

## Vedic Harmony : Maharshi Mahesh Yogi's Legacy Reverberates at Bhubaneswar's Buddha Temple



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** In a solemn gathering at the conference hall of the Buddha Temple in Bhubaneswar, disciples and followers paid rich tribute to the world-renowned sage Maharshi Mahesh Yogi on the occasion of his death anniversary. The commemorative event inaugurated by Chief Guest Swamiji Abhiram

Saraswati witnessed a convergence of spiritual leaders, scholars and disciples from various parts of Odisha. The ceremony commenced with a profound Vedic recitation by Pandit Itikant followed by Guru Pujan led by Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantray, Chairman of Maharshi Public School Group and Vedic International Foundation. Chief Guest Swami Abhiram Saraswati Ji Maharaj and Chief Speaker Prof Dr. Brajabandhu Panda shed light on Maharshi's life philosophy and his significant contributions to the propagation of Vedic science and

world peace. Guest of Honor Professor Prof Dr. Rabi Narayan Satpathy, Director & Dean of Sri Sri Ravishankar University, Naraj, Cuttack shared insights into Maharshi's profound impact on the spiritual and academic spheres. The program also witnessed the

participation of notable figures such as Braja Sundar Nayak, Kailash Chandra Maharan, Siddhi teachers Dilip Das and Deepanjali Das and Senior Meditation Teacher Saroj Ranjan Satpathy. The disciples and contributors to Maharshi's teachings were honored by the Chief Guest Swami Abhiram Paramhansji

Maharaj. Felicitated individuals included Senior TM Teacher Manmohan Pundit, Sri Braja Sundar Nayak, Incharge of Dhenkanal Maharishi Ved Vigyan Vidyapeeth, Kailash Chandra Maharan, TM Siddhi teacher of Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Bhubaneswar smt Deepanjali Das & Dilip das, Senior TM

Teacher Saroj Ranjan Satpathy, Satya Samal, Bijayananda Mishra, organization's state coordinator presided over the meeting. The program was skillfully conducted by Senior Meditation Teacher Manoranjan Mishra while gratitude was expressed by TM teacher & Yoga expert Sri Ashok Sahu. The

commemoration drew hundreds of Maharshi's followers, creating a vibrant atmosphere of shared reverence and spiritual connection. The event served as a testament to the enduring legacy of Maharshi Mahesh Yogi in the hearts and minds of those who continue to embrace his teachings.

### CM Naveen Approves Inclusion Of 30K More Artists In 'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana'



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has decided to include 30,000 more artists as beneficiaries under the 'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana', a major scheme of the Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture. During the visit of the 5T Chairman to the districts, artists and their

organizations requested and proposed for inclusion of more artists under the scheme. Granting the proposals and request, the Chief Minister today decided to increase the number of beneficiaries under the 'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana'. Under this scheme, 50,000 beneficiary artists are being provided

monthly assistance of Rs. 1200. Now the number of beneficiaries of this scheme has been increased to 80,000 with the inclusion of 30,000 more artists of the state. Our folk arts are the identity of our nation and artists are the propagandists and communicators of language, literature and culture. Many artists from different parts of Odisha will be encouraged and benefited by involving more artists in this scheme. This will preserve, develop, promote and spread our art and enrich the art and culture of Odisha, the Chief Minister said.

**New Delhi (KCN):** During the Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha today, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Manas Ranjan Mangaraj urged the Centre to declare lightning as a natural disaster. According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), lightning strikes claim the lives of 2500 people annually in India, causing burns, muscle spasms, multi-system dysfunction, cardiac arrest, and instant death. The majority of victims (96%) are from rural areas, including farmers, cattle grazers, fishermen, jungle hunters, and labourers working outdoors. Studies indicate that

lightning strikes will increase by about 12 per cent for every degree rise in the global average air temperature, Mangaraj apprised the Upper House of the Parliament. Mangaraj said, "Odisha, as per the last annual lightning report, records the highest number of lightning strikes. Odisha is specifically vulnerable to frequent lightning strikes due to a complex combination of climatic factors such as cyclonic activities, pre-monsoon and monsoon periods and the prevalence of high convective energy in the atmosphere. Despite this, the state has successfully reduced lightning-related

casualties from 207 in 2019-20 to 156 in 2020-2021. Odisha declared lightning a "state-specific disaster" on April 1, 2015, providing Rs. four lakhs ex-gratia to the families of the deceased.

"Recently, Odisha proposed to the Centre to declare lightning as a

natural disaster, actively implementing mitigation measures. Following lightning-related deaths, the state government directed Forest and Agriculture departments to undertake large-scale palm tree plantations as a preventive measure, the BJD MP pointed

out. Citing the examples of countries like Thailand and Bangladesh, which have successfully employed large-scale palm tree plantations to mitigate lightning deaths, the Parliamentarian urged the central government to declare lightning as a natural disaster. "Declaration of lightning as a natural disaster would enhance ex-gratia support for affected families, offering much-needed relief to thousands of Indians annually. This urgent step must be taken to address the high mortality rate associated with lightning strikes," MP Manas Mangaraj concluded.

## Soaring Dreams: Empowering Odisha's Youth With Skilling In The Aviation Sector

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Skill Development and Technical Education Department and Commerce & Transport Department are collaborating with GMR Aero Academy (GMRAA) to impart aviation-related skilling to the youth of Odisha. Accordingly, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Directorate of Aviation, Directorate of Skill Development cum Employment with GMR in the presence of Commerce and Transport Minister Smt. Tukuni Sahu and Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Pritiranjan Gharai, and other dignitaries. The MoU with the Skill Development and Technical Education Department will provide

a pathway for the skilling of more than 300 Odia youths in specialized courses like Certification in Airport Operations (CAO), Basic Fire Fighters Course (BFFC), and Air Cargo Management Executive (ACME). This partnership has been possible because of the flexibility and agility given under the aspirational NUA Odisha Scheme which opens pathways for Odia youths to avail of skilling courses in futuristic and aspirational trades. Similarly, the MoU with the Commerce & Transport Department through the Biju Patnaik Aviation Centre (BPAC) will open opportunities for Odia youths to upskill themselves in aviation-focused courses, equipping them with credentials and expertise for diverse roles across the aviation landscape. Thus, these MoUs are executed under the

significance of the

overarching umbrella of the Biju Patnaik Aviation Center at Birasal, reinforcing the Skilled in Odisha brand. In her address, the Honourable Minister of Commerce and Transport, Smt. Tukuni Sahu highlighted that under the leadership of the Honourable Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, and the 5T framework Odisha is witnessing a transformation in the aviation sector. This transformation is not only creating employment opportunities for the youth but also contributing to the realization of a Nutana Odisha.

In his remarks, Honourable Minister of Skill Development and Technical Education, Shri Pritiranjan Gharai, emphasized that Skilled In Odisha has attained a global presence. He underscored the

partnership with GMRAA on this historic occasion, stating that it will enhance the value proposition. He expressed confidence that Odisha, through such initiatives, will emerge as the leading state in the country, offering unparalleled skilling and employment opportunities for its youth. Principal Secretary Smt Usha Padhee in her welcome address mentioned in the new age economy, aviation is

going to play a crucial role. Aviation jobs are very aspirational. Providing this niche opportunity to our youth would help them to transform their lives.

Air Marshal K. Anantharaman, PVSM, VSM, Head and Vice President of GMRAA, appreciates the efforts of the govt. emphasized the transformative impact of this initiative, stating, "Considering the scope of expansion of the Aviation sector, the skill development initiative

would be a game-changer, creating good opportunities for youth in the airport sector. The training at GMRAA will adhere to world standards, ensuring that graduates are well-equipped to contribute to the ever-growing aviation industry."

GMR Aero Academy, recognized for its parent entity GMR Airports Ltd, a global developer and operator of airports, manages a prestigious portfolio, including Delhi International Airport,

GMR Hyderabad International Airport, and international airports in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Greece. Accredited by renowned International and National Bodies and Regulators such as ICAO, IATA, ACI, DGCA, and BCAS, GMRAA maintains the highest industry standards in its training programs. This groundbreaking initiative underscores the government's unwavering support for

transformative endeavours aimed at skill development and employment generation. Govt of Odisha aims at shaping the future of the aviation workforce in India and contributing to the socio-economic development of Odisha. GMRAA invites aspiring candidates to embark on this transformative journey towards a brighter future in the aviation sector.

Among others, Special Secretary to Commerce & Transport Department Manoj Mishra, Smt Debadutta Suranjita Jena, Additional Secretary C & T Department, Gangadhar Sahoo, OSD-cum-Additional Secretary, Skill Development & Technical Education Department, Ms Parul Kulshreshtha Singh, Chief – GMR Aero Academy) and senior officers were present during the event.



# AIIMS Bhubaneswar imparts CPR Training specifically for NSS Women Volunteers from 10 Aspirational Districts

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** To expedite the noble decision of the Union Health Ministry to impart lifesaving CPR (Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation) for common people, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has organised three-day workshop to provide CPR training to women NSS volunteers. The workshop organised by AIIMS Bhubaneswar in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Odisha, has been designed specifically for NSS (National Service Scheme) women volunteers from 10 aspirational districts of the state. AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr.



- More than Two Hundred women volunteers participate
- Three-day workshop on Health Equity and Wellness to witness training on various health aspects
- AIIMS Bhubaneswar has provided CPR training to more than 10K persons

day-to-day life, said Executive Director Dr. Biswas. This workshop

will cover the basics of CPR (Cardio-pulmonary

Resuscitation), adolescent health, menstrual hygiene,

nutritional requirements of women, and common non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, which are due to modern-day lifestyle, added Dr. Biswas.

This workshop will not only boost the confidence of these NSS women volunteers in handling common health problems in their families and communities, it also will give them an insight into the basics of a healthy lifestyle, said Tulasi Munda. More than 200 NSS Women volunteers and 19 programme officers from 10 aspirational districts like Koraput, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Manoranjan Nayak, Special Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ramesh

Chandra Behera, SNO cum Deputy Secretary, GoO, Dr. Prabhas Ranjan Tripathy, Dr. Prajna Paramita Giri, Dr. Priyamadhab Behera, NSS Programme Coordinator AIIMS Bhubaneswar were present on the occasion. It may be noted here that, one in four deaths in India is due to cardiovascular diseases. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in India. In the recent past the country has witnessed many deaths due to sudden cardiac arrest outside hospital. In these circumstances, CPR plays a pivotal role to save the lives of the victim till immediate medical care is available.

## Exploration and Insights into Matlah River's Diversity and Ecosystem Health: CIFRI's Contribution



**Kolkata (KCN):** In a recent survey conducted under the NMCG Project (Phase III), under the supervision of Director I C A R - C I F R I Dr. B. K. Das, the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) collaborated to unveil the aquatic wonders of the Matlah River, a tributary of the Ganges.

The survey covered four main sites: Canning (Kathalberia), Sonakhali, Goran Bose, and Jharkhali. Fishermen proudly shared that the river houses a stunning array of 47 fish species. The Gobiidae family stole the spotlight at 13%, with Sciaenidae

and others following closely. Notable species like white sardine, threadfin sea catfish, The barramundi, and paradise threadfin added charm to the river's aquatic life. Fishing in Matlah River is a diverse activity, employing gill nets, traps, bag nets, and hook-and-line methods. Local fishers in Canning utilize crab traps as part of their diverse fishing practices, contributing to the rich aquatic life found in the Matlah River. Peak fishing times are from March to September, especially using bag nets. The exploration showed the significance of these methods in sustaining the local fisheries.

oxygen levels, exceeding 5mg/L across all sites, supported aquatic life. Salinity levels varied, with Jharkhali exhibiting the highest and Canning the lowest. The influx of marine water influenced hardness values.

The Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute played a crucial role in this exploration, providing valuable insights into the fish diversity, fishing practices, and the river's overall health. Their expertise added depth to the understanding of Matlah River's intricate ecosystem.

This exploration unveiled the intricate dance of nature in the Matlah River, inviting everyone to appreciate and preserve the delicate balance of life beneath the waters. CIFRI's continued contributions ensure that these aquatic wonders are understood and protected for generations to come.

## STATE LEVEL FOLK LITERATURE CONFERENCE



**Jajpur (KCN):** The Mahavinayak Natural Parijat Folk Literature Conference on behalf of KAIVALYA SAHITYA SANSAD has been held at Mahavirinayak Ashtashambhu Temple, Chandikol, Jajpur. The founder, Dr. SANGRAM K E S H A R I S A M A N T A R A Y, presided over the meeting. The state-level poetry reciting and discussion were held in two stages. Shree Jagannatha's bhajan and devotional music were sung by vocalists. Saint Ramakant Baba of Olashuni Peetha inaugurated the meeting by lighting the lamp. Metaphors of nature and spiritual concepts enliven the literature. The Chief Guest Dr. Basant Kishore

Sahu, Sahitya Academy award winning on children's literature, gave a detailed look at the social relevance of folk literature in the first session. The Chief Guest of the second session, Vikari Raut, former CBI judge opined that spiritual feelings bring literature alive. Jyotishacharya Dr. Sasmita Mishra as the Chief speaker joined in and beautifully explained the spirituality and nature in folk literature through examples. In the second session, Kalipad Panda, a former member of Sahitya Academy, explained in his own style that events and accidents reflected in people's lives help to create the best literature. As honorable speakers, Satyabrata Puhan, Saraswati Barik, the Poet



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## Raaju Bonagaani's Two Much-Anticipated Movies Under Jayaram Devasamudra's Productions Are Ready To Hit Cinemas

Film enthusiasts and fans alike are eagerly awaiting the release of two upcoming movies, 'Rave Party' and 'Engagement,' as both films wrap up their post-production phase in January 2024. The duo promises an engaging cinematic experience, exploring distinct themes under the adept direction of Raaju Bonagaani and produced by Jayaram Devasamudra.

Smooth Transition from Shooting to Post-Production

From the creative mind of Raaju Bonagaani, these films succeeded through the arduous process behind the scenes, showing a smooth transition since the shooting of the film. Exploring the Depths of Rave Culture

Efforts of a dedicated team playing helped identify these works, providing a high-quality viewing experience for the audience.

About the movie 'Rave Party'

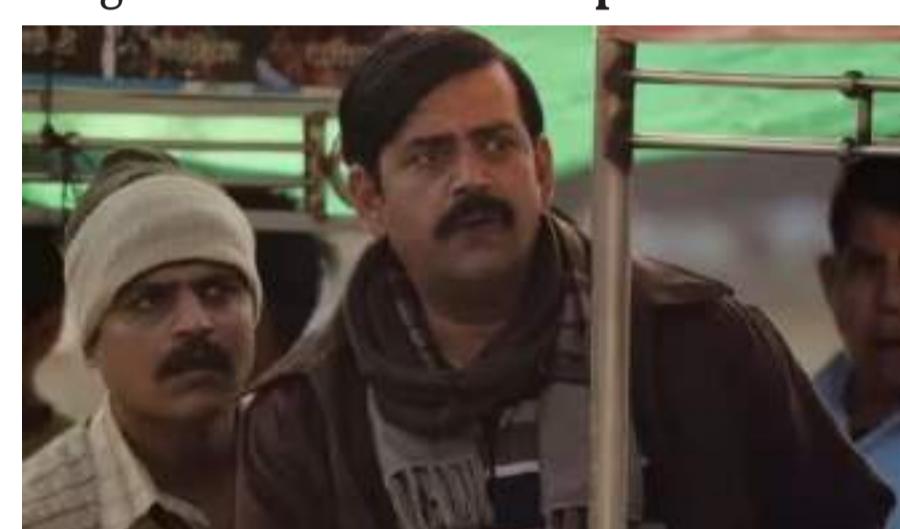
'Rave Party' is set to explore the social and psychological aspects of the growing rave party culture. Given the increasing popularity of such events, the film aims to highlight the complexities of these encounters in urban settings. The 'rave party' in particular will shed light on the often controversial elements associated with this subculture, such as substance abuse.

Exploring the Depths of Rave Culture

relationships with unexpected twists and turns. Anticipation Peaks as Release Date Nears As the post-production phase comes to a close, both 'Rave Party' and 'Engagement' are set to hit screens, giving audiences a taste of cinematic experiences. Raaju Bonagaani's directorial vision combined with Jairamdev Samudra's production skills see promising results. Movie enthusiasts can now frantically count down the days until these highly anticipated films grace theaters, providing a delightful escape for immersion and information if it's wonderful in the world of 'rave parties'.

The film is poised to continue to capture the attention of many minds. Inavars Cinema Factory and Suram Movies join the league in bringing this cinematic exploration to the audience. About 'Engagement' While 'Rave Party' explores the dynamics of contemporary social scenes, 'Engagement' takes audiences on a different journey. The film, also directed by Raaju Bonagaani and produced by Jayaram Devasamudra, promises to unravel the complexities of

**Doubtwa' Out Now: Makers Unveil The First Song From Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies**



The trailer of Jio Studios and Aamir Khan Productions' 'Laapataa Ladies' directed by Kiran Rao has given a glimpse of its humoristic world that dwells in the rollercoaster ride of the lost brides. This has indeed elevated the excitement to see what the director Kiran Rao has to bring to the table this time. Amid the rising exhilaration for the film, the makers are here with the first song 'Doubtwa' leaving the audience gripping their eyes on the bride.

The first song 'Doubtwa' from 'Laapataa Ladies' gives a broader narrative of its laughter-studded story. The song is sung by

Sukhwinder Singh, and the music has been composed by Ram Sampath while Divyanidhi Sharma penned the lyrics.

Amid the hunt for the bride, what comes ahead is the jolly mess. The brides are sharp, and full of doubt. Their intentions are yet not clear but they are truly here to create a big mess. The cops are behind the brides as they are the real matter of doubt. With its immensely interesting tunes, the song gives a perfect essence of the rural India that is the significant backdrop of the film. As the song is out, it's indeed guaranteed

rollercoaster ride of entertainment on the cards.

Presented by Jio Studios, '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.

**Vicky Kaushal Finally Opens Up On Sam Bahadur's Clash With Ranbir Kapoor's Animal, Says 'Audience Will Decide'**



The biggest clash of the year between Ranbir Kapoor's 'Animal' and Vicky Kaushal's 'Sam Bahadur' is here! Both the films are set to hit the theaters on December 1st and fans are eagerly waiting for them.

'Animal,' Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga is a film comprising a stellar star cast including Rashmika Mandanna, Anil Kapoor and Bobby Deol among others. 'Sam Bahadur' on the other hand, stars Sanya Malhotra and Fatima Sana Shaikh in the Meghna Gulzar's film. 'Animal' is one of the most talked about films of the year, thanks to its gripping storyline and intense music. However, it is set to clash with Vicky Kaushal's 'Sam Bahadur' at the box office.

In a conversation with

News portal The Indian Express, Vicky expressed his thoughts on the clash. He said, "When two opening batsmen come to the crease, playing for the same team, you won't say that the two batsmen are clashing with each other; they are playing for a single team, so we are playing for Hindi cinema." When asked about which film will score this big hit, Vicky said, 'The audience will decide.' Meanwhile, the advance bookings for 'Animal' opened on Saturday, November 25, and according to Sacnilk, the film sold a total of 2,09,986 tickets across 6,036 shows, earning an impressive revenue of Rs 6.42 crore.

**Orry Calls Isha Malviya A 'Bunny Rabbit With Villainous Twist'**



In a surprising turn of events, popular social media sensation Orry shared his unfiltered thoughts on 'Bigg Boss 17' contestant Isha Malviya. Known for her sweet demeanor, Isha has often been hailed as the "bunny rabbit" of the 'Bigg Boss' house, but according to Orry, there's more to her than meets the eye.

Orry, renowned for his witty commentary and humorous take on reality show contestants, labeled Isha as a 'bunny rabbit.' "She's like this bunny rabbit, and you want to pull her cheeks!" Orry exclaimed. However, he quickly added a twist to his characterization, stating, "But you soon realize she's the villain. She's just like the character she played in the 'Udarayaan' serial, Jasmine."

This comparison to her on-screen persona in

Udarayaan, where Isha played the character Jasmine, known for her cunning and manipulative traits, raises eyebrows and adds a layer of complexity to Isha's personality in the 'Bigg Boss' house.

Isha Malviya's journey in the 'Bigg Boss' house has not been without controversy. Previously labeled as manipulative, she has faced criticism for playing with the emotions of co-contestant Abhishek Kumar, despite having a boyfriend, Samarth Jurel, inside the 'Udarayaan' serial, Jasmine. Orry's candid remarks have stirred conversations among social media users, prompting discussions about the authenticity of personalities within the 'Bigg Boss' house. As viewers eagerly await the unfolding drama, Orry's insights have added a new dimension to the narrative surrounding Isha Malviya, turning the spotlight on the complexities of her character beyond her sweet exterior.

**Siddharth Anand Opened A New Genre Of Aerial Action Drama With Hrithik Roshan's 'Fighter'**

'Fighter' has been released on the big screens and has indeed redefined the action genre with its enthralling aerial action. With its nail-biting action sequences, the film has indeed left an indelible mark on the minds of the audience. Watching the fresh chemistry of Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone has indeed come as yet another treat for the audience. The world got to witness a kind of action that has never been seen before on the big screens and Siddharth Anand has indeed



created yet another action spectacle with the film. Director Siddharth Anand's direction was at full display in 'Fighter.' Bringing the aerial action and that too with such perfection is just way beyond what anyone has ever imagined. The audience loves the film and has been showering immense love ever since its release. The film has indeed added yet another spectacle to Hrithik's filmography. While the superstar has already delivered two biggest action blockbusters with director Siddharth Anand with 'Bang Bang' and 'WAR,' the director-actor duo has yet again redefined action on the big screen. On the other hand, after 'Pathaan,' Siddharth Anand and Deepika Padukone came together in 'Fighter' and created a wonder on the big screen again.

Directed by Siddharth Anand and presented by Viacom18 Studios in association with Marflix Pictures, 'Fighter' epitomizes cinematic brilliance. This film seamlessly intertwines heart-thumping action and patriotic fervor, promising an unparalleled cinematic experience. 'Fighter' is now running in the theaters.

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## BHARAT RATNA FOR ADVANI - MODI'S GURU DAKSHINA TO THE PARTY PATRIARCH



Bharat Ratna for L.K. Advani comes at a time when his party gathers its complete might to garner maximum seats and make a record hat trick comeback. The Bharat Ratna announcement was made by the Prime Minister himself to a roaring audience in Orissa while he was dedicating various development projects. The crowd, mostly stimulated by the declaration, sprang into an electrifying exhilaration. Decades of dedicated service by the strongman in Indian politics, the BJP patriarch, to his country was ultimately recognized. Again, the timing of the government's decision has a queer value in it. Soon after the Ram Temple consecration and the general election at the doorstep is the juncture that Modi's political acumen chose to make this profound announcement. There is no mistake in viewing that the highest civilian honor being conferred to L.K. Advani is a guru dakshina from his close confidant junior Modi.

For various reasons it has to be assumed that, Modi must have been waiting for the suitable moment to show his veneration to his guru in a big way, who, according to the Prime Minister's words paved the way for his growth as a prominent political figure. Modi's rise as a beginner in the Indian political context was cemented with the relentless support of L.K. Advani. The veteran chose to stand by the then Gujarat Chief Minister, who was accused of facilitating a coldblooded riot that exploded soon after the Godhra train carnage and bubbles of discontent began to fume from within the BJP. Narendra Modi was reminded what Raj Dharma was by Atal Bihari Vajpayee in his poetic vocabulary. But Advani's firm stance in favour of Modi helped him continue in Gujarat with vigor and the rest is history. The Ram Janmabhoomi Movement by the BJP was the basic plank that catapulted the party's fortunes at national level. Advani could perceive his party's aspirations fructifying by the Yatra that he undertook from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh giving a stirring sense of Hindutva all the way through. That was

the beginning of the saffron rise on India's political horizon. Modi had accompanied the party veteran throughout the journey and Advani had experienced the depth of the Modi persona, his acumen to organize events and his farsightedness on the prospects of Hindutva based nationalism. The young leader from the RSS bandwagon remained intuitively focused organizing the yatra mostly as its backroom boy. Advani's rath yatra could easily shoot up his party's electoral tally from 2 to 84 seats in the Lok Sabha. He was instrumental in grooming a class of next generation leaders like Narendra Modi, Sushama Swaraj, Pramod Mahajan and Arun Jaitley in his party. And this could be exclusively seen as his organizational expertise gained as a pracharak in the RSS and the management lessons he was trained in. Karyakarta Nirman or grooming a worker is the term the RSS and his party call it.

Vajpayee's strict gestures to sack Modi after the Godhra riots was easily contained by Advani and that was the personal alignment both the leaders developed from the beginning itself. Advani was the Home

Minister when Gujarat sprung into flames. His government was accused of being passive and silent on the Modi administration in Gujarat. Advani visited

sidelined and Modi being imported to Delhi as the face for Prime Minister by his party and the RSS. Modi's benign gesticulation by pulling the veteran into the BJP's

between Vajpayee and Advani there hasn't been even the slightest of disagreement on issues that in other parties, for instance, would have been exploding beyond measure while breaking them top to bottom. This culture of being united from the highest ranks of the party cadre to the grassroots gains the BJP a special recognition and separates it from other parties. Modi's entry to the national arena as the party strongman never disrupted this framework. Probably he could manage to glue the party and its functionaries into one political ideology, 'nation first and party next'.

L.K. Advani's autobiography 'My Country My Life' is a sincere testimony of his political journey and he genuinely narrates his trepidation of being called a 'traitor' among the Sangh Parivar. Advani's visit to Mohammed Ali Jinnah's mausoleum in Karachi and his subsequent references to the man who forced the country's dissection turned the political climate in India truly volatile. He was denounced for taking an 'ideological deviation' while betraying his party's Hindutva stand. Another instance of volatility that he as a party strongman and the

Margadarshak Mandal was a well articulated pantomime but the opposition called it scandalous and cruel. Though L.K. Advani's political shrewdness pushed his party through the dark days of Ayodhya movement and the subsequent destruction of the Babri mosque, when time came for the party to choose between him and Vajpayee, the latter's statesmanlike softness and poetic oratory won him the preference. Advani remained a shadow man sailing the party ship through troubled waters while Vajpayee was projected as its captain. But

Home Minister in the Vajpayee government faced was the Kargil war. Pakistan's menacing cross border assault at Kargil pushed India into an all-out war and the Islamic n e i g h b o r ' s warmongering had completely toppled his government's peace initiative that Prime Minister Vajpayee began by taking bus diplomacy to Lahore. Little did the journey to Lahore on 20 February 1999 fructify as both the countries vigorously began to bombard on each other and India won the war giving Pakistan a crushing defeat. Before the crisis began to penetrate further, India could show Pakistan its place and the BJP government's audacity was lauded. Interestingly, politics in India began to move the Modi way. The government's announcement on Bharat Ratna to Advani came soon after the same was conferred to the socialist leader and former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur. He remained a messiah of the backward communities. Diplomatically pulling Nitish Kumar to his side, Modi could systematically nip parallel narratives demanding a

(Freelance Journalist)

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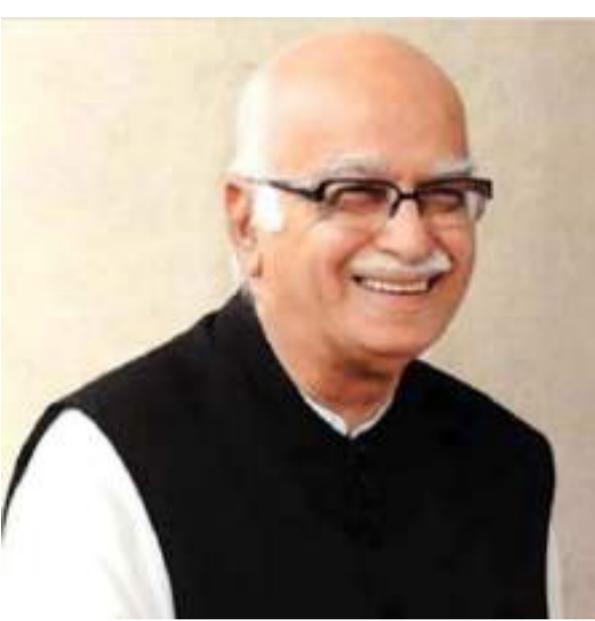
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the riot torn Gujarat in three days of the flare-up. His strong denial of the deliberate narratives that his political opponents flung calling the carnage a state orchestrated mayhem had helped Narendra Modi retain his chair. Modi's subsequent victories in the state elections have effectively accentuated the standpoint of Advani and the former got enough breathing space to prove his blamelessness to the world that pelted stones at him unfeelingly. The year 2014 witnessed Advani's gentle disapproval of him being

## Bhoomiputra Biju Babu & Dakota



Ravenshaw University, where Netaji Subash Chandra Bose once studied. From his college days, he was a talented sportsman and headed the football, hockey, athletics and cricket team of the University. He was the sports champion for continuously three years.

The great son of Odisha may be the legendary Biju Patnaik of the stormy petrel of Indian politics or the "Bhoomiputra" of Indonesia. He has left his stamp on Paradeep Port, NALCO, MIG Factory, Sainik School, OTM of Choudwar, Iron Works of Barbil and Rourkela Steel Plant, Talcher Thermal Power Project and Balimela Hydro Power Project. These have made him memorable in bringing progress of Odisha on the tracks. Biju Babu's life of protracted struggle will always remain a beacon light as long as this Odia race lives. His was a struggle to awake them from their torpor.

The final struggle against British rule in India was launched on 9th August 1942 and many young men and women of our country, in almost every region emerged into standard bearers of Quit India struggle launched by Mahatma Gandhi with a command to every adult Indian to

'Do or Die' for the country's liberation. Among thousands of youth who came forward to take up the challenge, Mr. Biju Patnaik, Chief Pilot of the Dalmia Jain Airways (nationalised after 1947) was one of the most fearless (dare-e'-devil) who mobilised his fellow pilots and inspired them to help the 'Underground Directorate' consisting of Jaya Prakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Achut Patabardhan, Aruna Asaf Ali etc. The problem of communicating their secret plans to their comrades of underground units at Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and New Delhi was facilitated by Mr. Biju Patnaik. For instance, when Sri Rajgopalcharji wanted to meet and dissuade others from carrying out the plans of underground resistance Biju Babu flew Rajaji from Madras to New Delhi to meet Jaya Prakash Narayan in January 1942-43. The British bureaucracy was infuriated over Biju Patnaik and appointed whole army of informers for the specific task of unmasking this dangerous 'airmen' and later he was arrested.

But the admiration for men Biju Patnaik : A Man of Patriotic Adventure.

A fresh

force of the Dutch Military. This hazardous move was made amazingly look like something romantic. In

across Indian skies will be shot down in retaliation." He also dashed off a message to Prime Minister Pt.

profoundly acknowledged their debt to Biju Babu decorating him with highest civilian honour

him to politics and after about more than five decades in politics, through good and bad times, he retained his spirit of adventure. During 1962 Indo-China war Pt. Nehru appointed him as Special war Advisor. He was also a front runner with all requisite qualification for the post of Defence Minister after the war.

The people of Odisha recognise Biju Patnaik as their most eminent political leader but particularly the younger generation have something more to know about him. He belongs to that dare-e'-devil genera of old patriots who in their younger days shirked no challenge to respond to many patriotic calls of adventure for the cause of their country. For those young men and women of Odisha and other parts of the country as well, who aspire to experience the thrill of the adventure of life, not merely for any empty excitement but in fulfilment of a higher cause-Biju Patnaik's life will instill inspiration and is a becoming example for them. The great soul is no more. But his memories remind us of an icon who had an unending struggle to raise his people from the morass of deprivation.

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opportunity came for him after his release from jail to throw himself again into another rare feat of revolutionary adventure. In 1948, an Asian conference was being held in Delhi in support of the freedom struggle of Indonesia. On the advice of the Prime Minister Pt. Nehru he took upon himself a daring assignment of contacting the Indonesian leaders and air-lifting them to Delhi. Java was then under the siege of the army, navy and air

his Dakota Plane accompanied by his young wife Gyan Patnaik which was made to appear like going to make an excursion flight to the old city of Batavia (now called Jakarta). As he landed in Singapore, came a Dutch message threatening that his aircraft would be shot down if it entered the Indonesian airspace.

Biju Babu roared from his hotel room : "Resurgent India does not recognise Dutch colonial Sovereignty over the Indonesian people. If my aircraft is shot down, every Dutch plane flying

Nehru : "Take necessary steps should my aircraft be shot down". As the world watch him with admiration, the 32 year old ace pilot eluded the Dutch, landed in Jakarta and successfully flew back to Delhi carrying in his plane the rescued leaders of Indonesian freedom struggle Dr. Mohammad Hatta and Mr. Sjahrir. The very

'Bhumi Putra' in return for the bravery the Indian leader had displayed at his hours of crisis. He became the focal point of all activities relating to India support to the Indonesian freedom struggle. He was a dare-e'-devil freedom fighter, with patriotic adventure par excellence. His mind was as broad as sky and as high as the Himalayas. The call of the unlimited sky made his mind romantic. He was endowed with exceptional talent and courage. Jawaharlal Nehru was moved by his "energy and certainability" and drew

# Unveiling Sundarbans Mysteries with CIFRI's Scientific Expedition

**Kolkata, (KCN):** In a riveting scientific endeavor, the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) embarked on a one-day exploration to the Sundarbans, the world's largest and fastest-growing delta, for Metatranscriptomic analysis. Under the supervision of Dr. B.K. Das, the Director of ICAR-CIFRI, this initiative aimed to unravel the genetic secrets of the Sundarbans-a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its rich biodiversity. CIFRI embarked on a mission to collect samples, crucial for Metatranscriptomic analysis.

The Sundarbans, draped in dense mangrove forests, provided the backdrop for this extraordinary adventure. The scientific mission focused on identifying beneficial microbes and plastic-degrading microbes, laying the groundwork for potential novel biotechnological applications. The samples collected serve



as a genetic reservoir crucial for understanding and preserving the delicate balance of the Sundarbans' ecosystem. The journey commenced at Bannie Camp, a serene riverside oasis where the whispers of the river intertwined with the rustle of mangrove leaves. This locale became the starting point for collecting samples, setting the stage for

unraveling the genetic mysteries hidden within the heart of the Sundarbans. Venturing deeper into the Sundarbans, Kalas Camp emerged as a meeting point for wildlife and scientific inquiry. Exotic birds serenaded the scientists as they meticulously gathered samples, capturing the vibrant essence of biodiversity in this unique

ecosystem. Dobanki Camp, with its beauty entwined with tidal rhythms, played host to scientific revelations. The ebb and flow of tides mirrored the curiosity of the researchers, weaving a narrative of ecological intricacies and the genetic dance of life in the Sundarbans.

Jharkhali, nestled within the Sundarbans, unfolded as a tapestry of flora and fauna. Immersed in the magic of mangroves, scientists delved into Metatranscriptomic nuances, capturing the heartbeat of this unique ecosystem.

The CIFRI team including renowned Sr. scientist Dr. Dhruba Jyoti Sarkar, technical officer Asim Kumar Jana, and dedicated scholars Subhasree Subhasmita Rout, Smriti Priyambara Pradhan, and Monisha Molla under the CABIN project showcased unwavering commitment and enthusiasm in unraveling

the genetic wonders of the Sundarbans. This journey stands as a testament to CIFRI's dedication to advancing genetic research and contributing to the conservation of our natural heritage. Water, soil, plankton, and more were carefully gathered to identify the presence of beneficial microbes and plastic-degrading microbes within the Sundarbans.

This Metatranscriptomic exploration into the heart of the Sundarbans is a collaborative effort under the visionary leadership of Dr. B.K. Das, symbolizing CIFRI's commitment to scientific exploration and environmental stewardship. The scientists chose these areas strategically, considering its proximity to the sea, creating a unique junction where sea and river bacteria converge. The team also engaged with local fishers to gain insights into anthropogenic stress on these areas, enriching their understanding of the intricate ecosystem.

## Sustainable Wetland Fisheries Management in Bihar – A Success of ICAR-CIFRI



**Kolkata, (KCN):** The sustenance of fishermen in Bihar is heavily reliant on wetland fisheries, yet the low fish production in these areas can be attributed to habitat destruction, climate change, inadequate adoption of technologies, insufficient infrastructure, and a shortage of skilled fishers. Hence, to address this issue, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research

Institute, Barrackpore initiated five projects, focussing on the fisheries development of wetlands of East Champaran district, namely Kararia, Sirsa, Majharia, Rulhi, and Kothia. The project is funded by the National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad. The primary goal of ICAR-CIFRI was to foster wetland fisheries development by implementing fisheries management models and

providing support to fishermen through input distribution and improved infrastructure such as nursery ponds, cage, and pen culture. Additionally, awareness programs and interactive sessions were organized to empower fishermen with training sessions conducted at ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore and East Champaran, Bihar. Moreover, CIFRI HDPE pens were installed Majharia,

Kararia, Sirsa, and Kothia maun to promote the in-situ quality fingerlings raising, increasing the availability of fingerlings for stocking. CIFRI GI Cages were installed in Sirsa, Rulhi, Majharia, and Kothia maun to enhance fish production through cage culture. To safeguard against fish loss during floods in these wetlands, long iron nets were installed. The

fishermen adopted this practice of Culture-Based Fishing (CBF) to augment fish production. Consequently these initiatives brought a significant increase in the no. of fishing days such as Kararia witnessing an increase from 40 to 160 days, Sirsa from 30 to 60 days, Majharia from 20 to 50 days, Rulhi from 35 to 60 days and Kothia from 35 to 100 days. Fish production in Sirsa, Majharia, Rulhi, and Kararia were increased by 66%, 69%, 57%, and 38%, respectively, substantially improving the livelihoods of fishermen in these five wetlands. Hence the project can be a model for enhancing fish production in other states specially Eastern and North Eastern states of India.

mobile towers and laying of optical fiber cables in national parks, sanctuaries, and tiger reserves and corridors. It said while providing connectivity to the people residing within or near wildlife-rich areas should be taken on priority, "the protection and conservation of wildlife habitats should not get affected" by such installations.

The ministry also expressed concern that the mobile connectivity could be misused by offenders of forest and wildlife laws. "The core/critical tiger habitat, notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, should be avoided for installation of the tower," read the order issued to the chief wildlife warden of all states and Union territories and the ministry of communications.

## Niranjan Bishi, MP , Rajya Sabha demands for the establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) in Patnagarh and various districts of Odisha



New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar(KCN):

During the Zero Hour in Rajya Sabha, Shri Niranjan Bishi, MP, addressed the urgent need for the establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in Patnagarh, Titilagarh, and another district of Odisha. Shri Bishi fervently emphasized the dire educational requirements of the underprivileged area and the need for a KV to support the educational aspirations of children, especially those from various Central Government employee families. Shri Bishi highlighted that despite the diligent efforts of the District Administration, which has arranged 10 acres of land and temporary accommodation at Patnagarh for KV, there has been no further action by the Government of India towards the establishment of the Kendriya Vidyalaya.

Additionally, Shri Bishi highlighted that there are pending proposals for new KVs under the

jurisdiction of the KVS Bhubaneswar Region, namely Tilagarh- No. 1 Bolangir, Patnagarh- No.2 Bolangir, Talcher- No. 1 Angul, Athamalik- No.1 Angul, ITBP Khurda- Khurda Road, Kuchinda-No. 1 Sambarpur, Kamakshnagar- Dhenkanal, Jeypore- Koraput, and Shri Bishi emphasized the urgent need to expedite these processes swiftly to ensure the timely establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas. Moreover, Shri Bishi said that particularly Patnagarh, Titilagarh, and other districts of Odisha, an underprivileged area, have a critical need for educational support, particularly through the establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas, which would significantly benefit children from Central Government employees' families, including Railway employees, Postal employees, Bank and Insurance employees, Bharatiya Khadya Nigam, BSNL

## Centre Says No To Mobile Towers In Critical Tiger Habitats

New Delhi(KCN):

The Centre has disallowed the installation of mobile towers in core and critical tiger habitats in the country, according to new guidelines by the Environment Ministry. In an order issued in January, the ministry highlighted that the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) has been receiving a large number of proposals for erection of

## 210th Foundation Day of Indian Museum celebrated with opening of exhibition of Hinduism 's Sacred Tried 'Brahma' , 'Vishnu' 'Maheswara '

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** Indian Museum, Kolkata celebrated its 210th Foundation Day on 2nd & 3rd February 2024 in Kolkata at its heritage premises.

An Exhibition on Hinduism's Sacred Triad exploring the realms of "Brahma", "Vishnu", "Maheswara" was inaugurated by Governor of West Bengal Dr. C V Ananda Bose on 3rd February 2024 in presence of Diplomats based in the city, Director General of NCSM & Director of Indian Museum, members of civil society, historians, art & culture aficionados, top bureaucrats, young students & children and officials & staffs of Indian Museum. On 2nd February, Nathaniel Wallich Memorial

Lecture on theme "Small is Beautiful: Museums of the New Age" was delivered by Dr. Venu V. IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala and a sarod recital was presented by noted sarod player Shri Bhaskar Sen

The Exhibition is an exposition of Divine Threads of: "Shaswat Samanoy" (Unveiling the Mystique Symphony), "Purush -Prakriti" (Exploring the interplay of Spirit and Nature), "Mahesvara" (The Cosmic Rhythm), "Brahma" (Weavers of the Tapestry of Creation), "Vishnu" (Orchestrating the Cosmic Preservation), "Dwajasavatara" (Divine Incarnations and Cosmic Harmony), "Mahadev" (Balancing the Edge of



Annihilation). More than twenty two sculptures and other works of Art symbolising Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesvara , Purush-

Prakriti , Mahadev of different historical periods are on display . Dr. C V Ananda Bose in his address

highlighted broader philosophical aspects of Brahma , Vishnu , Mahesvara and its importance in human development including

management of every day Life. Dr. Ananda Bose stressed Indian ( Hinduism) spiritual philosophy has received global

recognition and playing important role in influencing socio-cultural evolution in different regions of the planet Earth. Dr. C V Ananda Bose as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Indian Museum is initiating several innovative measures to promote public visit , public interactions , as well as to spread awareness about rich cultural heritage and tradition as well as philosophies of Bharat amongst various sections of the society. Director of Indian Museum Dr. Arijit D. Choudhary in his welcome address spoke on rich collection of Indian Museum , critical & significant role played by staffs of various departments of the museum in organising this Exhibition as well as other exhibitions those are being organised by Indian Museum from time to time. Dr. A D Choudhury indicated the exhibition will further understand on Hindu philosophy . Dr. A.D. Choudhury thanked all stakeholders of the Indian Museum including all staffs . While delivering vote of thanks, Dr. Sayan Bhattacharya Curator (Education) of Indian Museum mentioned the Exhibition will help to connect young generations specially students to rich cultural heritage & philosophy of Bharat. The Exhibition will be on display till 3rd March 2024.

# Self-taught portrait artist of Keonjhar defies odds

**Keonjhar(KCN):** In many interior villages of the state, numerous hidden talents often go unnoticed due to a lack of adequate promotion and recognition. Among these talented individuals is Laxmi Narayan Maharana, a young man in Keonjhar district who specialises in drawing portraits. Painter Maharana, born in Baunsuli village under Patna block, has carved out a distinctive identity with his efforts. Despite lacking formal training in painting or guidance from any Guru, he has nurtured his interest in painting since childhood, eventually making a

living by the age of 20. As the only son of Sanjay Maharana and Babita Maharana, Laxmi Narayan embarked on his painting journey when he was in Class III at his village school. His father is a farmer and mother is a housewife, while his sister Rainisharani Maharana has been at home after completing Plus II. Without a teacher, Maharana learned from nature and initiated his painting endeavours.

Presently, he can draw portraits of any person, showcasing a unique talent for replicating a person's likeness just by observing them or their photo. Laxmi Narayan

shared, "Initially, I used to draw on paper with a pencil. By Class IX, I began sculpting and painting. Subsequently, I ventured into watercolor paintings on different walls to earn a livelihood." After completing his studies at Dadhibaman Higher Secondary School in 2021, Laxmi Narayan faced financial constraints that hindered his further education. He turned to utilising his artistic skills and talent, painting on various walls to meet the demands. "I presented a painting on the theme of Covid-19 to the then Collector of Keonjhar. He assured



him assistance for higher education, but so far, I have not received any," he added. "I also created portraits of brides and grooms outside their houses during weddings, earning praise and personal satisfaction. I participated in drawing

competitions in Class IX and X, securing the first position at the block level," he added. Due to financial constraints, he struggles to advance his art. "If encouraged, he could have achieved a lot for himself and others," a retired

government official Alekh Chandra Patra said. Laxmi Narayan has depicted various famous personalities such as movie actors, actresses, singers, politicians, and more in his art." While the money he earns from art isn't sufficient for his family, Laxmi Narayan awaits an opportunity to showcase his talent on a larger scale and live the rest of his life with dignity.

However, despite the government's search for and encouragement to artists and talents, many, like Laxmi Narayan, are still struggling to survive with

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, former Collector Ashish Thakare, former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, cricketers Mahendra Singh Dhoni & Virat Kohli, singer Lata Mangeshkar, Actor Mihir Das and Allu Arjun among others. In the future, he aspires to become a good photographer and showcase his talent in different places. Therefore, providing incentives from the administration could foster the growth of many painters, ensuring the protection of art.

## 40K Jobs In PCPIR



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) set up at Paradip has attracted investments worth Rs 73,518 crore resulting in employment of about 40,000 people.

This was informed by Union Minister of State Petroleum & Natural Gas, Rameswar Teli in Rajya Sabha today.

In a written reply to a question of BJD MP Sasmit Patra, the Union Minister said the Government has notified the PCPIR Policy, 2007 to attract investment in Petroleum, Chemicals & Petrochemicals and for generation of employment in specifically delineated investment regions for this purpose.

A PCPIR is a combination of production units, public utilities, logistics, environmental protection mechanisms, residential areas and administrative services. Each PCPIR would have a refinery/petrochemical feedstock company as an anchor tenant, he said.

The anchor tenant for the development of PCPIR in Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts of Odisha is Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) which owns and operates Paradip refinery of 15 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) capacity.

In order to promote plastic based industries, IOCL has partnered with Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) as

supporting equity partner in "Paradeep Plastic Park Limited" wherein one 680 Kiloton per Annum (KTA) Polypropylene (PP) plant and one 357 KTA Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG) plant have already been commissioned, Shri Teli said.

As per information compiled by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, so far

Investments worth Rs. 73,518 crore have been made in Odisha PCPIR resulting in employment of about 40,000 people, he added.

The planned Paradip petrochemical complex would be one of India's four proposed PCPIRs. Spread over 284 sq km of land spread over Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara districts, the

## Four flight trials of 'ABHYAS' conducted successfully at Odisha's Chandipur by DRDO



**Balasore(KCN):** Four flight trials of high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' were successfully carried out by the DRDO from the Integrated Test Range at Odisha's Chandipur between January 30 and February 2, official sources said.

The trials were conducted with four different mission objectives in a revised robust configuration using a single booster designed by Advanced Systems Laboratory, Hyderabad to provide reduced launch

acceleration, they said. The objectives such as the safe release of the booster, launcher clearance and attaining the required end of launch velocity were achieved.

During the flight trials, various parameters such as required endurance, speed, manoeuvrability, altitude and range were successfully validated.

Designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), ABHYAS has a laptop-based ground control system with which the aircraft can be integrated and pre-flight checks, data recording during the

flight, replay after the flight and post-flight analysis can be carried out.

It requires minimum logistics and is cost-effective compared to imported equivalents, they said.

The systems tested recently were realised through production agencies Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Defence.

With identified production agencies, ABHYAS is ready for production. The system has export potential and can be offered to friendly countries, they added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated the DRDO, the armed forces and the defence industry for the successful flight trial of ABHYAS.

DRDO chairman Samir V Kamat appreciated the efforts of the teams associated in the design, development and testing of the system.

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# Odisha Government Announces Ground Breaking Subsidy Scheme at Global Stainless-Steel Expo

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha Government has unveiled an ambitious Special Subsidy Scheme to boost the stainless-steel Industry within the state. This momentous announcement was made during the inauguration of the Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023 (GSSE 2023) in Mumbai, further solidifying Odisha's commitment to becoming the 'Stainless Steel destination' for the world.

The GSSE 2023 event, was inaugurated by esteemed dignitaries including Shri. Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Odisha; Mr. Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless Ltd.; Dr. Aruna

Sharma, GSSE Steering Committee Member and Former Secretary, Ministry of Steel; and Ms. Anitha Raghunath, Director, Virgo Communications and Exhibitions.

In his inaugural address, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Abhyuday Jindal said, "It won't be an exaggeration to say that stainless steel is omnipresent, and even for a big event like the G20, stainless steel adorned the roads. Be it the art installations in Lutyens Delhi or the security barriers, stainless steel made its presence felt. It was a historic moment to witness stainless steel reach the moon when the Chandrayaan-3 made a



soft landing on the lunar surface recently." He also touched upon the industrial park in Odisha by his company, and said it is the first-ever stainless steel Industrial park in India with the vision to strengthen the industry.

A special report on stainless steel titled 'India's Amritkal' by SteelMint was unveiled at the event. According to the report, the stainless-steel industry struggled to regain equilibrium due to the lingering impact of weakened global and domestic demand. This demand contraction reverberated throughout global melt-shop production, with the first quarter of CY23

witnessing a 5% year-on-year decline to 13.66 million tonnes (mnt). China led this dip with 8.27 mnt. The report also underlined that the Indian Stainless-Steel industry quickly recovered by FY23, reaching about 3.5 mnt.

Looking forward, SteelMint's forecasts are intriguing, estimating demand to rise to 4.5 mnt by FY25.

Shri Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Odisha quoted Odisha (Orissa), is making significant contributions to the stainless-steel sector and the minerals sector.

investment represents a substantial commitment to the stainless-steel sector in the state and will likely contribute to its growth and prominence in the industry.

"The demand for stainless steel in India is expected to grow at an average of 9 to 10 per cent per annum over the next few financial years, doubling the growth rate of 4.5 per cent in the last five financial years," said Ms. Anitha Raghunath, Director of Virgo Communications and Exhibitions, the organizer of the GSSE Expo.

## RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

**Mumbai:** RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India.

Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing

Indian market.

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

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

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

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

## Aditya Birla Group formally launches TMRW - a Digital First 'House of Brands' venture in the Fashion & Lifestyle space

**Mumbai:** Aditya Birla Group today announced the formal launch of its new 'House of Brands' entity - TMRW. This move is in line with the group's strategy to launch and back new-age digital ventures. TMRW, an Aditya Birla Group venture, will create India's largest portfolio of disruptor brands in the fashion & lifestyle space and enable the next phase of direct to consumer (D2C) growth in India, which is poised to be a \$100bn market by 2025. Over the next 3 years, TMRW will acquire as well as incubate 30+ innovative, customer-obsessed brands. The venture will also enable multiple founders to operate within a synergistic 'house of brands' platform that share a common vision and shared capabilities. Aditya Birla Group has appointed ex Facebook & Bain executive, Prashanth Aluru, as the CEO & Co-Founder to lead the build out of this new venture. Prashanth will set-up a nimble and

agile founding team with the right skill sets and capabilities. Prashanth comes with extensive experience in Digital & Technology across strategy, growth and investing. He also brings to the fore rich entrepreneurial experience in helping build and scale new age ventures in Digital & E-Commerce.

Ashish Dikshit, MD of ABFRL said, "The formal launch of our D2C business, TMRW, is a key milestone for the company. This venture has the potential to become a significant growth engine by tapping into the new wave of entrepreneurial energy in India. Our aspiration is to build a portfolio of 30+ brands in the next 3 years. With the launch of this venture, we intend to double down on our ongoing program of strategically attracting new pools of capital that are seeking investment in high-growth businesses. We are confident that this

foray will successfully meet the aspirations of digitally native consumers and also create long-term value for investors and other stakeholders."

Prashanth Aluru, CEO and Co-Founder, TMRW said, "I am excited to embark on this journey to build TMRW - a long-term enduring platform that will be home to the leading disruptor brands that provide the new age digitally savvy consumer what she is looking for across Fashion & Lifestyle. With the backing of the Aditya Birla Group and the right profile of long-term investors we will bring in, we are confident of powering the growth of several brands that shape the next phase of digital commerce growth till 2030 and beyond. With a new age Digital first DNA, at TMRW, we will jointly create an ecosystem of the most-loved disruptor brands partnering closely with highly competent founders."

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

**New Delhi:** The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each. Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pincodes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through AePS at their doorstep Adhikari

**Hosur:** TVS Motor Company sales was at 302,982 units in May 2022. The year-on-year growth is not comparable due to the low base of sales in May 2021 because of the localised lockdown imposed by the Government of India during that period.

### Two-Wheeler

Total two-wheeler sales grew from 154,416 units in May 2021 to 287,058 units in May 2022. Domestic two-wheeler sales grew from 52,084 units in May 2021 to 191,482 units in May 2022.

Motorcycle sales grew from 125,188 units in May 2021 to 148,560 units in May 2022. Scooter sales of the Company grew from 19,627 units in May 2021 to 100,665 units in May 2022.

The shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of

premium two-wheeler. We are working aggressively with alternate sources and taking every effort to improve supplies at the earliest. Some improvement has been seen this month. We are optimistic that volumes will revive to normal levels once the semiconductor supplies improve.

The Company's total exports registered sales of 110,245 units in May 2022 as against 114,674 units in May 2021. Two-wheeler exports recorded sales of 95,576 units in May 2022 as against 102,332 units in May 2021.

Three-wheeler of the Company grew by 28% from 12,473 units in May 2021 to 15,924 units in May 2022.

The domestic two-wheeler sales include TVS iQube Electric sales of 2,637 units in May 2022.

**BHUBANESWAR (KCN):** Railway Minister Kept his promise and was sanctioned fund of rupees 14.7 Crores in September 2023. The construction work for Sub-way near Nidhipanda Railway Bridge started today. Sri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister for Railways during his visit to Balasore on 21st June, 2023 had met the villagers who had a long pending demand for construction of a subway near Nidhipanda Bridge (Br. No. 259).

The Railway Minister discussed the issue with local villagers and assured them to resolve the matter. The 'Designing team' of Railway has immediately prepared the design for Subway which was approved by the competent authority. A fund of Rs. 14.7 crores has been sanctioned in September 2023 by the

Railway Board for construction of Subway near Nidhipanda Bridge of Balasore. Nidhipanda bridge is an important bridge in Haldipada-Balasore section of Kharagpur - Bhadrak section. One of the spans of this bridge is being used by local people for commuting of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The area gets water logged during monsoon and the crossing under the bridge becomes unapproachable cutting connectivity to villages. In light of these issues, after Hon'ble Minister for Railways instructions, a survey was immediately conducted for provision of alternate, safe arrangement for vehicular traffic as well as pedestrians. A scheme was prepared whereby a subway of size 5m (W) X 5m (H) has been proposed at the

approach of the bridge at Kharagpur end. This subway will be used for passing of all kinds of vehicles including heavy vehicles.

In view of the above, the construction work has been started which will fulfill the demand of local people. Additionally, keeping in mind that the area is prone to waterlogging during monsoon, a second subway is proposed having dimensions of 4m(W) X 2.7m(H) which is about 1.6m above the bed level of the bridge and will act as an all-weather road even in times of heavy water discharges. With the intervention and close monitoring of Hon'ble Minister for Railways, the project and fund of Rs 14.7 crores was sanctioned in September 2023 and work is now started with close monitoring.

## CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR SUB-WAY NEAR NIDHIPANDA BRIDGE STARTED



# Dravid rues young batters leaving runs out there again

**New Delhi:** Jasprit Bumrah shone brightly in India's victory in the second Test in Vizag, with Yashasvi Jaiswal's double hundred in the first innings and Shubman Gill's century in the second innings complementing the pacer's efforts. But barring the three-figure scores from the two, none of the other batters crossed fifty in either innings for India. This meant that the hosts couldn't out-bat the opposition despite being in a good position to do so, resulting in constant pressure in the face of England's Bazball.

Head coach Rahul Dravid admitted that India were short of runs in the second Test, as was the case in their loss in Hyderabad, and attributed it to the batting

order being relatively inexperienced in Test cricket. "If you want people to play with a little bit of intent and play a little bit positively, then you're going to have to accept a few mistakes. And at times, you know, people may not be able to convert some of the starts, but for us, for me, it's not so much about [that]. It's just about reading the game and the game situation. I think it's about understanding are we making the right decisions, when to put the pressure, or are we recognising that this is a moment where we need to soak in the pressure a little bit and maybe be a little bit more conservative rather than attack all out?" said Dravid at the post-match press conference on

Monday (February 5). Jaiswal's 209 accounted for nearly 53 percent of India's first innings total of 396, with the next highest score being Gill's 34. The No.3 struck a brisk 104 in the second essay, scoring nearly 41 percent of India's total, with Axar Patel (45) being the next highest contributor. A target of 399 for England, although a tough proposition in subcontinent conditions, wasn't too far-fetched considering their recent achievements. But the bowlers, led by R Ashwin and Bumrah, ensured India overcame the challenge.

"I do feel that we did leave runs on the board here again. I think that's, again, maybe a function of the fact that we do have a lot of young batsmen coming through

who are, I think, still figuring out Test cricket a little bit. But you don't have a lot of time, you know, to figure out Test cricket. I will honestly say that I think we left a few runs on the board in both innings... 396 I thought was under par. You win a toss, we have one guy with a double-hundred, you should be pushing 450-475 in these conditions."

Although India weren't able to get close to the

500 run mark in the first innings, Bumrah came up with a spell for the ages, picking up 6-45, to give India a 143-run advantage going into their second innings. But the pressure factor did not ease. India, in their second effort with the bat, lost their openers early, and then managed to recover through an 81-run association involving Gill and Shreyas Iyer. But just as they were looking to press on, they lost their

last six wickets cheaply to be bowled out for 255. "I don't think there was any stage in the game where we felt we could actually force the play," admitted Dravid. "As soon as we thought we could force the play with our 80-run partnership (for the third wicket), we lost a couple of wickets. Then we settled in and got another partnership. If we had got to tea at 250 for 4 instead of 230 for 6, we were 210 for 4 I think, and you just start getting comfortable and then you lose a couple of wickets and you're thinking, 'oh'."

"So I don't think we were in any position at any stage in this game to ever think about putting pressure back on the opposition. So I think more than that [forcing the play], I think after we

lost the first couple of wickets, we soaked the pressure really well to get that partnership, but we couldn't just capitalise on it enough. And then the same thing happened when we got another 80-partnership. If we had made that 120 or 130, then I'm sure we would have thought about it (the chase) differently."

Dravid, meanwhile, admired England for the way they have played so far in this series, giving India a tough run. "Both these games, they have played some fantastic cricket. They won the first Test at the back of a fantastic innings and even in this Test, they played really good cricket. I have always known that it is going to be a tough series. They have a lot of experienced players. It

is one of the things we forget looking at their squad, three of them closing on 100 games and 184 (for James Anderson). Their spinners are young. It has been tough. We would like to be 2-0, but considering the cricket being played on both sides 1-1 is a fair position to be in after two games."

When asked for his opinion on England's Bazball and India's counter for it, Dravid said: "Just a little bit better than the last game? Look, I think they're playing very well. Whether you call it Basketball or whatever you call it. I mean, I know it's just a term. I'm not sure how happy they are about it, but they are playing really good cricket."

## Why Mumbai Indians took away captaincy from Rohit Sharma

**Mumbai:** Mumbai Indians pulled off the most head-turning IPL trades in the brief history of the tournament, when they brought Hardik Pandya - a title-winning captain for Gujarat Titans - back to their fold two years after not retaining him. They then turned heads again by taking away captaincy from Rohit Sharma - the man who led them to five IPL titles.

Though MI copped a lot of criticism from their fans on social media for the leadership change, head coach Mark Boucher reckoned it was a 'cricketing decision' while opening up about it for the first time.

"I think it was purely a cricketing decision. We saw the window period to get Hardik back as a player. For me it's a



transition phase. A lot of people don't understand in India, people get quite emotional, but you know you take the emotions away from it. I think it's just more of a cricketing decision that was made and I do think it is going to bring the best out of Rohit as a person as a player. Just let him go out and enjoy and score some good runs," Mark Boucher said on Smash Sports podcast.

Boucher stressed on the

intention of the MI think tank to take the burden and hype of captaincy away from Rohit who has had a couple of ordinary seasons with the bat by his standards. Rohit scored 268 at a strike rate of 120.18 in 2022 when his team finished bottom of the table. In 2023, he did better with 332 runs at 132.80, and his team lost in the second qualifier. "One thing I did pick up with Ro (Rohit) is that he

is a fantastic guy. I mean he's been captaining for ages and he's done really well for Mumbai Indians. Now he also leads India as well. It is that he walks into a place and there's just cameras in it and he's so busy and he hasn't had probably the best couple of seasons of late with the bat but he's done well as a captain."

"And I just thought you know when we're speaking with the whole Mumbai Indians group, we thought that maybe this is the opportunity for him to step as a player. We believe he got some great value to add and just go out there and actually enjoy it without the hype of being a captain," Boucher said.

He is still going to captain India so that hype's going to be there

## Fabian Allen mugged at gunpoint on the sidelines of SA20



**New Delhi:** West Indian international cricketer, Fabian Allen, recently fell victim to a harrowing incident of a gunpoint mugging in Johannesburg. The 28-year-old all-rounder from Jamaica, who currently represents the Paarl Royals franchise in the SA20 league, was targeted outside the team hotel, leaving the cricketer shaken.

The assailants, armed with a gun, confronted

Allen near the renowned Sandton Sun Hotel, forcibly taking away his phone and personal belongings, including a bag. The incident has raised concerns about the safety of players participating in the SA20. "Our head coach Andre Coley, also hailing from Jamaica, reached out to Fabian. Contact was successfully established

## Bumrah could be rested for third Test against England

**New Delhi:** Jasprit Bumrah, the relentless match-winner in the second Test in Visakhapatnam, may be granted a break for the third Test. The national selectors, in consultation with the team management, are considering resting Bumrah for the Rajkot Test to ensure he returns rejuvenated for the final two Tests. Bumrah was declared the player of the match for his outstanding performance, claiming nine wickets for 91 runs in the just-concluded Test.

Having bowled over 32 overs across four intense days in a high-stakes contest, he showcased his brilliance but may have also considerably sapped his energy, and the selectors recognise the need for Bumrah to refresh and recharge. In the previous Test in Hyderabad, where India



suffered a surprise defeat, he bowled nearly 25 overs. The selectors are inclined towards providing Bumrah with some well-deserved rest. Mohammed Siraj, who was given a similar break for the second Test, is expected to be recalled by the selectors. It is obvious that Siraj will lead the attack in the third game before rejoining forces with Bumrah for the final two Tests of the series. The team selection is anticipated to be finalised on Tuesday (February 6).

Managing the workload for the two fast bowlers has become critical, given that Mohammed Shami, the other proven match-winner in the setup, is not yet ready for an international comeback. As recently reported by Cricbuzz, Shami was sent to London for treatment to his troubling ankle, and his recovery period is anticipated to be longer than initially expected. As reported by this website earlier, Ravindra Jadeja is unlikely to be fully fit for what would have been

his home Test in Rajkot, as he requires additional time to attain full fitness following a hamstring injury he suffered in the first Test. While it might not be surprising if he misses the entire series, sources suggest there remains some hope for his comeback at some point during the ongoing series.

The return of Virat Kohli remains uncertain, as the star batter is believed to be abroad due to a family emergency. Asked about his availability, coach Rahul Dravid said the team management will connect with Kohli to know his availability for the rest of the series. AB de Villiers recently revealed saying that Kohli is expecting his second child, shedding light on the reason for his absence. "All I know is he is fine. He is spending a bit of time with his family (and), that is the reason he is missing the first two Test matches.



not that we rule out anybody from anything. I just don't want to go on labouring about the Ishan Kishan point. I've tried to explain it as best as I can. The point was that, you know, he requested a break. We were happy to give him the break and whenever he was ready... I didn't say he has to play domestic cricket. I said, whenever he's ready he needs to play some cricket and come back, and the choice is his."

"We're not forcing him to do anything and we are in touch with him. It's not that we're not in touch. We know what it is, but he hasn't yet started playing, right? So, at the moment, it's not something that we would consider because, you know, he's maybe not ready. He decides when he wants to be ready and we've got options obviously with Rishabh Pant injured and stuff. So I'm sure the selectors will weigh all the options."

In Kishan's absence, India picked KS Bharat as their first-choice keeper for the two Tests with Dhruv Jurel his understudy. The team management had already decided against using KL

Rahul in that specialist role for these Tests despite him having taken on that responsibility in South Africa.

While Bharat has proved to be mostly a steady presence behind the wickets, his contributions in front have left to be desired. He has scored 41, 28 and 17 and 6 with the last of those scores characterised by a loose shot when India were looking to build a substantial lead.

Dravid admitted Bharat could improve on his batting output but added that players had their own speed of development after graduating to Test cricket. "Young players need time to develop and they're growing at their own pace," Dravid said. "Of course, as a coach, you really want players who come in to be able to grab the opportunities they get and be able to perform."