

PM inaugurates, dedicates to nation and lays foundation stone for projects worth more than Rs 68,000 crore in Sambalpur, Odisha

Sambalpur,(KCN): The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today inaugurated, dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone for projects worth more than Rs 68,000 crore in Sambalpur, Odisha aimed at boosting the energy sector involving natural gas, coal and power generation apart from important projects of road, railway and higher education sector. Shri Modi also took a walkthrough of the IIM Sambalpur model and a photo exhibition showcased on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that today is a significant occasion for the development journey of Odisha as development projects worth approximately Rs 70,000 crores are launched today in the sectors of education, railway, roads, electricity and petroleum. PM Modi underlined that the people of Odisha belonging to the poor section, labourers, working class, business owners and farmers among all other sections of society will reap the benefits of today’s development projects. He further added that it will also create thousands of new employment

opportunities for the youth of Odisha. The Prime Minister expressed delight in announcing the government’s decision to confer the ex-deputy Prime Minister of India, Shri Lal Krishna Advani with the Bharat Ratna. PM Modi lauded the unparalleled contributions of Shri Advani as the Deputy Prime Minister, Home Minister and Information and Broadcasting Minister of India as well as decades of experience as a distinguished and loyal Member of Parliament. “Honouring Advani ji with the Bharat Ratna is a symbol that the nation never forgets those who dedicate their lives to its service”, PM Modi asserted. The Prime Minister thanked his good fortune for the love, blessings and guidance shown by Shri L K Advani upon him, and prayed for his long life as he congratulated him on behalf of all citizens.

The Prime Minister said that in order to make Odisha a hub of education, and skill development, continuous efforts have been put in by the Central government. The fate of Odisha’s youth has changed with the setting



- Dedicates to nation and lays the foundation stone of multiple power projects worth about Rs 28,980 crores**
- Inaugurates three road sector projects of National Highways developed at a cumulative cost of about Rs 2110 crores**
- Dedicates to nation and lays foundation stone of railway projects worth about Rs 2146 crores**
- Lays foundation stone for redevelopment of Sambalpur Railway Station**
- Flags off Puri-Sonepur-Puri Weekly Express**
- Inaugurates permanent campus of IIM, Sambalpur**
- “Today, the country has decided to confer Bharat Ratna to one of its great sons, former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani”**
- “Government has made continuous efforts to make Odisha, a center of education and skill development”**
- “The goal of a Viksit Bharat can only be achieved if all states are developed”**
- “Odisha has greatly benefited from the policies made by the Central Government in the last 10 years”**

up of modern educational institutes like IISER Berhampur and Bhubaneswar’s Institute of Chemical Technology in the last decade. Now, with the establishment of IIM Sambalpur as a modern institute of management, the state’s role is being further strengthened. He recalled laying the foundation stone of IIM (Indian Institute of Management) during the pandemic and praised those associated with its completion amidst all the obstacles.

“The goal of a Viksit

Bharat can only be achieved if all the states are developed”, PM Modi remarked, as he mentioned lending maximum support to Odisha in every sector. Highlighting the efforts of the central government in the last 10 years, the Prime Minister mentioned Odisha’s petroleum and petrochemicals sector witnessing investments worth about Rs 1.25 lakh crores, the state’s railway budget getting a boost of more than 12 times, the construction of 50,000 kms of roads in

Odisha’s rural areas under PM Gram Sadak Yojna and 4,000 kms of National Highways. Referring to today’s inauguration of three National Highways projects, the Prime Minister informed that interstate connectivity between Odisha and Jharkhand would reduce along with traveling distance. Noting that the region is known for its potential in mining, power and steel industries, PM Modi said that new connectivity will create possibilities for new industries in the entire

region, thereby creating thousands of new employment opportunities. He also touched upon the doubling of Sambalpur-Talcher rail section and the inauguration of new rail line from Jhar-Tarbha to Sonpur section. “Subarnapur district will also connect through Puri-Sonpur Express making it easier for devotees to perform darshan of Lord Jagannath”, he said. Shri Modi mentioned that the supercritical and ultra-supercritical thermal plants inaugurated today

will ensure adequate and affordable electricity for every family in Odisha. “Odisha has greatly benefited from the policies made by the Central Government in the last 10 years”, the Prime Minister said, as he mentioned that Odisha’s income has increased 10 times after the change in mining policy. Pointing out that the earlier policy where benefits of mineral production were not available to those areas and states where mining took place, the Prime Minister asserted that

the issue was addressed with the formation of the District Mineral Foundation which ensured investments in the development of the same area from income received through mining. “Odisha has so far received more than Rs 25,000 crores and the money is being used for the welfare of the people in the area where mining is taking place”. Concluding the address, the Prime Minister assured the people of Odisha that the Central Government will continue to work for the development of the state with the same dedicated spirit. Governor of Odisha, Shri Raghubar Das, Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik, Union Minister of Education, and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Minister for Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw were present on the occasion among others. In line with the Prime Minister’s vision to strengthen the energy security of the country, the inauguration, dedication to the nation and foundation stone laying of multiple projects aimed at boosting the energy sector were done in the public program in Sambalpur, Odisha.

LK Advani To Be Conferred Bharat Ratna, Announces PM Modi

New Delhi(KCN): Lal Krishna Advani, the BJP leader who catapulted the party into national reckoning with his Rath Yatra for Ayodhya’s Ram Temple in the early 1990s, has been conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India’s highest civilian award. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to him on Saturday and conveyed the news to him.

“I am very happy to share that Shri LK Advani Ji will be conferred the Bharat Ratna. I also spoke to him and congratulated him on being conferred this honour,” PM Modi wrote on X.

“One of the most respected statesmen of our times, his contribution to the development of India is monumental. His



is a life that started from working at the grassroots to serving the nation as our Deputy Prime Minister. He distinguished himself as our Home Minister and I&B Minister as well. His Parliamentary interventions have always been exemplary, full of rich insights,” he added.

Advani Ji’s decades-long service in public life has been marked by an unwavering commitment

to transparency and integrity, setting an exemplary standard in political ethics. He has made unparalleled efforts towards furthering national unity and cultural resurgence. The conferring of the Bharat Ratna on him is a very emotional moment for me. I will always consider it my privilege that I got countless opportunities to interact with him and learn from him.

First ‘Biswa Odia Bhasha Sammilani’ Kickstarts

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated the First ‘Biswa Odia Bhasha Sammilani’ (World Odia Language Conference) here at Janata Maidan on 3 February. Mega event was opened with the singing of ‘Bande Utkala Janani’, the State Anthem . All those joined the Meet, across the State and abroad joined the festival of Odia language by singing the State anthem at the same time. Employees of different government organisations, school and college students, Police and Non Resident Odias recited the melodious anthem during the inauguration. The grand occasion witnessed the participation of 40,000 students from Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), who joined together in harmony to melodiously sing Odisha’s State Anthem, ‘Bande Utkal Janani.’ Students from the KISS-Bolangir, KISS-Mayurbhanj, KISS-Kalahandi, and KISS-Balasore campuses synchronized their voices with those of their counterparts at the KISS Bhubaneswar campus.

The inspiring moment unfolded as the students strategically positioned themselves on a human map that mirrored the geographical contours of Odisha, and passionately sang the patriotic anthem. Chief Minister Shri Patnaik said his government will accept the recommendations of the conference and formulate a dedicated language policy for the state, which will pave the way for the future development of Odia language. Modern culture and technology has an impact on the language. Therefore, there is a need for detailed discussion on all aspects of the language. There should be a thorough dialogue on the creation of good literature and for better use of the Odia language, CM advised. Expressing pleasure over the recognition of Odia language as a classical language, Shri Patnaik said that language is the future. The state government has set up Odia University for the development of Odia language and promoting Odia language study. Shri Patnaik said, “Today we have all come together on one stage for the Odia language. Odias residing in India and



abroad have also joined in the conference. Renowned Odia writers and researchers have also participated in it. It is a glorious time for Odia language and literature.” He appealed to all to work together for the development of Odia language. Eminent Linguist Debi Prasanna Pattanayak was honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to Odia language and linguistics. He has been felicitated with a memento and cash award of Rs 20 lakh by Shri Patnaik. Chief Minister also felicitated eminent authors, Pratibha Ray and Sitakanta Mahapatra during the Ceremony. The conference, which will continue till February 5, will have different sessions and a special session on Shree Jagannath consciousness.

Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Ashwini Kumar Patra attended the program and said that this conference is an introduction to Odia’s identity. The approach of this conference is to popularize the classical language Odia and how to take the language forward through the application of science and technology. A walk-through museum has also been set up to showcase the history of Odia language. International delegation from four countries, language experts from different parts of India and 20 Odia associations are attending the conference, said Sujata Rout Karthikeyan, Secretary, Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department. The recommendations and outputs of the conference will be implemented by the State

Government, Shrimati Sujata said. The Secretary also said that this conference is a festival and celebration of language for all of us today. Today, transformation is underway in Odisha and language plays a vital role in the process. That is why the Chief Minister has organized this World Odia Language Conference for the glory of the Odia language. The theme of this conference is ‘Language is the Future’. Today, more than 100 scholars including linguists from 4 countries have gathered at this mega meet. She hoped that they would show direction for the growth of Odia language through the application of technology. In his speech Debi Prasanna Pattanayak said, “I have been honoured in many places abroad. But today’s honour is the greatest honour of my life.” Sitakanta Mohapatra said that the future of the Odia language is very bright. Language literature has a need not only for self-satisfaction but also to create a readership. Today’s conference is a welcome step for the growth of Odia language literature, Dr. Mohapatra said.

Car Crashes Into House In Cuttack, Four Dead



Cuttack(KCN): At least four persons were killed after the car they were travelling in crashed into a house at Gadadharpur village under Tigiria tehsil in Cuttack on Saturday. As per reports, the accident occurred while the four persons were returning from Koilikanya village after attending a marriage party. The car driver lost control of the vehicle due to its high speed and dashed the car into a roadside house. As a result, four persons died on the spot. Police reached the spot after receiving the information and seized the bodies. Among the deceased persons, three hailed from Banki and another was from Badamba.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicates NTPC power projects to the Nation

New Delhi, (KCN): Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today dedicated NTPC Darlipali Super Thermal Power Station (2x800 MW), NSPCL Rourkela PP-II Expansion Project (1x250 MW) and laid the foundation stone of NTPC Talcher Thermal Power Project, Stage-III (2x660 MW) with a total investment of Rs 28,978 Crore during a programme at Sambalpur.

Located in Sundargarh district of Odisha, Darlipali STPS is a pit-head Power Station with Supercritical (highly efficient) Technology, and is supplying 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 is established in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) to provide reliable power for the steel plant which is vital for economic growth.

Further, NTPC is developing Talcher Thermal Power Project, Stage-III within old TTPS plant premises in Angul district of Odisha, which was taken over by NTPC from Odisha State Electricity Board in the year 1995. The old TTPS plant was decommissioned after



completing more than 50 years of service to the Nation.

The upcoming plant will have highly efficient Ultra Super Critical Technology based units and approximately three times capacity of the old

TTPS plant. While 50% capacity from this project is dedicated to the state of Odisha, other beneficiary states such as Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Assam will also get low-cost power from this pit-head station.

This project is being constructed with all modern environmental features like efficient electrostatic precipitator,

Flue gas desulphurization, bio-mass cofiring, covered storage space for coal and will thus help in lesser Specific Coal Consumption and CO2 emissions.

Besides creating direct and indirect employment opportunities in the region, these projects have contributed to improvement of physical infrastructure such as approach road, drainage, transportation and communication facilities. Various community development initiatives

are also being undertaken by NTPC in the surrounding villages in the area of education, drinking water, sanitation, health, women empowerment, rural sports, etc. NTPC has also set up a Medical College cum Hospital in Sundargarh, Odisha.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Shri Raghubar Das, Hon'ble Governor, Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt of Odisha, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union

Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways; Communications; and Electronics and Information Technology, Shri Bishweswar Tudu, Hon'ble Union MoS of Tribal Affairs; and Jal Shakti, Shri Nitesh Ganga Deb, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri Nauri Nayak, Hon'ble Member of Odisha Legislative Assembly, Shri Gurdeep Singh, CMD, NTPC along with other dignitaries.

40,000 KISS Students Render 'Bande Utkal Janani to Mark First World Odia Language Conference



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a momentous event on Saturday, the inaugural session of the First World Odia Language Conference took place. The grand occasion witnessed the participation of 40,000 students from Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), who joined together in harmony to melodiously



sing Odisha's State Anthem, 'Bande Utkal Janani.' Students from the KISS-Bolangir, KISS-

Mayurbhanj, KISS-Kalahandi, and KISS-Balasore campuses synchronized their voices with those of their

counterparts at the KISS Bhubaneswar campus. The inspiring moment unfolded as the students strategically positioned on a human map that mirrored the geographical contours of Odisha, and passionately sang the patriotic anthem.

Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS expressed heartfelt appreciation and gratitude towards the state

government and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for their unwavering efforts in organising this landmark event.

AIIMS Opens New Trauma Center



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the Dharmasala (guest house), new trauma centre, and High Energy Linear Accelerator (HELTA) machine here at AIIMS Bhubaneswar through virtual mode.

Inaugurating the facilities on virtual mode from AIIMS Jodhpur, Dr. Mandaviya said that the new facilities will significantly strengthen the overall healthcare infrastructure and elevate the quality of healthcare delivery.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas extended heartfelt gratitude to the Union Minister for his vision and commitment to advancing healthcare.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar is dedicated to providing state-of-the-art healthcare services, embracing the

latest technologies. These cutting-edge facilities will immensely benefit the people of Odisha and neighbouring states, marking a new era in patient care. The fully operational Dharmasala building will be very helpful for the public seeking healthcare service from the national institute, he said.

Similarly, the new Trauma Centre equipped with ICU, modular OTs, wards and other high-end equipment will provide quick and efficient emergency services, ensuring timely assistance for patients in critical need. The state-of-the-art new Trauma Centre will be a beacon of hope for those requiring urgent medical attention during traumatic situations, added Dr. Biswas.

The 2nd new HELTA facility equipped with cutting edge technology will reduce the waiting time for cancer patients requiring

radiotherapy and will be very helpful for providing comprehensive cancer care, he said.

The three storey Dharmasala building having a capacity of 492 beds in 159 rooms has been built through the generous CSR contribution of NALCO. This building has a separate male and female block with a dining facility. The patients and their attendants can stay here at an affordable cost. This facility is one of its kind in nature in the state and among all new AIIMS.

State-of-the-art new Trauma Centre at AIIMS Bhubaneswar has 86 beds and 19 ICU beds. This new centre is also equipped with inbuilt facilities such as follow up Clinic, CT SCAN, three modular OTs, Interventional Cath Lab and other diagnostic services. It will also enable quality training in trauma care for the Residents

Doctors and other medical students of the institute. Being the standalone trauma centre in the state, this centre will play a pivotal role providing quality and quick services to the trauma victims.

The state-of-the-art High Energy Linear Accelerator, the HELTA Machine, at AIIMS Bhubaneswar, will pave the way into a new era of cancer care. The cutting-edge technology for affordable, quality and comprehensive cancer care is now fortified with the HELTA Machine, officials said.

This marvel of technology ensures modern radiation treatment in the most conformal manner, precisely targeting tumors while safeguarding surrounding normal tissues, they said.

Among others, DEAN Dr. PR Mohapatra, Dr. Satyajit Mishra, Dr. Soubhagya Kumar Jena, Medical Superintendent Dr. Dillip Kumar Parida, DDA(I/c) Rasmi Ranjan Sethy, faculties, officials, students and guests were present to mark the occasion in the main auditorium of AIIMS Bhubaneswar.



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THE FORGOTTEN WOMEN SUFFRAGETTES OF INDIA

Dr.Pradeep Kumar Nayak

The patriarchal system in vogue in our country since the antiquities was a deadweight of the past which compelled our women to confine themselves to the four-walls of our homes in the pre-independent period. Nobody dared throw off the shackle of male dominance that bound them.Let alone women education, the Indian women even did nothavea voice at home as a decision maker which was then the exclusive right of the males. Only a handful of girls from the affluent families had the privilege to go to schools and colleges.The evil practice of gender-bias and gender-stereotypes, so to say, hadkept them in a perpetual state of backwardness. Anyway, some of the highly educated women of our country had shown exemplary

courage during the pre-independent period to take on the patriarchal system and confront the mighty British Government to demand right to vote for the Indian women. In collaboration with some of the British political activists who had embarked on a movement demanding voting right for women they bravely fought for the right to vote for women. Mention may be made of names of notable women right activists likeAnasuya Sarabhai, Ramdulari Dube, Sophia Duleep Singh,Sambujamma,Sarojini Naidu, Saralabai Naik, Mrs. Srirangama, Mrs.Chandrasekhara Aiyar, Dhanwanti Rama Rau, K a m a l a d e v i Chattopadhyaya, BegumHusrat Mohani, Herabhai Tata and Mrs.Lazarus. They were the Indian women suffragettes whom Indians have more or less forgotten , but their

m o n u m e n t a l contribution can never be ignored nor can be erased from the historical records. One of the Indian woman political activists who was the first to keep active contact with the British Suffrage Movement was Anasuya Sarabhai who in 1911 joined hands with British Suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst and other British political activists to demand voting right for the Indian women too.She studied at London School of Economics ; returned to India in 1913 and joined the Indian National Congress as a member. She demanded enfranchisement for the Indian women in public debates. Ram Dulari Dube was another political activist who pressurized the British Government to concede the demand

for right to vote for the Indian women. She lived with her barrister husband in London and was a member of the Women Franchise League. She delivered talk at Chelsea Town Hall supporting voting rights for Indian women during International Suffrage Fair held from 13 to 16 November,1912.Sophia Duleep Singh, the daughter of the exiled Maharajah of Punjab was a determined Indian woman who was a strong advocate of Indian women's demand for right to vote. She was born in Norfolk in England in 1876 and joined the Women's Social and Political Union (WPSU) in 1909 that was founded by the British Suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst. She joined the group of British women suffragists Emmeline Pankhurst, Elizabeth Garret and 300 other women campaigners on

November 18,1910 as a member of delegation to meet the British Prime Minister Herbert Asquith to submit a memorandum urging to pass a limited Franchise Bill for the women. She also supported a magazine named "The Suffragette" that was published from England. An Irish suffragette named Margaret Cousins had come to India in 1915 to organize suffrage movement and to mobilise the Indian women to know their political rights. It was she who led a delegation of Indian women suffragettes to meet Edwin Montague,the Secretary of State for India who visited India in 1917.The delegation comprised Margaret Cousins, Sarojini Naidu,Annie Besant, Saralabhai Naik,Dr. NagutaiJoshi , Mrs.Srirangama ,Mrs.Chandrasekhara Naik ,

Mrs.KamalabaiKibe , Harabai Tata , Mrs. Lazarus ,Dorothy J i n a r a j a d a s a ,NalinibaiDaivi,Begum HusratMohani , and Guruswamy Chetty .They submitted their petition to Montague on December 17,1917.The women were almost ignored by him. On the contrary, he agreed to give some political concessions like a new Central Legislative Council and Provincial Assemblies where only men with property qualifications would be considered as members with right to vote. From 1918 to 1919 Lord Francis Hopwood Southborough headed the Franchise Committee to deal with issues of election and franchise. In Bombay 800 women gave him a r e p r e s e n t a t i o n demanding right to vote for the Indian women. On February 6, 1918 the Representation of People's Act was enacted by the British

Parliament which granted voting right to men in England at 21 years of age and women at 30 year who had property qualification. Margaret Cousins wrote to Montague in October,1918 that the Indian men supported w o m e n enfranchisement. These great women had to struggle hard continuously till the independence under the banner of All India Women's Conference (AIWC) showing solidarity with one another until their mission was achieved. The issue of women's suffrage was tin the Central Province in 1927 and in Bihar and Orissa in 1929 and by 1930 all the provinces had been granted partial right to vote with property qualification. This was the reason for which only those women having property could vote in elections. Thus, the percentage of women voters was only

1 percent of the women population. The women delegates kept up pressure on the British Government to concede universal adult suffrage or right to vote for the women. However, the British Government pursued its dilatory tactics until the independence of India.Subsequently when India was independent the Constitution of India granted Universal Adult Franchise to all men and women aged 21 under Article 326. Anyway, Indians should not forget or ignore the bravery of these Indian women suffragettes who had fought against the mighty British Empire to get their legitimate political right fulfilled.

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An area full of video editing possibilities

Vijay Garg



Editing is one of the most important activities after shooting a film. With the help of computer this work Many unique aspects related to this have come to light. Today there is a huge demand for editors in every film production company and studio. Cinematic imagination is the first condition of

this work, on the basis of which a film editor gives the final shape to the film through video editing. What is video editing, this is being explained in detail here. If you have the ability to understand visuals and If you have the ability to evaluate them quickly, then a video editing course can prove to be a better career option for you. These days, due to the latest technology of editing, the demand for video editors is c o n t i n u o u s l y increasing, because imagining any film or TV program is not possible without video editors. video editing

Under video editing, the concept of editing and things related to it are explained in detail. From capturing the footage, editing the footage to deciding which visuals to fit where.How to mix music and sound, all these tasks can be done only by editors who are expert in video editing. For this, both theory and practical training is necessary. Nature of Work: According to Nalin Ranjan Singh, director of NRAI School of Mass Communication and producer of the film Gandhi to Hitler, video editors earlier used to work through linear

technology, now they work through video editing. Editing of the cameraman's visuals can now be completed in a short time with the help of computerized software.Is. Course There are four types of courses, Certificate Course in Video Editing and Sound Recording and Diploma in Post Production, Video Editing, which are of three months to three years duration. Short-term courses of one and a half to three months are also available. Educational qualification To take admission in this course, the doors open

only after 12th, but for degree and diploma, it is necessary to be a graduate in any subject. Short-term courses are also available in it. If you want to get a job in any channel, then you must be a graduate.It is necessary. personal ability To become a successful video editor, it is very important to be imaginative, so that the appropriate sound can be mixed while understanding the needs of the scene. According to Nalin Ranjan Singh, Managing Director, NRAI School of Mass Communication, the

profession of video editing is very bright for those who are of creative nature and are interested in doing effective editing of the shot scenes with the help of various software. opportunities and possibilities After completing the course, news, entertainment channels, production houses,Can work in web designing company, music world (feature and advertising film) and BPO etc. There are many options for freelancers in this field as well.

Retired Principal
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Liver Cancer : A Life-Threatening Illness

Prof. Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra



Several types of cancer can form in the liver. The most common type of liver cancer is h e p a t o c e l l u l a r carcinoma, which begins in the main type of liver cell (hepatocyte). Other types of liver cancer, such as intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma and hepatoblastoma, are much less common.

Primary liver cancer is a life-threatening illness and one of the fastest growing cancer types Most

primary liver cancer is cancer in your liver and cancer in bile ducts in your liver. Both cancer types have common causes, risk factors, symptoms and treatments. Like many kinds of cancer, healthcare providers can do more to treat liver cancer during the disease's early stage. Unlike many kinds of cancer, healthcare providers have a good idea of what increases someone's risk of developing liver cancer. With that in mind, healthcare providers are intent on identifying who may be at increased risk so they can catch and treat primary liver cancer as early as possible.

No, it's not common, but liver cancer cases are steadily increasing. Healthcare providers estimate about 1% of all men and women in the United States will be diagnosed with a form

of liver cancer during their lifetime.

There are three kinds of primary liver cancer: Hepatocellular carcinoma : This is the most common form of liver cancer, representing nearly all liver cancer cases. Intrahepatic cancer : This is a form of cholangiocarcinoma. IHC is cancer in your liver's bile ducts. It represents about 10% to 20% of all primary liver cancer cases. Angiosarcoma: This type is very rare, representing about 1% of all primary liver cancer cases. This cancer begins in the lining of blood cells in your liver.

Your liver is the largest organ in your body, helping you digest your food. It's also one of the most important organs, as no one can live without their liver. Some of the essential tasks your liver manages include:

Collects and filters blood flowing from your intestines, Processes and stores nutrients that your intestines absorb, Changes some nutrients into energy or substances that your body needs to build tissue, Makes bile, a fluid that helps digest fat, Digests and stores other nutrients from food like sugar, which makes energy, Makes substances that help your blood to clot.

Liver cancer happens when something affects healthy liver cells' DNA. DNA carries the genes that tell our cells how to function. We all have genes that tell cells when to grow, multiply and die. For example, oncogenes help cells grow and divide. Other genes, called tumor suppressor genes, monitor cell activity, keeping cells from m u l t i p l y i n g uncontrollably and

making sure cells die when they're supposed to die.

When liver cancer is in its early stages, you might have no symptoms at all. Hepatocellular carcinoma and intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma have similar symptoms: A lump below your rib cage or pain on the right side of your abdomen, or pain near your right shoulder. Jaundice (a disease that causes skin and eyes to yellow). Unexplained weight loss, nausea, or loss of appetite. Fatigue. Dark-colored urine.

Healthcare providers have several common treatments for HCC and IHC, including surgery to remove part of your liver, liver transplantation and liver-directed treatments like hepatic arterial embolization and ablation. They may also use several types of

c h e m o t h e r a p y , chemoembolization, radiation therapy, radioembolization, immunotherapy and targeted therapy.

While you can't completely prevent liver cancer, you can do the following to lower your chances of getting liver cancer: Avoid behaviors that lead to cirrhosis. Reach or maintain a healthy weight. Get a hepatitis B vaccine. This vaccine is safe for nearly everyone. Ask your doctor about the hepatitis A vaccine. Avoid hepatitis C. If you have any liver disease, have diabetes, obesity or are a heavy drinker, ask your healthcare provider about liver cancer screenings.

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Letter to Editor

Sir

In a shocking incident a JEE aspirant from Kota, Rajasthan committed suicide just days ahead of the exam. The year 2023 has already witnessed many student aspirants committing suicide in Kota due to exam pressure and the latest tragedy yet again pinpoints to how entrance exams are causing severe mental agony , panic and pressure among young students .

The suicide cases occuring in Kota and elsewhere in the country pinpoints to how much mental tension students experience and also exposes certain flaws in the exam system and the societal beliefs prevalent which focusses only on marks, passes , ranks and success. It is high time that the ministry of education at the states and the centre take the matter seriously and take suitable measures so as our young students do not take such harsh decisions just in the name of exams and the way in which it is conducted.

Parents and teachers have to inculcate in children the mentality to face problems with courage and will power and to face challenges in a bold manner . They have to be taught to accept failures and learn lessons from it . They have to be taught to take failures as lessons that teach them to learn and attain success in their life . Suicides are not at all a solution.Let our youngsters understand that life is not just exams, marks and ranks but it is something more than that . Parents and teachers can play a vital role in shaping and guiding the youngsters. Let them also understand that other than the conventional professional careers - engineering and medicine - there are hundreds of courses which have very good scope for the younger generation and which aptly suits their interest and capability . Career counseling should be made part of school education .

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Gender-based Violence A global issue



Gender-based violence is violence against a person just because of the difference in gender. Although both men and women experience gender-based violence, the majority of victims are women and girls. Gender-based violence is a phenomenon deeply linked to gender inequality and is one of the most prominent human rights violations in all societies. It is manifested throughout the life of women from mother's womb to death. Gender-based violence has no social or economic background but affects women and girls from all social and economic backgrounds. Every girl and boy should have equal opportunity to survive and grow. Childhood experts are advocating equal rights for every child. Yet gender discrimination starting in childhood is crushing their childhood and limiting their potential, which is having an adverse impact on girls

Amit Baijnath Garg
India has been ranked 127th among 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2023. Many studies have shown that gender-based violence can be ended by involving all communities in preventing, identifying and addressing it. Gender-based violence is a global issue, with approximately 27 percent of women experiencing physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lifetime.

around the world. There is a high possibility of a girl being deprived of her rights, prevented from school, forced into marriage, and subjected to violence. Even if it is noticed, the girl is given less importance. This discrimination against children hinders the development of the nation because future progress depends on the energy and determination of today's children.

According to one estimate, it will take more than 200 years to achieve gender equality at the current rate of change. Gender equality is currently unacceptable only in America. Together we can create a more equal world from the ground up. According to a recently released report, women have traditionally been seen as a weaker section in society. They suffer exploitation, humiliation and discrimination both at home and in society. Discrimination against women is prevalent everywhere in the world. India ranks 127th among 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2023. A report says that one in three women in India is abused by her partner once in her lifetime.

Gender-based violence is a global issue, with approximately 27 percent of women experiencing physical or sexual abuse at some point in their lifetime. Particularly in South Asia, the incidence of experiencing intimate partner violence is 35 percent higher than the global average. The patriarchal socio-economic system and traditional traditions, which define gender roles, are responsible for this. The impact of violence against women and girls is deep at the emotional level and causes bigger social, economic, physical and mental problems for them. The disappointing aspect is that as an individual she is unable to use her full potential. Girls and women who are victims of violence often lag behind in education, health and employment. Their participation in society is also affected. Violence against women also damages the economy. It causes a loss of 15 trillion US dollars (2 percent GDP) at the global level.

Among the various causes of gender-based violence, the most important are social, political and cultural reasons. For example, discriminatory social, cultural and religious beliefs, norms and practices marginalise women and girls and do not give their rights. Gender stereotypes are often used to justify violence against women. Cultural norms indicate that men are aggressive, controlling, and dominant, while women are submissive and dependent on men as providers. These norms motivate to abuse her. The breakdown of family, social and community structures and the limited role and rights of women within the family often put women and girls at risk.

There are many obstacles in the way to create gender equality. Lack of access to judiciary institutions makes men fearless to abuse her. There is also a lack of suitable and affordable legal advice and representation for her. Apart from this, victim-survivor and witness protection mechanisms are also missing. Inadequate judicial frameworks, including national, traditional, customary and religious beliefs, discriminate against women and girls. Fear of pressure or stigma, isolation, social exclusion, victimization, detention, ill-treatment and punishment etc. hinder the efforts of gender equality. There is a lack of knowledge about human rights. Most of the women do not know how and where to get justice.

Gender-based violence severely impacts all aspects of women's health, including physical, sexual and reproductive, mental and behavioural health. This hinders them from realising their full potential. Violence and its threat weaken women's ability to participate actively and equally in the social and political sphere. Workplace harassment and domestic violence impact women's potential and their economic empowerment. Sexual harassment also limits girls' educational opportunities and achievements. This is why their development is often hindered.

There is a need to increase awareness to prevent violence against women. Past experiences tell us that access to state facilities is limited in conflict areas; therefore, it is important that lifeline facilities for women victims of gender violence are also included in the programs being run in this context. Various organisations will have to work together to ensure that necessary health facilities and mental health services are available in such areas. It is important to act closely with women's organisations working at the grassroots level to reach out to female victims in conflict-affected areas. Gender-based violence not only causes human harm but also destroys a society's ability to combat poverty, inequality and achieve prosperity. Gender violence can be ended by involving all communities in preventing, identifying and addressing it.

We must continue to support legal and policy reforms to prevent gender-based violence. Relative policies have to be developed towards establishing gender equality, because gender-based violence arises from gender inequality and plays a role in maintaining it. There is a need to run awareness campaigns about the existing laws against domestic violence and sexual violence. In recent years, many South Asian countries have changed laws related to sexual violence and harassment. However, it becomes difficult to implement them because there is a huge lack of awareness among the people regarding women's rights. We will have to work closely with governments to build the capacity of officials to adopt, implement and spread awareness about these laws.

Gender-based violence can be eliminated only through collective efforts of society, government and individuals. One of the most important ways is to train healthcare providers to recognize and assist in such violences. Media can play a key role in highlighting gender-based violence, advertising, informing policy-makers, and educating the public about legal rights. Regular curriculum, sex education, counselling programs, and school health services can carry forward the message that violence is a crime and must be prevented. If everyone comes together and makes a collective effort, gender-based violence can be controlled, and women and girls can be given their due rights. Only then will the concept of equality in society be established.

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The Mirror of Life

Monalisa Dash Dwibedy

Life puts you into many unsettling situations. Whether the situation threatens you or you respond to it with joy in your heart , it's totally up to you . When life threw lemons at me , I was the kind of person who threw the lemons back to life and got injured in the process . But now I am learning to make a perfect lemonade. Some situations are occurring in such a sequence that I am forced to realize that all of us are here in the earth for some learning . We all must go through our individual lessons, there are no other way . Either We go through the lessons joyfully or with a big frown on our face , the choice is ours . I must instantiate once particular situation which is worth a mention . While I was living in Hyderabad, often in my office local employees spoke in their mother tongue at work. Those colleagues usually ignored the fact that there were other people working nearby

who did not understand their language and found their continuous talks irritating . The worst situation I faced was this ; In a meeting room, ten people would be gathered to talk to the onsite team and in the middle of the discussion, three people will start a cross-talk in their local language with the onsite guy who happened to know their language and suddenly rest of us will lose the track of the entire conversation. The company HR issued notice time to time to employees to refrain speaking in their mother tongue in office premises . After all, we worked for an international company where English was supposed to be spoken at work all the time but nothing could stop some people talking in their local language at workplace. I used to be a whistleblower and took all such incidents to senior management demanding to stop such unprofessional manners. Now after many years , I am in North America working

as a Consultant and the history seemed to be repeating itself . A couple of new joiners who work near my desk did all work related conversations in tamil language, which was hammering but this time I was not complaining . I did understand what the universe trying to tell me . The message was clear ; “As long as you react to this situation, I will re-create this for you wherever you go “ . So what I am doing now ? Now after all these years of yoga and meditation, I have the ability to make the words floating around me disappear if I want so . When unwanted words try to reach me , I just close my eyes and make those words lose their weight. It's all for good . Whenever I am getting into such awkward situations which is trying to drain me out, I draw inspiration from the below story of Indian mythology . To fight and conquer the mighty demons, it was decided that Lord Vishnu would be reincarnated as Krishna. He was to be born as a



child to Vasudeva and Devaki in Mathura and was to be shifted to Gokul, where he was to grow up under the parentage of Nanda and Yashoda. As he would be a little baby, the task of such transfer was entrusted to Vasudeva. Vasudeva was told that at the time of the birth, it would be dark outside, all the guards would be asleep, jail doors would be open to assist him in carrying out his task to perfection, however he

was to complete the entire task within a short time span, after which everybody would be awake and life would return back to normal. On that day, when Vasudeva was carrying the newborn baby Krishna , he spotted a herd of donkeys. On seeing Vasudeva, they started braying at the top of their voice. Vasudeva requested them to keep silent as that would awake guards & other citizens and the important work he is

entrusted with could be jeopardized. However donkeys insisted on continuing unless Vasudeva touches every donkey's feet. Vasudeva mentioned that he is carrying God and for him to touch every donkey's feet, he need to put the little baby on the ground. However donkeys still persisted with their demand coupled with occasional braying. Left with no option, Vasudeva went ahead with the task of touching each donkey's

feet. Feeling satiated, donkeys stopped braying. Vasudeva completed his work and came back to Mathura safely within the stipulated time. Donkeys meanwhile had a gala time enjoying how they forced a human being to submit to their whims. What happened after that is known to all of us. So here are the lessons for all of us. Lesson 1 - Even if you are doing your job properly and in line with the overall macro vision

of the things, there would be enough donkeys around to insist on doing it their way. Lesson 2 - You should not feel ashamed or frustrated being forced to stoop to a level lower than donkeys, if that's the only way the important job entrusted to you can be completed. Lesson 3 and most important – Only you know the criticality of your job. (after all Vasudeva's task was critical in saving the entire earth, including those very donkeys!). Other people may not be aware of your journey, let alone appreciating it. Even if you become a laughing stock for the world, you should generate satisfaction from within about your skills & capabilities that lead you to live the life you always wanted for yourself. As you fulfil the purpose of your life and live blissfully, let the world talk and derive satisfaction from petty stuffs.

**(The writer is an IT Consultant living in Toronto , views are personal)
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PM at the inauguration and laying the foundation stone of various projects at Sambalpur, in Odisha



Maharashtra Lawmaker Seeks Action Against Poonam Pandey For Faking Death

M u m b a i (K C N) : Maharashtra legislator Satyajeet Tambe on Saturday demanded that Mumbai police take action against model-actor Poonam Pandey for putting out fake news of her death.

A case should be registered against Ms Pandey to make an example of her for those who resort to such stunts to promote themselves, said Tambe, an independent member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council.

A day after the news of



her death from cervical cancer dominated the news cycle and led to intense debate on social media -- PTI never confirmed the death in its reporting -- 32-year-old Poonam Pandey

announced on Saturday that she was alive, and the fake news was published to spread "critical awareness" about the disease. Action should be taken against her as she "made

or published false or misleading information," MLC Tambe said in a statement.

"The news of an influencer/model dying of cervical cancer cannot be a means to spread awareness about the disease. The entire episode takes away the serious nature of cervical cancer and diverts the attention entirely to the influencer," Mr Tambe said.

The actor pulled a prank on cancer survivors rather than raising awareness, he added.

Officer's Nod Mandatory For Civil Work Within 2-Metre Radius Of Tree: Delhi High Court

New Delhi(KCN): The Delhi High Court has directed that all agencies in the national capital will need the tree officer's permission to undertake civil work within a two-metre radius of any existing tree.

Justice Mini Pushkarna has ordered that the condition shall be incorporated into all work contracts and tenders issued by government agencies and there will be a strict penalty in case of non-compliance.

"This court directs that all the agencies which undertake civil works in Delhi shall, in future, incorporate in their work contracts and tenders issued for carrying out any civil works in Delhi the specific stipulation that in case any work is to be commenced, which is within a two-metre radius of any existing tree, the permission of the tree officer shall have to be taken as a mandatory condition," the court said in a recent order.

"The work contracts and tenders issued by the various government agencies shall also



contain the specific stipulation that in case there is non-compliance of the aforesaid condition of taking permission from the tree officer, the same shall entail strict penalty," it added.

The court noted that on May 31, 2023, the Delhi government had issued "clear directives" to all the agencies engaged in civil works to take necessary action with respect to the incorporation of the condition that the tree officer's permission would have to be taken before the commencement or initiation of any civil work, which is likely to be undertaken within a distance of two metres from any existing tree.

It added that the directives shall be strictly

followed by the various government agencies in Delhi undertaking any civil work, including the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCCL).

The court's order came on a contempt petition filed by the New Delhi Nature Society, represented by lawyer Aditya N Prasad, over the alleged non-compliance with law and orders concerning the preservation of roadside trees.

In 2022, the high court issued a contempt notice

to several authorities, including some officials of the PWD, Department of Forest, BSES as well as the Delhi Police, following several photographs of a C R Park pavement that was dug up for civil work.

The court had then noted that "the digging distance from the tree trunk is less than one metre, the tree roots have been cut or damaged, the orders of this court and of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) have been deliberately breached" and that "prima facie, contempt of court has been committed by the respondents".

Last year, the court sentenced two PWD officials to simple imprisonment for contempt of court in view of their "recalcitrance" to follow the law and court orders in relation to conservation of trees in the C R Park area.

The sentences were later remitted after the officials undertook "extensive remedial measures", including the plantation of more than 1,000 trees.

PM Addresses Odisha Chief Minister As "Mitra", Congress Mocks BJD-BJP Ties

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Congress, in Opposition in Odisha, on Saturday called the BJP and ruling BJD political partners, hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as "mitra" (friend).

Inaugurating the IIM Sambalpur campus, PM Modi addressed Mr Patnaik as "Mukhyamantri, mere mitra sriman Naveen Patnaik ji." Reacting to it, AICC Odisha in-charge Ajay Kumar said the PM did not utter a

single word on Mr Patnaik and his close aide VK Pandian.

"This proves that both BJD and BJP are together, that's why we organised their symbolic marriage recently. They are in a secret alliance and VK Pandian set up the bond by holding discussions with Amit Shah. BJD is no longer a different party. It has now become BJP," Mr Kumar alleged.

Refuting the allegation, Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal said, "He (PM) has indicated

that some parties were opposing development works. Now, the people can witness what can be done for them, if BJP forms government in the state." While addressing the meeting, Mr Patnaik addressed PM Modi as "Honourable Prime Minister-ji".

He thanked PM Modi for taking time off his busy schedule to visit Odisha and grace the inauguration of the IIM Sambalpur's new campus.

"Hon'ble Prime Minister has set a new direction

for India and we are on the path to becoming an economic powerhouse," Mr Patnaik said, adding, "Our endeavour is to be the manufacturing hub of eastern India and I am sure the Prime Minister will extend all necessary support to achieve it".

He also lauded the PM and said, "Today, we are hosting the First World Odia Language Conference and are fortunate to have the Prime Minister, who is a lover of Indian languages, with us in Odisha".

MM's Champai Soren takes oath as Chief Minister of Jharkhand

Ranchi(KCN): JMM legislature party leader Champai Soren Friday took oath as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand. He was administered the oath of office by Governor CP Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan here.

Along with Champai Soren, senior Congress leader Alamgir Alam and RJD leader Satyanand Bhokta took oath as state ministers. The oath-taking ceremony was held at the Durbar Hall of the Raj Bhavan and senior leaders of the JMM-led alliance were present on the occasion.

The 67-year-old tribal leader was sworn in as



the 12th chief minister of the state. He became the sixth CM from Jharkhand's Kolhan region which comprises East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts.

Champai Soren was appointed to the Chief

Minister's post Thursday after he urged the governor to accept his claim to form the government at the earliest as there was "confusion" in the state which was without a chief minister since the resignation of Hemant Soren Wednesday,

deepening a political crisis. Champai Soren has been given 10 days to prove his government's majority, said state Congress chief Rajesh Thakur whose party is a constituent of the JMM-led alliance.

"We stand united. Our alliance is very strong. No one can break it," Champai Soren had said. Notably, JMM executive president Hemant Soren was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land fraud after he resigned as Jharkhand chief minister.

Probe Agency Approaches Court After Arvind Kejriwal Skips 5th Summons

New Delhi(KCN): A day after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal skipped the fifth summons in the alleged liquor policy scam, the Enforcement Directorate has approached a court and filed a complaint stating that he has not appeared for questioning. The Rouse Avenue court in New Delhi will hear the case on Wednesday.

Mr Kejriwal had refused to appear before the Enforcement Directorate on Friday and has repeatedly claimed that the summonses issued were illegal and the agency's only aim is to arrest him. Speculation about the AAP chief's arrest has been rife ever since the first summons was



issued by the agency on November 2. Two other AAP leaders - former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh - were taken into custody in connection with the case last year. The Enforcement Directorate's complaint before the Rouse Avenue court on Saturday has been filed under Section 63 (4) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act

(PMLA), which deals with a person intentionally disobeying any direction issued under Section 50 - the clause that gives the agency the power to summon a person.

Section 174 of the Indian Penal Code, which pertains to non-attendance in obedience to an order from a public servant, also finds mention in the complaint. Reacting to Friday's

summons, the AAP had termed the agency's actions "politically motivated" and "unlawful".

"PM Narendra Modi's aim is to arrest Arvind Kejriwal and topple the Delhi government. We will not allow this to happen," the party had said in a statement.

The Delhi chief minister has skipped five summons by the ED - on November 2, December 21, January 3, January 19 and February 2 - and had been questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation in connection with the case in April last year, but was not made an accused by the agency. The ED is investigating the money-laundering angle in the case.

ICAR-CIFRI observed World Wetland Day for sustainable utilization of wetland for human wellbeing

Kolkata, (KCN): Wetlands play a crucial ecological role, providing diverse benefits to the environment and human communities. These areas contribute various ecosystem goods and services that support the livelihoods of rural populations. However, the vulnerability of many wetlands due to climatic changes and human activities necessitates conservation efforts. The ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, an institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), is dedicated to inland open water fisheries development in India. ICAR-CIFRI actively contributes to the advancement of wetland fisheries through technological development, policy support, capacity building, climate change adaptation, and

technology demonstration. The World Wetland Day 2024 celebration, hosted by ICAR-CIFRI, began with a warm welcome extended to the guests and fish farmers by Dr. B.K. Das, Director of ICAR-CIFRI. In his opening address, Dr. Das briefly introduced the institute's achievements in wetland fisheries development. Dr. Sandeep Behera, Sr. Consultant, Biodiversity, NMCG mentioned about the genesis and purpose of wetland day celebration and mentioned about the importance of wetlands. Proj. (Dr.) B.B. Jana, University of Kalyani also praised CIFRI's accomplishments in wetland development and emphasized the critical role of wetlands in sustaining human well-being. Prof. (Dr) Ashis Kumar Panigrahi,



Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Burdwan, WB mentioned the need for conservation of wetland and praise the role of CIFRI in wetland development at grass root level. Prof. Soma Mukherjee, HoD, Department of Environmental Science, University of Kalyani, WB highlighted the

importance of wetland for human wellbeing. Dr. Sandeep Behera, Senior Consultant, Biodiversity, NMCG, discussed the origins and significance of World Wetland Day celebration, emphasizing the importance of wetlands. He commended CIFRI for its achievements and contributions to wetland

fisheries development and conservation. Prof. (Dr.) B.B. Jana from the University of Kalyani also lauded CIFRI's successes in wetland development and highlighted the pivotal role of wetlands in sustaining human well-being. Prof. (Dr.) Ashis Kumar Panigrahi, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Burdwan,

WB, highlighted the need for wetland conservation and praised CIFRI's grassroots-level efforts in wetland development. Prof. (Dr.) Soma Mukherjee, University of Kalyani, WB, emphasized the critical role of wetlands in promoting human well-being. Following the inaugural program, a technical session unfolded where experts from NMCG, University of Kalyani, University of Burdwan, Adamas University, Department of Fisheries, and Scientist from CIFRI delivered insightful talks on wetland conservation and sustainable utilization for human well-being. In the technical session Dr. B.K. Das highlighted the importance of wetlands and showcased the institute's achievements in wetland fisheries development.

emphasizing their positive impact on human well-being in his presentation. The technical session seamlessly transitioned into a panel discussion. Participants engaged in a thorough discussion on various issues, challenges, and proposed strategies for the sustainable development of wetlands. This exchange of ideas and experiences laid the foundation for a comprehensive understanding of the intricate balance required for the coexistence of wetlands and human well-being. An integral part of the celebration was the interaction between scientists and fishers from six wetlands of West Bengal, providing an opportunity for the exchange of practical knowledge. In support of sustainable fishing practices, Dr. Das announced the adoption of new ten wetlands by

providing capacity building and fisheries input. On the same day, fishers from four wetlands received FRP Fishing boats equipped with outboard engines and CIFRI HDPE pens for enhancement of fish production in wetlands. The event not only highlighted the importance of wetlands in the context of human well-being but also served as a platform for meaningful discussions and collaborations between experts and fishers. The distribution of fishing equipment further underscored the commitment towards sustainable wetland management. The workshop concluded with a renewed sense of purpose and dedication to preserving and utilizing wetlands for the betterment of both ecosystems and communities.

BOBBY CHAKRABORTY'S 416TH ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN ON HIS BIRTHDAY AT B. D. MEMORIAL JUNIOR SCHOOL



Kolkata, (KCN): Like every year in the past, Bobby Chakraborty will celebrate his birthday on February 13th, through his Anti Addiction Campaign. This year it will be his 416th session at B. D. Memorial Junior School, 10am onwards. This will be his 2nd session in this school. Bobby has been an actor since 2002, a social activist fighting hard against all sorts addiction and harmful

social trends among the youth globally and is also an extremely popular teacher of method acting at SMPAi. He has reached more than 410 schools, colleges, universities, orphanages and red light areas globally and carries out this campaign for free, without charging any money from anyone. This extremely effective and life changing social awareness program,

titled 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND', has won him various awards and recognitions in the past. Interestingly Shreyaan Banerjee, an enterprising, bright and socially responsible 5th grade student from this school, will make his debut as an 'active soldier', who will take the centre stage too, with Bobby, in a bid to inspire his fellow soldiers, to fight the evils in the society and

travel a path towards a healthy body and mind. We appreciate the initiative from The Director/Principal of B. D. Memorial Junior School, Mrs. Suman Sood to join hands with Bobby, for raising this much needed preventive awareness among children, before it's too late, as they reach a point of no return as adults, completely destroying their physical and mental health.

State Pleas No Tariff Hike

Bhubaneswar (KCN): With an aim not to put any additional burden on power consumers of the State, the Department of Energy has appealed to Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) not to hike the power tariff for the financial year 2024-25. During a hearing to decide power tariff for the upcoming financial year, the Department of Energy has submitted its petition to OERC requesting not to increase the electricity tariff in the financial year 2024-25. GRIDCO has proposed that the power distribution companies will be able to meet the additional expenditure required for power procurement from last year's regulatory

surplus and additional revenue to be generated due to increased electricity demand, officials said. During the public hearing, GRIDCO has presented detailed information on plans to meet consumer demand and ensure uninterrupted power supply to the consumers in the coming financial year. The OERC had started public hearings on January 30 and will continue till February 6. The distribution companies set to request the Commission to hike power tariff in order to recover their losses due to transmission and other issues. Power distribution companies TPNODL submitted its request on February 2 while

TPCODL will face the Commission on February 3. Other two DISCOMs—TPWODL and TPSODL will attend the hearing on February 5 and February 6 respectively. On February 7, a state advisory committee meeting of OERC will be conducted here. The Commission will discuss with them about different issues related to ARR and power tariff before passing the judgment. The OERC may pronounce the order on March 23, sources said. The Commission had ordered not to change the power tariff for the financial year 2023-24. So, there was no power tariff hike during the current year. Retail supply tariff has

remained unrevised during the last two consecutive years. The electricity tariff for domestic consumers for the first 50 units remained Rs 3 per unit, while it is Rs 4.80 per unit for consumption between 50 and 200 units. Similarly, the tariff is Rs 5.80 per unit for consumption between 200 and 400 units, while Rs 6.20 is being charged per unit for power consumption above 400 units. The Commission had given several concessions to the electricity consumers last year. The OERC had hiked 30 paise per unit for the year 2021-22. It had hiked 20 paise per unit of electricity consumed in the state from October 1, 2020.




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SAIC Motor and JSW Group announce a strategic Joint Venture to accelerate growth with focus on green mobility

Bhubaneswar: SAIC Motor, a global Fortune 500 company with annual revenues of around US\$ 110 billion and a presence in over 100 countries, and the JSW Group, one of India's leading global business conglomerates with US\$ 23 billion in revenues across diversified businesses, have entered into a strategic Joint Venture. The Shareholder Agreement and Share Purchase & Share Subscription agreement were signed by the President of SAIC Wang Xiaoqiu and JSW Group's Parth Jindal at MG UK Headquarters in London with the objective of accelerating the transformation and

growth of MG Motor in India. SAIC Motor and JSW Group will create strategic synergies by bringing together resources in the field of automobiles and new technology. The joint venture will also undertake multiple new initiatives including augmenting local sourcing, improving charging infrastructure, expansion of production capacity, and introducing a broader range of vehicles with a focus on green mobility. According to the agreement signed, JSW Group will hold 35% in the Indian JV operations. SAIC will continue supporting the joint venture with advanced technology

and products to deliver extraordinary mobility solutions with an unwavering focus on the Indian consumer. According to Wang Xiaoqiu, President of SAIC Motor, "The automobile business is a global industry, and like in any other similar industry, access and collaboration are crucial for its healthy growth. SAIC has always adhered to the 'win-win cooperation' approach while steadily improving our core capabilities and expanding our scale of production and sales. In the growing Indian automotive market, both partners shall work closely to bring in the best of innovation, in creating greener and



smarter mobility products and services for our consumers, seizing market opportunities,

continuously expanding the brand influence and market share of our products, and achieving greater success for MG

in India." According to JSW Group's Parth Jindal, "Our strategic collaboration with

SAIC Motor aims to grow & transform the MG Motor operations in India with a focus on green mobility solutions. The joint venture paves the way for bringing world-class technology-enabled futuristic suite of automobile products including the new generation of intelligent connected NEVs and ICE vehicles. The JV's focus on broader localisation initiatives will yield financially accretive synergies through economies of scale while providing the highest level of customer service to the Indian consumer. One of the key focus areas

of this joint venture will be to pursue the development of the EV ecosystem and to take a leadership position in this space. We would like to thank SAIC and MG Motor for choosing JSW as their partners of choice and look forward to building one of India's largest automobile companies together. The rich history of the MG brand is known to all and its success in India is there for all to see and it is truly an honour to be able to take this brand and company forward alongside a strong global partner in SAIC. We cannot wait to get going."

RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

Mumbai: RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India. Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing Indian market.

honourable Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar India, this collaboration with Plastic Legno's deep experience in world-class toy manufacturing coupled with our strong footing in the global toy retail industry would open new doors and unparallelled opportunities for toys manufactured in India. It is imperative for RBL to build design to shelf capability for a strategic advantage over the competition and to be an accelerator in building a robust toy manufacturing ecosystem in India not only for domestic consumption but also for global markets," said the spokesperson of Reliance Brands Limited.

RBL has a strong play in the Toy industry with its portfolio of Hamleys, the British toy retailer and homegrown toy brand – Rowan, making RBL one of the leading

toy distributors. Hamleys currently has a global footprint across 15 countries with 213 doors and is India's largest chain of toy stores.

"We are very privileged to have RBL as a partner in this Joint Venture. We are confident that Plastic Legno's experience in Toys production and Hamley's commercial outreach, will complement one another to enable the JV Company to achieve greater heights and successes. We have important development plans to implement, always in the spirit of creating a cultural background in this specific sector in India. We are ready for the challenges of the future, but when there is a group like RBL alongside, we are sure that together we can do a great development," said Paolo Sunino, Co-owner, Sunino Group.

H&M revels in sunset colours and embellished details for The Festive Collection 2023



Bhubaneswar: H&M India invites you to the season of celebrations with a special collection personified by all things sparkle and shine. Featuring party-ready ensembles, the collection spotlights designs showcasing strong shoulders, cropped tops and draped details among the statement suiting, party dresses and matching sets. Rhinestones, sequins and high-shine fabrics bring sophistication and

vibrancy to every piece, while a strong colour palette of hot pink, orange, red, sand, gold and black adds to the celebratory mood. For The Festive Collection, H&M wanted to create a special collection that draws upon beauty and merriment of the season. Draping along the waistline, shoulder lines and across the body accentuate the female form, while long trousers and skirts contrast with alluring cropped tops.

Tonal looks are vital, but the play of different fabrics and embellishment make it playful and modern. "The Festive Collection comes at such a special time of year and we're thrilled with the collection. We were really inspired by the importance of light – candles, lanterns and fireworks – and worked that into a vivid sunset colour palette, but also brought in a lot of sequins, rhinestones and satin.

DSP Mutual Fund unveils a thoughtful portfolio approach in 2024

Mumbai (KCN): In its annual note, DSP Mutual Fund revealed insights for a thoughtful portfolio approach in 2024. DSP advocates diversifying your portfolio across market cap segments to maintain a balance during different market conditions. A year ago, no one could have anticipated the returns the markets delivered in 2023. The global economy proved more resilient than expected, inflation cooled faster than predicted, and companies retained most benefits of lower raw material prices, leading to higher margins. Above all, the positive sentiment for India continued, resulting in increased relative multiples.

In 2023, mid and small caps have experienced significant run up, good quality and not so good quality – both. DSP's preference is towards quality midcap as it provides a more effective approach to wealth creation with reduced volatility and fewer drawdowns. Given the current scenario with elevated multiples which seems to be pricing in most good news, sticking to quality companies, understanding business cycles and valuations cycles in each sector becomes increasingly crucial going forward. Recent data indicating improvements in operating performance has led DSP to augment its holdings in PSU companies. The selection criteria, however, remain stringent, focusing on companies that meet fundamental parameters. Should these PSU entities sustain efficient operations, a continued trend of outperformance is expected due to increased business opportunities. However, guided by their historical track record, DSP maintains a rigorous approach, maintaining high benchmark for ownership of PSU companies.

While the global challenge of an aging population persists, India remains in an advantageous position with one of the lowest median population ages globally. With this demographic constituting a dominant segment of our population, we can anticipate a continuous increase in the working-age population and growing income levels.

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3, 53,188 unit sales

Gurugram: Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May'22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May'21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon."

Commissions India's Largest Fleet of Electric Lithium-Ion Forklifts

New Delhi: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has commissioned India's largest electric fleet of 27 forklifts, powered by lithium-ion batteries. Done in partnership with GEAR (Gemini Equipment and Rentals Private Limited) India, this

sets the ball rolling on Vedanta Aluminium's plans to decarbonize its industrial vehicle fleet. All 27 forklifts arrived last month and are being operationalised at the company's aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda, in Odisha, which is the world's largest single-location aluminium

smelter, ex-China. Further, as testimony to its endeavours towards increasing gender diversity in core manufacturing operations, Vedanta Aluminium is recruiting and training women to operate these top-of-the-line forklifts. The company has previously hired transgender employees as

forklift operators in its aluminium operations at BALCO in Chhattisgarh. These electric forklifts make use of the cutting-edge 'Smart Fleet Management' system to help ensure the highest levels of safety at site. The Smart Fleet Management system uses IOT (Internet of Things) technology to

integrate the data collected by intelligent terminals and provide Vedanta Aluminium insights on a real-time basis with respect to forklift speed, access to operate, collision avoidance, optimization analysis for operational efficiency and equipment maintenance, among others.

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

Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the

Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP, Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the

Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

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

Spice Money to enable farmers to withdraw PM-KISAN subsidy through its 1 million Adhikari Network

New Delhi: The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each. Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pincodes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through AePS at their doorstep Adhikari outlet. The PM Kisan Scheme, a central sector scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India, became operational on December 1, 2018. Under this scheme, income support of ₹ 6000

per year, divided into three installments, is directly transferred to the bank accounts of landholding farmer families, consisting of the husband, wife, and minor children. Speaking on this, Sanjeev Kumar, Co-Founder & CEO, Spice Money, said, "At Spice Money, we have been striving to solve the problem of access to banking & financial services in rural India. As the 11th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is rolled out, our 1 million Adhikaris operating across 18,500 pin codes, will be an enabler in ensuring easy access and withdrawal of this subsidy to the rightful 10 crore beneficiaries of this scheme. Farmers and farmer

families will no longer have to travel large distances to bank branches or just let the money lie idle in their accounts in times of need. Our Adhikaris, trusted banking partners in their communities, will be there at the villages to help farmers withdraw their money, with the help of AePS, thereby providing much-needed safe and secure access to the subsidy amount." Spice Money has been spearheading the efforts towards bridging the financial services gap in rural India by providing banking and financial services to the remotest corners of the country, across 700 districts and 5,000 blocks, thereby revolutionising the way Bharat banks.

follow. The series will be played from March 19 - two days after the WPL concludes - to April 6. England's head coach Jon Lewis, who is also the coach of UP Warriorz, will join the team on March 12 to help them with their preparations. T20I squad for first three matches: Hollie Armitage, Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Lauren Filer, Danielle Gibson, Sarah Glenn, Bess Heath, Amy Jones, Heather Knight (c), Linsey Smith. T20I squad for last two matches: Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Alice Capsey, Charlie Dean,

Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Filer, Danielle Gibson, Sarah Glenn, Bess Heath, Amy Jones, Heather Knight (c), Nat Sciver-Brunt, Danielle Wyatt.

ODI squad: Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Alice Capsey, Kate Cross, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Filer, Danielle Gibson, Sarah Glenn, Bess Heath, Amy Jones, Heather Knight, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Danielle Wyatt.

Jonathan Finch, director of England Women's cricket, said: "The short window of just one or two days between the end of the WPL and the first IT20 in New Zealand has meant we have needed to balance the challenges of long-term workload management for players, allowing participation in the WPL and ensuring we give clarity to the group of players preparing for the first three IT20s.

Dhaka: Bangladesh pace bowler Taskin Ahmed is all set to quit Test cricket due to his prolonged injury as he wants to focus on white-ball cricket.

Cricbuzz understands that Taskin had already sent a letter to Bangladesh Cricket Board in this regard and is awaiting their reply.

In the letter sent to the BCB, Taskin urged the board to consider him for only white-ball cricket as he feels he can deliver more and that would help him to have enough time to recover from the shoulder injury he is carrying.

A top BCB official confirmed the development but added that they have yet to decide on the matter.

"He (Taskin) had sent a letter stating that he does not want to play longer-version cricket. After the game [of the ongoing BPL] is over we will sit with him in this regard," BCB cricket operation

chairman Jalal Yunus to Cricbuzz on Saturday. "Let the coach [head coach Chandika Hathurusingha] come and we need to talk with him as well," he said. It was learnt that Hathurusingha is aware about the development and asked the pacer whether he can change his mind. BCB's chief selector Minhajul Abedin told this website that they need to sit with physicians of the board and later make a call in this regard. "He [Taskin] is our across-format contracted player. We have to talk with our doctors and get a report on his injury status and later can make a decision in this regard," he said. Taskin suffered a tear in his shoulder during the World Cup, which forced him to miss a couple of matches in the global event, played in India last year. Following the



tournament, Taskin was sent to a rehabilitation program to regain full fitness and start competitive cricket again. As a result he missed the two-match Test series at home against New Zealand and the white-ball return tour that followed soon after. It was learnt Taskin is playing the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League, country's lone franchise-based T20 tournament, for Durdanto Dhaka by managing him and doing rehabilitation on regular basis.

Taskin admitted after their defeat against Sylhet Strikers on Friday (2-2-2024) that he is still looking to get back into his full rhythm.

"I was in rehab after the World Cup . Thanks to the Almighty my rhythm is getting better than before but I am still not at the best rhythm but it is improving," Taskin told reporters following their defeat at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

Taskin is reluctant to go under the knife for the shoulder injury as that will require him to stay

away from cricket for more than a year to recover fully following the surgery. In the recent past, Taskin was not given NOC to take part in the Indian Premier League as BCB was not ready to take risks with the injury-prone pacer ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup. It was learnt that Taskin went to meet some BCB high-ups at the board's office recently to get permission to skip the Zimbabwe series, but that didn't materialise. Taskin can surely claim to be unlucky when it comes to IPL. He missed the chance in 2022 when Lucknow Super Giants wanted to sign him as Mark Wood's replacement but BCB didn't release him. Another Bangladeshi pacer Mustafizur Rahman also requested the board not to consider him red-ball cricket due to his injury as he wants to focus on white-ball cricket.

NEWDELHI: Australia's explosive opening batter David Warner is retiring from Tests. He plays his last match in this format on Wednesday as Australia take on Pakistan in the third and last Test of the series. Warner would have liked his farewell Test match to go smoothly but right before the game, his Baggy Greens have gone missing. In an Instagram video, Warner informed his fans that his backpack has gone missing upon arrival in Sydney. Warner claims that someone took his backpack out of his luggage and offered his spare backpack to the person who stole them for showing his or her honesty, promising that Cricket Australia or him would not take any action against the culprit.

The retiring cricketer said that he checked with the hotel staff and they told him that the backpack was not stolen in the hotel premises. Warner claims that the stealing took place at the airport only as there were many blindspots where CCTVs are not installed.

"This is my last resort to do this," Warner said in a video on Instagram. "A couple of days ago, our bags got freighted via Qantas. We've gone through CCTV footage, they've got some blind spots apparently, we spoke to the Quay West Hotel who we absolutely trust and have gone through their cameras, no one's come into our rooms."

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Apart from his jersey for the third Test, Warner also had his daughter's presents in the backpack. Warner said that those belongings are sentimental to him and requested the thief to give it back to him in return of no punishment and a

spare backpack. "But unfortunately, someone has taken my backpack out of my actual luggage, which had my backpack and my girls' presents in there, inside this backpack was my baggy greens. It's sentimental to me, it's something I would

love to have back in my hands walking out there come this week. If it is the backpack you really wanted, I have a spare one here you won't get into trouble. Please reach out to Cricket Australia or myself via my social media and I'm happy to give this to you if you return my baggy greens," said Warner. Warner is playing his last Test of an illustrious career. He will be retiring with close to 9000 Test runs in 112 Tests. Australian captain says it will be great if Warner hits a hundred in his farewell Test. "Best-case scenario is a hundred and maybe a leg-spinner to take the last wicket of the game out of the rough," Cummins said with a grin at the pre-match press conference.

NEWDELHI: Hobart Hurricanes' second win of the season, a clinical seven-wicket victory at home over Sydney Thunder, lifted them off the bottom spot in the standings. The home win was spearheaded by a strong bowling performance which restricted Thunder to 150, a total that was chased down courtesy a brisk, unbeaten half-century from Ben McDermott. The Hurricanes, who opted to bowl after winning the toss, had their opponents three down inside the PowerPlay. Thunder were particularly hamstrung by the dismissal of Tom Kohler-Cadmore, who was run-out without even facing a ball. The result of the wobbly start meant a period of consolidation followed. This led to a delayed push at the death



and despite captain Chris Green's earnest efforts (33* off 17), Thunder could only manage 156. Chris Jordan and Nikhil Chaudhary returned two wickets each bowling very parsimonious spells. In stark contrast, the Hurricanes enjoyed a wicketless PowerPlay and only lost Matthew Wade after he'd added 47 runs with the belligerent Caleb Jewell (31 off 20). Both openers did fall in quick succession but the follow-up batters ensured there was no dip in tempo with Macalister Wright

(34 off 25) combining with McDermott for a brisk 85-run stand. The latter remained unbeaten to polish off the chase alongside Corey Anderson, who hit a four and a six to hasten the finish.

Brief scores: Sydney Thunder 150/8 in 20 overs (Chris Green 33*; Chris Jordan 2-20, Nikhil Chaudhary 2-26) lost to Hobart Hurricanes 151/3 in 18.1 overs (Ben McDermott 53*, Macealister Wright 34; Tanveer Sangha 1-22) by 7 wickets

NEWDELHI: A dozen days after the Newlands men's Test is scheduled to end, David Bedingham will board a flight to New Zealand as one of the most experienced players in South Africa's squad. He will, if he is in the XI in Cape Town, have two caps.

But that's two more than half the members of a squad of 14 that currently hold 50 caps between them. Or 300 fewer than South Africa's current squad - a dozen of whom won't be in New Zealand because they have been signed by SA20 franchises. The tournament will be played from January 10 to February 10, and the Tests, in Mount Maunganui and Hamilton, from February 4 to 13.

Players who are contracted by CSA are required to make themselves available for the SA20, and they are compelled to put the tournament ahead of their international commitments. Bedingham does not have a CSA contract. Also, he has priorities that differ from many modern players.

So when Shukri Conrad, South Africa's red-ball coach and sole selector since January last year, told Bedingham a place in the squad for New Zealand could be up for grabs because of the

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clash with the SA20, Bedingham knew what to do.

"Shuks called and said there's a possibility, and as soon as I hear there's a chance ... I'm quite a realistic guy, but when I heard that no-one in the SA20 could play I thought my chances of playing [in New Zealand] would be quite high," Bedingham said on Monday. "So I didn't give it a second thought. I told him I'd take my name straight out of the draft, so I could hopefully play."

Yes, you read that right: Bedingham chose Tests over T20s. "If those T20 comps come up for me, perfect," he said. "But the main aim is always



Test cricket. Or first-class cricket." It seems four days at blustery, all but deserted, sagging into disrepair Newlands playing for Western

Province, or at the Riverside for second-division Durham - who he has turned out for since August 2020 with a view to obtaining a UK

passport - is further up Bedingham's to-do list than landing a glitzy T20 deal. Or maybe, given his T20 strike rate of 128.84 and the fact that he's

played 87 first-class matches and 55 T20s, he knows what butters his bread. But what would happen if a franchise in the SA20 offered him a million-billion in the coming days? Would he get back to Shuks to say he wouldn't be going to New Zealand after all? "I took my name out of the draft so I could play in New Zealand," Bedingham said. "Even if they wanted to I don't think I would be allowed to play [in the SA20] because my name wasn't in there originally." On Saturday, South Africans learned that Tony de Zorzi, who is expected to step into the breach left when Dean Elgar retires after the

Newlands Test, had been signed by Durban's Super Giants and so had taken himself out of the equation for New Zealand.

Like Bedingham, De Zorzi isn't contracted by CSA. Unlike Bedingham, he had kept his name in the SA20 hat. Doubtless that will earn De Zorzi criticism. It shouldn't. His match fees in New Zealand are unlikely to come close to what DSG would have agreed to pay him. And, without a CSA contract and besides what he earns from WP - which won't be much - De Zorzi has no salary security. Given those realities who wouldn't have taken up DSG's offer?