

Odisha govt to set up Rs 200 crore corpus fund to promote 'Odia Asmita'

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Cabinet Wednesday approved a proposal to create a Rs 200-crore corpus fund to take various initiatives for revival of 'Odia Asmita' and promotion of art, culture and heritage of the state. The fund will be utilised for the establishment of Odisha Asmita Bhawan, Odia translation academy, a world-class palm leaf manuscript museum, development of the Paika rebellion memorial and e-library at the district level, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said.

Setting up Odia chair at

national and international universities, financial assistance for training in Odissi music and dance and development of a cultural troupe management system will also be part of the initiatives, he said. The three-hour-long state Cabinet meeting was chaired by Majhi. "The cabinet decided to create the Rs 200 crore-corpus fund for revival of Odia Asmita and promotion of Odia art, culture, and heritage," he told reporters after the meeting. This was the second meeting of the cabinet of the BJP government



since it assumed office June 12. The state government will also make efforts to get international recognition for the Bali Yatra being held every year in Cuttack.

The Odia language, literature and culture department has been asked to prepare detailed guidelines for the promotion of Odia pride, he said. The Chief Minister said

an expert committee would be formed for the purpose and the corpus fund will be enhanced in future. The Council of Ministers also gave its nod to revise the minimum daily wages of

unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly-skilled labourers in the state. The minimum daily wages for unskilled and highly-skilled workers has been enhanced by Rs 98 while the wages

of semi-skilled and skilled workers have been increased by Rs 108 per day, he said. The daily wages are now in the range of Rs 450 to Rs 600, the Chief Minister said. Majhi said the state government decided to revive 2,065 non-functional lift irrigation projects and strengthen 10,152 old ones with an estimated cost of Rs 1084.38 crore over five years starting this fiscal. These irrigation facilities can cover more than 2.85 lakh hectares of land, he added. Notably, the Odisha School Education

Programme Authority (OSEPA) had issued a notification for the appointment of 20,000 teacher posts. The Orissa High Court had given direction to prepare a merit list based on a computer-based test. As per the direction, a merit list of 18,788 aspirants has been prepared and it was put forth before the cabinet today for its consideration, Majhi said, adding that the School and Mass Education department has been directed to expedite the recruitment process, he added.

'This is not time for war': PM Modi reaffirms India's position on Ukraine conflict in Austria

Vienna(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday said he held 'fruitful discussions' with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer during which they discussed in detail the ongoing disputes in the world, including the Ukraine conflict and situation in West Asia, reaffirming that 'this is not the time for war'. Modi, who arrived here from Moscow after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin Tuesday night on a two-day visit – the first by an Indian prime minister in over 40 years, also said India and Austria identified new possibilities to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and prepared a blueprint for cooperation for the coming decade.

"Chancellor Nehammer and I have discussed in detail the ongoing conflicts around the world, whether it is the conflict in Ukraine or the situation in West Asia. I have said before that this is not a time for war. Problems cannot be solved on the battlefield. The loss of



innocent lives, anywhere, is unacceptable," Modi said in a joint press statement along with Chancellor Nehammer after their talks. He said India and Austria emphasise on dialogue and diplomacy for the earliest possible restoration of peace and stability.

"We are both ready to provide every possible cooperation to achieve this," he said, recalling that the historic Vienna Congress was hosted in the hall where they are standing and that the conference provided direction for peace and stability.

"We had very intensive talks about the Russian aggression against Ukraine. For me as the Federal Chancellor of Austria, it is particularly important to get to know India's assessment and to understand it and to familiarise India with European concerns and worries," said Nehammer, whose country is an ally of Ukraine.

"Moreover, the conflict in the Middle East was a major topic," he added.

During his talks with Putin Tuesday, Prime Minister Modi told him that a solution to the Ukraine conflict is not possible on the battlefield and peace efforts do not succeed amid bombs and bullets.

Nehammer said as a reliable partner, Austria will be available as a site for dialogue, making use of its unique position as a neutral country, a member of the European Union but not a member of NATO. "As such Austria is willing to act as a bridge builder and to contribute towards the achievement of a peaceful solution," he said. Modi said he was happy that he got the opportunity to visit Austria at the very beginning of his third term. "This visit of mine is both historic and special. After 41 years, an Indian Prime Minister has visited Austria. It is also a pleasant coincidence that this visit is taking place as our bilateral relations complete 75 years,"

Modi said. He said shared belief in values such as democracy and the rule of law forms the strong foundation of our relationship. "Mutual trust and shared interests strengthen our ties," he added.

"Today, Chancellor Nehammer and I had very fruitful discussions. We have identified new opportunities to further strengthen our cooperation. We have decided to provide strategic direction to our relationship. A blueprint for cooperation over the coming decades has been prepared. This is not limited to economic cooperation and investment alone,"

Modi said.

"We will work to combine our strengths in areas such as infrastructure development, innovation, renewable energy, hydrogen, water and waste management, artificial intelligence, and quantum technology. To connect the youth and ideas of both countries, the start-up bridge will be accelerated," he said.

Odisha govt approves 26 projects worth Rs 5,992.92 crore

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Odisha government Wednesday approved 26 investment projects worth Rs 5,992.92 crore, which are expected to create employment for more than 19,000 persons, an official statement said.

The State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) led by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja has approved a series of projects across diverse sectors including steel, chemicals, renewable energy, textiles, manufacturing, packaging, food processing, IT, infrastructure and tourism, it said.

These projects will be implemented in 14 districts including



Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Kendujhar, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Jharsuguda, Boudh, Koraput, Balasore, Cuttack, Bhadrak and Puri.

According to the statement, the state government has approved the proposal of GM Iron and Steel Company Limited to establish a 0.23 million

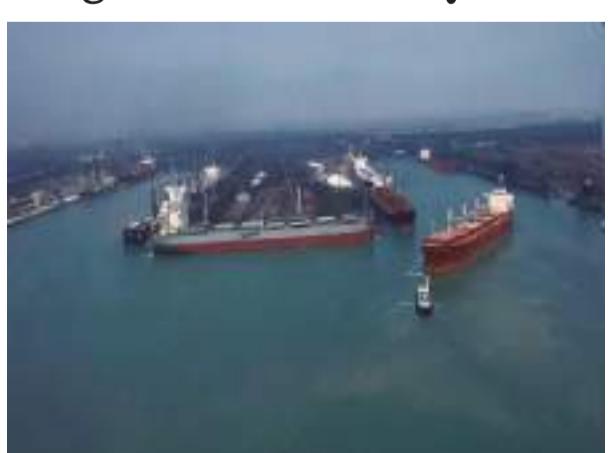
tonne per annum (MTPA) integrated steel plant along with downstream and upstream facilities and a 45 MW captive power plant in Mayurbhanj district with an investment of Rs 745 crore. The proposal of Shyamshakti Metals Pvt Ltd to establish a structural and pipe manufacturing unit in Rengali, Sambalpur, with an investment of Rs 650 crore also got the approval of the government.

Similarly, Shree Ganesh Metaliks Limited has proposed to expand its integrated steel plant in Sundargarh with a projected cost of Rs 604.99 crore, which was also approved by the SLSWCA.

Among other steel projects, the government has approved the proposal of GM Iron and Steel Company Limited to establish a 0.23 million

tonne per annum (MTPA) integrated steel plant along with downstream and upstream facilities and a 45 MW captive power plant in Boudh, with an investment of Rs 351.00 crore while Solisys Solar Pvt Ltd will invest Rs 59.50 crore to establish a manufacturing facility for solar modules in Khurda, the statement said.

Paradip Port handles record 41 million tons cargo in first 100 days of 2024-25



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Paradip Port Authority (PPA) in Odisha has clocked a record 41.12 million metric tons (MMT) cargo handling within the first 100 days of the financial year

2024-25. This outstanding performance sets a new record for the port, reflecting a 4.78 per cent growth compared to the 39.25 MMT achieved during the

same period in 2023-24, said PPA chairman PL Haranadh.

This significant accomplishment underscores the port's critical role in bolstering India's maritime infrastructure and its unwavering commitment to enhancing operational efficiency and capacity. This achievement highlights Paradip Port Authority's ongoing commitment to setting new benchmarks in cargo handling and contributing significantly to the nation's economic growth, he added.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA UNVEILS THE TROPHIES OF DURAND CUP TOURNAMENT



of fans, the excitement of the players and spectators increases

manifold. The President extended her best wishes to all the

players participating in the Durand Cup Tournament 2024. She

told players that whether they win or lose, there should be healthy competition in the game and they should respect other teams. She said that sometimes, there are impulses and passions in the game, but players must try their best to channel their emotions and perform their best in the game. She expressed confidence that all players will play with determination and spirit of sports.

The President urged all football lovers to make efforts to raise the level of football in India.

Music & Dance

Odisha has a glorious tradition of music. The figures or dancers and musicians carved on ancient temple walls, speak of Odisha's rich musical heritage. Odissi Music is a classical form consisting of all the necessary ingredients common to Hindustani and Karnatic Music. Odissi sangita is a synthesis of four classes of music, i.e. dhruvapada, chitrappa, chitrakala and panchal, described in two treatises namely, Sangita Sarani and Sangita Narayana



written in the early 19th century. It owes much to Jayadev, the saint-poet, the great composer and illustrious master of classical music. In sync with the greatest music of Odisha, the Odissi dance is said to be an effort to come

near God and experience true bliss. Therefore, this dance was a legacy kept alive by the devadasis who used to dance to the recitation of hymns and bols of talas. The Odissi dance is evolved from the millennium old dance

form called Mahari that used to be performed at the temple of Lord Jagannath at Puri by devadasi dancers called maharis. Later on, it was promoted as the classical dance form of Odisha. The gurus who raised the dance form to the level of international eminence are late Kavichandra Kalicharan Patnaik, Padma bhusan Kelu Charan Mahapatra, Padmashree Pankaj Charan Das and Deba Prasad Das to name a few

Quotation of the Day

"Either you run the day or the day runs you."

— Jim Rohn.

Gala dance festival held at Jadavpur University, Kolkata



On 29th June 2024, Saturday, the gala international Hamsavahini Festival & Competition was held at the Dr. Triguna Sen auditorium, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. The program was organized by the leading dance academy of Kolkata, the Hamsavahini Kalalayam in association with the Department of Sanskrit, Jadavpur University and the National Service Scheme (NSS)-JU Unit between 10 am to 9 pm. The program highlighted upon numerous presentations by

students across different dance forms. The eminent personalities making presentations include Dr. Rajat Sen, Dean of Students, JU, Dr. Anupam Deb Sarkar, NSS Coordinator, JU, Prof. Ashok Kumar Mahato, HOD, Department of Sanskrit, JU, Prof. Debdas Mondal, Faculty, Department of Sanskrit, JU, Prof. Sraboni Ganguly (Retd), Department of Sanskrit, JU, Prof. Dipak Ghosh, Emiretus Professor, JU, Dr. Tapas Kumar Dey, Social Scientist, National Council of Education and Training, Mr. Gautam Dey, Ex Director, ICCR, Kolkata, Captain (Dr.) Satish Minocha, President, Rotary

Saikat Kumar Basu



superb performance of the participants understand the direction of Dr. Anuradha Roy deserves special mention. Particularly the splendid performance by young performers as young as 4 to 5 years of age was truly spectacular and highly applauded by the supportive audience who stayed almost the entire day to attend the gala program. A classical dance program holds significant cultural, educational, and social value. Here are a few key points achieved from this unique dance festival:

Cultural Preservation: The participants understand the direction of Dr. Anuradha Roy deserves special mention. Particularly the splendid performance by young performers as young as 4 to 5 years of age was truly spectacular and highly applauded by the supportive audience who stayed almost the entire day to attend the gala program.

Physical and Mental Growth: The participants understand the direction of Dr. Anuradha Roy deserves special mention. Particularly the splendid performance by young performers as young as 4 to 5 years of age was truly spectacular and highly applauded by the supportive audience who stayed almost the entire day to attend the gala program.

Promotion of Diversity: The participants understand the direction of Dr. Anuradha Roy deserves special mention. Particularly the splendid performance by young performers as young as 4 to 5 years of age was truly spectacular and highly applauded by the supportive audience who stayed almost the entire day to attend the gala program.

Artistic Expression: The programs offered a platform for dancers to express themselves creatively while maintaining the strict technical and aesthetic standards of the various dance forms.

Emotional and Spiritual Growth: Many classical dance forms are deeply connected to spiritual practices and philosophies, providing dancers and audiences with experiences that promote emotional and spiritual growth.

Education and Discipline: Training in classical dance instills discipline, dedication, and an understanding of historical and cultural contexts. It also develops



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Aditi Rao Hydari: 'Been told I'm fragile like glass'

Actor Aditi Rao Hydari is one of the few actors in Indian film industry who has worked with numerous maestros. She has been a Mani Ratnam heroine as well as a Sanjay Leela Bhansali heroine, both depicting a side to her that had never been explored. In SLB's 'Heeramandi', she plays Bibbo Jaan, a sweet woman whose purpose in life is beyond the walls of Heeramandi. In an exclusive chat with IndiaToday.in, Aditi spoke about being perceived as a 'delicate darling' and her looks being used as an excuse to perhaps not cast her sometimes.

Speaking about how she felt almost liberated playing Bibbo Jaan, Aditi said, "I am perceived in a particular way because of the way I look or the way I am or the parts I have played, usually the fragile, feminine, petite girl. Often people say, 'oh, she will just blow away.' Or 'oh she is like glass, if you touch, she will break.' Today, I own it and I am what I am. It is not a burden for me, but if it is for you, then you need to figure it out. Secondly, my vulnerability is my strength."

Aditi then elaborated on why she feels Bhansali manages to

show women with their flaws, strength and vulnerabilities alike: "I also feel it is also about directors who bring that out in an actor. To have a vision and say that

there are different kinds of strengths. I'm so happy that I lived this life of Bibbo Jaan

because it was literally like 'here is a girl who

is so kind, so feminine, and artistic.'

She sings and dances. She is

celebrated for her beauty, but beneath that, she has this

simmering purpose, courage and

fearlessness. I feel that

fearless belief is so

inspiring, and they are

not mutually exclusive.

You can be both. I

relate to it."

Aditi also spoke about



'silly' things actresses hear for any project they are offered, like 'you are too beautiful'. Responding to it, she shared, "That's so silly. It is somebody's insecurity that is speaking because it is such a silly thing to say about somebody. A person is how they look, but there is more to the person. There

are directors who create very beautiful female characters, and in this case, like Sanjay Bhansali, he doesn't look at a woman as a one-tone character. Bibbo could have been a sweet and obedient girl, but the fact that she has this arc, shows how he looks at women as complete beings."

The actor also

questioned why many in the industry fail to look at an artist as an artist: "I have 100 per cent been told that you are too beautiful for this role. But I am a person. I am a sum total of many things." Aditi quipped, "Also, why is this a problem? You don't tell somebody that 'you act too well'. It doesn't make sense. But that is also being heard now, oh 'that girl is too good an actor, she will outshine the others.' It has not been told to me, but I have heard this as well. It just doesn't make sense. It means your intentions aren't pure."

'Heeramandi' is currently streaming on Netflix. It also features Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Sanjeeda Shaikh, Richa Chadha and Sharmin Segal in pivotal roles.

'Jaanam': Vicky Kaushal, Triptii Dimri exude fiery chemistry in 'Bad Newz' song



The second song from 'Bad Newz,' titled 'Jaanam,' has been released, featuring Vicky Kaushal and Triptii Dimri in a steamy music video. Sung by Vishal Mishra, the track is already making waves.

The second song from 'Bad Newz,' titled 'Jaanam,' has been released. The makers unveiled the track on Tuesday, July 9. Sung by Vishal Mishra, the music video stars Vicky Kaushal and Triptii Dimri. Following the hit release of 'Tauba Tauba,' the first track from 'Bad Newz,' Vicky Kaushal has returned with another song, this time joined by Triptii Dimri.

Vicky Kaushal and Triptii Dimri, the sizzling co-stars of 'Bad Newz,' are heating things up in the new song. Their poolside romance, shower scenes,

and underwater kisses make the duo irresistible in the newly-released teaser.

A fan wrote, "Vicky rocked, Katrina shocked (sic)." Another one praised Vishal Mishra for his vocals and wrote, "Vishal mishra is so underrated he deserves more appreciation. he

sung so many hits like aaj bhi, pehle bhi main, dilon ki dooriyan etc (sic)."

Previously titled 'Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam', 'Bad Newz' will see Vicky Kaushal, Triptii Dimri and Ammy Virk team up for the first time. Directed by Anand Tiwari, the film also stars Neha Dhupia.

The film is backed by

Dharma Productions and produced by Hiroo Yash Johar, Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Amritpal Singh Bindra and Anand Tiwari. It is written by Ishita Moitra and Tarun Dubeja. 'Bad Newz' will release on July 19.

Neha Dhupia.

The film is backed by

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'Bad Newz' will release on July 19.

The film is backed by

LIP CARE DURING MONSOON



Tensed about your dry or chapped lips?

Cool breeze, the aroma of soil, mesmerizing sight, and melodious sounds altogether take you to a magical world when it drizzles. As the droplets of the first monsoon rain hit the earth, the moisture content in the atmosphere also rises. While dancing in the rain is delightful, monsoon's moisture-rich air can be harsh on delicate lip skin. Lips are susceptible to drying and chapping due to frequent rain exposure and excess humidity.

The barrier function of our skin gets affected during humid and hot weather and it increases Transepidermal Water Loss (TEWL), which leads to dry pale-looking lips.

To help you navigate through the rainy season with supple and soft lips, here are some essential monsoon lip care tips:

1---Exfoliation ----

Exfoliation is key to maintaining a radiant complexion year-round, but it's crucial during monsoon to make sure the lip balm can penetrate deeper and nourish your lips. Get hold of a herbal scrub for lips, clean your lips and exfoliate to remove dead skin cells. Mix 1 tablespoon olive oil and 1 tablespoon brown sugar in a glass jar. Now add 1/2 tablespoon of Vaseline Petroleum Jelly. Mix well and your lip scrub is ready. Keep it in a closed container in the refrigerator. Take a cotton pad and wet it with some micellar water to remove any traces of lipstick or lip gloss. Now take a dime-sized amount of this DIY lip scrub and gently rub it until you feel some of the sugar dissolving. Once done, wipe off the remaining scrub on your lips with soft tissue paper and then wash with lukewarm water.

Do not use any harsh bristles/ toothbrush to scrub your lips. Always use your fingertips and

Mix well one tbsp brown sugar and 1 tbsp honey in a glass jar. Apply this on your lips and rub in circular motions for few minutes, and gently wipe off with fresh water.

After gently exfoliating your lips, seal in the moisture with a lip balm, which will lock in the moisture instantaneously.

Exfoliation not only removes dead skin but also improves blood circulation to your lips, making them appear more plump and healthy.

Exfoliate your scrub once a week resulting in a smoother lipstick application and more pleasant lips.

To exfoliate lips the right way, one must exfoliate the lips in a circular motion with their fingertips.

Apart from soothing your lips, they also serve as a wonderful basis, or lip primer, before applying your favourite lipstick. It produces an equal base and smoothes out tiny wrinkles on the lips.

Do not use any harsh bristles/ toothbrush to scrub your lips. Always use your fingertips and

massage the lips in circular motions to get rid of dead cells.

2---Lip Sleeping Mask-----

Attaining beauty while sleeping is the best thing you can do to obtain softer lips.

A lip mask is a gel mask that is worn on your lips for a set period. The purpose of a lip mask is to hydrate your lips, which also makes them look fuller and plumper.

They work similarly to

lip balm but are easier to apply, more intensive, and last longer.

With its hydrating formula, the sleeping mask locks in moisture prevents dehydration and ensures that your skin stays plump and supple throughout the night.

After cleansing and toning your face, apply a generous layer of the mask and let it work its magic overnight. Wake up to a fresh and glowing complexion, ready to face the day ahead.

The Lip Sleeping Mask delivers overnight results and

Shahnaz Hussain

gradually softens your lips with continuous use.

Some people have found that lip masks work in conditions where regular lip balm simply cannot keep up. Lip masks can also work out cheaper than constantly applying balm.

Lip masks prevent drying out and chapping of lips, during the monsoon.

They also help make your lips look plumper, especially right after using the mask, and in a more natural way than lip liner.

They can help reduce signs of ageing that come from the skin on your lips getting thinner.

Choose a mask made

from breathable materials to prevent irritation and ensure proper hygiene by regularly cleaning it.

This is why it's best done

as the last step before bed.

It's also important

not to lick your lips or

press them together too

much.

An overnight lip

treatment with humectant

and emollient properties

provides the ultimate

hydration to your lips.

Be sure not to touch your

lips after applying the treatment. Drinking or eating can take the overnight lip treatment off.

3---Lip balms

Lip balm is a cream that is used to keep the lips soft or to help sore lips feel better. Lip balm hydrates and protects lips with a nutrient-rich formula that prevents dryness, bleeding, cracking, and irritation.

Lip balms can be scented, flavoured, or natural depending on the ingredients.

Lip balms have a wax-like consistency which relieves chapped or dry lips as well as restores moisture.

It helps shield your lips from dry air, wind, and especially cold temperatures..

Add lip balm to your skincare routine to moisturise your lips.

Apply it before bed for overnight moisturisation.

Put lip balm in your bag for the daytime, and apply it after every meal.

They are easy to carry

and allow you to

instantly add moisture

while on the go. Also, avoid chemical-based or tinted lip balm for better protection.

Always choose

lip balms that are

petroleum-free,

paraben-free, GMO-

free and cruelty-free.

This will improve blood circulation and give you natural pink colours.

Your lips need to be hydrated from the inside too. Add plenty of water, juice and fruits to your diet. They help you keep hydrated.

When you're hydrated, your skin cells plump up and give the skin protein to maintain strength and elasticity. Hydration slows the protein breakdown process and protects the skin's natural moisture from UV damage.

Lips lack oil glands, which makes them more prone to drying out and chapping than the rest of your skin, that's why they need extra care. To aid this issue, we should moisturize the lips after exfoliating. Use Shea butter, cocoa butter, and Vitamin E-infused lip balms.

Apply a nourishing and moisturizing lip balm

made with the goodness of ingredients like Shea butter, Beeswax, and Coconut oil before you step out of your home. Lip balms with olive oil, and coconut oils are also available in the market which is also good. This will improve blood circulation and give you natural pink colours.

Your lips need to be hydrated from the inside too. Add plenty of water, juice and fruits to your diet. They help you keep hydrated.

When you're hydrated, your skin cells plump up and give the skin protein to maintain strength and elasticity. Hydration slows the protein breakdown process and protects the skin's natural moisture from UV damage. To stay hydrated, try drinking fruit, fresh lemon, ginger, tulsi, and other herbal teas. Make sure not to consume drinks like alcohol or caffeine that make you dehydrated.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

The Pir panjal Dilemma

Rahul Bharatbhusan Kamble



A Bullet ridden camouflaged olive green Tata truck stand on a deserted road in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir having just witnessed a dastardly ambush by terrorists which claimed lives of 5 soldiers in it. This comes a day after Six terrorists were killed, and two Army soldiers lost their lives during an encounter in Kulgam district, south Kashmir, on Saturday afternoon. The attack on the convoy in Kathua, located close to Punjab border, and also the preceding timeline of terror attacks, has sent alarm bells ringing across the top brass. Once written off from terrorism, the general area South to Pir panjal is seeming to have the wheel turning a full circle.

The Pir Panjal range, a cluster of lower mountains in the Western Himalayas, extends from the Neelum River in western Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, through southwestern J&K, to the Upper Beas River in northwestern Himachal Pradesh. In Jammu, it stretches from Poonch in the west to Doda in the East. It creates a natural boundary that separates the Kashmir Valley from the plains of Jammu. Historically, this range has served as a natural

defense and a cultural divider between different ethnic groups and communities inhabiting the region. For several reasons, areas west of Pir Panjal have mostly been peaceful. The nomadic tribes are ethnically different from Kashmiris and have seldom displayed disaffection with the policies of the Indian government. Indeed, they vote with their feet, turning out in large numbers in every election. The remaining populace of the belt, too, has seldom exhibited the sparks of rebellion that characterised some of the areas of Kashmir valley. During the partition of India in 1947, the Pir Panjal range also became a critical factor in the political and security landscape of the region. It influenced migration patterns, communal tensions, and eventually became a route for infiltration and terrorist activities in the decades that followed.

Historically, the Rajouri-Poonch part of J&K was treated as a transit point as the proximity of the LoC made the intrusions into the Rajouri-Poonch area relatively easier vis a vis the Valley. After infiltrating through the LoC, terrorists could rest for a few days before completing the foray into the Valley by crossing the Pir Panjal range.

The contrast of fatalities suffered by security forces in the past few years tells us a story: between October 2021 and April 2023, 6 army personnel lost their lives in Kashmir, while the figures for the same period in the Poonch Rajouri belt stood at 21. The unfortunate sequence continued with several high-profile violent incidents. In April 23, five

soldiers lost their lives when their convoy was attacked in an ambush, a rare phenomenon. In August, three soldiers of the Rashtriya Rifles died in an anti-terrorist operation in the forests of Halan. In September, two army officers (including a Commanding officer, Col Manpreet Singh) and DSP Humayun Muzzamil Bhatt were killed in the Garol forest in Kokernag. This was followed by a long-drawn cordon and search operation ending in the third week of the same month. In November, two army Captains and two soldiers were killed during an operation in the Gulabgarh area near Kalakote; the terrorists were hiding in the graziers huts. A terrorist attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi, on the day PM Modi and his council of ministers were being sworn-in in Delhi, claimed nine lives. In June, three terrorists were neutralized in Bhaderwah sector of district Doda in Jammu.

One can also point to another moot point – the redeployment of some formations to Eastern Ladakh in 2020 following the outbreak of skirmishes with China. Removing these troops possibly opened up voids, making militant strikes somewhat easier. It is important to note that this region was quieter when the decision was made to move formations, including a Rashtriya rifles unit (an anti-terrorist force) to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. It is fair to conclude that the

Supremos of the militants would have taken the decision to up the ante when the newly opened-up spaces became visible. An evil hand-in-glove intent can also be not ruled out with the Dragon up in Beijing trying to flare things south. Also, there looms a pertinent pattern to be noted. The outfits are deliberately keeping the casualty count below the threshold so as to avoid a 2016 Uri-type cross border response or another Balakot. They seem to be having a preconceived notion that only a significant casualty count could trigger an incisive response.

With terrorists finding it extremely difficult to carry out major strikes in Kashmir Valley due to alertness of security forces, Islamabad appears to be in the process of shifting the pivot of its sponsored terrorist activities to areas that are less guarded. First it was the Rajouri-Poonch area, and now it's come down to the Jammu region. So, the message is loud and clear – come what may, the Pakistan army will not stop its ongoing proxy war and will move heaven and earth to keep the pot boiling. Hence there's a crying need to accept this reality and not only brace up to boldly face this predicament, but also actively explore the institution of dissuasive measures as well as effective forms of retribution including those in the grey zone domain.

The Author is a dentist from mumbai and also a freelancer writer on National security , geopolitics

Letter to Editor

Sir

Cricket, no doubt is a religion in India and the fever and fervour cricket lovers get from the game is just astounding. The mass victory parade in Mumbai for our T20 World Champions stands a testimony to this. The BCCI has done its level best all these years and their efforts to mould a strong team with excellent players finally paid off well.

Now when it comes to soccer, though we have millions of fans and clubs and hundreds of tournaments conducted why are we not able to qualify for major world Championships? India did have a golden period in the game way back in the 1950s and 60s. Indian teams participated in Olympics during this period and India's best appearance was at the 1956 Summer Olympics where its team reached the semi-finals, something, the new generation may find hard to believe! we also have been champions many times in the Asian region.

Are Indian soccer fans destined only to watch FIFA World Cup, COPA, EURO and other tournaments mouth drooling and supporting foreign nations rather than ours? Are not we yearning too to see our team – very much made in India- making its way into world class tournaments and making us proud! Can't we create a team with eleven players from a nation of 140 crore citizens!

When nations like Croatia and Morocco with a population that matches lesser than the population of any Indian state is able to produce world class players then why can't we? The answer is with us, definitely. Give importance to football too. The football passion found in just a few states like Kerala, Bengal, Goa and the North East should be made a 'pan Indian passion'. The board controlling soccer should be completely revamped sans political interference, and made very active and energetic like the BCCI.

A complete football eco-system starting from schools and colleges can help spot very good players who should be given chance at the district and state levels and finally the national team. Like the IPL of cricket the ISL should give opportunities for our youth to show their talent.

State federations should be strengthened. Football should be brought to the grass roots level. Developing basic infrastructure like more academies, recruiting more coaches and timely scheduled league tournaments can help better the soccer aura.

Maybe in future as we proudly produced legends like Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil, Sachin, Dhoni, Virat and Rohit we may have our own Indian Messi, Ronaldo, Neymar and Mbappe, time is not far away but we have to begin now.

**M PRADYU
KANNUR**

Sir,

Budget expectations

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget for fiscal 2024-25 should prioritize: Amending section 80C of the Income Tax Act to increase the limit on insurance premium payments, encourages wider adoption of insurance products among individuals. Targeted tax relief for lower-income taxpayers will boost consumer spending. Expanding PLI schemes in sectors like textiles, handicrafts, electronics, auto, and semiconductors to stimulate employment and industrial growth. Investing in digital infrastructure and skill development to enhance MSMEs' productivity and global competitiveness. Promoting contract farming, upgrading infrastructure, and diversifying into high-value crops to increase agricultural productivity and income for farmers. These measures will definitely drive economic growth, create jobs, and foster inclusive development across sectors.

**Dr. Vijaykumar H K
Raichur**

America's Rhodes Island Hosts Car Festival

Rhodes Island, (KCN): The smallest state of U.S.A; Rhodes Island celebrated the biggest Festival of the Lord of the Universe, Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra, with spectacular fanfare and spiritual fervour. The Lords' abode at Sri Siddhi Vinayak Temple at Warwick, was elaborately and elegantly decorated befitting to the Grand Occasion. The day of the Seventh edition of Car Festival here began with the performance of special religious rituals like Mangala Arati and homa in front of the Four Deities in the morning by the priest Somnath Shastri. At about 11.30 a.m. the Idols were taken in Dhadi Pahandi procession by the servitors and spectators to

the colourfully decorated chariot parked in front of the Temple. Floral ornamentation of Deities and Chariot were aesthetically and immaculately done by Padmini Panda and Jyotirmayee Routroy. The entire atmosphere got reverberated with the chanting of hymns, roaring of slogans like Hari Bol and Jai Jagannath, blowing of conch and playing of musical instruments such as Ghanta, Mardala, Jhanja and Mrudanga. The splendid scene of Goddess Subhadra being carried in a swinging mode to the Chariot by exclusively lady worshippers was momentous and

memorable. Unusual interest, unexpected enthusiasm and unprecedented excitements were visible among the Odia and Non Odia devotees gathered here along with their friends, family and relatives to take part in the Chariot pulling ceremony. People from far flung places like Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts also descended at the Festival site in large numbers to have a holy glimpse of Trinity atop the Chariot and earn lifetime fortune and prosperity. Social Leader Bibhuti Bhushan Routroy conducted the traditional service of sweeping in front of the chariot called



Chherra Pahanra. With the rendering of Bhajans and Kirtans, the Ghosha Yatra commenced at 1.00 p.m. The Chariot was pulled till 1 Km in the outskirt of the Sri Siddhi Vinayak mandir compound and then taken back to the premises of the Temple. The auspicious sight of the Four Deities on board the Royal Chariot during their majestic sojourn on the streets of Warwick was just amazing and viewer's delight. After coming back from the Yatra, the Deities were offered delicious Prasad prepared in the style of Ananda Bazar of Puri, which was later paraded by the devotees gathered. This year's Car Festival

witnessed an outstanding Cultural extravaganza consisting of soul soothing rendition of Bhajans by Sourya Mishra, Pragyan Behera, Sunil Kumar Dooda and Preeti Priyadarshini, presentations of prolific semi classical dance performance by Hezal Sonali Sunny Zaveri and recital of scintillating Odissi Dance choreographies in front of the Chariot by Akanksha Pattnaik. The cultural session was ably coordinated and moderated by Pankaj Panda and Archana Yadav. The entire arrangements of Rath Yatra was well organized and smoothly executed with the overall guidance by World

D5 MOTORCYCLE EXPEDITION TO COMMEMORATE 25TH YEAR OF KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS



Srinagar, (KCN): The Indian Army proudly announces the successful accomplishment of a motorcycle expedition to commemorate Rajat Jayanti of Kargil Vijay Diwas. This expedition was organized as a prelude to the Rajat Jayanthi Kargil Vijay Diwas celebration. Indian Army personnel from across the nation embarked on a journey to remember the valour of our brave

soldiers.

The expedition aimed to pay homage to Veer Naris, Kargil Awardees and Veterans and also organized several events at various locations along the entire route. Motorcycle Teams from different regions of the country converged at National War Memorial, New Delhi before flagged off by COAS on two separate routes to

Dras. One route led from New Delhi through Jammu via Zozila to Dras, while the other passed through Chandigarh, Nothing Pass and Leh before reaching Dras.

The highlight of the expedition was the Flagging-In-ceremony at the Kargil War Memorial, where the teams were honoured by distinguished Chief Guest, General Officer Commanding-In-Chief, Northern Command at Kargil War Memorial as a tribute to Kargil War Heroes and interacted with the war veterans and Veer Naris. This expedition not only commemorated the sacrifices of our brave soldiers but also symbolized the spirit of unity and resilience of the Indian Army.



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): As a part of Employees/ Workers' participation in Management, East Coast Railway (ECoR) organized a PREM (Participation of Railway Employees in Management) meeting today at ECoR Headquarters, Rail Sadan. The meeting witnessed active participation from representatives of recognized Trade Unions, and other associations. The concept of PREM meetings is unique to the Railways and stands as a testament to the vibrant and mature industrial relations within the organization. ECoR General Manager, Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, chaired the meeting, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in enhancing railway operations. An exhaustive deliberation on assessing the use of Artificial Intelligence in various operational areas in the railway system was held. The meeting was also attended by Additional General Manager, Shri Mohes Kumar Behera, along with the Principal Heads of Departments of ECoR. The event was coordinated by Deputy General Manager, Shri Kaushalendra K. Khadanga.

Australian Capital Canberra Hosts Car Festival



Canberra, (KCN): The Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Canberra hosted 14th Car Festival of Lord Jagannath with Pomp, Splendour and much fanfare. The Celebration was organised by Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre at Florey in association with the local Odia Communities and Canberra chapter of Hindu Council of Australia. Special religious rituals like Sankalp Puja and Mangala Arati were performed before the Four Deities at the Hindu Temple located at 81, Ratcliffe Crescent around dawn for the first time in the history of Australian Rathayatra by three Priests Acharya Prakash Pandey, Pandit Pradeep Bhatt and Pandit Anup Jani. The Temple was aesthetically and elegantly decorated befitting to the auspicious occasion. This year tremendous enthusiasms and unprecedented excitements were witnessed among the 2000 devotees gathered on in swinging manner to the Chariot by exclusively Lady members was momentous and memorable. Senior Community leaders Kanti Jinna, Prakash Mehta and Basu Banka

conducted the traditional sweeping in front of the chariot called Chherra Pahanra. With the recitals of hymns, roaring of slogans like Hari Bol and Jai Jagannath, sounding of Hulahuli and playing of musical instruments like Ghanta, Kartala, Mardala, Jhanja and Mrudanga, the chariot pulling started at around 11.00 a.m. The Royal chariot with Four Deities on board had a majestic sojourn on the street of Florey for 3 KM and was then pulled back to the temple premises. Representatives of all the Hindu Temples situated in Canberra and local Community Organisations actively supported and participated in the Rath Yatra. Prasad was prepared by devotees from ISKCON Temple with the help of volunteers from Canberra Odia community.

ICAR-CIFRI Awards Progressive Fish Farmers of India on National Fish Farmers Day



Barrackpore, (KCN): ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), a premier research Institute in the inland fisheries sector celebrated "National Fish Farmers Day-2024" at its Headquarters, Barrackpore, Kolkata today. The 'National Fish Farmers' day is being fervently celebrated on July 10 every year to commemorate the stupendous achievement of induced breeding technique, which is contemplated as the torchbearer of 'First Blue Revolution' in India. Prof. Hiralal Chaudhary and his dedicated team pioneered the 'Induced Breeding technique which was successfully developed in Angul Fish Farm at Cuttack, Odisha on July 10, 1957 under the then Central Inland Fisheries Research Station, presently known as ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI), Barrackpore.

Currently, fishery is a fast-growing sector in India, exhibiting an average annual growth of 8.8% in the year 2023-24. The sector has achieved a

record fish production of 17.54 million tonnes (mt) in FY 2023-24 from meagre 0.7 mt in 1950-51, making India the second-largest fish-producing country in the world approaching towards achieving Second Blue revolution by 2025 onwards targeting a production of 22.0 mt. This accounts for 8% of the global production, contributing about 1.09% to the country's GDP and more than 7.01% to the agricultural GDP.

The current research of ICAR-CIFRI focused on improving productivity of medium and large reservoirs, wetlands, establishing river restoration

protocols, addressing sustainable development goals (SDGs) targeting livelihood of fishers, nutritional security, conservation of fish fauna, etc. and determining environmental flow requirements for open water fisheries.

ICAR-CIFRI solemnly observed "National Fish Farmers Day-2024" like every year today at its headquarters at Barrackpore in the august presence of Shri Biplob Roy Chowdhury, Minister of Department of Fisheries, Govt of West Bengal and Shri Gabriel D. Wangsu, Minister, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary & Fisheries.

The programme was initiated with floral tribute to Dr. Hiralal Choudhury. The primary goal of celebrating National Fish

Farmers' Day is to increase public awareness of technologies that are beneficial to the stakeholders in the fisheries sector. Shri Wangsu, the minister of Arunachal Pradesh expressed his satisfaction over the CIFRI activities in re-shaping the fisheries sector in his State benefiting agrarian communities. The awardee farmers should percolate their knowledge and experiences to the stakeholders enabling others to uplift their livelihood means as suggested by Dr B K Das, Director of the Institute, he pointed out. Huge unexplored potentials remain in this sector which should be tapped judiciously by the stakeholders, Dr Das reiterated. Observing such a day dedicated to the fish farming communities bringing together scientists, fish farmers, researchers, entrepreneurs and policymakers leading to further prospering the inland fisheries sector ensuring economic growth, livelihood support, nutritional security towards Viksit Bharat in the days to come.

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar, Odisha signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL) on 10th July 2024. The MoU was signed by Mr. Biswaranjan Pattanaik, Director, HR on behalf of AVNL and Dr. Prashanta Ku. Routray, Registrar, KISS-DU on behalf of KISS in the presence of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS. AVNL is a Government of India enterprise under Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence. As per the MoU, both organizations will jointly work on a research park and incubation cell,

consultancy, advisory, education, community outreach and social responsibility projects, skill development programmes, collaborative research and sponsorship of research scholars, and short-term training programmes. AVNL will provide scholarships for the research period (not exceeding 4 years), aligned with government of India schemes for doctoral degree students. KISS and AVNL personnel can jointly or individually offer short-term training programmes lasting between one to two weeks to benefit students of KISS as well as AVNL employees. Among others Ranjan Kumar Bal, General Manager, HR AVNL Co; Prof. Deepak Kumar Behera, Vice Chancellor, KISS-DU; Prof. Saranjit Singh, VC, KIIT-DU were also present.

doctoral degree students. KISS and AVNL personnel can jointly or individually offer short-term training programmes lasting between one to two weeks to benefit students of KISS as well as AVNL employees. Among others Ranjan Kumar Bal, General Manager, HR AVNL Co; Prof. Deepak Kumar Behera, Vice Chancellor, KISS-DU; Prof. Saranjit Singh, VC, KIIT-DU were also present.

New Delhi's Hauz Khas Temple Celebrates Car Festival

New Delhi, (KCN): 46th Rath Yatra Festival celebrated at the main Jagannath Temple of the National capital region at Hauz Khas Village in New Delhi amidst spectacular fanfare and spiritual fervour. Commencing from the wee hours of the day all the religious rituals have been performed in front of the Deities in a pious and solemn atmosphere. Unusual enthusiasms and unprecedented excitements were witnessed among the 50,000 strong Odia and non Odia spectators gathered here alongwith their family members from Delhi and nearby areas to take part in the Grand Ceremony. The

Temple Management Committee did elaborate arrangements to maintain discipline and decorum during the occasion. At around 12.30 p.m. in the afternoon the Four Deities were taken in Dhadi Pahandi procession to the colourfully decorated chariot stationed at the Grand Road in front of the temple. The entire atmosphere got reverberated with the recitals of hymns, roaring of slogans like Haribol and Jai Jagannath, sounding of Huluhuli, blowing of conch and playing of musical instruments such as Ghanta, Kartala, Mardala, Jhanja and Mrudanga by



the devotees. Chief Guest Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhwat undertook the traditional service of sweeping in front of the Chariot called 'Chherapahanra'.

Other dignitaries present during the occasion were Former Secretary of the Temple Committee Duryodhan Pradhan, Director General of IMD Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, local

MLA Somnath Bharati, Dr S.K.Jena, Dr Raghab Dash, Kedarnath Tripathy and Suraj Nayak. The chariot pulling commenced at around

2.30 p.m. in afternoon. The colourful Royal Chariot carrying the Four Deities on board was pulled from Hauz Khas Village Road till 2.5 K.M. away to Ansari Nagar via Shri Aurobindo Marg and then taken back to temple premises in the evening. The scenes of long lining up of devotees in both sides of the Yatra route to have an auspicious glimpse of the Lord of the Universe, were overwhelming. The acts of throwing of flowers towards the Idols by bystanders and breaking of coconuts in the sidewall of Chariot were just memorable and

mesmerising. After coming back the Deities remained on the chariot for public viewing. In the late night all the four deities were taken in a procession to the makeshift aunt house at the basement of the temple. The Idols will be worshipped at the podium in the Aunt's House till the Bahuda Yatra on 15th July 2024 as per the information of Temple sources. The entire arrangements were well managed and smoothly conducted by the office bearers and members of Temple Managing Committee, which include President Bighneshwar Rout,



"Raseshwar Saikia Barbayan Sattriya Bota (Award)" of Assam presented



Kolkata, (PARtha Roy): Assam's one of the most prestigious honour in the area of Dance, Music, Bhabona 16th Raseshwar Saikia Barbayan Sattriya Bota (Award) 2024 was presented to Professor Dr. Mahua Mukherjee and Shri Premo Ozah Borbayan on 8th July, 2024 at Sri Sri Madhabadeva International Auditorium, Srimanta

Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati, Assam. This coveted award is given to persons who have dedicated their life for all round development of Sattriya Culture and Indian Art and Cultural Traditions. The Award consists of a citation, a set of angabastra and a cash purse. The award was presented by Sangeet

Sattra, Guwahati. Raseshwar Saikia Barbayan was founder Principal of Sangeet Sattriya and a legend of his time in area of Dance, Music, Bhabona and rich cultural traditions of Assam. Prof. Dr. Mahua Mukhopadhyay discovered and revived Gaudiya Nritya, original dance form of Bengal which used to be performed several centuries ago but lost in time. Prof. Mahua Mukhopadhyay popularized Gaudiya Nritya across the world including USA, UK, China and other nations. Sangeet Sattriya organised 16th Raseshwar Saikia Barbayan Sattriya Award and 56th Annual Festival of Dance & Music from 8th to 10th July 2024 in Guwahati.

NOIDA Jagannath Temple Hosts Car Festival

Noida, (KCN): The Jagannath Temple at Garhi Choukhandi in sector 121 of Noida celebrated Annual Car Festival with spectacular fanfare and spiritual fervour. Around 5,000 devotees alongwith their family members gathered here to witness the Grand Religious Ceremony. At 5.00 a.m. in the dawn Mangala Arati was performed before the deities in the Temple. The establishment of Chariot and other related rituals were performed at around 11.00 a.m. The Idols were offered 56 types of Bhogs, specially prepared for the occasion at noon. The Mahaprasad was distributed among the visitors at 1.30 p.m. Special arrangements were made by the Temple Management Committee Shree Jagannath Samiti under the able and active stewardship of General Secretary renowned Chartered Accountant Dr Manoranjan Mohanty

to maintain discipline and decorum during the Mega Event. The Pahandi Bije of all Four Deities to the 24ft High colourfully decorated chariot being conducted by servitors started around 2 p.m. The entire atmosphere got reverberated with the recitals of hymns, roaring of slogans like Haribol and Jai Jagannath, sounding of Huluhuli, blowing of conch and playing of musical instruments such as Ghanta, Kartala, Mardala, Jhanja and Mrudanga by the devotees. The traditional service of sweeping in front of the

Rajya Sabha M.P. Surender Nagar, Chairman of the U.P. Council of Agricultural Research Capt. Vikash Gupta and Former Minister Nabab Singh Nagar. The Royal Chariot having Four Deities on Board were pulled by devotees till 3 k.m. to the Aunt's House located at Baba Balaknath Temple in Sector 71 of Noida. The Chariot reached their in the evening. The emotional scene of devotees earning lots of fortune by sheer having a holy glimpse of Lord of the Universe atop the Chariot was just mesmerizing and memorable. At Baba Balaknath Temple, the Idols were taken in a procession to the Aunt's house and were placed in the special podium in night. The Gods and Goddess will be worshipped here till the Bahuda Yatra on 15th July 2024 as per the information of Temple sources.



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Amazon India signs an MoU with the Indian Coast Guard to create work opportunities for ex-service personnel

Bhubaneswar: Amazon India today signed an MoU with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), under Ministry of Defence, to provide ex-service personnel with work opportunities across the company, in line with its commitment towards an inclusive workplace.

At Amazon India, there has been a consistent focus on diversity, equity and inclusion in its workforce where unique perspectives are valued and welcomed. The company fosters a culture that is conducive to growth and offers people equal opportunities to unlock their full potential while empowering them to do more. The company's commitment on providing

equal access to opportunities and resources cuts across all communities of talent including focused efforts around women, LGBTQIA+, military veterans and the differently abled, amongst others from different backgrounds, demographics, and social strata, to enable them to expand their horizons. Over the last few years, Amazon India has launched multiple initiatives to bring diversity, equity, and inclusion into the workforce.

In August 2019, Amazon India launched a Military Veterans Employment program to create hundreds of opportunities for military veterans and their



spouses across the company's fulfilment network, across India. This was done in partnership with the Army Welfare Placement

Organization (AWPO) to create continued work opportunities for military veterans and their families across India. More recently, Amazon

India further strengthened its commitment to provide ex-service personnel with work opportunities across its growing operations

network in India by renewing its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Directorate General Resettlement

(DGR). This MoU with the DGR enables Amazon India to mobilize the untapped potential of veterans, giving it access to a greater talent pipeline. "At Amazon, we are very humbled to build further on our efforts to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion at our workplace. Due to the deep appreciation of the wealth of experience and unique perspective of ex-service personnel, Amazon runs the Military Veterans Employment Programme globally. With the signing of this MoU, we are excited to work with the Indian Coast Guard towards a significant milestone as we unite in the pursuit of a shared objective: fostering meaningful career paths for ex-service personnel from the Indian Coast Guard."

experience of military veterans, who are an incomparable addition to Amazon." said Deepa Varma, VP, People Experience Technology, Amazon India, Japan & Emerging Markets. The Indian Coast Guard, said, "The vast experience our veterans possess can be leveraged for tremendous success across diverse industries and businesses. Amazon India has taken proactive steps in offering employment opportunities to military veterans. This MoU marks a significant milestone as we unite in the pursuit of a shared objective: fostering meaningful career paths for ex-service personnel from the Indian Coast Guard."

SpiceJet and Axis Bank launch co-branded credit card

GURUGRAM: SpiceJet, the country's favourite airline and Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, have partnered to launch the most rewarding co-branded credit card, powered by Visa that will offer a host of privileges and benefits to customers. The card comes in two variants – SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black, and is aimed at facilitating a superlative travel experience for flyers through SpiceClub, the first frequent flyer program by a low cost carrier in India.

Through this collaboration, the two

brands hope to capitalize on the resurgent demand for travel following two years of stagnation caused by the pandemic. Further, with the shared goal of expanding their reach to Tier 2 & 3 cities and other synergies, the brands are committed to serving a much larger population.

SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage & Voyage Black credit cards were officially launched at Indira Gandhi International airport in the presence of Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD, SpiceJet and Amitabh Chaudhary, MD & CEO, Axis Bank, where they unveiled a special

SpiceJet-Axis Bank credit card livery on a SpiceJet Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

The products are designed to enable customers use the rewards earned on their daily spends for booking flights and add-ons, thus encouraging both travel and digital payments embedded with benefits of SpiceJet's frequent flyer program, SpiceClub.

Customers can earn benefits up to 7% on the Voyage Black credit card which is a Top-tier offering in the travel credit card segment. In addition, the redemption of earned points does not

have any limitations on blackout dates, festival demand, and are on first-come basis. Cardholders would get exclusive SpiceClub membership with direct entry in either Silver or Gold tiers, and special benefits like complimentary or discounted travel add-ons, priority check-in, SpiceMax upgrade, preferred seat selection, complimentary meal etc.

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I am delighted to announce the launch of the SpiceJet-Axis Bank co-branded Credit Card. This card will make every customer journey an even

more rewarding one. We are the pioneers of the frequent flyer program for budget airlines in the country and this partnership with Axis Bank significantly strengthens the value offering of SpiceClub. Our association with Axis Bank – founded on the shared vision to offer unparalleled customer experience – is yet another innovative step towards creating a world class travel experience. I hope to see our customers enjoying the benefits of this rewarding collaboration as much as they love to fly with us."

JSW Infrastructure begins commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Terminal in Odisha

Paradip/ Bhubaneswar : JSW Infrastructure, India's leading ports company and part of US\$ 13 billion JSW Group, has begun commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Coal Terminal in Odisha. This is a fully-mechanized terminal at Paradip Port Trust with an annual coal handling capacity of 30 million tons. The coal terminal has been built as a cape compliant terminal and will handle capesize vessels once the dredging at Paradip Port is completed. The terminal has capacity to unload 25 rakes per day and can load two vessels simultaneously. The infrastructure of the terminal is built to ensure higher productivity while reducing overall logistics cost to power producers.

The company has invested approximately Rs 1,300 crore to establish this terminal at Paradip Port. Paradip Port Trust awarded JSW Infrastructure to develop a fully-mechanized coal terminal on Build, Operate & Transfer basis for 30 years. Following the commissioning of this coal terminal, JSW Infrastructure's current cargo capacity crosses 150 MTPA. It aims to have a total cargo handling capacity of 200 MTPA by FY24.

Commenting on its coal terminal at Paradip, Mr. Arun Maheshwari, Joint MD & CEO of JSW Infrastructure said, "Paradip Port continues to be an attractive sea route for coal movement. With the commissioning of this terminal, India can now offer

cape size shipments with efficient operations. During the last few months, steam coal prices globally have witnessed sharp increase forcing thermal power plants and other coal based industry to switch to domestic coal. Start of this coal terminal has come at the right time to fill up the demand gap of domestic coal. Through high productivity and larger shipment size, we hope to reduce overall logistics costs for our coal cargo customers. As the country pursues PM's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, the total thermal coal demand in India is expected to remain strong and our endeavor would be to maximize fulfilment of domestic producers.

Bhubaneswar : Sony India today announced the launch of BRAVIA 32W830K television with attractive picture quality and life like sound. The all-new 80 cm (32) HD ready Google TV lets you enjoy movies, games and shows from apps or broadcast in an instant with advanced voice controls and built-in Chromecast.

Now seamlessly integrate Google TV and bring together more than 700,000 movies, shows, live TV and more from apps and subscriptions and organize seamlessly. With BRAVIA 32W830K, browse content from across your apps, intelligently organized just for you. Customers can easily find something to watch with personalized recommendations and bookmark shows and movies by adding a watchlist from phone and watch it on TV to keep track of what to watch. Users can even add to their Watchlist from their phone or laptop with Google Search and find everything in one place. BRAVIA 32W830K supports Apple Home Kit and AirPlay that seamlessly integrates Apple devices like iPads and iPhones with the TV for effortless content streaming. Easily control your TV with Hands-free voice capabilities. The hands-free voice control is built into the TV, no need to reach for the remote every time to search for entertainment, get answers, or control the TV and smart home devices. Simply say, "OK Google" to issue a voice command.

RELIANCE NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE RECORDS STRONG GROWTH IN FY22

Mumbai : Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited, a JV between Reliance Capital and Nippon Life of Japan, announced its financial results for the year ended March 31, 2022. The key performance highlights as on March 31, 2022 include:

Commenting on the company's strong performance in FY22, Mr. Ashish Vohra, ED &

CEO, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance said, "FY22 continued to pose its own set of challenges with the outbreak of the second, and then the third wave of the pandemic. We are grateful for the support we have received from our customers, employees, distributors, service providers and their families, that powered our journey of providing maximum value to each

one of our stakeholders." Mr. Vohra further highlighted that in a volatile economic environment of today, there is a heightened appreciation of Life Insurance for ensuring certainty of life coverage as well as financial investments.

These guarantees are designed to drive durable long-term returns and to help customers fulfill their life goals and form the

bedrock of our business model.

The company paid death claims, maturity and survival benefit payouts of over Rs. 1,877 Cr in FY22 and achieved an impressive claims settlement ratio of 98.7% for FY22, up from 98.5% in FY21. The company expeditiously settled 3,517 Covid related claims worth Rs. 117 Cr. within an average period of 9 working days. Mr. Vohra

further commented, "A death claim is the ultimate test of a Life Insurance product, and it is the 'dharma' of a Life Insurer to honour all such claims with speed and accuracy. We continue to be fully committed and financially stable at 235% solvency (against the regulatory requirement of 150%), to meet all customer claims that may arise in the times ahead."

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Rachin Ravindra gets New Zealand Cricket central contract

New Delhi: Rachin Ravindra has been offered his first New Zealand Cricket contract a year on from being overlooked for the board's central retainership. A 20-player contract list also sees offers for Ravindra's Wellington teammate Ben Sears, Canterbury's Will O'Rourke and Otago's Jacob Duffy. Left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel was also added to the list after missing out on a contract during the previous calendar year. Ravindra's inclusion was not a surprise after he emerged as the breakout star of the ODI World Cup in India, where he scored 578 runs. The 24-year-old then made his mark on the Test circuit by scoring 240 at Mount Maunganui against South Africa in February - the highest maiden Test century by a New Zealand batter. He also broke into the country's T20I squad and his rise



was rewarded when he was named the ICC Emerging Player of the Year for 2023, and later became the youngest recipient of the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal at the New Zealand Cricket Awards.

"Growing up you'd see those contract lists come out each year and think it would be cool to be on that list one day - and for it to eventuate now is a

pinch-myself moment," Ravindra was quoted as saying in an NZC release. "It's been a really cool past 12 months playing international cricket. I've learned a lot and the hunger is definitely there to keep improving and giving to the Blackcaps. "It's such a special group to be in, from players to support staff - and that's been the most enjoyable

part, to be honest. Playing a game you love with your mates for a living is something very special, and I hold it close to my heart."

Meanwhile, O'Rourke's contract offer came after a 12-month period in which he represented New Zealand in all three forms of the game. Sears, on the other hand, played 11 T20Is in the previous cycle before making his

Test debut against Australia in Christchurch earlier this year.

Notable absences in the list include Kane Williamson, Lockie Ferguson and Adam Milne. While the former two had previously excused themselves from a central contract, Milne also made himself unavailable for the coming season. Neil Wagner was left out after retiring from international cricket in February.

Players offered central contracts for 2024-25: Finn Allen, Tom Blundell, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Will Young

Lionel Messi fires Argentina into Copa America final after 2-0 win over Canada



New Delhi:

Goals from milestone man Lionel Messi and Julian Alvarez helped Argentina beat a spirited Canada 2-0 in New Jersey and book a place in the final of the prestigious tournament. Lionel Messi broke a series of records as he inspired Argentina into their seventh Copa America final. Messi's side defeated a spirited Canada 2-0 in the semi-final in front of a packed house in New Jersey on Tuesday. Messi scored his 14th goal in Copa America to go level with

Peru's Paolo Guerrero and Chile's Eduardo Vargas and be three shy of the all-time record in the tournament. Lionel Messi also moved to second in the all-time list of international goalscorers. With his 109th strike, the former Barcelona star surpassed Iran's Ali Daei. The 37-year-old is now only behind Cristiano Ronaldo, who leads the charts with 130 goals in international football.

"It is insane what this team has done, what the Argentina national team is doing. For those who remain from the old guard, it's beyond impressive that the national team is in another final," Messi said after Argentina reached the final, in which they will face either Uruguay or Colombia in Florida. Argentina are looking to emulate Spain by winning two continental tournament titles on either side of World Cup triumph. Messi's men won the Copa America in 2021 before going to lift the FIFA World Cup in Qatar in 2022. Spain won the Euros in 2008 and 2012

while winning the FIFA World Cup in 2010.

After enduring early pressure, Argentina took the lead in the 22nd minute when Rodrigo De Paul threaded a pass to Alvarez, who slipped between two defenders to score with a neat finish. Argentina gradually gained control. Messi had a chance to extend their lead in the 44th minute, creating space with deft footwork in the box before his shot went wide.

Canada nearly equalised just before halftime when Jonathan David outpaced his marker to connect with a long throw, but his close-range shot was directed straight at goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez.

Although Messi had previously struggled with a muscle injury during the tournament, he seemed rejuvenated in the hot, humid conditions at MetLife Stadium, which will host the final of the FIFA World Cup in 2026. Messi netted Argentina's second goal in the 51st minute, redirecting Enzo Fernández's shot from the edge of the area past Canadian goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau.

Record-breaker Lamine Yamal 'checkmates' Adrian Rabiot in Euro 2024 semi-final



New Delhi:

16-year-old Lamine Yamal played his best ever game in Euro championships on Tuesday, 9 July. Yamal, who had a cold war with France's Adrien Rabiot, scored a stunning goal to take Spain into the final of Euro 2024.

French mid-fielder Adrien Rabiot had taken a dig at Spain's 16-year-old winger Lamine Yamal before the semi-finals of Euro 2024. Speaking at the pre-match press conference, Rabiot had said that Yamal needed to do better if Spain were to go past France and enter the finals of the

competition. The dig at the 16-year-old from a man double his age (Rabiot is 29) did not go well for the French side as they were knocked out from the competition on Tuesday, 9 July.

Lamine had chosen to stay quite after Rabiot's comments and had only chosen to reply with a simple Instagram post, which stated: "Move in silence, only speak when it is time to say checkmate." It was fitting that Yamal would score a world-class goal which had the pundits harping on the youngster's quality,

To fill in Kohli's shoes is really tough - Ruturaj Gaikwad

New Delhi: Just a few months ago, Ruturaj Gaikwad received a pleasant surprise after being asked to lead Chennai Super Kings in the IPL. He had massive shoes to fill having replaced MS Dhoni at the helm. And now in the ongoing series in Zimbabwe, Ruturaj is staking his claim to nail down the No.3 spot that's been left vacant after the T20I retirement of Virat Kohli, who batted in that position for most of his career. In the second T20I against Zimbabwe, Ruturaj made a significant contribution in India's win and is expected to continue at



No.3 for the rest of the series. "Wherever the team sends me, I'm happy to bat there," Ruturaj said on his batting position on the eve of the third T20I. "There isn't much of a difference opening the batting or playing at Number 3. You still have

to play the new ball. Not much of a difference. "It's a really big topic, it's not the right point to think about it," he said on filling the No.3 slot. "To compare to him or to fill in his shoes is really tough. As I had said in the IPL as well, it's difficult to fill Mahi bhai's shoes

as well. You want to start your own career, you want to play your own game. That's the priority right now, focus on one game, focus on making your team win - for whichever side you play - and make sure you're on the winning side more often than not."

Ruturaj admitted that the batting conditions in Zimbabwe are slightly trickier. India did get a reality check in the first T20I, which they lost. "It's definitely challenging," he said. "It's slightly unique. If you have seam movement coming at you in one pace, you can still negotiate it. But here it's slightly double-paced and

the bounce is also slightly variable. That's causing a bit of difference. When the ball is new, it's slightly tougher to score. But once the ball becomes old, with fast outfield and relatively small straight boundaries, you can convert your runs after that."

Asked if captaining in the IPL has brought about any changes in his thought process, Ruturaj claimed that nothing has changed in his batting. "To be honest, not much has changed," he noted. "My batting has always been the same - take responsibility and play and try to finish the game."

Bowlers lead rout as India square T20I series

New Delhi: Led by Pooja Vastrakar's four-fer and Smriti Mandhana's unbeaten half-century, India cruised to a commanding 10-wicket win on Tuesday in the three-match series to finish level on 1-1 in Chennai.

Following a slow but steady start, South Africa had found a reasonable base for themselves to post a competitive score despite losing some of their key batters in the first half. However, Vastrakar ripped through their middle order and Radha Yadav cleaned up the tail to bundle the visitors out for 84. Laura Wolvaardt and Tazmin Brits got going with a slew of boundaries in the first couple of overs. However, the Indian bowlers struck twice in the powerplay, dismissing the two premier batters - Wolvaardt and



Marizanne Kapp. However, Brits ensured a steady start and built the innings in the company of Anne Bosch. Bosch and Brits had helped South Africa past the halfway mark at nearly run-a-ball with seven wickets in hand, but then they collapsed. Vastrakar, who had dismissed Marizanne Kapp earlier, returned to

dismiss Bosch and Nadine de Klerk in her return spell. South Africa's attempt to recover following Vastrakar's burst didn't work out too effectively. Radha Yadav had Annerie Dickinson trapped legbefore before Sinhala Jafta and Mlaba departed in attempting to slog. Vastrakar cut short South Africa's innings in the 18th

over by having Eliz-mari Marx caught behind with an outside edge as she attempted to play a push. Mandhana got going by slapping Ayabonga Khaka for a couple of boundaries in the opening over. Shafali took time to break free, but brought out a couple of pull shots against Marx, cracking two boundaries in the fifth over. So dominant was

India's performance in this period that nearly half of the target was wiped out even before the field restrictions were removed.

The Indian openers kept finding boundaries at regular intervals, and barring a reprieve to Shafali at extra cover by Laura Wolvaardt, the hosts didn't offer too many chances in the chase. Mandhana deposited a full toss by de Klerk over the fine leg fence to bring up her half-century in the 11th over and also complete the chase with 55 balls to spare.

Brief Scores: South Africa 84 in 17.1 overs (Tazmin Brits 20, Anne Bosch 17; Pooja Vastrakar 4-13, Radha Yadav 3-6) lost to India 88 for no loss in 10.5 overs (Smriti Mandhana 54*, Shafali Verma 27*) by 10 wickets

Dropping the shoulder right in front of Rabiot's eyes, as he stood helpless, with horror in his eyes. Lamine Yamal broke a set of records against France, something that he has been doing in Barcelona since his debut at 15 years of age.

In Euro 2024 the teenage winger became the youngest player ever to score in the tournament at the age of 16 years and 362 days, surpassing the previous record of Switzerland's Johan Vonlanthen who scored in the 2004 edition at the age of 18 years and 141 days.