



Hon'ble Governor Sri Raghubar Das and Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik at the State Level Martyrs' Day at OLA Premises

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

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched an attack on the Odisha government a day after the cabinet nod to a special package for the scheduled tribes and the decision to roll back the proposal to amend the Odisha Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (By Scheduled Tribes) Regulation.

A new scheme titled Laghu Bana Jatiya Dravya Kraya (LABHA) to assure MSP for MFP (minimum support price for minor forest produce) was approved by the Cabinet on Monday.

Training his gun at the government, BJP leader and Opposition Chief Whip, Mohan Majhi alleged that with elections in sight, the state government has planned to woo voters by announcing the special package to keep tribals in good humours.

"The BJD government had hatched



withdrawal of its previous decision on tribal land handover rights.

"Development of tribals has not happened during the BJD rule. In the last 24 years, what the state government has done for the tribals? Now it announced a package for them when the elections are around the corner," Majhi asked.

On the other hand, the Odisha ST, SC, OBC & Minorities Minister, Jagannath Saraka countered the BJP allegation saying that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has always taken steps for the development of tribals.

"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.

The BJP legislator also asserted that the state government's conspiracy and its anti-tribal attitude cannot be concealed with special packages

718 Snow Leopards In India

New Delhi(KCN): Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav released the report on the Status of Snow leopards in India during the National Board for Wildlife meeting held in New Delhi today.

The Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPA) Program is the first-ever scientific exercise that reports Snow leopard population of 718 individuals in India.

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is the National Coordinator for this exercise that was carried out with support of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners, the Nature Conservancy Foundation, Mysuru and WWF-India.

The SPAI systematically covered over 70% of the potential snow leopard range in the country, involving forest & wildlife staff, researchers, volunteers, and contributions from

knowledge partners. Covering approximately 120,000km² of crucial Snow leopard habitat across the trans-Himalayan region, including UTs of Ladakh



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 SPAI 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 km², with an estimated presence in 100,841 km². A total of 241



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 ceases to operate and will come into 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.

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 'Banakali 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.

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INVITATION

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

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Former MLA (Bhubaneswar, North)

Sri Sabysachi Mahapatra
Renowned Film Maker & Director

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

Prof. Dr. Sindhu Nandini Tripathy
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De. Pabitra Mohan Samantaray
Editor-in-Chief, Paryabekhyak, will preside over the meeting

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THE KALINGA CHRONICLE

Chairman 5T & Nabin Odisha Pandian visits Ganjam District.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As per the direction of Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik, Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha, Sh Kartik Pandian visited Ganjam District to review the progress of college transformation projects in the district and interact with students. He participated in the Nua-O Program being organised in Berhampur and interacted with students of all colleges of Ganjam. He discussed with the students on Nua-O program providing a platform for youth to showcase their talent and to help achieve overall personality development in addition to their academic achievements.

Sh Pandian urged the



students to work hard with self-confidence to achieve success in life. He motivated the students to aim high and mentioned about the achievements of some prominent personalities from Ganjam district. He mentioned about Sh Ravi Kumar S who is

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

Dacoit gang busted in Odisha's Balasore; 3 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 Badapokhri 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

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 authenticated journalists from the DIPRO. We would launch a verification drive."

Bike-borne miscreants slit class 10 student's throat in Cuttack's Athagarh



Cuttack, (KCN): A class 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

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

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. Jogmaya 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 Jugpura 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 Alpana 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



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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

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



industry. 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 Rajkummar 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 Routhay 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...@itsrohitshetty."

In the blue tinted picture, Kareena could be seen facing her back at the camera facing a car turning topsy-turvy.

'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

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 Faasil. Mythri Movie Makers have geared up to present the audience with a wholesome entertainer that will not only meet but exceed their expectations.



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 peek 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 @priyaaatlee @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

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.

@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.

Why Bapu attached to St. Stephen's college and Valmikis



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 (DBS) were at the forefront during freedom movement of India. Deenbandhu

2024-25. The School would be known as St. Stephen's Cambridge School.

According to Brother George Solomon, who is associated with DBS

C.F. Andrews was among the founders of DBS.

Meanwhile, for Gandhiji 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. Vidhyarthi's father and uncles were also attended Gandhi's classes.

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



for the last over three decades, "Our school would remain committed to the ideals and principles of Gandhi ji. The school building is very modern with very rich library, Science laboratories and huge play ground." The St. Stephen's Cambridge School will be a Co-educational school from 1st class to 12th class.

It may be recalled that the members of Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS) were at the forefront during freedom movement of India. Deenbandhu

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 Valmikis 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

Economy will strengthen with increasing participation of women

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

Vijay Garg



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 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 accountable and transparent 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**



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 55 percent. Indeed, more

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 chanting, the crowd and the divine aura created during the performance has anybody simply spellbound and mesmerised. Theyyams begin in October and is ritually 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. Kandar 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 "opportunistically 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

"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 Bapu 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. "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.

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

"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' (treason) as he accused the BJP of 'orchestrating' it after sensing its defeat in the election.

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

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

Jagannathprasad-

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.



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. 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, Environmental 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 MLA Mr.

Bhupinder Singh,

Junagadh MLA Captain

Divya Shankar Mishra,

Lanjigarh MLA Mr.

Pradeep. Dishi, Special

Development Council

Chairman Mr. Shivaji

Majhi, District Collector

P. Anwesha Reddy were

the key manchasis. To

impart quality education

to students of government

schools.

The government has

transformed various

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 Bhavanipatna Block, Dharmagarh 5 schools in the block, 7 schools in Golamunda block, 7 schools in Jayapatna block, 11 schools in Junagadh block, 5 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 Karthikeen 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.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Baghra Road, Baripada

For details

Contact :

Call-9438102188, 06792-255227

Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon

E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com

Find us on
Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada

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 digital 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 digital 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 re conductor ing 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 transmission 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

The unification of the



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 Olywood 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 will 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

Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

Bhubaneswar: To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes.

Vir Inder Nath, CEO – Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience."

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLIV, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

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

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 a 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 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 AWAITS SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a S\$50 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 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."

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

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

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.

How Karan Sharma defied pain and adversity against Mumbai

New Delhi: Karan Sharma has played only 15 first-class games, but on Monday at the Wankhede, he exhibited composure and a sense of responsibility akin to a 100-game veteran. Uttar Pradesh owed their middle-order batter a lot as the 25-year-old overcame injury and the regular fall of wickets at the other end to guide his side to a thrilling two-wicket victory over Mumbai in their Elite Group B Ranji game. Sharma showed how one can be defiant and disciplined in the face of adversity against Mumbai, the powerhouse in domestic

cricket. He stood tall on a worsening Day 4 wicket, facing Mumbai spinners who were extracting sharp turn. "It was one of my best knocks," Sharma said later. "I tried earlier too to help UP win. It's special because it's come after a long time. I was going through a lean patch and struggling a bit, but obviously in such a situation, scoring for the team and helping UP win feels great," Sharma said. He delivered a couple of big hits when they were needed most in a thrilling finish. The situation was not

easy as he had to leave the pitch in the middle of a well-compiled innings because of a wrist injury, which became difficult to bear during the innings. He retired hurt at 47 with the team's total at 145 for 4. The team needed only 50 more runs for a win, and a victory looked certain. But he had to come back only nine runs later as UP soon collapsed to 154 for seven. He took an injection and came back to resume his fight. He joined Akshdeep Nath and held one end up even as unrelenting Mumbai spinners, Shams Mulai and



Tanush Kotian, kept attacking the UP batters. "The injury had been going on for a while and during the

game, it got worse as I kept batting. So I retired hurt. When I went off, Nitish (Rana, the skipper) bhai told me that I had to go back no matter what. He motivated me a lot that I had to go back. So when the captain says

that, as a player, you know you have to do it for the team. When I felt a bit better and that I could defend, I knew I could do it," Sharma said after UP's much-needed outright win. Visibly, he was in good shape. He could only defend because the left hand was not moving freely. He also could not grip the bat properly. So he kept defending, and at one stage, he went 24 balls without scoring a run. But when Akshdeep got out, he had no choice but to open up. "When Aksh got out, I mustered some courage and told myself I have to

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 by a youngster, who defied pain, and adversity.

No regrets of moving to America: Andries Gous

New Delhi: "Yeh Amrika kya kar raha hain, khele jaake international cricket!" (What is he doing in America? Ask him to go play international cricket for South Africa!) exclaimed the great Wasim Akram on air when Andries Gous deposited Mohammad Amir into the stands enroute his 95* off 50 deliveries for the AD Knight Riders against the Desert Vipers in the ILT20.

"It means a lot when guys like Wasim say that for whatever I produced on that day is that of the standard of international cricket. I think I've made my decisions through in life and not regretted once moving to America, it's been one hell of a journey, and it's been really good for me and my family" said Gous to Cricbuzz.

After impressing in the



T10 circuit with a few flashbang innings, his whirlwind 95* against the likes of Mohammad Amir, Wanindu Hasaranga and Sheldon Cottrell is a testimony to his pedigree as a batter against the best in the world. Unfazed with the challenge on hand, Gous was quite clinical with the way he dismantled the Vipers attack. He announced himself by

bludgeoning 3 sixes off Cottrell in the 4th over before showing his class to toy around with Hasaranga, plundering 32 off 16. Gous' emphatic innings earned him new fans, none more enchanting than his franchise owner Shah Rukh Khan, blowing him a kiss after he wrapped a resounding win for ADKR. Gous, now 30, moved to

America in 2021 with an MLC contract after 60 first class caps in South Africa. His exploits in the Minor League and various other competitive pop up T20 tournaments in America, arguably established himself as the best T20 batter in the country. He stands to qualify for the US in February 2024. Despite, the truckload of runs and an endorsement from the game's greatest, Gous is no certainty for the World Cup later this year considering USA Cricket's opaque selection procedures. "It's always been a massive dream of mine to play in a World Cup. I'm not going to shy away from admitting it. And the time has come now but obviously it was always out of my hands to be selected but I would think and I would hope that or rather that I've

done everything I can from my part to make sure that I gave myself the best opportunity to be selected. Whether or not I get selected now I'm honestly a piece of what happens because I don't think there's a stone that I didn't turn over to make sure that I'll be ready for whenever that opportunity comes" said Gous on his selection prospects.

Gous admits moving to America has transformed him as a player despite the limited infrastructure. Playing close to 70-80 quality T20 games on slower outfields over the past 3 years has earned him an explosive new avatar in white ball cricket. American cricket has had Gous showcase his dexterity on the world stage, it is time Gous lights up that same global stage for America.

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.

Naveed Zadran, Mohammad Ishaq handed maiden call-ups for Sri Lanka Test



New Delhi: Afghanistan have handed maiden call-ups to right-arm quick Naveed Zadran and wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Ishaq for their maiden and one-off Test against Sri Lanka. Uncapped batter Noor Ali Zadran and left-arm spinner Zia-ur-Rehman were also named in the 16-man squad for the Colombo Test. Rashid Khan, who continues to recover from the back surgery, wasn't named in the squad. His injury absence meant all-rounder Qais Ahmad was

included in the squad as his replacement. **Squad:** Hashmatullah Shahidi (C), Rahmat Shah (VC), Ikram Alikhail (WK), Mohammad Ishaq (WK), Ibrahim Zadran, Noor Ali Zadran, Abdul Malik, Baheer Shah, Nasir Jamal, Qais Ahmad, Zahir Khan, Zia Ur Rehman Akbar, Yamin Ahmadzai, Nijat Masoud, Mohammad Saleem Safi and Naveed Zadran. "It's quite pleasing to be playing our first test against Sri Lanka, who have a rich history of playing test-match

cricket," said ACB Chairman Mirwais Ashraf. "The year 2024 is packed with test cricket for us, as we will be playing several test matches during the year. Same as our white-ball lineups, we are committed to strengthening our red-ball cricket and building a formidable test side as well." Ahmad Shah Sulimankhil, the newly appointed interim Chief Selector, said: "The team underwent a two-week preparation camp in Nangarhar followed by a 10-day conditioning camp in Abu Dhabi, which featured all the support staff to work with the players and ensure full preparation for the series. We have thoroughly monitored the camps and have picked the squad which includes several new faces who have excelled well during the recent domestic events." The Test match will be played at the SSC from February 2.



rights holder for the last eight years, but with the sports broadcasting landscape changing rapidly in India, the ACC will need to make decisions on the broadcast rights of the organization. With the Asia Cup being the flagship tournament, ACC rights are considered a valuable asset in world cricket, especially in Asian cricket, and there may be competitive bidding for the tournament. Disney Star had been the

several contenders for hosting, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman. The last Asia Cup was held in a hybrid model, with Pakistan and Sri Lanka jointly hosting the six-team event. There is some confusion about whether the championship can be allotted to Associate members, as there is a clause stating it should be held in a Full Member Asian nation. However, it should be noted that

the UAE had hosted the events a couple of times, in 2018 and 2022, although the designated organizers of the championships were India and Sri Lanka. While the election is not officially on the agenda, it may be discussed during the meeting. Currently, Shah holds the position of the president of the ACC, a role that rotates among full members every two years. Shah is presently in the midst of 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.

All eyes on ACC meet in Bali; next host, media rights, chairman post on agenda

New Delhi: The Annual General Meetings (AGM) of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) will be taking place over the next two days in Bali in Indonesia, and there may be a few important decisions taken during the two-day conclave. The AGM itself is scheduled for Wednesday (January 31), with all members of the continental association including Jay Shah in attendance. All eyes will be on the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary for a variety of factors.

Among a host of issues, the ACC will need to make decisions on the broadcast rights of the organization. With the Asia Cup being the flagship tournament, ACC rights are considered a valuable asset in world cricket, especially in Asian cricket, and there may be competitive bidding for the tournament. Disney Star had been the

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