse Perry (134 votes) and Annabel Sutherland (106 votes). Marsh enjoyed a successful year all around, starting with his 118 in the third Ashes Test after missing the first two and then scoring a career-best 177* against Bangladesh in the ODI World Cup. Gardner, who returned figures of 12 for 165 against England, the second-best figures in the history of women's Tests,



picked more wickets than any of her colleagues during the eligible time-frame (56 scalps at 19.39 in 30 matches). Nathan Lyon, who recently picked his 500th Test wicket and was instrumental in Australia winning the Indore Test, won the Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year. Ellyse Perry, whose batting lately has witnessed a rejuvenation,

won the Women's T20I Player of the Year and the Women's ODI Player of the Year. Marsh, who flourished as an opener and as one-down player in the white-ball formats, also won the Men's ODI Player of the Year. Jason Behrendorff won the Men's T20I Player of the Year. Other awards: Women's Domestic Players of the Year: Elyse Villani and

Sophie Day Men's Domestic Player of the Year: Cameron Bancroft Bradman Young Cricketer of the Year: Fergus O'Neill Betty Wilson Young Cricketer of the Year: Emma de Broughe BBL Player of the Tournament: Matt Short (Adelaide Strikers) WBBL Player of the Tournament: Chamari Athapaththu (Sydney Thunder)

Jack Leach unlikely for Vizag Test



Visakhapatnam:Brendon McCullum might have teased the idea of playing an all-spin attack against India but that ploy will have to wait. Jack Leach, England's most experienced spinner in the current squad, is unlikely for the second Test against Visakhapatnam. The left-arm spinner, who banged his left knee in the outfield twice, and then aggravated the injury by bowling

through it in the fourth innings, didn't bowl in the practice session in Visakhapatnam two days out from the Test match. He was visibly limping and was seen receiving treatment on the sidelines of England's training session. England, though, now have at their disposal offspinner Shoaib Bashir, who arrived late in India owing to visa issues and as a result wasn't available for

selection in Hyderabad. McCullum has spoken about Bashir impressing the management during their team camp in the UAE. "He's a great kid, he's got a lot about him," Zak Crawley said of Bashir. "He knows what he is trying to do with his bowling, and he backs himself. "I like that and feel like if he got his chance in this series he would go well."

Sri Lanka pick three uncapped players for one-off Afghanistan Test



New Delhi:Sri Lanka have picked three uncapped players for the upcoming one-off Test against Afghanistan in Colombo, that is set to begin on February 2. This will be Dhananjaya de Silva's first assignment as full-time Test skipper after taking over from Dimuth Karunaratne.

Wicketkeeper-batter Lahiru Udara, fast bowlers Chamika Gunasekara and Milan Rathnayake are the three uncapped players picked for the one-off clash. While Udara and Gunasekara have played in a T20I and an ODI respectively for the national side before, Rathnayake hasn't

featured in any format so far. The selection committee has dropped Lakshitha Masinghe, Praveen Jayawickrama and Pathum Nissanka from the squad that was picked for their previous Test assignment against Pakistan last year. Nissanka didn't get to play against Pakistan in that series last year despite making a return to the squad. Dilshan Madushanka, who made his debut in that series, hasn't been considered either with the pacer currently playing the ILT20. This will be the first ever Test match featuring these two teams.

Jay Shah set to continue as ACC president

New Delhi:Jay Shah is all set to continue as the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). His extension for another year was unanimously approved at the ACC Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Bali on Wednesday. Shah, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), is in the midst of his second year of his second two-year term as the ACC Chief. Shah's extension was proposed by Shammi Silva, the president of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), and the nomination was unanimously backed by all ACC members, as stated in a Wednesday press release by the ACC. Taking over the reins of the ACC in January 2021



from Nazmul Hassan, the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, Shah became the youngest administrator to be re-appointed as the ACC president. The ACC presidency

rotates among the full ICC members in the continental body, and Shah is the first person to secure two consecutive terms. "I am grateful to the ACC Board for their continued trust. We must

remain committed to ensuring the all-round development of the sport, with a special focus on regions where it is still in its infancy. The ACC is committed to nurturing cricket

across Asia," Shah stated after his re-election. Cricbuzz reported about the ACC meeting in Bali on January 29 and on the possibility of discussions over the ACC president position. In the end, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), whose turn was next for the post, proposed Shah's continuation. "Jay has played a pivotal role in steering the ACC towards significant progress in promoting and developing cricket across the Asian region. Under Mr. Shah's guidance, the ACC has been instrumental in unearthing and promoting new talent in cricketing powerhouses like Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka," SLC chief Shammi Silva said.

'I have enjoyed the first couple of weeks' - Smith on opening in Tests

New Delhi:Australian great Steve Smith has revealed that he has enjoyed opening in Tests over the last two weeks against West Indies. Smith took on a new role in the format after David Warner's retirement despite being very successful at No.4 over the last few years. Even though he did begin in scratchy fashion, registering scores of 12, 11* and 6 in the first three innings of the series, he carried his bat in the final innings of the series and almost guided Australia home before West Indies prevailed at the Gabba. "There was a lot of commentary around I'd failed in two or three innings - I had a not out and two low scores," Smith said. "Now I'm averaging 60 as an opener. It was just another position; I've

battled against the new ball numerous times, coming in early. I've enjoyed the first couple of weeks of it ... if they see fit to move me back down, I'll do whatever the team needs." Smith lavished praise on young West Indies pace sensation Shamar Joseph who scripted a stunning turnaround to pick seven wickets and bowl his side to a memorable win. "I overheard a conversation, I think we were seven down just before lunch and I overheard him speaking to Kraigg (Brathwaite) ... he's like, 'I'm bowling to the end, man'," Smith recalled. "He's a rare talent and I think it's great for cricket what he was able to do and see the West Indies competing like they did. He just kept coming in, and actually probably



bowled faster at the end rather than the start." Having lost the Test by just eight runs that forced Australia to share the series, Smith admitted that he could have probably tried to leave just one ball from Joseph for Josh Hazlewood to face in the over where the tailender was eventually

dismissed to give West Indies victory. "I've thought about it, whether we could do different things," Smith said. "Maybe I could have taken five balls against Shamar; he was on fire obviously. But then I run the risk of not getting a run off the last ball and 'Hoff' (Hazlewood) having to

take all six from Alzarri (Joseph)." Smith will now lead Australia in the upcoming ODI series against West Indies that kicks off at the MCG on Friday. This will be Australia's first assignment in the 50-over format since winning the World Cup in India last November.