

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 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
- 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 IIEST 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-Tarbhia 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 Vaishnav 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

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 Tigrinia tehsil in Cuttack on Saturday. As per reports, the accident occurred while the four persons were returning from Koirikanya 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.

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.

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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.

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 Vaishnav, 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-

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

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

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 (HELA) 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 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 HELA 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 HELA 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. Soubhagy 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 shackles of male dominance that bound them. Let alone women education, the Indian women even did not have a 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, had kept 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 like 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 pressured 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. Nagatai Joshi, Mrs. Srirangama, Mrs. Chandrasekhara Naik

Mrs. Kamalabai Kibe, Harabai Tata, Mrs. Lazarus, Dorothy Jinarajadasa, Nalinibai Daivi Begum Husrat Mohani, 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 representation 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 years of age who had property qualification. Margaret Cousins wrote to Montague in October, 1918 that the Indian men supported women 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 in 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

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 continuously 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. 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

**Retired Principal
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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 occurring 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.

**M PRADYU
KANNUR**

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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 hepatocellular 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

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

chemotherapy, 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 screening.

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Gender-based Violence A global issue



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.

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

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 them 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.

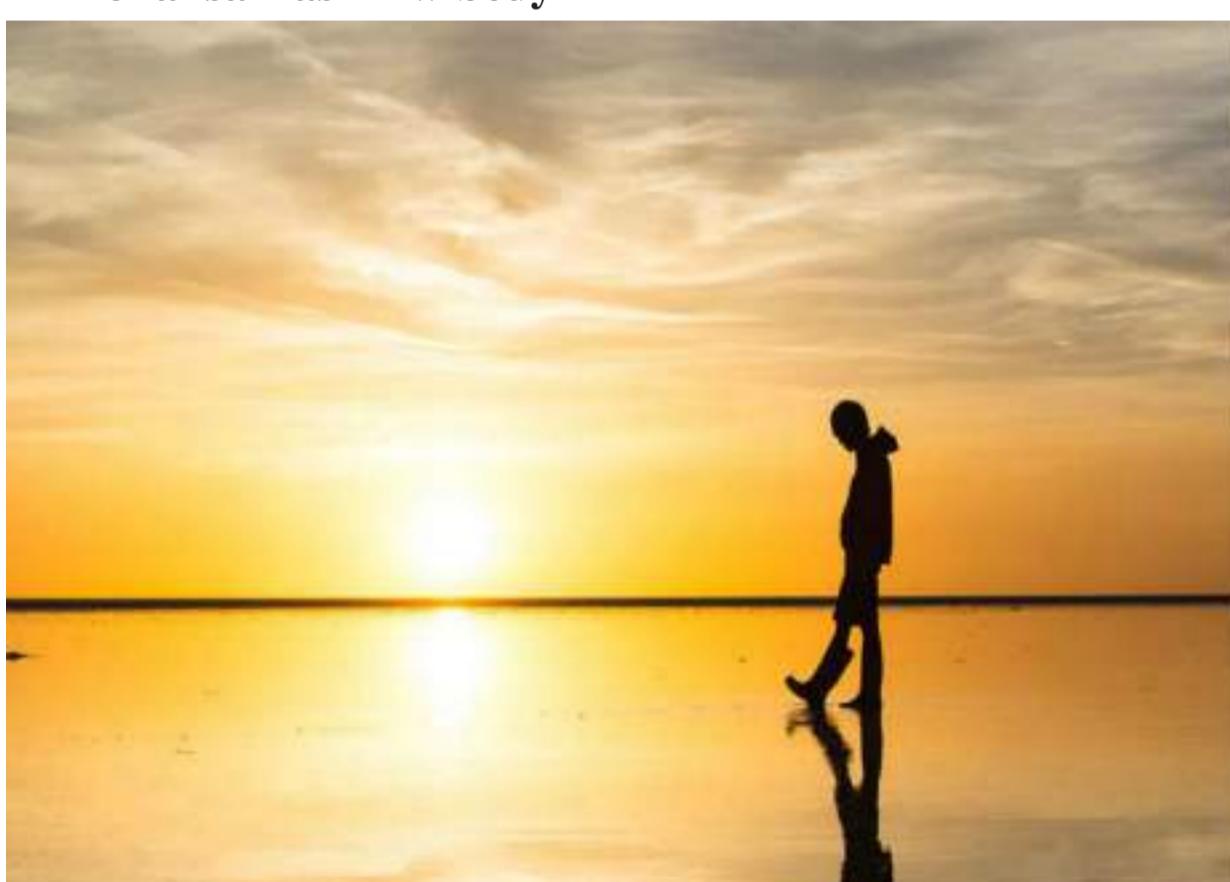
I used to be a whistleblower and took all such incidents to senior management demanding to stop such unprofessional manners. Now after many years, I am in North America working

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 needs 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 satisfied, 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

Mumbai (KCN): 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.

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 Ajoy 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 Mammojan Samal said, "Hon'ble Prime Minister has set a new direction

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".

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," 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.

"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 (NBCC).

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.

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

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.

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 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

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 of 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,

itled 'IAM 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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England name two squads for New Zealand T20Is



New Delhi: England have named two T20I squads for their upcoming tour of New Zealand, with those participating in the Women's Premier League set to feature in the back end of the series. Hollie Armitage and Linsey Smith will be part of the T20I squad for the first three matches while Alice Capsey, Sophie Ecclestone, Nat Sciver-Brunt and Danielle Wyatt will join the team for the last two matches after the completion of the WPL.

Heather Knight, who withdrew from the WPL to prepare for the New Zealand series, will lead the team in the five-match T20I series and the three ODIs that

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 UPWarriorz, 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, 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.

Bowlers, McDermott lift Hurricanes off the bottom spot



NEW DELHI: 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 150. 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 7 wickets

David Warner's Baggy Greens STOLEN At Airport Ahead Of 3rd Test Vs Pakistan, Retiring Cricketer Offers Spare Backpack To Person Who Stole Them

NEW DELHI: 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.

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.

"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