

# Odisha govt draws BJP flak over LABHA, tribal land-transfer law rollback



a conspiracy to sell off tribal land to industrialists by amending the Odisha Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (By Scheduled Tribes) Regulation. Following stiff protests by tribal outfits and the BJP, the state government took a U-turn and put the decision on hold and now it has been completely withdrawn," he observed.

“BJP's allegations against the government are baseless. The Chief Minister has never made any scheme for votes. He has been thinking about the tribals. He believes that the development of tribals will ensure the development of the state,” the Minister added.

## Chairman 5T & Nabin Odisha Pandian visits Ganjam District.

A large crowd of young people, mostly women, posing for a group photo. Many are wearing green and white shirts, and some are holding up smartphones to take pictures.

CEO in Cognizant technologies in New York, Dr Kailash Chandra Sahu - NASA scientist, Sh Kota Harinarayana - architect of the Tejas aircraft; Sh Naga Bhushana Acharya - Senior scientist at Bhabha Atomic Research Center and K

Ravi Kumar- Commonwealth Games Gold medalist. Sh Kartik Pandian said that so many such idols have emerged from Ganjam district and they have all been students in the same college. If they could achieve such high success, all the students

## Odisha Government Introduces 2-Year Service Bond For Medicos In Govt Colleges, Stricter Penalty For Violators

India quota in PG Diploma /Diplomate National Board (DNB) / Doctorate National Board (DrNB)/ MD/ MS/ MDS/ DM/ M.Ch. courses or any other courses as may be adopted in State and notified from time to time. It will be ensured by DMET, Odisha that no admission of any kind is allowed without submission of bond. After completion of any of the above courses, the candidates will have to serve in any health institution of the State for two years.



After serving for two years as per the bond provision, the direct as well as in-service doctors will be released from bond condition. The certificates will not be retained henceforth by the College authorities.

and may be released after the admission is over. In case a candidate gets opportunity for higher study immediately after completion of course, the bond seizes to operate and will come in to force after return from study. They will have to submit a declaration in the form of an affidavit before a JMFC.State Medical Council (OCMR) will not release the NOC for registration in any other State unless it receives a clearance from the DMET Odisha regarding the fulfilment of bond conditions.

# 718 Snow Leopards In India



and J & K, and states such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh, the SPAI exercise was conducted from 2019 to 2023 using a meticulous two-step framework. The first step involved evaluating Snow leopard spatial distribution, incorporating habitat covariates into the analysis, aligning with the guidelines of the National population assessment of snow

leopards in India by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in 2019. This systematic approach included assessing the spatial distribution through an occupancy-based sampling approach in the potential distribution range. In the second step, Snow leopard abundance was estimated using camera traps in each identified stratified region. During the SPAN exercise, total efforts included: 13,450 km of trails surveyed for recording Snow leopard signs, while camera traps were deployed at 1,971 locations for 180,000 trap nights. The Snow leopard occupancy was recorded in 93,392 km<sup>2</sup> with an estimated presence in 100,84 km<sup>2</sup>. A total of 241

unique Snow leopards were photographed. Based on data analysis, the estimated population in different states are as follows: Ladakh (477), Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and Jammu and Kashmir (9). Until recent years, the snow leopard range in India was undefined due to a lack of extensive nationwide assessments for this vulnerable species. Before 2016, approximately one-third of the range (around ca. 100,347 km<sup>2</sup>) received minimal research attention, reduced to just 5% in pockets like Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. Recent status surveys have significantly increased understanding, providing preliminary information for 80% of the range (about 79,745 km<sup>2</sup>), compared to 56%

**No darshan  
allowed at Puri  
Srimandir for 3  
hours today**

**Puri,(KCN):**Srimandir in Puri will remain out of bounds for devotees for three hours for the ‘Banakalagi ritual’ on Wednesday. According to the notice issued by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), ‘B a n a k a l a g i ’ o r ‘Srimukha Sringara’ ritual of Lord Jagannath and His siblings will be performed at Srimandir from 6 pm to 9 pm on Wednesday. During this three-hour-long period, the devotees will not be allowed to enter the temple. The ritual will start after the completion of the ‘bhog’ of the second Bhogmandap. This special ritual will be performed by a select group of servitors in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple.



# ପର୍ଯ୍ୟବେକ୍ଷକ 25

ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନର ପ୍ରସଙ୍ଗରେ

## INVITATION

We solicit your kind presence on the auspicious occasion of  
**PARYABEKHYAK's Silver Jubilee Celebration** to be held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024  
 (Wednesday) at Jaydev Bhawan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

**Dr. Giridhari Gamanga**  
Former Chief Minister, Odisha

**Prof. Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani**  
State Planning Commission Member

**Padmabhusan Sudarsan Sahoo**  
Eminent Sculpture, Odisha

**Sri Sarat Patnaik**  
President, PCC, Odisha

**Sri Mammohan Samal**  
President, BJP Odisha

**Sri Prasad Harichandan**  
Former PCC President, Odisha

**Sri Priyadarshi Mishra**  
Former MLA (Bhubaneswar, North)

**Sri Saabyasachi Mohapatra**  
Renowned Film Maker & Director

**Prof. Dr. Ashok Mohapatra**  
Former Director, AIIMS & VC, SOA University

**Prof. Dr. Sindhu Nandini Tripathy**  
Eminent Writer & Physician

**Budhadev Mahapatra**  
*Publisher*

*Have given their kind consent to grace the occasion as Inaugurator & Special Guests respectively.*

**Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantaray**  
Editor-in-Chief, Paryabekhyak, will preside over the meeting.

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# Dacoit gang busted in Odisha's Balasore; 3 Bike-borne miscreants slit class 10 student's throat in Cuttack's Athagarh including web channel journalist arrested

**Balasore,(KCN):**In a major breakthrough, Balasore Police on Tuesday busted a dacoit gang and arrested three persons. The police also seized 22 motorcycles and one car from their possession. According to the police, among the arrested persons, one is a journalist of a web channel. They seized two vehicles with 'press' stickers on them and two identity cards from his possession. The identities of the arrested persons were not revealed by the police. The police were tipped



off that a person from Badapokhari village under Oupada police limits is in possession of several bikes. A team led by the Oupada IIC conducted a raid at the said location and recovered 13 bikes from a house. The house

owner confronted the police introducing himself as a journalist of a web channel. When he was unable to produce any documents of the bikes and as the number plates were found to be fake, the police seized all the motorcycles and took the person to the police station for interrogation. During interrogation, the police gathered several clues based on which, they carried out raids and arrested three dacoits involved in bike lifting and robbery at several places in Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, and Balasore. As many as 22 motorcycles were seized along with other items that included Rs 56,000 in cash, one laptop, and two mobile phones. "The so-called web channel journalist has 14 cases pending

against him. The bikes were stolen from Lalbag in Cuttack, Baripada, Keonjhar, and Balasore areas. The locations were movie theatres, hospitals, and marketplaces," said Balasore SP, Sagarika Nath. When asked if the police would take steps to identify fake journalists, she said, "On the occasion of the Republic Day, we had sought a detailed list of a u t h e n t i c a t e d journalists from the DIPRO. We would launch a verification drive."



**Cuttack,(KCN):**Aclass 10 student sustained critical injuries after two bike-borne miscreants slit his throat at Kuleilo village in Athagarh of Cuttack district. The incident occurred when the student was returning home after his

tuition. Sources said that the student had halted at a shop to buy biscuits when two miscreants came to the spot on a bike and slit his throat. Both the miscreants had worn helmets. The exact reason behind the attack

on the student is unclear. Following the incident, the student was rushed to the nearest hospital for treatment. Later, the family members lodged a formal complaint at Athagarh Police Station in connection with the incident. The family members stated that they are unaware of the exact motive behind such an attack as they do not have any enmity with others. However, things are likely to get cleared only after a detailed investigation.

## Young Woman Recovers from One of the Largest Chest Tumours at KIMS Hospital



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** In a significant medical achievement, a 25-year-old woman has successfully recovered from a massive chest tumour at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) here. The patient, who had been suffering from chest pain, shortness of breath, and a persistent cough for two years, underwent a challenging surgery recently to

remove a tumour weighing approximately 4-4.5 kilograms. The successful removal of the tumour marks a significant medical milestone, being one of the largest chest tumours ever extracted in that anatomical region. The patient's post-operation recovery has been positive, signalling a testament to the high-quality care and expertise available at

KIMS Hospital. The patient's journey to recovery was fraught with challenges. Despite seeking medical help at numerous hospitals over two years, her condition remained undiagnosed and untreated. It was not until she came to KIMS that the gravity of her situation was fully understood. A collaborative effort between the oncology and cardiothoracic and

vascular surgery (CTVS) departments led to the discovery of the sizable tumour, which was exerting significant pressure on her heart and lungs. This complex case required the expertise of a multi-disciplinary team. A team of doctors treated the patient. They were Dr. Chandan Kumar Ray Mohapatra, Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Dr. Subrat Sahoo, Professor of General Surgery; Dr. Jogomaya Pattnaik, Associate Professor of Medical Oncology; and the consultant cardiac anesthesiologists, Dr. Ashok Badmali and Dr. Gyanaranjan Mishra. The Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta has congratulated the doctors for successfully treating the complicated case.

## WITH THE INITIATIVE OF RAILWAY MINISTER NEW PASSENGER HALT STATION SANCTIONED AT MANCHAPADA OF KHARAGPUR DIVISION

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** There has been a long pending demand of local residents for a new station at Manchapada in Rupsa-Bangriposi section of South Eastern Railway. Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister of Railways visited the area on 13th January, 2024 and assured them to fulfill

the demand. Shri Vaishnaw with his special initiative got the sanction from Railway Board recently to construct a Halt station at Manchapada between Jurgura and Thakurtota stations of Rupsa-Bangriposi section in Kharagpur Division. Indian Railways is upgrading the existing

facilities and adding more passenger amenities regularly. In tune to that, Hon'ble Minister of Railways has fulfilled his promise within two weeks of his visit to provide a New Station for the people of Manchapara and nearby villages in Mayurbhanj District, Odisha. As a result, the local

residents will be immensely benefitted. The New station will facilitate faster communication for the students, small traders, workers, daily passengers etc. They will be able to board trains conveniently from Manchapara Halt station to reach their destinations.

## MCL Jagruti Mahila did remarkable service work



**Sambalpur,(KCN):**On January 30, 2024, the Jagruti Mahila Mandal, under the guidance of President Smt Suwarna Kaole Bhabhiji, Vice-president Smt Alpna Sukla Rao Bhabhiji, and

Vice President Smt Anjali Bapat Bhabhiji, participated in a charitable activity. The event involved distributing blankets, headscarves, and snacks to 20 underprivileged

elderly women in Bijlinager, Katapalli Village. This gesture brought much-needed joy and relief to the recipients, particularly during the recent severe cold wave. The

successful endeavor of Jagruti Mahila Mandal was both fulfilling and heartwarming. The organization looks forward to conducting more such inspiring activities in the future.



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## Kewal Garg Strikes Again With Sriram Raghavan's 'Merry Christmas'

Kewal Garg, a businessman and producer associated with Matchbox Pictures Pvt Ltd, has made a remarkable mark through his noteworthy contributions to the film

industry. According to him, "Making a film involves a lot of planning. The most important task is to build a good team that can understand your vision and the director's vision." Crediting his

film has a perfect blend of thrills and suspense keeping the audience glued to their seats," he asserted. All in all, with a decade of experience in the film industry, Kewal Garg has



His journey commenced with the Bollywood film 'Main Krishna Hun,' featuring Katrina Kaif and Hrithik Roshan. Known for the critical and commercial success of 'Andhadhun' (2018), Kewal solidified his position as one of the incredible producers in the industry. Hailing from Punjab, Kewal Garg also produced the Netflix film 'Monica O My Darling', featuring Rajkumar Rao, Huma Qureshi and Radhika Apte. As a producer, he has primarily produced many films, in which he was personally involved at every level.

success to hard work, destiny and pure intentions, the producer has maintained a perfect balance in his personal and professional life. Now that he has established his name, Garg is hitting the headlines for his latest release 'Merry Christmas' starring Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi. In addition, he is also producing 'Pine Cone,' directed by Onir. When asked to spill the beans about 'Merry Christmas,' Kewal Garg revealed, "It is a murder mystery thriller directed by the supremely talented Sriram Raghavan. The

come a long way. With the release of 'Merry Christmas,' we hope that the film turns out to be a cinematic spectacle and a box office success. Expressing his joy in collaborating with Tips for 'Merry Christmas,' Garg said, "We have collaboratively created a fantastic film together. I would like to extend my gratitude to Sanjay Routray and Anis Vikramaditya of Matchbox Pictures Pvt Ltd, and Ramesh Taurani of Tips. I believe that our audience will enjoy watching it as much as the teams from Matchbox and Tips enjoyed making it," he concluded.

## Kareena Kapoor Drops BTS From Rohit Shetty's 'Singham Returns,' Ranveer Singh Reacts

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan on Saturday began shooting for director Rohit Shetty's upcoming action film 'Singham Again'. Taking to Instagram, Kareena shared a picture from the film's set and captioned it, "Do I need to say who I am shooting for? P.S. He is one of my most favourite directors. This is my fourth film with him...and of course not the last ...Ready Steady Go..."

'Singham Again' marks Rohit and Kareena's fourth collaboration after 'Golmaal Returns', 'Golmaal 3' and 'Singham Returns'. Soon after Bebo shared the picture, her fans flooded the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons. Actor Ranveer Singh commented, "this is my fourth film with him too! And my first with YOU!" "OMG THIS IS GOING TO BE EPIC!!!!!!," a fan wrote. Helmed by Rohit Shetty 'Singham Again' also stars Ajay Devgn and Deepika Padukone in the lead roles. The film is all



set to hit the theatres on Independence Day 2024 and will face big clash with Allu Arjun's 'Pushpa 2'. 'Singham' was released in the year 2011, and starred Kajal Aggarwal and Prakash Raj in the

lead roles, followed by 'Singham Returns' in 2014, and both projects were declared box office hits. Actors Ranveer Singh and Akshay Kumar will also be seen in a special appearance role in the

film reprising their roles Simmba and Sooryavanshi. Meanwhile, Kareena was recently seen in the thriller film 'Jaane Jaan' which streamed on the OTT platform Netflix. Helmed by

Sujoy Ghosh the film also starred Jaideep Ahlawat and Vijay Varma in the lead roles. She will also be seen in director Hansal Mehta's next film. Talking about Rohit's work front, he will be soon making his OTT debut with the upcoming series 'Indian Police Force' which stars Sidharth Malhotra, Shilpa Shetty and Vivek Oberoi in the lead roles. The series will stream on the OTT platform Amazon Prime Video. However, the official release date is still awaited.

## Jawan Movie Release: Actress Keerthy Suresh Pens Heartfelt Note For Atlee, Shah Rukh Khan

As the much-awaited actioner 'Jawan' releases worldwide today, Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan is surely going to take the audience for a ride. Moreover, the highly anticipated project marks the Hindi cinema debut of the renowned Tamil filmmaker Atlee. With a sneak peak into the movie with its songs and trailer, Bollywood has high hopes from the young director. Vouching for the talented actor and his team, the popular actress Keerthy Suresh took to her Instagram handle and gave a massive positive shout out.



Dropping a few outdoor pictures, Keerthy wrote, "Tomorrow is a very special day because the world is going to witness your magic machi!

@atlee47." She further wrote, "My excitement is at its peak for all you nanbas @anirudhofficial @priyaatlee @dop\_gkvishnu It is

going to be a treat to watch King Khan @iamsrk in this new avatar! We all are waiting to be blown away by your performance sir!

Wishing you guys the best and sending all my love to team #Jawan READY CHIEF!!!! @nayanthara @actorvijaysethupathi

@deepikapadukone @redchilliesent." 'Jawan' is helmed by Atlee. The film stars SRK alongside Nayanthara and Vijay Sethupathi in the lead roles. Apparently, SRK has a double role in the film, which also has a cameo by Deepika Padukone. It will be released in Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu languages. As per trade analyst Taran Adarsh, the film has already amassed an impressive Rs 51.17 crore in worldwide advance bookings, and it has managed to surpass the opening day record of Pathaan in India.

## Countdown Begins: 200 Days Until the Release Of Most Awaited Film Of 2024 'Pushpa 2: The Rule'

One of the most eagerly awaited films of 2024, 'Pushpa 2: The Rule,' is scheduled to release on August 15th, 2024. The makers have unveiled a '200 days to go' poster today on digital platforms. The film's production is in full swing, and the makers are leaving no stone unturned to ensure it becomes the biggest film of 2024. The anticipation surrounding this film never ceased to be a constantly discussed topic in both trade and audience discussions, securing its position at the top of the charts for the most anticipated film

of the year for over 15 months. The hype around the film is unprecedented. After the record-breaking success of 'Pushpa: The Rise' in 2021, National Award-winning icon Allu Arjun returns to rule in this sequel directed by maestro Sukumar. Joining in the rule will be the crush of the nation Rashmika Mandanna and the versatile actor Fahadh Fasil. Mythri Movie Makers have geared up to present the audience with a wholesome entertainer that will not only meet but exceed their expectations.

Marking the same, the makers shared an enthralling poster on their social media and jotted down the caption - "200 DAYS for Pushpa Raj to begin his RULE #Pushpa2TheRule Grand Release Worldwide on 15th AUG 2024 #PushpaKaRuleIn200Days" Pushpa 2 The Rule is directed by Sukumar and stars Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna, and Fahadh Faasil. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers and Muttamsetty Media. Pushpa 2 The Rule will be released on 15th August 2024.





# Why Bapu attached to St. Stephen's college and Valmiki



For Mahatma Gandhi, both St. Stephen's College and Valmiki Mandir in capital have very special place. When Mahatma Gandhi visited Delhi for the first time in Delhi in 1915, he stayed in St. Stephen's college campus. If you visit inside the Principals' room of St. Stephen's college, you would definitely see a sepia coloured picture in which Gandhi ji is sitting with faculty and students of the college. Well, the St. Stephen's college had hosted him when he was visiting Delhi for the first time from 12-14 April, 1915. He was then only Mr MK Gandhi. But, why he stayed at St. Stephen's College campus only? What was so special about the St. Stephen's college? Well, there is a story behind Gandhi's tryst with this college. "Actually, Gandhi ji has already become known name as a crusader for the rights of people of Indian origin in South Africa. He also took up

the fight against racial oppression there in South Africa. "Principal of the college, Prof. S.K. Rudra knew about his work in South Africa mainly through his friend and former colleague Deenbandhu Charles Freer Andrews, "says Father George Solomon of Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS) which established the St. Stephen's college. Andrews already met and stayed with Gandhi ji in Durban in 1904. Andrews was deeply influenced by the Gandhian doctrine of Non-Violence. Now, St. Stephen's College is moving towards Haryana after making a huge contribution in the field of education and nation building since 1881 in Delhi. After more than 140 years of establishing the college where several great luminaries, including great peasant leader Sir Chotu Ram, fourth President of India, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad and former Pakistan President Zia Ul Haq have studied, is turning into school too. Well, the Delhi Brotherhood Society is opening a school at Rai in Sonapat, Haryana from the coming academic session i.e.

2024-25. The School would be known as St. Stephan's Cambridge School. According to Brother George Solomon, who is associated with DBS C.F. Andrews was among the founders of DBS. Meanwhile, for Ganddhi ji 214 days stay at the Valmiki colony at Mandir my community. When you visit Gandhi ji's small room inside the Valmiki temple, you would see several old sepia coloured photographs of Gandhi find a wooden desk in the centre that Gandhi ji use to write. And on the right side is the bed that Gandhi ji would use. Gandhi ji's charkha is also there moved to Valmiki temple, very large number of Valmiki families used to live in Jhuggis there. They work as sweepers in areas like Gole Market, Irwin Road (now Baba Kharak Singh Marg) and Connaught Place. Once Gandhi shifted to Valmiki colony, he started interacting with Valmiki families. He was shocked that they were all illiterates. Nobody had seen even school. Then he asked local residents to send their kids to him as he would teach them. With Bapu's offer, elders started sending their kids in his classes. Vidhyarti's father and uncles were also attended Gandhi's classes. And he ensured that his classes took place both in morning and evening without fail. He was such a conscientious teacher that he often used to delay his meetings with stalwarts of freedom movement in order to finish his classes. That starts before prayers. So during his classes and later prayers, he didn't meet guests. Writes Louis Fischer in his brilliant biography of Gandhi 'The Life of Mahatma', "Once I reached at the Valmiki

Marg in capital was unique in a way that he became a teacher. He had started teaching kids of Valmiki families there at his own. He stayed there from 1 April 1946 to 10 June, 1947. Well, he taught English and Hindi by choice when he started living there. That was perhaps the first and only time when he became a teacher in true sense of the world. Of course, he knew that the life of Valmiki can transform only through education. He had deep empathy for ji with Lord Mountbatten and Lady Mountbatten, Acharya Kriplani, Frontier Gandhi, C. Rajgopalachari, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad and Pt Nehru. However, one painting would tell you the story of this venerable room. In this fading painting, several kids are talking to Bapu in a very animated manner. While the name of the painter is not there, but he has done wonderful job to reflect the mood of the room which has a great past. Here in this carpeted room, you would also

close to his bed. This charkha is a small one. But for him everything is still there in a same position. Krishan Vidhyarthi, 63, cleans the class room of Bapu and black board there daily without fail where his elders used to study more than 75 years ago. For Krishan Vidhyarthi, the caretaker and priest of Valmiki temple, the class room is a sacred place. "Of course, it is not an ordinary class room as here Gandhi ji used to teach, " informs Vidhyarthi. When Gandhi ji

temple from my hotel Imperial to interview him. But, he met me only after the prayers." Fischer spent over one month in Delhi to collect notes for his biography on Bapu in 1946. Well, Gandhi ji was a hard-task master. He used to chide students if any of them attended his class without taking bath. Not only the residents of Valmiki Colony, many students studying in schools like Raisina Bengali school, Harcourt Butler School and Delhi Tamil Education Association school (DTEA) too attended his classes from time to time. It was basically free for all classes. It is said that he knew all students by their names. Naturally, those lucky students of Bapu are not around to narrate their experiences, their kids are still there to share the stories of Bapu as a teacher. Alas, Gandhi ji's classes were ended when he left for Birla house couple of miles away from here on the advice of Pt. Nehru and Sardar Patel as Hindu and Sikh refugees from Pakistan had started living in campus of Valmiki temple after the partition of the country.

The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor



## Economy will strengthen with increasing participation of women

(Women representatives do better on economic indicators than their male counterparts)  
Vijay Garg



India's electoral landscape is poised for a major gender shift. Of course, the difference between male and female voters still exists, but compared to the initial elections in the country, it has reduced significantly. Considering the current trend of increasing participation of women in elections, Soumya Kanti Ghosh and Anurag Chandra of SBI have estimated that by 2029 the voting percentage of women will be They may exceed men and by 2047, their participation in total voting may reach 55 percent. Indeed, more

than 70 percent of eligible women voted in the five recent assembly elections. The trend was higher in rural India. Many social researchers link this trend especially with the 33 per cent reservation given to women in local bodies in the country as well as the movements of self-help groups. Some people give credit for this to those development plans which give importance to women. However, a woman's right Activists also regret that despite being an important group of people, the importance given to women is transactional, that is, the idea is to grab their votes by starting schemes for them. Other researchers are of the opinion that women are yet to have any Voters of a particular party are yet to emerge. As for the increase in rural women voters, according to a political economist, after the



Covid-19 period, rural men returned to big cities for work, but women could not return, hence due to the absence of men. The number of women voters has increased. However, despite Indian women's better balanced participation in the franchise, various institutional and structural challenges confront them in the electoral arena. Apart from the indirect impact of patriarchy, political parties often shy away from giving women a fair share in elections. According to a study, most of the women who get tickets in elections have family

political connections. In 2019, 41 percent of all women candidates and 30 percent of those who won were dynastic. Not only this, the increasing needs of money and power have also made the electoral field difficult for women. In the 2019 general elections itself, only 719 women contested the election, which was nine percent of the total candidates. Of these, 78 won, which is 14.4 percent of all winners. This ratio is less than the South Asian average of 18.9 percent. According to a 2023 UNDP report, women's political

empowerment leads to accountable and transparent governance, reduces the risks of civil war and political violence, and breaks down gender stereotypes. Is. This has a positive impact on GDP, and is also helpful in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Talking about India, a study has shown that women representatives perform better on economic indicators than their male counterparts. They are less likely to be criminal and corrupt. A 2013 study suggests that over time, women's political empowerment can

increase women's presence in the economy and labor market. Globally, only 26.5 percent of members of the single or lower parliamentary houses are women., which has increased by just 0.4 percent in the last six years. Only six countries, where there are both houses, have more than 50 per cent women in either house. In India too, only 10.5 percent of the total MPs in 2021 were women, while the average in state assemblies is nine percent. Clearly, gender equality in politics is important not only for justice and fairness, but also for a more stable and sustainable economy. For a c c o u n t a b l e governance, whether in India or elsewhere, women must be empowered as voters, election workers, candidates and Should come forward as a policy maker.

Retired Principal Educational Columnist MALOUT punjab

## The thrilling Theyyams

M PRADYU



A visit to North Kerala during January and February is worth a visit as it is the peak season of the 'Theyyam' - a very fascinating ritual performance practiced in the North Malabar region comprising of the Kannur, Kasaragod and Wayanad districts of Kerala. Theyyam is more than an art form. The colourful theyyam costumes, the awesome head gears, the patterns and designs used on the body of the performers, the scintillating music, the chantings, the crowd and the divine aura created during the performance has anybody simply spellbound and mesmerised. Theyyams begin in October and is ritualistically performed till June. Theyyam comes from the word 'Daivam' meaning God. Theyyam's have been practiced right from ancient times and they are performed in kavus (sacred temple groves). There are hundreds of kavus in the kannur region and each one attached to ancestral homes (tharavadu). The artistes who perform are considered and revered as the incarnates of God's, Goddesses, legendary heroes and heroines, warriors, ancestors, snakes, natural elements etc. They majestically move and dance according to the beat of the drums and after performance offer blessing to the devotees. Performers have to undergo diet, celibacy and abandon worldly pleasures. Kandanar kelan, kathivanoor veeran, Nagakanni, Puthiyabagavathi, Gulikan, Makkam, Raktha chamundi are just some of the most popular in the long list of Theyyams.

Domestic and Foreign tourists make a beeline to watch, study and shoot the performances. Watching and being part of this mesmerising performance really makes one not only joyous, excited and enthralled but also makes you feel a divine sensation that is inexplicable.

KANNUR  
Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.



# Won't Allow Citizen Register (NRC) Implementation In Bengal: Mamata Banerjee

**Raiganj (KCN):** Lambasting the BJP for allegedly bringing up the issues of NRC, CAA and Uniform Civil Code ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday asserted she would not allow anyone to take away the citizenship of people during her lifetime. Speaking at a public distribution programme at Raiganj in Uttar Dinajpur district, she alleged that the BJP "opportunisticly raised" the issue of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA ahead of the upcoming elections. "They (BJP) are speaking about NRC (National Register of Citizens), CAA, and Uniform Civil

Code ahead of the elections. This is nothing but politics. We have given citizenship to everyone (and) they (people in border areas) are getting everything. They are citizens, which is why they are allowed to vote," she said. "But let me make it very clear that as long as I am alive, I will not allow NRC implementation in West Bengal. I will not allow them to take away the citizenship of anyone... everyone here is a citizen," Ms Banerjee affirmed. Earlier on several occasions, Ms Banerjee has said her government won't allow the implementation of CAA in the state. Her latest remarks were

prompted by Union Minister Shantanu Thakur's recent assertion that the CAA would be rolled out across the country within a week. Mr Thakur's statement, made during a public gathering at Kakdwip in South 24 Parganas district on Sunday, fueled concerns regarding the imminent enforcement of the controversial legislation. The CAA, enacted by the BJP-led government at the Centre in 2019, seeks to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim immigrants, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians, from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan who



entered India before December 31, 2014. Expressing concern over reports of the Border Security Force (BSF) allegedly issuing separate identity cards to residents in border areas, Banerjee

cautioned people against accepting such cards, labelling those as potential tools in an "NRC trap". "They are issuing separate identity cards to people living in

border areas. Never accept these cards. This is a trap," Ms Banerjee warned, emphasising the need for vigilance among border communities. Ms Banerjee's assertions

align with her earlier claims in Cooch Behar district, where she accused the BSF of similar actions, a charge denied by the paramilitary force. Reacting to Ms Banerjee's statement, the West Bengal BJP unit said the CAA is a law of the land and no one can stop it from being implemented. "CAA is a law of the land and no one can stop it from being implemented. Why is she making confusing statements about NRC implementation? The Centre has never said anything about NRC implementation," BJP leader Rahul Sinha said. The CM rallied support

against what she characterised as an alliance between the Congress, CPI (M), and BJP in West Bengal, urging people to unite under the Trinamool Congress (TMC) banner to counter this perceived threat. "It is the TMC that is fighting for the rights of the people of the state. We all have to unite to defeat the Congress-CPI (M)-BJP nexus in Bengal," Ms Banerjee said, calling for solidarity among citizens. Her remarks follow her recent announcement of the TMC's decision to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal alone.

## Need Two-State Solution To Resolve Israel-Palestine Issue: S Jaishankar

**Mumbai(KCN):** India favours a two-state solution to end the decades-long Israel-Palestine conflict, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday as the latest war in the Gaza Strip, ignited by the Hamas' brutal attacks inside the Jewish state in early October, shows no sign of coming to an end. He said the conflict in West Asia must be viewed in totality and termed the Hamas' deadly incursions inside Israel nearly four months ago as a terrorist attack. Replying to a question at an interaction with students of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Mumbai, Jaishankar, "It is certainly the view of India and a very large number of countries that (the problem can be) only be done (resolved) through a two-state solution that there has to be a Palestinian state side-by-



side with the state of Israel." "So for us today, there are all the aspects. We cannot take one aspect and say that's the only aspect because if you see the debate in the world in a way that is what people are doing," he said. The diplomat-turned-politician maintained that if there are six issues out there, and if anyone takes one or two and if the rest four don't matter then such an approach won't work in resolving the conflict. "I think that is not helpful.

I think we have to look at the totality of all these issues and strike the right balance and that is really in a way what we are trying," he added. Jaishankar said what happened on October 7, 2023, was a terrorist attack, referring to Hamas militants launching a series of assaults inside Israel after storming across the border. About 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed in the attacks, while nearly 250 Israelis and

other nationals were taken hostage by Hamas. "I don't think there should be confusion on that and as a country which has itself experienced so much terrorism, I think it's important that we recognise that and we expressed that solidarity (with Israel) as another victim of terrorism," noted the External Affairs Minister. On Israel's strong response to the Hamas attacks, which triggered a war in the Gaza Strip, he said

when any country responds, it is equally important to observe international laws and called for avoiding civilian casualties. The nearly four-month-long war has killed more than 26,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, destroyed vast swaths of the Gaza Strip, a tiny but densely populated Palestinian enclave, and displaced nearly 85 per cent of the territory's population. Israel says its air and ground offensive has killed more than 9,000 militants. "Every effort should be made to ideally avoid or limit civilian casualties," Jaishankar insisted. Where there is a situation in which civilians are affected, which is the case today (in Israel-Hamas war) very manifestly in Gaza, there has to be some kind of sustainable humanitarian corridor which will deal with it, Jaishankar said.

## "INDIA Bloc Brain Dead, Bound To Meet Natural Death Soon": BJP

**New Delhi(KCN):** The BJP on Tuesday derided the INDIA bloc as "brain dead", saying it was an "unnatural alliance" and is "bound to meet its natural death soon". Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said it is in the nature of the Congress to pick fights with other parties, comments which

came in the wake of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) ruling out any alliance with the main opposition party and the Janata Dal (United) dumping the bloc for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). "We always maintained that this alliance was only for

photoshoots. It was an unnatural alliance. It is now brain dead and is bound to meet its natural death soon," he told reporters. The Congress, the biggest party in the INDIA bloc, has been at the receiving end of jibes from some different regional parties in the alliance.

## "I Reside In Your Hearts": 'Missing' Hemant Soren After Returning Home

**Ranchi(KCN):** After returning home here amid suspense about his whereabouts, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said that he resides in the hearts of people. Mr Soren, who is also the JMM executive president, chaired a meeting of party legislators.

"I reside in your hearts," he told reporters when asked about his absence. Mr Soren was speaking to the media at Babu Vatika here, where he went to pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary. "We all are committed to follow the footsteps and ideologies of the Father of the Nation. We are proud that such people were born among us and gave us guidance," he added. Mr Soren had left for New Delhi on January 27 night. Amid suspense about his whereabouts, he reached his official residence in Ranchi on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. He chaired a meeting of



MLAs and ministers at his residence where his wife Kalpana Soren was also present. All the legislators of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-led ruling alliance in Jharkhand were asked not to leave the state capital, and to attend the meeting. The meeting was called to discuss strategies regarding the current political situation, and the Enforcement Directorate's proposed questioning of the CM on Wednesday. "The Jharkhand CM has the blessings of the people, he will be unharmed. We are formulating strategies to face the tyrants," JMM

spokesperson Manoj Pandey said without elaborating. In an email sent to the ED, Soren has agreed to record his statement in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land deal in Jharkhand on January 31 at 1 pm at his residence. Meanwhile, the federal agency searched the 5/1 Shanti Niketan residence of the JMM leader in south Delhi on Monday, and camped there for almost 13 hours in order to question him, officials said. The ED has seized ? 36 lakh, an SUV and some "incriminating" documents from there, they said.

## "Will Approach High Court For Fresh Mayoral Polls": Raghav Chadha

**Chandigarh(KCN):** AAP leader Raghav Chadha on Tuesday questioned the Chandigarh mayoral poll process and said they will approach the Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking fresh elections. The BJP swept the Chandigarh mayoral polls, winning all three posts, including that of mayor, as it defeated the Congress-AAP alliance. Mr Chadha said the poll process was not only "unconstitutional and illegal" but also an act of "deshdroh" (treason) as he accused the BJP of "orchestrating" it after sensing its defeat in the election. Accompanied by senior Congress leader Pawan Kumar Bansal, the AAP MP said they will approach the Punjab and Haryana High Court, seeking fresh elections and also action against the presiding officer. BJP candidate Manoj Sonkar defeated AAP's Kuldeep Kumar, who was fielded as part of an

alliance with the Congress, to win the post of mayor. Mr Sonkar polled 16 votes while Mr Kumar secured 12. Eight votes were declared invalid. The councillors of the AAP and the Congress later boycotted the elections to the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor, leading to BJP candidates Kuljit Sandhu and Rajinder Sharma securing the posts. The poll results came as a setback for the AAP and the Congress which were contesting the mayoral polls in an alliance. "What we saw in the Chandigarh mayoral polls today was not only unconstitutional and illegal but also was an act of 'deshdroh'," alleged Mr Chadha while speaking to reporters here. He said the AAP-Congress alliance was destined to win the Chandigarh mayoral polls as they had 20 votes



in the 35-member Chandigarh Municipal Corporation House. "Victory of our alliance was certain, but sensing imminent defeat, the BJP hatched conspiracies. First, the presiding officer, who was to conduct polls on January 18, was made to fall ill. Thereafter an attempt was made to buy councillors of the AAP. When BJP's 'operation lotus' failed, then they carried out a fraud (in the mayoral polls)," he alleged. Mr Chadha said elections were held with Anil Masih, who was an office-bearer of the BJP's minority wing, being announced as the

presiding officer. "BJP's presiding officer did not allow any election agent of any party to come forward during counting of votes. Whenever counting takes place, election agents of parties are allowed to come," he said. The AAP leader further alleged that the presiding officer himself used his pen on certain ballot papers and declared them invalid during counting. "It was for the first time that out of 36 votes (including the vote of the Chandigarh MP), eight votes were declared invalid," he said while demanding an FIR against the presiding

officer. Congress leader and former Union minister Bansal said that such "jungle raj" was never seen and blamed the BJP for it. Replying to a question, Mr Chadha said, "This is not a setback for one coalition or one party. It is a setback for India's democracy and as a democrat, we are aggrieved, we are flabbergasted." "We are worried as to what will happen in upcoming 2024 polls if the BJP can stoop to such a low level and commit forgery and illegality. The BJP can go to any level to rig the election process and indulge in every possible electoral fraud and electoral malpractice," he added. The MP said his party will approach the high court, seeking to set aside Tuesday's "electoral fraud", order fresh elections and appoint a retired high court judge as presiding officer for the poll.

## Man Detained For Saying "Bomb" During Checking At Bengaluru Airport

**Bengaluru(KCN):** Apparently irritated over the repeated checks he was asked to undergo, a Kochi-bound flier uttered the words 'bomb' and 'knife' at the Kempegowda International Airport here, only to be detained by the police and let off with a warning after he claimed about a family emergency, official

sources said. On Sunday, after regular checking Saju K Kumaran was allowed to board the plane, but was offloaded later as the security personnel wanted to check his handbag again, they said. Annoyed by it, the 38-year-old passenger wondered whether the authorities thought he possessed a bomb and

knife. Following this, the personnel detained him and took him to the Airport police station, sources added. "When the man pleaded there was a death in his family and he had to rush to his hometown Thrissur, he was allowed to board the flight again but was asked to appear whenever his presence was required to probe the case," an official said.



# Nocturnal Trail Begins In Chandaka

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**

The thrill of exploring dense forests in the dark is a whole new level of fun altogether. Thanks to the efforts of the Department of Forest, students had unique experience in Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary on 29 January evening. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Susanta Nanda flagged off much waited Nocturnal Trail and students enjoyed the nature.

Shri Nanda, a genuine nature lover was very happy to welcome the students, who are acknowledged as the Brand Ambassador of Eco Tourism.

Eco Tourism in the



Chandaka-Dampara Sanctuary is promoted to spread the message of Conservation of the Bio-Diversity as well as to provide livelihood to the local community, said Shri Nanda, who is pioneer in starting Eco Tourism Project in Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary long back. Detailing out the arrangements, a senior official said that there are two

Nature Awareness Centres at Deras and Godibari with accommodation facility for night stay of visitors.

Besides the Nature Camps, there are two Nature Awareness Centres at Bhubaneswar and Dampara for day visitors. Jungle Safari Vehicle Service is available for visitors to visit Forest and Wildlife

in Eco Tourism Zone.

At present it was felt necessary for introduction of designated Nocturnal Trail inside Jagannathprasad-Bharatpur Sector of Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary to promote Nature Education for Children, Researchers and Nature Lovers of the State.

Jagannathprasad-



Bharatpur Sector of Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary is spread across an area of 19 Square Kilometers of Forest Land and home to

luxuriant collection of different Flora and Fauna. Nature Lovers throng to it because of its rustic and refreshing climate along with

presence of multiple life forms. Nocturnal Trail will create ample opportunity to study the behavior of the animals in the night time. The darkness

will add another element of mystery to the whole experience. Tonight, the teachers and students of DAV Chandrasekharpur, SAI International School enjoyed the Night Safari.

Inaugural Tour was an wonderful experience as the students enjoyed the tour.

Night Safari organization is done for the first time in Eastern India, said Sarat Behera, DFO Chandaka.

Regulated Guided Nocturnal Trail at Bharatpur kick started and it was ensured that no animal or human being was harmed, said Shri Behera.

## Sunapur Beach Gets Blue Flag

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Sunapur Beach has been awarded with the International Blue Flag Certification for 2023-24.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik took to his X handle and posted that : Glad to share that #Sunapur Beach in #Ganjam, one of the picturesque beaches of #Odisha has received the prestigious #BlueFlag certification from @FEEInt

This globally recognised eco-label, by ensuring stringent environmental standards, cleanliness, and tourist-friendly amenities will further boost tourism. #OdishaLeads.

The achievement of Blue Flag Certification is a testament to the collective efforts of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP) Odisha, said ACS Forest & Environment Satyabrata



Sahu. Team ICZMP along with District Beach Management Committee, Ganjam and local community worked in tandem, said PCCF Wildlife Susanta Nanda. Sunapur Beach is now not only a destination for pristine beauty but also a model for sustainable coastal tourism, said Shri Nanda.

This Certification is accorded by an

International Agency "Foundation For Environment Education, Denmark, based on 33 stringent criteria in four major heads.

Those include Environmental Education and Information, Bathing Water Quality, Environment Management and Conservation as well as Safety and Services in the beaches.

The 'Blue Flag' beach is an Eco Tourism Model endeavouring to provide to the tourists and beach goers clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities and amenities, safe and healthy environment and sustainable development of the area, said Shri Nanda.

Works for the beach development started in 2021 and completed in 2023, under ICZMP Odisha.

The Blue Flag Beach stretches over 800 Meters with facilities like specially designed wheelchairs for differently abled persons, zero liquid waste discharge, lifeguard towers, trained paramedic staff to provide fast aid and CCTV coverage of the area.

The beach is managed by the District Beach Management Committee, Ganjam, said PCCF Shri Nanda.

## CM Inaugurated 73 high schools in the fourth phase in Kalahandi district

**Bhawanipatana(KCN):**

Chief Minister of Odisha Mr. Naveen Patnaik inaugurated 73 converted high schools in Kalahandi district today through Avasi. On this occasion

Today evening at 5.00 pm in the meeting held at Dumer Bahal Dhanurjay High School in Junagadh Block, Dharmagarh MLA Mr. Mushdi Bagh, District Council Chairman Mr. Pushpendra Kumar Singhdeo, Nerla MLAMr. Bhupinder Singh, Junagadh MLA Captain Divya Shankar Mishra, Lanjigarh MLA Mr. Pradeep. Dishari, Special Development Council Chairman Mr. Shivaji Majhi, District Collector P. Anwesha Reddy were the key manachasin. To impart quality education to students of government schools.

The government has transformed various schools through 5 schemes to establish themselves in the society doing In addition, steps



are being taken to provide better quality education with digital classrooms. 4 Schools of NY Bhawanipatna Block, Dharmagarh

5 schools in the block, 7 schools in Golamunda block, 7 schools in Jayapatna block, 11 schools in Junagadh block, 3 schools in Kollampur block, 2 schools in Karlamunda block, 8 schools in Kesinga block, 5 schools in Koksara block, 5 schools in Lanjigarh block 6 T School, 4 schools in Madanpur Rampur block, 6 schools in Narla block and suburbs like Thuamul Rampur.

The state government has

converted 5 schools in the area. In his speech, the Chief Minister mentioned the motivation among the students due to the transformation work and advised the students to adopt 5 principles in life, honesty in all fields, proper use of time. 5 Chairman Shri Karthikeyan Pandian Dhanurjay School Class 10 Student Asha talked to Majhi about how to shape her future and asked for her feedback on the transformed school. At the beginning of the program, District Magistrate P. Anwesha Reddy welcomed everyone and said that 73 high schools will be converted today

after completion of 244 conversion works in the district by the 3rd phase. Junagadh MLA Shri Mishra in his speech said that due to the strong leadership of the Chief Minister and the hard work of 5 chairpersons, today the transformation work in Kalahandi district is very high and satisfactory and the students of government schools have acquired expertise in hockey and science exhibition. District Council Chief Development Officer Sain Pawar said in the meeting. Various departmental officers, students, teachers, media representatives were present.



**2024-2025**

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## Vitesco Technologies aims to achieve 100% carbon neutral production by 2030

Pune :Vitesco Technologies a leading international manufacturer of modern drive technologies and electrification solutions recently celebrated the second anniversary of its Pune facility.Dr. Hans-Jürgen Braun, Senior Vice President of Operations at Vitesco Technologies, visited the facility to commemorate the occasion.The facility is spread across 20 acres and contains more than 17580 m2 of manufacturing space, including over 900 employees.

The Pune plant, like all Vitesco Technologies facilities, serves its grid demand entirely through renewable energy sources. Furthermore, the site generates sustainable electricity. All new photovoltaic systems have been built

in the Talegaon facility, generating 03 GWh of electricity from solar energy. The installed capacity is currently 2.6 MW, with the company aiming to increase it to 3.6MW by the end of the year. The facility is also strongly driving automation, digitization, and Industry 4.0, with over 25 cobots and robots installed on the production lines and shopfloor.During his tour of the facility, Dr. Hans-Jürgen BraunHead of Operations at Vitesco Technologies said“We have a clear vision of the key characteristics of the plant of the future, which are sustainable, smart, and predictive. And our plant in Pune already embodies these qualities with highly automated production lines, state-of-the-art Industry 4.0 solutions and a strong

focus on sustainability. But what is most important for me is the highly motivated team, because I genuinely believe that people, not only technology, will shape the plant of the future. I am very impressed with India's business competency and the employees' enthusiasm to support us on this journey.

Dr. Braun further highlighted that“The carbon footprint must be dramatically decreased to combat climate change, which is one of the major issues of our time. We must take on responsibility for our environment. As a result, the plant of the future must be climate-neutral in operation. That is why I am proud that the plant in Pune has truly established itself as a driver of sustainability.

## Spice Money nearly doubles its nanopreneur (Adhikari) network hitting 1 million milestone in FY22

New Delhi: Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech that is revolutionising the way Bharat banks, achieved the significant milestone of 1 million Adhikaris (nanopreneurs) in FY22, growing by nearly double over the last financial year. Spice Money's strategy, to provide the first-of-its-kind zero investment model, continues to yield results and growth in Adhikaris. This network is spread across rural India covering more than 95% rural pincodes, 700+ districts serving a base of over 100 million consumers, through the Spice Money app and web portal.

In FY23 Spice Money aims to expand into other digital and financial services. The company will consolidate its ATM, banking and payments

business, while scaling its enterprise Cash Management Services (CMS) business. The company, additionally, will be introducing a financial products & services marketplace which will offer solutions such as insurance, credit etc. Considering the crucial role agriculture plays in the rural economy, Spice Money will also venture into digital solutions for the industry. With the country emerging from the pandemic, Spice Money will expand its travel tech platform, Travel Union, to offer a first-of-its-kind solution for all travel agents in semi-urban and rural India. Through its phygital super app, the company will disseminate multiple digital services including education, ecommerce

and healthcare to the masses. On this occasion, Dilip Modi, Founder, Spice Money said “FY22 has witnessed commendable growth, with Spice Money showcasing consistent double-digit growth over the past eight quarters.

We continue to remain bullish about rapid adoption of digital services in rural India, as we aim to foray into new business segments in FY23. Spice Money's phygital super app will further help rural communities get essential services like basic banking, payment services, financial services, travel services and entrepreneur solutions along with healthcare and e-commerce at their doorstep, assisted by Spice Money's 1 million+ Adhikaris.

## Sterlite Power wins ordersworth INR 1600 crores

New Delhi: Sterlite Power, a leading power transmission developer and solutions provider, has secured multiple orders worth ~INR 1600 crores across its Solutions business in the domestic and international markets.

The company has secured orders from customers like Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL), Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), and West Bengal State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (WBSETCL) in the MSI (Master System Integrator) segment. The orders are for the installation and supply of high-performance conductors and rectoring solutions for transmission projects. In the Products segment, Sterlite Power has acquired strategic maiden orders of EHV cables for state transmission utilities in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka and orders for overhead lines from large and reputed international

customers in North America and CIS regions.

Commenting on the order wins, Mr. Manish Agarwal, CEO – India Transmission Business, Sterlite Power, said, “We are happy to win these new orders across our Solutions business which significantly adds to our robust orderbook. Our integrated model provides us with a strategic advantage in delivering complex projects successfully while also diversifying our revenue base.”

As part of its Solutions business unit, the company manufactures and sells a diversified portfolio of products, covering high performance conductors, OPGW and EHV power cables, to international customers, including central and state electricity transmission companies, transmission developers and engineering, procurement, and construction (“EPC”) contractors.

Further, its MSI sub-unit is a provider of specialty contracting services, delivering bespoke solutions for the upgrade, uprate and fiberization of brownfield transmission infrastructure projects. In addition, the company also offers underground EHV turnkey services including cable laying and substation development.

Under its infrastructure business segment, where the company bids to develop transmission projects, it has recently won inter-state transmission system projects in J&K as well as north-east India which will play a pivotal role in connecting clean and green power to the national grid. The Kishtwar transmission project is based in Jammu & Kashmir and comprises a 400/132kV GIS substation at Kishtwar and 400 kV Kishenpur - Dulhasti LILO (Line in Line out) transmission line

## FinMin Says Future Reforms Include Reducing Compliance Burden For MSMEs, Energy Security

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry said on Monday that the priority areas for future reforms include skilling, learning outcomes, health, energy security, reduction in compliance burden for MSMEs, and gender balancing in the labour force. The ministry in a review of the Indian economy just days before the Interim Budget (Feb 1) said that under a reasonable set of assumptions with respect to the inflation differentials and exchange rate, India can aspire to become a \$7 trillion economy in the next six to seven years (by 2030). This will be a significant milestone in the journey

to delivering a quality of life and standard of living that match and exceed the aspirations of the Indian people. It is eminently possible for the Indian economy to grow in the coming years at a rate above 7 per cent on the strength of the financial sector and other recent and future structural reforms. Only the elevated risk of geopolitical conflicts is an area of concern. There is, however, considerable scope for the growth rate to rise well above 7 percent by 2030, the review said. The speed with which physical infrastructure is being built will allow the ICOR to decline,



translating private investments into output quickly. The IBC has strengthened balance sheets and, in the process, has freed up economic capital that was otherwise rendered unproductive. The rapidly expanding digital infrastructure is continuously improving institutional efficiency. Also, technological progress is picking up pace with rising

collaboration with foreign partners in the production of goods and services. Decisive steps have been taken to speed up human capital formation. Finally, the overall investment climate is increasingly becoming more favourable with sustained enhancement in ease of doing business, it added. The unification of the

domestic markets brought in by the adoption of the GST incentivises production on a larger scale while reducing logistics costs. The expansion of the tax base that the GST facilitates will strengthen the finances of the Union and state governments, enabling growth-enhancing public expenditures. The rising credibility of the RBI in restraining inflation will anchor inflationary expectations, providing a stable interest rate environment for businesses and the public to make long-term investment and spending decisions, respectively.

## Lifestyle announces launch of Miss Raja Season 2 contest to celebrate Raja Parba in Odisha

Bhubaneswar : Lifestyle, India's leading fashion destination, announces its second season of Lifestyle Miss Raja in Bhubaneswar, to celebrate the occasion of Raja Parba. The #LifestyleMissRaja2022 contest aims to showcase the passion and unique fashion sensibilities of the city's young women. The three-day festival in Odisha, which is a celebration of womanhood, will be commemorated by Lifestyle through its 2nd season of Miss Raja Parba contest. Popular Ollywood actress Bhoomika Dash announced the contest on 27th May on her social

media.#LifestyleMissRaja2022 welcomes young women from Bhubaneswar to participate in the contest by uploading their most stylist picture on Instagram using the hashtag and tagging @LifestyleStores. The entries would be evaluated basis the stylish look created, and the number of likes garnered on the post.10 pre-finalists will be announced on the 9th of June and invited for a stylish makeover in Lifestyle's newest trends by an industry expert and photographed professionally. These images will be further posted by the pre-finalists on their Instagram page for a voting round. The

contest will culminate on the 15th of June with the announcement of the winner with the highest votes. The grand finale will be conducted at the Lifestyle store in Esplanade One Mall and will have none other than the popular actress Bhoomika Dash announce the Lifestyle Miss Parba of 2022 and hand over voucher worth Rs. 50,000. The contest is being aggressively promoted through different online and offline avenues.

All the young fashionistas of Bhubaneswar who aspire to be successful models, #LifestyleMissRaja2022 provides a perfect platform to be recognized

for one's great fashion sense.

Announcing the contest, celebrity Bhoomika Dash said, “I feel glad to be associated with Lifestyle for the 2nd season of #LifestyleMissRaja2022 contest. This is a great way for the brand to connect with the young women of Bhubaneswar. Lifestyle is best known for its latest and trendy fashion collection across all categories with an affordable price range. Do visit the Lifestyle store at Esplanade mall for your Raja Parba shopping!”

Rohini Haldea, Assistant Vice President - Marketing, Lifestyle said,

“Celebrating the Raja Parba Fest in Bhubaneswar has been a great experience for us. The passion and enthusiasm of the participants truly fuel the energy of the contest. Lifestyle, with its trendy festive collection and #LifestyleMissRaja2022, proudly celebrates the festival with the young women of Bhubaneswar as a true ode to womanhood.”

Lifestyle offers a great range of ethnic wear with vibrant colours and modern silhouettes that perfectly capture the vibe of the festive season.

## EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAIT SINGAPORE AIRLINESCUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a \$S50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the Airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

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

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

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

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

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

## WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

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

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

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

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

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



do it somehow. I held the bat very tight, and the situation was such that I had to take that chance. Luckily, there was an off-spinner bowling, and I thought I'll swing no matter what," he recalled. He remained unbeaten on 67 as UP reached the 195-run target in the 70th over. With 19 runs needed and only two wickets in hand, he swung the bat. Even though Mumbai had fielders on the boundary line, he could easily clear them to secure their second outright win at the Wankhede. It was made possible by a brave effort a youngster, who defied pain, and adversity.

target meant Super Kings needed 98 to win from eight overs and Du Plessis was up for the challenge having battled poor form throughout the tournament.

Leus du Plooy gave Super Kings a stunning start as he hit the first two balls of the chase over the ropes as Nuwan Thushara conceded 18 in the opening over. Du Plessis then toyed around with Kagiso Rabada as another 18-run over stunned MI with Super Kings knocking off 36 runs from the first two overs.

his second two-year term, but his continuation is contingent on his purported shift to the International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman role which is an independent post. Elections for the ICC chairman position are scheduled for November, and in that regard, the outcome of the ACC meeting will provide indications about various leadership roles in world cricket.