

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE VALEDICTORY FUNCTION OF CLEA - COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEYS AND SOLICITORS GENERAL CONFERENCE

**New Delhi:** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the valedictory function of the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) 2024 in New Delhi today (February 4, 2024).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the Preamble to our Constitution speaks of "Justice, social, economic and political". Therefore, when we speak of 'justice delivery', we should keep

moral order of a society. That is why the representatives of the legal profession and the judiciary, are the ones who help in upholding the order. If that order is challenged, they are the ones who, as lawyers or judges, law students or teachers, strive most to set it right again.

The President said that the three qualities combine to define the



in mind all aspects of it, including social justice. She stated that in recent times, as the world faces

the threat of climate change, we should also add environmental justice to these varied aspects of

the concept of justice. As it happens, the issues of environmental justice often pose cross-border

challenges. They form the key area of what this conference is about, namely, 'Cross-Border Challenges in Justice Delivery'. She was happy to note that CLEA has taken the responsibility to chart a roadmap to a common future that transcends borders and underlines the fundamental principles of natural justice based on equality and dignity. She expressed confidence that the Commonwealth, with its diversity and legacy, can show the rest of the world the way to address

the common concerns in a spirit of cooperation. Noting that 'Access to Justice: Bridging the Divide' was one of the sub-themes of the conference, the President expressed confidence that the discussions in the conference must have been enriched by the participation of deans and vice-chancellors as well as senior students and scholars of various institutions and universities. She said that young minds are flexible and can offer innovative and out-of-the-box

solutions to the problems that have challenged the most experienced professionals. The President said that India has emerged as a key stakeholder in the global discourse. India has much to offer when it comes to international issues in justice delivery. India is not only the biggest democracy, but history shows that it is also the oldest democracy. With that rich and long democratic heritage, we can offer our learning in justice delivery in modern times.

## Odisha CM Unveils Book On 'Language Law In Legislative Assembly'

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today launched a book on 'Language Law in the Legislative Assembly' on the occasion of the first World Odia Language Conference.

All the discussions and information held in the assembly on the language law at various times have been placed in this book. On this occasion, the



Chief Minister said that the government is committed to enriching the Odia language and

creating new opportunities in technology for the next generation.

## Maoist Dead, Jawan Injured In Exchange Of Fire In Kandhamal

**Phulbani(KCN):** A Maoist is suspected to have been killed, while a DVF jawan sustained bullet injuries in exchange of fire between the security forces and the extremists in Kamberikia forest under Baliguda police limits in Odisha's Kandhamal district on Saturday.

As per reports, Kandhamal SP Suvendu Kumar Patra had received information regarding the presence of Maoists at a camp in the forest, where they were planning to attack the security forces. Acting on the tip-off, a search operation was carried out by the jawans in the forest, during which the Maoists opened fire at the security forces in the evening. Subsequently, an exchange of fire ensured as the DVF jawans retaliated.

With a generous contribution of the State Government of a one-time non-recurring corpus money for the

endowment amounting to Rs. 10 Crore, the proposed Biju Patnaik Special Centre aims to delve into the leadership, governance, and contributions of the visionary leader of India, the Bhoomiputra of Indonesia and the former Chief Minister of Odisha, Biju Patnaik.

It plans to initiate a Master's Program

covering various facets of Odia Studies, strengthen cultural bonds with the Odisha Diaspora, and promote contemporary Odia Literature and Art. The focus areas of this Special Centre include international teaching and research in Odia Language and Literature, exploring historical maritime linkages of Kalinga Empire with Southeast Asia, diasporic connections, and promoting contemporary Odia culture through publications and collaborative research.

Other senior officers of Department of Higher Education Prof Udaynath Sahu from Adikabi Sarala Das Chair, JNU were present on the occasion. Earlier in the day, Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University Prof Shantishree Dhulipudi Pandit today met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here at Naveen Niwas. During the discussion, Pandit admired the CM's transformational

initiatives in Odisha that have brought visible changes in every sector of Odisha. She describes Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as the finest example of Cooperative federalism.

She appreciated the efforts to promote Odia language and culture, and expand its scope beyond Odisha.

She said the Special Centre at JNU will create favourable conditions for promotion of Odia language, literature and culture. Praising Biju Patnaik's role in the Indonesian freedom struggle, she said Biju Babu single-handedly raised the glory of Odisha to the global level.

She also appreciated the efforts of the chief minister to promote regional languages and culture, developing a pan Indian identity for them.

## 5T Chairman Reviews Progress Of Multiple Development Projects In Puri

**V Kartik Pandian reviewed progress of Konark Heritage Area Development Project at a cost of Rs. 172 Cr.**

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** As per the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman, V Kartik Pandian visited Puri District to review the progress of various developmental works in the district and interact with students and the general public.

He participated in the Nua-O Program being organised and interacted with students of all colleges of Puri. He discussed with the students on Nua-O program providing a platform for youngsters to showcase their talent and to help achieve overall personality development in addition to their academic achievements.

Pandian emphasized that students should work hard with self-confidence to achieve success in life. He said that the college transformation projects in the district will be completed by March. He motivated the students to aim high and



mentioned the achievements of some prominent personalities from Puri district like Prasanna Kumar Hota, IAS, Retd. Health Secretary, Govt of India; Gopal Nanda, IPS, Ex-DG, Odisha Police; Sh Kishore Jena, Athlete; Miss Jayanti Behera, Paralympic athlete; Malay Kumar Mishra, IFS, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Hungary; Sudarshan Sahoo, Sculpture artist; Sudarshan Patnaik, sand

artist and Dr Ashok Mohapatra, Ex-Director, AIIMS Bhubaneswar. He said that so many role models have emerged from the Puri district who have all been students from different government schools and Colleges. They have achieved success because of hard work and determination. He motivated the students to believe in their goals and work hard with self-confidence.

Pandian reviewed the

progress of the 650-bed Teaching Hospital, Puri for Rs. 309 Crs. He directed the concerned officials to complete the work as per the timeline. He also reviewed the progress of the Konark Heritage Area Development Project at Rs. 172 Crores.

Later, he reviewed the progress of 10 nos of Multipurpose Cyclone shelters at a total cost of Rs 20 Crores which were sanctioned after his last visit to the district in

**INVITATION**

We solicit your kind presence on the auspicious occasion of His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's death anniversary (MAHAPRAYANA DIVAS) celebration on 5th February 2024 (Monday) at Buddha temple conference hall, Unit -9, Kharavel nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

**PUJYA SWAMI ABHIRAM SARASWATI Ji MAHARAJ**

**Prof. Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani**  
State Planning Commission Member and Former Bhubaneswar MP and Minister

**Prof Dr Brajabandhu panda**  
Eminent Writer, Orator

**Sri Priyadarshi Mishra**  
Former Bhubaneswar North MLA & Odisha State Housing Board Chairman

**Prof. Dr. Rabinarayan Satapathy**  
Director & Dean, Sri Sri Ravishankar University, Nayag, Cuttack

**Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantaray**  
Chairman, Maharishi Public School Group and Vedic International Foundation

Have given their kind consent to grace the occasion as Chief Guest, Chief Speaker & Guest of Honour respectively

**Bijay Nanda Mishra**, State Co-ordinator, will preside over the meeting.

**Ashok Kumar Sahoo**  
TM & Yoga Expert Co-ordinator

**JAI GURUDEV**

**PROGRAM:-**  
4 PM to 8 PM INAUGURATION, GURUPUJAN VEDAPATHA, FELICITATION And Speeches by Honourable guests, Vote of thanks (Senior TM teacher Sri Manoranjan Mishra will Anchor the Programme)

# Drama Fest Captivates Audience

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Secretary ST, SC Development Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department, Roopa Roshan Sahoo said that "The diversity of tribal languages is a great asset for our State. The multilingual drama festival at Adivasi Mela Ground has also become a big creative platform for our gifted artists," said Shrimati Sahoo. Director Tribal Affairs and SCSTRTI, Indramani Tripathy narrated as to how a beautiful play "Dekh Meta Tor Tokir Kata" in Koraputia Desia language, staged at the third day long multilingual tribal drama festival of Annual Adivasi Mela today, was trying to

create awareness on child marriage. The play depicted how with the interference of the educated mass of the village, a child marriage was called off in the nick of time, and both the minors later became highly educated and led a better life, said Shri Tripathy, who is coordinating the entire show of Adivasi Mela and related cultural festivity. Director Sundarmal Barik of "Maa Mauli Kala Parishad" from Gundal Kundra in Koraput district said "the strong message through this tribal multilingual drama festival has really attracted thousands of viewers and given a wonderful experience to

the troupes." The second play tonight in Mundari language "Hemal Umbul" by "Maa Chintamani Mundari Opera" from Astajharan, Badasahi in Mayurbhanj district has sent a strong message against the ill-effects of unscientific, superstitious and blind belief on witches as a family displaces its own mother. Writer-Director-Actor Dasrath Singh felt that the first multilingual drama festival at Adivasi Mela would certainly inspire others in the tribal communities to adopt creative thinking and try to bring in social changes through them. The mobile menace has become a burden in our society. A tribal youth has become a victim and how

his life is affected and how due to the addiction he loses his love, family and old parents, was vividly narrated through the powerful play in Mundari language by the members of "Man Biratpat Tayanbur Banga Madil Dramatic Club" from Khadiabasa, Udaula in Mayurbhanj district,

last evening. The play "Riling Kedamanme Jibon Reya Senhora" directed by Satrughan Singh, aptly narrated the plight of millions of parents and their wards, and how the young mass is getting distracted due to the mysterious attraction to the gadget.

This drama in Mundari language yesterday was followed by Santali play "Din Ge Dubung Dubung" which was an awareness drama as in many tribal communities due to over use of entertainments like dance and music, their mainstream activities are getting affected and they

are leading with an abysmally low income and "unbalanced" lifestyle. Director of the Santali play Gangadhar Hembram said "the protagonist from a general community tries to make the tribal people understand that he, with a proper planning and balance, is leading a comfortable life, but his tribal friends are still suffering as their approach to life, in a way, is getting distracted." Shri Hembram thanked the ST, SC Development Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department in providing such a wonderful platform to stage the drama in their own Santali language. "I hope as a sideline event of the World Odia Language Conference at Janata Maidan, this event will be sending a beautiful message on the multilingual approach in education and other socio-cultural spheres of the Odisha Government," he added. "Raj Gaipai the Writer-Director will stage a drama "Adivasi" tomorrow in Ho language from Pandit Lakoboda Dramatic Club from Karanji in Mayurbhanj district. In this beautiful play the troupe will showcase the plight of the displaced indigenous communities as despite the false promises they lose their land, forests and all belongings and suffer," said Samay Purty, a manager of the group.

## Musical Magic Unfolds at second day of 'Sangitara Murchana' with Anuradha Paudwal and Suresh Wadkar

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The second evening of the Ekamra Utsav music program, hosted by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), unfolded in a symphony of enchanting melodies. Aptly named 'Sangitara Murchana,' that roughly translates to musical madness, Sunday's event witnessed the soul-stirring performances of two veteran vocalists, Anuradha Paudwal and

Suresh Wadkar, leaving the audience spellbound. Anuradha Paudwal's mellifluous voice echoed through the air as she commenced the evening with devotional hymns dedicated to Lord Jagannath. Her rendition of timeless Odia classics like "Kalia Mo Dehe Bolide" and "Keri Keri Suna Duba" captivated listeners, transporting them to a realm of musical bliss. Transitioning seamlessly,

she serenaded the audience with melodious Odia tunes, including "Asiba Bara Tora, Hoiba Bahaghara" and "Ae Phul Kaha Thare." The enchantment continued as Suresh Wadkar took the stage, weaving his magic with Odia melodies. His heartfelt renditions of songs like "Rupsi Priyasi" and "Sarigala Michhi Michika Bahaghar" resonated deeply with the audience, evoking nostalgia and

## SOA On Odia Care



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The sixth Indian language to be designated as classical, Odia needs the support of all stakeholders to blossom, speakers at a discourse on Odia language, literature and culture said on Sunday. The two-day event is being held at the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) in the backdrop of the first World Odia Language Conference organised by the department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture of the Odisha government which kicked off here on Saturday.

Inaugurating the event, Niranjan Pujari, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Health and Family Welfare, said Odia boasted of a rich heritage and legacy and Odisha was carved out as a state on the basis of language in 1936.

The Minister said the state government had planned the three-day World Odia Language Conference to create ripples and generate consciousness among the Odia youth and those living outside the state or country about their own language for which they should feel proud.

"It speaks of the foresight of Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik who has been thinking about it," Mr. Pujari said.

SOA's Founder President Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak felicitated the Minister on the occasion.

The inaugural session was also graced by literateur and former Minister Rasbehari Behera, expert on culture, Prof. Jagannath Das and media expert and editor, Umakanta Mishra.

SOA Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda presided over

the government for showing its positive intent to promote Odia language. This program should have continuity, he said while pointing out that there was a need to create passion for Odia among the school and college students. Dr. Mishra also lauded the efforts being made to promote Odia saying it was one of the oldest scripts as discovered at the Tarapur Buddhist relics near Jaraka in Jajpur district which dated back to the 6th century BC. "It was necessary that the universities should take the lead in promoting Odia by popularizing it among students," he said.

Prof. Das said Odia language had its genesis in the Jagannath culture saying language was the key to unity. He suggested that SOA should set up a museum on Odia literature which was a necessity.

The subjects of the first day's discourses included 'Jagannath Culture', 'Ancient Odia Literature', 'Medieval Odia Literature' and 'Puranic Literary Traditions in Medieval Odia Literature'.

The subjects of the discourses on Monday will include 'Odisha's Tribal Culture', 'Odia Literature', 'Odia Culture' and 'Modern Odia Literature'. Eminent Odia novelist, literary critic, columnist and educationist Bibhuti Patnaik will be felicitated in the concluding session of the program.



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# Vikrant Massey-Starrer 12th Fail Completes 100 Days, Makers Hold SPECIAL Screening



## Mission Raniganj On OTT: Akshay Kumar's Film Streams On Netflix



Pooja Entertainment's 'Mission Raniganj' has indeed come along with an immensely intriguing and captivating tale of courage and resilience on the big screens. While the film left an indelible mark on the minds of the audience, it emerged as one of the most cherished and reviewed films of 2023. After paving a successful journey on the big screens, now the film has arrived on the OTT grounds and is now exclusively available on Netflix. The time has come when the audience can finally get to watch the story of a valiant mission led by courageous Late Jaswant Singh Gill to rescue coal miners in 1989 as 'Mission Raniganj' starring Akshay Kumar is now available only on Netflix.

The film has ruled the hearts of the audience and now it's all set to create the same magic on the OTT screens. In fact, it also emerged as the first choice of the audience on National Cinema Day.

'Mission Raniganj' has indeed touched the hearts of millions with its gripping narrative.

Produced by Vashu Bhagnani, Jackky Bhagnani, Deepshikha Deshmukh, and Ajay Kapoor, the film, directed by Tinu Suresh Desai and music by Jjust Music, promises to bring to life the coal mine accident that shook not only the nation but also the world. The relentless dedication of the rescue team, led by Jaswant Singh Gill, offering audiences an unforgettable cinematic experience, screening in cinemas now. The film is now streaming on Netflix.

## Kiran Rao Poses With 'Laapataa Ladies' Starcast, Makers Pen 'Bahut Sundar Hai Bey'



Kiran Rao's next directorial 'Laapataa Ladies' is one of the most anticipated films of the year 2024. The recently released trailer featuring the lead cast of Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastav, and Nitanshi Goel has piqued the masses' interest in the world set by Kiran Rao and it promises a beautiful and entertaining world from her, where she has presented the story rooted in the Indian template.

Amidst the grand release of the film on 1st March 2024, the lead cast of Laapataa Ladies clicked a picture with the director Kiran Rao. Sharing the pictures on social media,

the makers captioned, "Only one justified reaction for the stunning cast and director, "Waah! bahut sundar hai bey" #LaapataaLadies"

Ahead of the release, the makers Kiran Rao and Aamir Khan to hold a grand premiere of the film in the City of Lakes Bhopal. Aamir Khan, Kiran Rao, and their team have made a movie that has the power to appeal to a wider range of people; and for this, they have gone above and beyond to ensure that the movie reaches even the most distant parts of the country.

The film's story narrates the tale of India's heartland and the subject is urban as well. The team was shot in the real locations of Sehore, located in Madhya Pradesh, and also added

## Leaked: Ranbir Kapoor's Animal Full HD Movie Leaked Online On Tamilrockers, Telegram



Ranbir Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna's 'Animal' was released in theatres on Friday. The much-awaited action drama, also starring Anil Kapoor and Bobby Deol in lead roles, opened to mostly positive reviews, with critics and audience showering love on the star cast.

The first day first show

is over and fans and critics have already declared Animal 'a blockbuster hit' film. As fans are enthralled to witness this second Bollywood film by Sandeep Reddy Vanga

the students who attended the special screening.

The film has restored audiences' trust in the extraordinary material. '12th Fail', based on a true story, draws from the struggles of the millions of students who attempt the UPSC entrance exam. But at the same time, it goes beyond that one exam and encourages people to not lose heart in the face of failure and to restart.

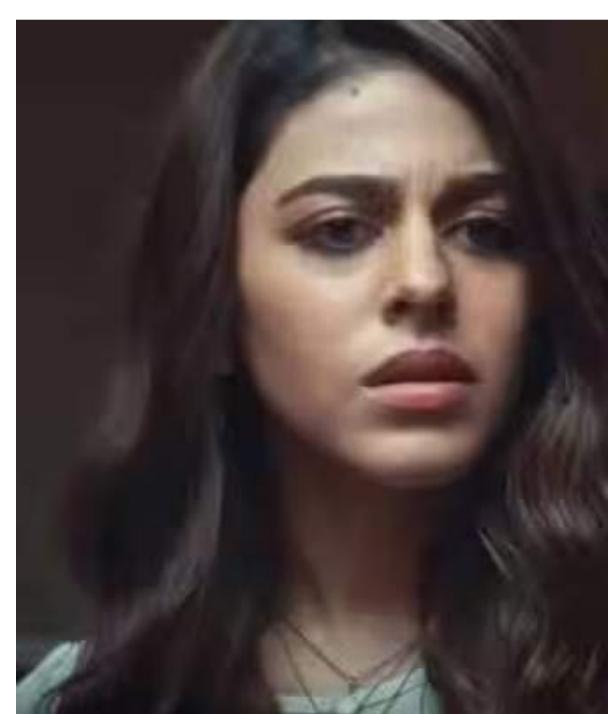
The film, directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, is now running in cinemas in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada.

real-life villagers and locations as part of the film.

'Laapataa Ladies' is directed by Kiran Rao and produced by Aamir Khan and Jyoti Deshpande. The film is releasing on March 1st, 2024, and has been made under the banner of Aamir Khan Productions and Kindling Productions, with the script based on an award-winning story by Biplob Goswami. The screenplay and dialogue are written by Sneha Desai, while the additional dialogues have been jotted down by Divyanidhi Sharma.

after 'Kabir Singh' on the big screen, there is a sad update for the makers. The film has been leaked online in HD quality to download free on Torrent websites, Tamilrockers, Telegram and Movierulz. The movie leak on day one of the release is likely to impact the Box Office collection.

## Rani Mukerji To Alaya F: Actresses Who Aced Their Roles As A Journalist



Bollywood has produced a large number of films featuring feisty and strong journalist characters who left an indelible mark on the minds of the audience. However, in recent times, playing a journalist on screen is getting more popular with B-town actresses. Here are the actresses who have aced the roles of journalists - Alaya F - U-Turn

Ever since she has started her career as an actor, Alaya F has been unanimously praised for her choice of films and characters and taking the road less travelled; the latest one which has been hugely appreciated by the audience, industry and critics alike is Radhika Bakshi, her character in 'U-Turn'. While Alaya took on the challenge of essaying the demanding role of a journalist with great finesse at such a young age, she has delivered a remarkable performance by carrying the film on her shoulders. She shines in intense scenes and commands a good screen presence. After the success of 'Freddy' and now 'U-Turn', she is considered as one of the most sought after and bankable GenX actors of Bollywood!



**Yami Gautam Dhar - Lost**  
While 'Lost' featuring Yami Gautam Dhar was praised for being an intriguing and thrilling ride, the prolific performer Yami Gautam Dhar was equally appreciated for taking on the role of a spunky crime reporter who investigates the missing of a college student. The versatile actress also met a few senior crime journalists during the making of the film.

**Kareena Kapoor Khan - Satyagraha**  
Kareena Kapoor Khan played Yasmin, an aggressive and passionate journalist in the multi-starred film, 'Satyagraha', directed by

Prakash Jha. While Kareena is known for playing glamorous roles mostly in her career, her performance as the obstinate and headstrong Yasmin demonstrated her acting prowess in this film.

**Rani Mukerji - No One Killed Jessica**  
One of her best performances till date, Rani Mukerji as feisty television journalist Meera, takes up the case of Jessica Lal murder. Rani's character was inspired from the different TV news reporters covering the case. Meera takes up the cause as Sabrina loses all faith in her ability to ever bring her sister's case to justice. Rani was highly praised for her performance as a staunch journalist and got much critical acclaim.

## TCS AMENDMENT IN SECTION 206C(1G) BY FINANCE BILL, 2024

**Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka**

Prior to amendment of Section 206C(1G) by the Finance Act 2023 TCS on foreign remittance were as under :

- a) LRS for education, financed by loan from financial institution : Nil upto Rs 7 lakh and 0.5% above Rs 7 lakh
- b) LRS for Medical treatment/ education (other

than financed by loan): Nil upto Rs 7 lakh and 5% above Rs 7 lakh

- c) LRS for other purposes: Nil upto Rs 7 lakh and 5% above Rs 7 lakh
- d) Purchase of Overseas tour program package: 5% (without threshold)

The Finance Act 2023 We.f. 01.07.2023 amended Section 206C(1G) and TCS rate were prescribed as under :

- a) LRS for education, financed by loan from financial institution: Nil upto Rs 7 lakh and 0.5% above Rs 7 lakh
- b) LRS for Medical treatment/ education (other than financed by loan): 5% above Rs 7 lakh
- c) LRS for other purposes : 20% without Threshold
- d) Purchase of Overseas tour program package: 20% without Threshold

However after representation from various stakeholders such amendment made vide Finance Act 2023 were subsequently amended and

rationalised vide CBDT Circular No. 10 of 2023 dated 30.06.2023 and were made effective from 01.10.2023. W.e.f. 1.10.2023, TCS rate has been raised to 20% from 5% on foreign remittance or overseas tour package. However, such higher rate shall not apply to remittance for the purpose of education or medical treatment.

There shall be no TCS on expenditure under LRS under clause (i) of sub-section (1G) of section 206C upto Rs 7 lakh, irrespective of purpose.

Further TCS levy is required on all remittances made and not just remittance made 'out of India'. For example grant of INR gifts or loan to NRI/ PIO relative for use in India. Hence, when money is remitted by resident to Gift City there is no TCS. To bring parity in treatment, TCS shall apply to all LRS even if within India.

Earlier and new TCS rates are summarised as under:

Nature of payment Rate upto Upto 30.09.2023  
New rate w.e.f. 1st Oct, 2023

LRS for education, financed by loan from financial institution Nil upto Rs 7 lakh 0.5% above Rs 7 lakh Nil upto Rs 7 lakh 0.5% above Rs 7 lakh

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LRS for other purposes Nil upto Rs 7 lakh 5% above Rs 7 lakh Nil upto Rs 7 lakh 20% above Rs 7 lakh

Purchase of Overseas tour program package 5% (without threshold) 5% till Rs 7 lakh 20% thereafter

Finance Bill 2024 has incorporated the changes made through Circular No 10 of 2023 and has made consequential amendments in Section 206C(1G).

**(Narayan Jain & Dilip Loyalka are authors of the book "How to Handle Income Problems"**

## A publicity blitzkrieg

**Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra**

The finance minister Nirmal Sitharaman in her sixth straight Budget, which is a pre-election budget and an interim Budget, sought Parliament's nod for a grant in advance to meet the expenditure for the first four months of the new fiscal year ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. After the new government comes into power, they will present the full budget. Laden with ornamental words, she has unabashedly resorted to self-patting and superficial exaltation of Modi regimes.

She converted the budget speech into election speech where she resorted to publicity blitzkrieg. The same old slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Vishwas'; Amrit Kaal; Kartavya kaal; pancha pran; Atmanirbhar Bharat; Inclusive development; Bikasita Bharat; Social justice; Jaya Jawan, Jaya Kishan, Jaya Bigyan, Jaya Anusandhan; Garib Kalyan, Desh ka Kalyan; were repeated which is an affront to poor.

There was much iteration about India's much vaunted growth story in budget speech. Nirmal Sitharaman said that People are living better and earning better, with even greater aspirations for the future. Average real income of the

people has increased by fifty per cent. Inflation is moderate. What is worrying is that India is behind 138 countries in terms of per-capita income in the world. Per capita income growth has down to 5.1 percent in this fiscal which is 21 years lowest.

But India is abysmally placed in almost all international indexes like human development, global hunger index, corruption perception index, sustainable development index, human happiness Index. Inflation rate may moderate due to base effect but prices of goods and services rarely decline. The people are worst hit by price rise and their purchasing power has eroded and no attempt to address the same. Now GDP is term has been coined with Governance, Development and Performance while FDI as Fast Developed India to hoodwink masses and camouflage failures. But only minuscule rich and corporates have benefited by GDP growth. Growth is never inclusive but bereft of distributive justice. Inequality is so rampant which is evident from the fact that 40 percent of the wealth created in the country from 2012 to 2021 had gone to just 1 percent of the population while only 3 percent had trickled down to the bottom 50 percent. But budget does not try to reduce inequality by giving proposal of taxing rich, wealthy, and corporate more by way of inheritance taxes, wealth taxes and reducing GST and

excise taxes. But in the name of an interim budget, the Finance Minister shifted this responsibility to a full budget to be presented after the election. But in the past, changes have been made which became precursors to a full budget.

When there is no change in taxation structure and no improvement in expenditure, how can it be said that the interim budget marks a pivotal stride towards fostering inclusive and robust academic growth. Quoting the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister says, "we need to focus on four major castes. They are, 'Garib' (Poor), 'M a h i l a y e n ' (Women), 'Yuva' (Youth) and 'Annadata' (Farmer). But the budget has not been addressed above.

For youth, creating employment opportunities are important. But India's seemingly so-called pompous growth has, so far, not translated into a commensurate increase in more productive employment opportunities for millions entering the labour force every year.

drop of 6.2 percentage points.

This has led to an increase in self-employment and casual work. India's official employment data shows the quality of jobs getting created is getting worse even as monthly earnings have remained largely stagnant since 2017.

Poor and farmers including women are more affected due to decline of expenditure in social sectors including education and health. According to Business Standard Study, the Narendra Modi government 2.0 allocated only a small portion of its expenditure to education and health. Spending on categories such as interest payments and major subsidies accounted for one-third of the total expenditure pie, while an additional 12 per cent was allocated to

secure borders and maintain law and order. Similarly, between 2009 and 2021, the share of social sector expenditure going to education, sports, art, and culture declined from 20 percent to 9 percent.

Crime against women is increasing every year. The farmers are committing suicide due to distress sale and loss of crops. Today situation is so precarious that, around 468 persons took their lives in 2022 and one-third of them were daily-wage earners, agriculture labourers and farmers or cultivators, according to the latest government report on accidental deaths and suicides. About 1.47 lakh children lost their parents (both or one of them) during the

enhanced outlay. Of the 1,788 central sector infrastructure projects of ₹150 crore and above size, 411 projects have reported cost overrun of ₹4.31 lakh crore till October 2023, the ministry of statistics and programme implementation has disclosed in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha.

tomorrow. Everybody is dead in the long run. The budget neither creates any hope nor has any sense of purpose. it is not a blueprint of intent but a publicity blitzkrieg to derive electoral mileage.

The writer is an eminent economist, columnist and social thinker. Email: skmohapatra67@gmail.com

## Letter to Editor

Sir

India's former Deputy Prime Minister and the grand old leader of one of the largest political party in the world definitely deserves the Bharatratna, India's highest civilian award. If what modern India's political scenario is now, is just because of Shri Advani. A man of high political ideologies and a stalwart in the science of Indian politics he redefined Indian political history. A man so determined and courageous Advani's Sri Ram temple movement paved way for the construction and now the consecration of the Ayodhya Ram Lalla temple.

It was Advani's Rath Yatra which laid the foundation of the BJP resurgence in the 1990s and paved the path of the BJP's rise from two Lok Sabha seats to the largest party now. A man known for his simplicity yet tenacious when it comes to his work is an exemplary leader and respected by all irrespective of political barriers. Advani is also the longest-serving Minister of Home Affairs and the longest-serving Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. His statement soon after getting conferred with the award - "It is not only an honour for me as a person, but also for the ideals and principles that I strove to serve throughout my life to the best of my ability" - clearly shows that he was a leader who worked for and adored by the masses and the nation. As PM Modi says he is truly one of the best statesmen of modern India and his contribution to the development of India is monumental. As a Parliamentarian his interventions and presentations were outstanding and members admired his insights.

The award will also silence critics from his own party as well as others who had always been lambasting that such a leader did not get his due.

**M PRADYU  
KANNUR  
Geeth Thalikavu Kannur**

## Crab Fattening: A New Endeavour of Fishers in Nandigram



**Kolkata, (KCN):** In recent times, farmers in India have been exploring innovative ways. Those increase their earnings to improve their livelihoods. One such initiative is crab fattening, a practice that has proven highly profitable for several fish farmers in the region. NMCG team of ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore had recently become aware that three fish farmers—Soumitra Pramanik, Sombhu Maiti, and Nonigopal Sahoo from Nandigram, East Medinipur, had begun crab fattening, significantly expanding their income. This

procedure involves cultivating crabs in stored water from a river channel, maintaining the natural habitat of the Haldi river, particularly during the period from the end of June to February each year. In the summer months production is 140–180 kg of crabs on average every week. This amount increases to 260 to 300 kg per week during winter. During monsoon, it is between 340 and 470 kg per week. Sombhu Maiti cultivates crabs in his 1202 meter home pond using an anchored floating box, known as 'Box Crab' Culture Technology. This method allows for the rearing of approximately 950–1000 crabs in individual boxes in the pond. Central Government agencies such as MPEDA and NFDB regularly provide these people with technical assistance. The crabs have been shipped to America, China, and Singapore, among other countries. The success of these farmers serves as an example of adopting new techniques. This leads to increased profitability and improved livelihoods of them.

## Ecosystem Conservation in Haldi River: An initiative by ICAR-CIFRI



**Kolkata, (KCN):** The Haldi River in East Midnapore is full of fish diversity. The NMCG team from ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, had recently done a comprehensive survey for the ecological management of this river and of the impact of human activities on it. The water quality of Haldi River is slightly alkaline, with a pH ranging from 7.03 to 7.6. The river is a favourable habitat for fish survival. But there are some issues to be addressed, such as the low dissolved oxygen level at the Balughata

site and the high BOD levels at the Haldi site. These can indicate poor water quality. But this river is an ideal habitat for freshwater ecosystem. In addition, NMCG highlighted on the practice of mud crab fattening by the farmers in Nandigram. This procedure involves cultivating crabs in stored water from a river channel, maintaining the natural habitat of the Haldi river. This improves their livelihood with increasing income. As part of the ongoing efforts ICAR-CIFRI had conducted public awareness campaigns at

the Haldia Ferry Ghat and Narghat Rail Bridge on January, 2024. The aim of these campaigns was to sensitize local communities and fishermen about the importance of fish conservation and maintaining the ecology of Ganga River. Informative presentations on the negative impacts of plastic usage, chemical pollution, and small fish catching were delivered. The NMCG team hoped to motivate people to work together to protect the river's biodiversity and ensure its long-term health.

## Dr. Rajat Subhra Naskar DD, NYKS: A Fond Farewell to a Trailblazer of Youth Empowerment



thanks to Dr. Naskar for his continuous guidance and motivation. They highlighted his role in encouraging them to delve into new learning experiences, take charge of Community Development Programs, and engage in various awareness activities addressing social issues. One recurring theme was Dr. Naskar's penchant for thinking outside the box. Volunteers recounted instances where he motivated them to implement programs in challenging situations, emphasizing the importance of staying focused and undeterred. It was revealed that Dr. Naskar, on several occasions, dipped into his own pocket to ensure the success and wider reach of these programs. They acknowledged his unparallel contributions to the success of the Youth Movement through NYKS. Remarkably, it was revealed that Dr. Naskar had personally hired additional office staff using his own salary, illustrating his dedication to ensuring the seamless operation of the office to support Youth Club activities.

## Commissioner, SMC Conducts Whirlwind Tours of Srinagar City, Reviews Snow Clearance and Dewatering Operations

**Srinagar, (Aasif Malik):** Commissioner, SMC Dr. Owais Ahmed, led a series of whirlwind tours across Srinagar City to personally assess the ongoing snow clearance and dewatering operations in the wake of recent snowfall and precipitation. The Commissioner's proactive initiative aimed to gauge the efficiency of the operations and ensure that the city's essential services continue to function optimally despite the challenging weather conditions.

During the whirlwind tours, Commissioner, SMC Dr. Owais visited key locations SMHS Hospital, CBD Lal Chowk, Habbakadal-Shahar e Khaas, Imam Bargah Hassanabad, JLNM Hospital, Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi Saida Kadal, Dargah Hazratbal Shrine and their adjoining areas including Permanent Dewatering Stations. The Commissioner engaged with on-site Officers and supervisory staff to gain firsthand insights into the progress of snow clearance and dewatering efforts. Additionally, Commissioner, SMC interacted with residents and community representatives to gather feedback on the impact of the operations and to address any immediate concerns.

F

urthermore, Commissioner emphasized the

importance of swift and effective snow clearance and dewatering measures in safeguarding public safety, facilitating transportation, and mitigating potential disruptions to essential services.

Commissioner expressed

appreciation for the dedicated efforts of SMC frontline Warriors, local authorities, and emergency response teams who have been diligently working to ensure the timely clearance of snow and the efficient dewatering of waterlogged areas.

The Commissioner commended 24x7 Control Room for their resilience and professionalism in upholding the city's operational resilience during challenging circumstances.

As the whirlwind tours concluded, Commissioner SMC reaffirmed the SMC's commitment to upholding the highest standards of service delivery and reiterated the Corporation's readiness to swiftly address any emerging issues related to snow clearance and dewatering. The Commissioner also encouraged residents to remain vigilant and cooperative, emphasizing the collective responsibility in ensuring the city's preparedness and resilience during adverse weather conditions.

## West Bengal's Self-Help Group Movement Paves the Way for Economic Transformation and Financial Inclusion



**Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH):** In a remarkable showcase of commitment to women's empowerment, Ms Choten Dhendup Lama, IAS, Principal Secretary, Tribal Development, Government of West Bengal, took the stage at the 4th CII Indian Women Network's Leaderpreneurship Conclave held recently in Kolkata. The focus of her address was the West Bengal State Rural Livelihoods Mission, with a spotlight on the pivotal role played by the Self-Help Group (SHG) movement in transforming the lives of women in rural areas. Ms Lama emphasized the imperative need for capacity building among rural women and stressed the communal upliftment achievable through ongoing training programs. She articulated,

"Empowering a single

woman will act as a catalyst, drawing in more women. Until the empowerment of the woman at the last mile is achieved, the task remains incomplete." Her words echoed the sentiment that true progress is measured by the inclusion and elevation of every woman, particularly those in the grassroots. Addressing the gender disparity in labour participation in India, Ms Rowan Ainsworth, Consul General, Kolkata, Australian Consulate General, advocated for increased capital flow to boost women's entrepreneurship. She highlighted key elements such as skills development, capacity building, institutional support, secure transportation, legislative security, and the creation of flexible work environments. Ainsworth emphasized the shift from undervalued labor in the

unorganized sector to women engaging in paid jobs, contributing meaningfully to the economy. Sucharita Basu, Chairman, WB State Council & Managing Partner AQUILAW, underscored the necessity of promoting women's inclusion in the labour force as a crucial step for boosting the economy and propelling the nation forward. She asserted that the overall health of a nation is intricately

linked to the financial well-being of its women.

The event witnessed the unveiling of a significant report titled "Enhancing Women's Workforce Participation in the Indian Corporate Sector." This report signifies the commitment and concerted efforts from various stakeholders towards creating a more inclusive and diverse workforce in India.

The conclave provided a platform for influential voices to come together, advocating for policies, initiatives, and a cultural shift that will contribute to the holistic empowerment of women. The decade-long journey of empowering women through rural Self-Help Groups in West Bengal stands as a testament to the transformative impact such initiatives can have, with the potential to double bank credit and reshape the economic landscape in the years to come.

## Skill training of JOHAR officials at ICAR-CIFRI

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Government of Jharkhand has established the Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society under the aegis of Rural Development Department and under this society, they are running one project namely Jharkhand Opportunities for Harnessing Rural Growth Project (JOHAR) to enhance and diversify household income in select farm and non-farm sectors for targeted beneficiaries in project areas and fisheries development is one of the important sub-components under this project. In this regard, a five days training programme on "Inland Fisheries Management" has been organized in ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore during 29 January to 2 February, 2024. The main

objective of the training was to enhance knowledge and skill of the rural farming community for ensuring their livelihood security. In this programme a total of 28 officials working at the field level under the JOHAR project have participated. The participants were mainly from six districts of Jharkhand namely Khunti, West Singh Bhum, Simdega, Hazaribag, Giridi and Gumla. The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. B. K. Das, Director ICAR-CIFRI and interacted with the trainees and

encouraged them to participate actively in the training programme so that they can transfer the skill and knowledge gained through the training to the ultimate beneficiaries that is the rural fish farmers. He also emphasized the prospects and opportunities of the ornamental fish industry and the marketing channel and needs step by step hand holding to make them viable and able to establish themselves independently to bring entrepreneurship in coming days. In the training, the trainees learnt various aspects of modern and scientific fish farming like composite fish culture, biofloc technology, application of AI in fisheries, impact of water pollution on fisheries, cage culture, role of GIS in inland fisheries management, CIFRI Cage Grow Feed and other feed related research initiatives. They were given exposure on ornamental fish farming, fish disease management. In addition to that a local visit to a fish seed farm at Halisahar, West Bengal and East Kolkata Wetland and ICAR-CIFE, Kolkata Research Centre was also arranged for them. The program has been oriented to strengthen and upgrade the knowledge and skills of the officials regarding modern fisheries practices and technologies for enhancing fish production in open waters including ponds & tanks, through on-field exposure visits and field demonstrations besides classroom sessions.

# Ama Byanjana Celebrating Odisha's Rich Flavours At Ekamra Utsav

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The chilly evenings of February have set the stage for a delightful culinary and entertainment experience at the Ekamra Utsav, organized by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority at the Exhibition Grounds from February 3rd to 9th. Amidst the vibrant atmosphere, attendees are indulging in a feast of flavours at "Ama Byanjana," the festival's culinary highlight.

At the heart of Ekamra Utsav lies "Odia Byanjan," drawing crowds from Mission Shakti to big hotel chains, offering a diverse array of culinary delights all under one roof. This year's celebration boasts 20 food stalls, featuring contributions from various sectors including the state government's Mission Shakti, Millet



Mission, and Koraput Coffee, alongside renowned local hotels. Around 2,000 people thronged to the food festival on the first day, and could not help but gush about the array and variety of cuisines available.

In the spirit of the Ekamra Festival, Mission Shakti presents authentic Odisha dishes like rice, karanji, magaj laddu, malpua, chenapoda, Khaseri pakodi, dhenkanal bara, cuttack dahibara aloodam, and handi sarbat, showcasing the rich culinary heritage of the state. Meanwhile, Koraput Coffee and Millet

Mission offer a unique experience, allowing attendees to savor Koraput's famous coffee on winter evenings alongside millet-made ladu pie, adding a distinct flavor to the festivities.

**Jindal Stainless becomes first company to participate in newly launched international air cargo operations from Bhubaneswar airport**



**Kalinganagar, (Sapan Kar) :-** Jindal Stainless Limited, India's largest stainless steel manufacturer, became the first company to participate in the newly launched direct air cargo operations to and from international destinations at the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) in Bhubaneswar. The company dispatched a consignment of 28 kg

of hot rolled stainless steel plate samples to Sweden yesterday, the inaugural day. The flag-off ceremony was attended by Hon'ble Minister, MSME Department, Shri Pratap Keshari Deb; Principal Secretary, MSME Department, Shri Saswat Mishra (IAS); Principal Secretary, Department of Commerce and Transport, Smt Usha

Padhee (IAS), among other dignitaries. Expressing his enthusiasm, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Abhyuday Jindal, said, "This development is crucial in bolstering the export potential of Odisha, underscoring its significance in the broader context of economic growth and development of the

**Handwara girl bags gold in National Field Indoor Archery Championship**

**Srinagar, (KCN):** 8-year-old girl Fazeelat Aslam received accolades after she won gold medal in 13th & 14th National Field Indoor Archery Championship 2023-24 held in Pune Maharashtra recently. Fazeelat daughter of Mohammad Aslam Bhat represented Jammu & Kashmir at national level game hails from north Kashmir's Handwara and presently resides in Humama. She bagged first position and won gold medal under 10-year age category. The championship was held at Rajaram Bhiku Pathare Stadium Pune in which more than 250 participants from 15 States and UTs took part. Fazeelat has achieved 58



points and bagged 1st rank in 13th & 14th National Field Indoor Archery Championship 2023-24. The championship was flagged off on February 1st and will continue till February 4th. Fazeelat while expressing gratitude said her family

supported a lot during this journey and the feat couldn't be possible without mental and moral support of her parents. She also said that it was a proud moment for her as she represented Jammu and Kashmir at national level. She appealed to younger

## Land hurdle pushes Rourkela ETP into uncertainty

**Rourkela (KCN):** Delay in identifying land has further pushed the setting up of an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) in Rourkela into uncertainty. The proposed ETP would prevent the rampant contamination of three major rivers — Brahmani, Koel and Sankh — arising from the discharge of toxic effluents.

The water of the three rivers is reported to be heavily polluted owing to discharge of untreated effluents directly into the water bodies. The state government had planned to make these rivers free of pollution, however, the project has been hanging fire owing to inordinate delay in land identification.

Speaking on the issue, SPCB Regional Officer Anup Mallick said, "After Cuttack, it is Rourkela which has an ETP functioning at Balughat. But, we need more such plants."

Meanwhile, funds were allocated for the ETP at Koelnagar and RSP area. However, the ETP project is hanging in suspended animation as no land has been identified and handed over to RMC for the purpose.

Queried in this regard in the past, then deputy commissioner of RMC (now transferred) Sudhansu Bhoi, had said, "We are aware of it. For that, we have written to the Revenue Department because the land has to be identified and handed over to us. We are ready to proceed after that because we have the funds with us for the project."





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## 'UnserHaus' by BSH Home Appliances - Kolkata's new luxury address

**Bhubaneswar:** BSH Home Appliances Group, one of the world's leading home appliances companies today launched its first 'UnserHaus' in Kolkata. This is BSH's only experience center in India to house all its three brands – Bosch, Siemens and Gaggenau under one roof. Located at Salt Lake city's Adventz Infinity @ 5, this new experience center is all set to welcome customers as well as Kolkata's strong architecture & design community. The company already has two other stores in Kolkata – a multi-channel Bosch & Siemens Brand Store in Dhakuria and a Bosch Studio in Shakespeare Sarani. UnserHaus is the German name for "Our House". It is a place where comfort,

convenience, inspiration, and memories reside in every corner. The philosophy and core ethos of BSH's UnserHaus are focused on building long-lasting trust with all customers & business partners. Keeping this in mind, the space is designed to ensure that all visitors feel at home when they visit, helping them experience the products as if they were in their own house.

Commenting on the launch of UnserHaus, Kolkata, Neeraj Bahl, MD & CEO, BSH Home Appliances (India & SAARC) said, "Kolkata is one of our high performing markets and we're thrilled to further expand our presence here by opening doors to our 101st retail space\*. The new-age Indian consumer continues to look for offline

## Mahagram offers door to door banking services through Kirana stores

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

Recently, Mahagram has tied up with a public sector bank – the Bank of Maharashtra to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha. The

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

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

## Amazon.in launches 'Back to School' store

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

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

appearance with premium aluminum metal body with 16.9MM thickness, 5.3 MM narrow bezels and the weight of the laptop is only 1.56kg, which allows you to carry it easily, making it very convenient for school, travel, and work. It is available for starting INR 37,990 on Amazon.in. Lenovo Tab M10 FHD Plus Tablet, Platinum Grey - Make way for the stylish 8.1 mm Tab M10 FHD Plus.

## OSL Group founder bags 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping Shipping & Logistics scenario in Eastern India



Bhubaneswar (KCN) : On the August occasion of the 4th Edition of prestigious Times Business Awards Odisha 2023, Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) founder Sri

Mishra was conferred with the coveted 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping the shipping and logistics scenario in eastern India.

## Rise of non-communicable diseases in India

**Bhubaneswar :** India has a high burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and dyslipidaemia, a cross-sectional and population-based survey of 33,537 people aged over 20 in urban and 79,506 in rural areas across 31 states and Union Territories has found. This study also demonstrates that although all metabolic NCDs are more common in urban regions, rural areas have significantly greater prevalence rates than previously reported. However, experts agree that NCDs are largely preventable and controllable by adopting healthier lifestyles, engaging in regular physical activity and

improving dietary habits. In the battle against NCDs, the significance of a well-balanced diet cannot be overstated. Even taking small yet mindful steps to improve your diet can prove to be beneficial in the long-term. Incorporating nutritious and natural foods instead of HFSS (High Fat, Salt, and Sugar) foods can be an excellent way to boost your health. Almonds are one such food that holds immense potential for promoting overall health.

Almonds are a natural source of 15 essential nutrients such as healthy fats, dietary fibre, protein, vitamin E, zinc, copper, magnesium, calcium, and



phosphorus, amongst others. Multiple research studies have indicated that incorporating almonds into a well-balanced diet can positively affect cardiovascular health, cholesterol reduction, blood sugar, and weight management. Additionally, almonds have satiating properties that promote feelings of fullness, which may help to manage hunger between meals and keep cravings for unhealthy

food away. Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head – Dietetics, Max Healthcare, Delhi, said, "I believe that prevention is key to reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases. This makes it very important to be mindful of our lifestyle habits. Hence, I would urge everyone to make a commitment to prioritize their health and well-being by making healthier choices such

as including natural and nutritious foods like almonds in their diets. Almonds are a nutrient-dense food that can help to reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and other health issues. They are rich in several nutrients like vitamin E, protein, calcium, magnesium, and phosphorus required for the growth and development of the body. In fact, a review by a panel of Indian nutrition and cardiovascular experts, published in the journal Nutrients, suggests that daily inclusion of almonds as part of a healthy diet may help reduce dyslipidemia, one of the most important risk factors for cardiovascular disease among Indians."

## Beacon of Benevolence : Ranjit Honored for Transformative Social Impact in Bangalore



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** In a heartwarming recognition of selfless service, Ranjit Swain, an esteemed engineer from Kakatpur, Puri district, has been honored in Bangalore for his outstanding contributions to social welfare. The Jai Jagannath People for Seva Trust celebrated Mr. Swain's dedication to the community, highlighting his pivotal role as the chief of Maa Kalarei Charitable Trust and his impact on the lives of Odia immigrants in Bangalore. Ranjit Kumar Swain, an accomplished engineer and the head of Maa Kalarei Charitable Trust, has carved a special niche in

Bangalore, Astarang, Kakatpur and Puri districts for his commendable efforts. His focus lies in facilitating education and employment opportunities for Odia immigrants, particularly the children, residing in

Bangalore for the past 15 years. With a passion for providing free and affordable education, healthcare and support, Mr. Swain has become a pivotal figure in the lives of many. Notably, during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, he stood as a beacon of hope, providing essentials like food, clothing, and school supplies to those adversely affected in Astarang, Kakatpur, Konark, and various villages in Puri district. The felicitation ceremony organized by

19 pandemic, he stood as a beacon of hope, providing essentials like food, clothing, and school supplies to those adversely affected in Astarang, Kakatpur, Konark, and various villages in Puri district. The felicitation ceremony organized by

Jai Jagannath People for Seva Trust, Bangalore was a testament to Mr. Swain's tireless efforts. Trust Chairman Madhav Behera along with distinguished members graced the occasion to acknowledge and honor the exemplary social worker. Ranjit Swain's story is not just one of personal achievement but a testament to the transformative impact an individual can have on communities through genuine dedication and a compassionate heart. His efforts to uplift the less fortunate and provide opportunities for a brighter future exemplify the spirit of altruism, making him a true inspiration for others.

## Annual General Meeting of Vitesco Technologies

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

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

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

We regard this outcome as a clear mandate to continue the successful collaboration and positioning of Vitesco Technologies as a supplier of sustainable drive solutions with a clear goal," said CEO Andreas Wolf.

All current members of the Supervisory Board representing the shareholders who were up for election were re-elected to office. The members of the Supervisory Board who represent the employees will be elected separately.

A complete list of all Supervisory Board members and the results of the voting at the AGM are available on the Vitesco Technologies website under 'Annual General Meeting'.

development & management.

Commenting on the appointment of a new member in the leadership team, Mr. Mehl Nanavati, Managing Director, Raj Petro Specialties Pvt Ltd, a Brenntag Group company. He will lead the comprehensive lubricants Business Units, including Speciality, Industrial and Automotive lubricant businesses.

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

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

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

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

## LV Prasad Eye Institute Organizes a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk

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

Whitathon is LV Prasad Eye Institute's annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma – a life and vision-threatening eye cancer in children. One of the most common

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

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

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

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



## Abbott's all-round heroics take Australia to series win

**New Delhi:** Sean Abbott's all-round show (69 and 3-40) helped Australia prevail in the second ODI against West Indies at the SCG on Sunday (February 4) to seal the series with a game remaining. Abbott helped Australia recover from a collapse to power the hosts to a total of 258/9. Josh Hazlewood's three-wicket haul and Abbott's three ensured West Indies couldn't offer much of a challenge with the bat as they were bundled out for 175.

The chase did not begin on a good note for West Indies as Alick Athanasiou fell to Aaron Hardie while Josh Hazlewood picked up the wicket of Justin Greaves. With Kjorn Ottley also falling cheaply, getting out to Abbott, the visitors were in trouble at 34/3 in the ninth over. Shai Hope and Keacy Cartwright combined for a half-century stand as they tried to revive the chase but the former became Hazlewood's second scalp, leaving West Indies with a lot of work to do.

Cartwright and Roston Chase tried to get West Indies back on track but Abbott ended the former's stay on 40. The regular procession of wickets for West Indies did not cease as the pacers ran through the lower order. Abbott bagged his third wicket with the dismissal of Chase, and Adam Zampa finished it off in the 44th over with the scalp of Gudakesh Motie as all the Australian bowlers bagged at least a wicket.

Earlier, having been asked to bat, Australia suffered early setbacks as Alzarri Joseph dismissed the openers cheaply, getting Jake Fraser-McGurk to edge to the keeper after being hit for a four and a six, and having Josh Inglis caught at backward point. Cameron Green batted positively, striking three fours in an over off Joseph and then hitting a six and a four off the same bowler in another over. But West Indies continued to chip

away as Steve Smith chopped on a delivery from Matthew Forde. Marnus Labuschagne started well but he fell to Motie soon after. Oshane Thomas accounted for Green as Australia slipped to 91/5.

A half-century partnership between Matthew Short and Hardie steadied Australia for a while but Motie dismissed the set batters in successive overs to finish with excellent figures of 3 for 28, leaving Australia struggling at 167/7 after 35 overs. West Indies would have hoped to keep Australia to a manageable total but Abbott and Sutherland ensured the hosts put up a competitive score, adding 57 for the eighth wicket. Romario Shepherd ended the partnership but Abbott, who reached a 54-ball fifty, struck two sixes off Shepherd to power his side past 250 before being dismissed by the same bowler.

## England fight back after Gill ton to leave Vizag Test tantalisingly poised



**New Delhi:** Shubman Gill's third Test ton propped up India in their second innings and enabled them to set a target of 399 for England. The visitors managed to wipe out 67 from the target by Stumps on Day 2 leaving the game intriguingly poised.

Earlier in the day, India's shortcomings with the bat were glossed over by Gill holding one end up, much like Yashasvi Jaiswal's had in the first innings. Gill himself had overcome a jittery start to produce a fluent innings thereafter. On the third morning, India started with a mission to extend their lead of 171 further. But as they found out, England had other ideas. The 41-year old James Anderson set the tone early, producing one to nip away and beat Rohit Sharma's defence. He then had Yashasvi Jaiswal chasing and nicking a delivery angled

across to give England a perfect start. Their day could have become better at that point had Gill not managed to survive two close LBW reviews. The first time he was given out but was lucky to be saved by an inside edge against Tom Hartley. On the second occasion, he was saved by some extra bounce against Anderson. After that, Gill along with Shreyas Iyer put on a fight that saw them raise an 81-run stand with the former bringing up a fifty

after being under a lot of pressure. His partner, however, could not convert yet another start. He skewed a big hit against Hartley and was caught by a sharp Ben Stokes, who ran backward from mid off. Debutant Rajat Patidar too fell soon after getting an under edge that was taken well by Ben Foakes to leave India in a spot of bother having lost four before lunch.

Gill and Axar managed to

play sensible cricket after the break and stitched together an 89-run stand that pushed India's lead ahead. The under-pressure Gill, got to a deserving ton soon. But just as he was looking to up the ante, he fell gloving a reverse sweep off Shoaib Bashir. India were then pushed further back when Axar was trapped LBW by Hartley as he tried to whip one across. R Ashwin and KS Bharat defended their way through till the break

The chase was off to a quick start with Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley putting on another 50-run stand. Just as India were running out of ideas however, Duckett was out caught bat-pad off Ashwin. Brief Scores: India 396 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 209; James Anderson 3-47, Rehan Ahmed 3-65) & 255 (Shubman Gill 104, Axar Patel 45; Tom Hartley 4-77, Rehan Ahmed 3-88) lead England 253 (Zak Crawley 76, Ben Stokes 47; Jasprin Bumrah 6-45, Kuldeep Yadav 3-71) & 67/1 by 332 runs

## Shakib yet to decide on availability for Sri Lanka series

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh's all-format skipper Shakib al Hasan has raised doubts over his availability for the home series against Sri Lanka owing to his current predicament with his eye. Shakib has been struggling with blurred vision to his left eye due to stress since last year's ODI World Cup.

In the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League, he is operating more as a spinner than an allrounder for Rangpur Riders as he did not come out to bat in two games. Sri Lanka are scheduled to tour after the BPL for a full series, comprising two Tests, three ODIs and as many T20Is.

"Time will tell," Shakib told reporters when his attention was drawn regarding his availability

during the home series against Sri Lanka at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium following Riders 77-run win over Sylhet Strikers on Saturday.

"We are still playing the tournament. I will speak to the officials, and then take the decision (about playing the Sri Lanka or not)," he said, adding that he will also speak with the board regarding his future as Bangladesh ODI format skipper. He had previously stated that he wasn't keen on carrying on as the captain after the 2023 ODI World Cup.

"I will take a decision in this regard (ODI captaincy) after talking with the board but we still have not discussed it," he said.

Shakib regretted not



being able to provide his all-round services to the Riders but also felt that he will get comfortable the moment he scores runs consistently.

"The more I score runs, the more comfortable I

will be. I can't find the rhythm when there are no runs. I have never done this in my life (like) just playing with one side. It is the first time and I feel for Rangpur Riders. I am only able to

fulfill half of their expectations," he said. "I realized that when the time is bad, everything goes bad. I am not thinking about anything else (like quitting cricket) and now I am trying (to make a comeback) and let me finish my effort and later will think about it," he added. Shakib, who was diagnosed with a retinal condition in his left eye, will go through a conservative treatment for it, the BCB had previously announced. The allrounder also met several physicians recently and even went to England and Singapore to take the opinions of leading doctors there. However, Shakib is yet to find out what is the exact problem with his eyes.

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh Cricket Board said on Saturday (February 3) that former spin bowling coach Rangana Herath has declined to work with them again as he rejected the offer proposed to him. Earlier, Herath told Cricbuzz that he received the offer from BCB and would take a final call after talking with his lawyers. But he insisted that he is excited to play the role of a spin mentor, working with slow bowlers across various age groups, rather than being the spin coach for the national cricket team. As per the new offer letter, Herath was expected to spend 200 days in Bangladesh for guiding spinners across the country, compared to his previous stint as the national team's spin coach on an annual basis.

BCB cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus told reporters following a meeting of the foreign coach recruiting committee that includes two former national captains - Khaled Mahmud and Naimur Rahman - along with BCB chief executive Nizamuddin Chowdhury and BCB programme head David Moore. Yunus is the other member of the committee.

## Du Plessis, Du Plooy power Joburg Super Kings to playoffs

**New Delhi:** Joburg Super Kings muscled their way past Durban Super Giants in a high-scoring thriller at home to usurp Pretoria Capitals to the fourth and final playoffs spot in the SA20 on Saturday. Just hours after Capitals won their last league game and pinned their hopes on table-toppers Super Giants doing them a favour, the Super Kings batted their way through to chase down a 200-plus total and storm into the knockouts.

Super Kings started the evening on a fantastic note as they had the Super Giants down to 32 for 3 in the fifth over after opting to bowl in the do-or-die fixture. The trio of JJ Smuts (55 off 34), Wiaan Mulder (59 off 40) and Heinrich Klaasen (40 off 16) however, came together for the colossal rescue act that saw the team



post 203 for 6 in 20 overs. Between them, they smashed nine sixes and hit 12 fours. Smuts and Mulder added 115 runs off 70 balls to set the team up for a big finish, which Klaasen took care of. As many as 67 runs came off the last five overs, with Nandre Burger conceding 23 in the 18th and Lizaad Williams going for 22 in the 19th. Doug Bracewell bowled an immaculate final over worth just seven runs and a wicket but the to

his tally off the next 37 balls to finish with 57 off 47. Du Plessis, who recovered from a batting rut very recently, lead the way in a crucial game with a stroke-filled 29-ball 57. Even after they lost both the set batter by the 17th over and needed 45 off the last 18 balls, Super Kings didn't relent. Wayne Madsen kicked off the 18th over from Dwaine Pretorius with a six, as the chasers picked 17 runs off it. 28 off 12 then became 13 off six as Moeen Ali carted Naveen Ul Haq for two sixes in the penultimate over. Super Giants still had room for a late heist as Pretorius conceded a four first ball but then dismissed Moeen Ali on the second. However, out came Donovan Ferreira to hit two sixes in three balls to wrap up the chase in style.

**New Delhi:** Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson gave the new and inexperienced South African XI a taste of a tough day in Tests as they consolidated comprehensively after the visitors made a good start to life in Mount Maunganui. The duo hit unbeaten hundreds and dragged New Zealand to 258 for 2 at stumps. This was Williamson's 30th Test century while Ravindra got to three-figures for the first time in the format.

Right-arm fast bowler Tshepo Moreki had a dream start to his Test career as he had Devon Conway trapped leg before on the first ball of his career to leave New Zealand on 1 for 1. Dane Peterson, who tied down New Zealand well all day, broke through next - having Tom Latham nicking to Bjorn Fortuin.

Ravindra was then joined by Williamson at 39 for 2, who initially rebuilt rather cautiously. They dragged New Zealand to 65 for 2 at lunch and then began to inch forward again after the break. Though South Africa didn't find a way through the partnership, they did create chances - only to be undone by reviews and their own fielding lapses. Ruan de Swardt should've been the second debutant to earn his maiden wicket

fielder to spill a tight chance. Ravindra also rode his luck when outside edge flew over the slip cordon in the final session as South Africa let shoulders drop with every added run to New Zealand and the duo's tally. The fast bowling trio of Duanne Olivier (19 overs), Dane Peterson (22 overs) and Tshepo Moreki (22 overs) bowled long spells through the day without much to show for it. Captain Neil Brand gave his quicks a break by bringing himself on occasionally but his left-arm spin was also dealt with. Towards the end of the day, Williamson got to his century - 17th at home - with a pull off a short ball from Moreki. An over later from Peterson, Ravindra brought up his landmark.