

## Inner chamber of Puri Srimandir's Ratna Bhandar opened



**Puri(KCN):** After opening the inner chamber of Puri Srimandir's Ratna Bhandar, shifting of valuables to a temporary strong room began Thursday, officials said. The treasury of Jagannath temple was

reopened at 9.51am, they added.

After offering prayers before Lord Jagannath and his siblings, the members of a supervisory committee set up by the Odisha government for the shifting of valuables from

the Ratna Bhandar, entered the temple around 9am.

Speaking to media persons before entering the temple, the supervising committee's chairman and Orissa High Court former judge Justice Biswanath Rath

said, "We sought the blessings of Lord Jagannath for smooth completion of shifting of all valuables stored in the inner chamber of the treasury."

Last time, the treasury was opened July 14 after 46 years. On that day, the ornaments and valuables of the outer chamber of the Ratna Bhandar were shifted to a strong room.

Justice Rath also requested Puri's Titular king and Gajapati Maharaja Divya Singh Deb to remain present in the Ratna Bhandar and oversee the shifting of the valuables from there. Puri Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said only authorised persons were allowed to enter the treasury with traditional attire. If the shifting of valuables will not be completed today, the work will continue as per the standard operating procedure (SOP). The entire process is being videographed.

As per the SOP, CCTV cameras were installed and adequate security personnel were deployed around the temple, Puri Superintendent of Police Pinak Mishra said.

ambulances have reached here and locals have supported us in rescue operation."

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the officials to reach the spot immediately and expedite the relief work. "The train accident in Gonda district is extremely unfortunate. District administration officials have been directed to carry out relief and rescue operations on a war footing and to take the injured to the hospital on top priority and provide them proper treatment. I pray to Lord Shri Ram for the speedy recovery of the injured," Yogi Adityanath said in a statement.

The Ministry of Railways has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakhs to the family of the deceased, Rs 2.5 lakhs for grievous injury and Rs 50,000 to those with minor injuries. A high-level enquiry has been ordered by the Railways.

Due to the derailment, two trains have been cancelled and four casualties have been reported so far, all others have been rescued. All available

Top officials of the Railways department are present on the spot. At least 15 ambulances and 40 members of medical teams are on the spot. A team of State Disaster Response Force also reached the spot and assisted in the rescue work. According to sources, both loco pilots of the train are safe. Railways sources said the loco pilot heard a loud explosion-like sound before the derailment. The Railways is examining the possibility of sabotage.

Gonda District Magistrate Neha Sharma reached the accident spot and said, "Eight coaches have derailed and four casualties have been reported so far, all others have been rescued. All available

Jajpur(KCN): Newly established Jajati Keshari Medical College and Hospital in Odisha's Jajpur will commence MBBS course from this academic session following approval from the Medical Assessment & Rating Board (MARB) of the National Medical Commission (NMC).

"Happy to share that 50 MBBS seats have been

approved by National Medical Commission

PRESIDENT OF INDIA RECEIVES FIRST COPIES OF BOOKS - WINGS TO OUR HOPES; AASHAON KI UDAAN; KAHANI RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN KI; AND RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN: HERITAGE MEETS THE PRESENT



**New Delhi,(KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu received first copies of four books namely, 'Wings to Our Hopes'; 'Aashaon Ki Udaan'; 'Kahani Rashtrapati Bhavan Ki'; and 'Rashtrapati Bhavan: Heritage Meets the Present', from Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (July 18, 2024). Among the dignitaries present on

the occasion were Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr L. Murugan, officials from Directorate of Publications Division and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

These books, published by the Directorate of Publications Division, were formally released earlier today at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Sanjay Jaju.

The books 'Wings to Our Hopes' and 'Aashaon Ki Udaan' are the collection of selected speeches of President Droupadi Murmu during first year of her Presidency.

'Kahani Rashtrapati Bhavan Ki' is a book for children which includes

information about Rashtrapati Bhavan and President Droupadi Murmu in an interesting manner and simple language. 'Rashtrapati Bhavan: Heritage Meets the Present' is a pictorial representation of the history and architecture of Rashtrapati Bhavan and contains information about all the former Presidents. Information about President Droupadi Murmu and pictures of the major events of current Presidency are also part of the book.

## New medical college in Odisha's Jajpur to start MBBS admissions this year

(NMC), MARB, New Delhi for the academic year 2024-25 for the new government MCH at Jajpur," Health and Family Welfare Department posted on X Thursday.

The Letter of Permission (LoP) has been issued

by the NMC, making it the 12th government MCH in the state and the first to start operations this year.

Dean and principal of the medical college Sitaram

Mahapatro told PTI that the institute was ready to welcome the inaugural batch of MBBS students. The state government has already recruited 120 faculty members, including professors, associate professors, assistant professors, senior residents and tutors for the medical college and hospital. Additional nursing and support staff are also in place.

Out of the 50 MBBS

seats, seven will be filled through the All India Quota, while the remaining 47 will be admitted via the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE), according to the dean. The medical college has begun functioning from its new campus, utilising the existing 420-bed district headquarters hospital as a teaching facility. Construction of a new 500-bed hospital on the

campus is nearing completion, Mahapatro said.

"We initially applied for 100 MBBS seats, but the NMC has approved 50. We have requested the commission to consider increasing the seat allocation to 100 for this academic year," Mahapatro added.

The medical college and hospital has been constructed at a cost of Rs 526.21 crore on a 46-acre campus.

## Upload full NEET-UG result, mask students' identity: Top court to testing panel



**New Delhi,(KCN):** The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the National Testing Agency (NTA) to publish the full results of NEET-UG 2024 on their website city-wise and centre-wise by 12 pm on Saturday. The testing panel has been asked to mask the identity of the candidates.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwa and Manoj Misra was hearing a batch of petitions over alleged irregularities in NEET-UG exam.

During the hearing, senior advocate Narendra Hooda, representing the petitioner, called for the results of all students to

be declared to bring in some transparency. The Solicitor General argued that the entire results are not published,

and it is the personal property of the students. To this, CJI Chandrachud asked, "Why can't you have

dummy roll numbers in a sequence centre-wise?" After hearing arguments from both sides the court asked the NTA to publish

the marks obtained by students in the NEET-UG 24 exam, while ensuring that the identity of the students is not revealed.

"What is happening is... the fact that there is a leak at Patna and Hazaribag is admitted... the question papers had been disseminated. We want to ensure whether this was confined to those centres or widespread. Students are at a handicap because they don't know results. We want the students' identity to be masked, but let us see centre-wise what was the mark pattern," CJI Chandrachud said.

The Supreme Court will continue the hearing on alleged irregularities on Monday.

Low pressure forms over BoB; IMD issues orange warning for very heavy rainfall in Odisha districts

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** As predicted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a low-pressure area has formed over the central and adjoining North Bay of Bengal. As per the IMD, the low pressure area is likely to become more marked and move north-westwards towards the Odisha coast during the next two days. The weather department has issued an orange warning for heavy to very heavy rainfall in several districts of Odisha in the next three days. Orange Warning: Heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Khordha, Nayagarh and Puri.

Orange Warning: Scattered heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) with isolated extremely heavy rainfall (>20cm) is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Gajapati and Ganjam.

Yellow Warning (Be updated): Heavy Rainfall (7 to 11cm) is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Ganjam, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Sambalpur, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Khordha, Nuapada, Bolangir, Sonepur, Nayagarh, Khordha, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, and Cuttack.

Orange Warning: Heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Boudh, Sonepur, Nayagarh.

Yellow Warning (Be updated): Heavy Rainfall (7 to 11cm) very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Ganjam, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Sambalpur, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Khordha, Nuapada, Bolangir, Sonepur, Nayagarh, and Jajpur.

Yellow Warning (Be updated): Heavy Rainfall (7 to 11cm) is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Nuapada, Bolangir, Sonepur, Nayagarh, Khordha, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, and Cuttack.

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# Twelve Students from KIIT-DU Qualify for Paris Olympics KIIT-KISS Founder announces Rs 7 lakh to each of the athletes

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** In a big achievement for KIIT Deemed to be University (KIIT-DU), Bhubaneswar, 12 students have successfully qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024 beginning July 26, bringing pride and joy to the institution.

KIIT is the first university in the country to be sending the largest contingent of athletes among all universities in India. The Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta has announced Rs 7 lakh to

each of the athletes, encouraging them to give their best in the field and bring glory to the country. The athletes who have earned their spots are — Amit Rohidas in Men's Hockey, Kishore Kumar Jena in Javelin Throw; Parul Chaudhary in 3000m Steeplechase & 5000m; Priyanka in 20 km Race Walk & Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay; Annu Rani in Javelin Throw; Jyothi Yarraj in 100m Hurdles; Tajinderpal Singh Toor in Shot Put; Abha Khatua in Shot Put; Prachi in the 4x400m Relay Team; Ankita in 5000m; Paramjeet Singh Bisht in

20km Race Walk and Suraj Panwar in the Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay Team. Dr. Achyuta Samanta,

Founder, KIIT & KISS, congratulated the proud contingent at a special programme in Bhubaneswar, saying,

7 lakh cash support to each player. All 12 players, who are currently in various camps in different countries of Europe, joined the programme virtually.

Informing the media, Dr. Samanta said that KIIT & KISS is the first organization in India to send the highest number of players to the Olympics. He also mentioned that KIIT & KISS has produced 20 Olympians and 2 Paralympians who represented India at the 2016 Rio Olympics, the

2020 Tokyo Olympics, and will be representing the country at the 2024 Paris Olympics. KIIT & KISS is proud to have 7 Arjuna Awardees, he added.

"We are happy that 12 students from KIIT are participating in the Paris Olympics 2024, making us and the country proud. Give your best and shine with your achievements. The entire KIIT & KISS family stands behind you, cheering you on", he said.

These talented athletes have demonstrated

exceptional skill and dedication, earning their places among the world's elite in their respective sports. Among others, Prof. Baljit Singh Sekhon, Jt. Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs, AIU; Prof. Saranjit Singh, Vice Chancellor, KIIT-DU; Prof. Jyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar, KIIT-DU; Sanjaya Kumar Garnaik, Chief Athletic Coach; and Dr. Gaganendu Dash, Director General, Sports & Yoga, KIIT-DU were also present.



## NTPC Bongaigaon Employees Rallies for Flood Relief in Kokrajhbar



**Kokrajhbar, (KCN):** In a heartwarming display of solidarity and compassion, NTPC Bongaigaon employees have come together to support families devastated by floods in Kokrajhbar's Eastern Range, Athiabari, Dotma Revenue Circle. Spanning the forest villages of Nijwmuguri, Gwijnipuri, Aajarguri, Alajhbar, and Dwimuguri, a relief cum distribution camp was set up in nearby LP schools and bazaar areas to reach those in need.

The dedicated efforts benefited 170 families, totaling 706 individuals, including children and the elderly. The relief operation, meticulously executed with the assistance of the CISF

unit, ensured that every affected household received vital supplies. The philanthropic spirit of NTPC employees was evident as they collectively donated around one 85000 rupees. Shri Akhilesh Singh, Head of Project, NTPC Bongaigaon, lauded the dedication of the NTPC Bongaigaon engineers and officially flagged off the relief convoy in the presence of Shri G M Thangzom, Commandant, CISF, Shri Onkar Nath, AGM (HR), and Shri M.S. Kandari, Assistant Commandant, CISF.

What began as a simple WhatsApp message quickly evolved into a powerful crowd-funding movement, uniting

NTPC Bongaigaon employees and their colleagues from across various NTPC stations. Shri Jawaid Hassan Malik, Sr. Manager (MTP), Shri Paramdeep Singh, Senior Manager (Mechanical Maintenance), Shri Umang Kumar Sarawagi, Manager (Fuel Management), Shri T T Krishnakumar, Sr. Assistant Engineer (Ash Handling), Shri Pranjit Talukdar, Technician (Fuel Management) on behalf of NTPC Bongaigaon and CISF jawans went to the camps to distribute the packets.

The endeavor was

further strengthened by the invaluable support of Shri K Kaushik, AFS, Range Forest Officer, and the District Administration, who played a crucial role in coordinating the relief efforts. The distributed relief materials based on the data given by District Administration, Kokrajhbar encompassed essential food items such as rice, lentils, soya nuggets, cooking oil, salt, turmeric, and biscuits, providing much-needed sustenance to the affected families.

This initiative highlights NTPC Bongaigaon's commitment to community welfare and its proactive role in disaster response. It stands as a powerful example of the impact of collective action and compassionate leadership.

## Ministry of Railways Sanctions ?288.61 Crore for Railway Flyover Project in Sambalpur

**Sambalpur, (KCN):** The Ministry of Railways has sanctioned ?288.61 crore for the construction of a Railway Flyover connecting Sambalpur Station to Sambalpur City Station covering a distance of 8.10Kms. This significant infrastructure project aims to enhance train operations and alleviate congestion at these critical junctions.

**Key Project Highlights:** Improved Train Movements: The flyover will facilitate simultaneous train movements from all directions at Sambalpur, easing train traffic and ensuring hassle-free operations towards Titilagarh, Angul and Jharsuguda.

**Operational Efficiency:** By eliminating cross-traffic delays and operational inefficiencies, the project will boost the average speed and efficiency of trains in the region.

**Energy Corridor Scheme:** The construction is part of the Energy Corridor of Indian Railways, showcasing a commitment to sustainable and efficient infrastructure development.

**Length and Cost:** The flyover will span 8.10 km and is sanctioned at a cost of ?288.61 crore.

**Benefits of the Flyover:** Enhanced Capacity: The new flyover will provide dedicated infrastructure for trains from and to

Titilagarh, Jharsuguda and Angul directions, bypassing the need for crossing other lines. Congestion Relief: Train traffic will no longer be detained at Sambalpur/Sambalpur City Stations and nearby Stations, significantly reducing waiting periods for trains approaching this busy junction.

**Hassle-Free Passenger Movement:** The project will facilitate smooth movement of passenger carried trains in Titilagarh, Jharsuguda, and Angul directions. **Project Impact:** Currently, cross-traffic from Jharsuguda, Titilagarh and Angul directions leads to delays and operational inefficiencies at Sambalpur Junction.

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## 'Kill' actor Raghav Juyal on nepotism in Bollywood: Can't keep complaining

Actor and dancer Raghav Juyal might have been known as the funny boy on TV, but he's broken out of the image to project a villainous character in Kill. The action-packed film, bankrolled by Karan Johar, and also starring Lakshya, has been playing in filled cinema halls. In a recent exclusive chat with IndiaToday.in, Raghav spoke about the 'nepotism debate' and how he never let his outsider tag pull him down. Recently, the dancer-actor had posted a video urging people to support Kill, given it features two

outsiders. He stated that people often accuse filmmakers of only casting star kids and start trends like Boycott Bollywood: "Hence, this is the time they should all come out and watch our film. Karan Johar has backed two newcomers, so it's important that the public also backs it. Kill has been working solely on word-of-mouth, and that's a big achievement for both Lakshya and me. The director of John Wick wants to remake it. Our film is also seeing numbers even when a mammoth project like Kalki is also in theatres. I truly feel blessed about everything that's



happening with our film, and with us."

When asked if throughout his journey, he ever felt the pinch of being an outsider, Raghav replied, "Honestly, all this noise has started recently. I am the biggest example of an outsider making their way into the industry through sheer hard work. I come from Dehradun,

after goals, even when I fall down. I truly believe that talent will find its way."

Calling Lakshya his 'brother', Raghav Juyal went on to state how it was 'crazy' to work together. Raghav added that given they are of the same age, and have similar journeys, they became thick friends: "Even now, almost three years since we shot the film, we are friends. We hang out together almost every day and have the same circle. We have similar beliefs, and have gone through similar struggles, so the connection was instant," he added.

Given the similarities, we

## Why Adah Sharma won't comment on The Vaccine War: 'After The Kerala Story, I have learnt...'

Actor Adah Sharma and Jatin Sarna are coming together onscreen for the first time in their short film Kofuku, which will premiere at JioCinema Film Festival. Kofuku is a 17-minute-long film, shot in Mussoorie. The title is derived from the Japanese word, which translates to happiness and fulfilment in life. In a chat with Hindustan Times, Adah and Jatin shared the essence of their film.

Adah Sharma shared about the film, "It's a film that you will resonate with, no matter where you are from and whatever age group you are. The topic is so



## Salman Khan teams up with director AR Murugadoss for his next



delivering blockbusters with producer Sajid Nadiadwala with films like 'Judwaa', 'Mujhse Shaadi Karogi', and 'Kick', just to name a few. After 'Kick', the audience were waiting for this collaboration to happen. On the other hand, A.R. Murugadoss is the name behind superhits like, 'Ghajini', 'Holiday: A Soldier Is Never Off Duty', and many more in the Tamil film industry.

AR Murugadoss made his Hindi debut with 'Ghajini', which crossed Rs 100 crore at the box office.

This announcement is indeed the biggest one that has come this year. We eagerly anticipate seeing what this exceptional trio of Salman Khan, A.R. Murugadoss, and producer Sajid Nadiadwala will create with their collaboration.

wrote, "Glad to join forces with the exceptionally talented, @ARMurugadoss and my friend, #SajidNadiadwala for a very exciting film !! This collaboration is special, and I look forward to this journey with your love and blessings. Releasing Eid 2025 (sic)." Salman Khan always has something special to excite his fans. Yet

again, the superstar is all set to come back on Eid 2025. This time, he teams up with director A.R. Murugadoss and producer Sajid Nadiadwala. This is indeed the biggest announcement of this year that is worth creating waves among the fans. Salman Khan has a long-standing collaboration of

## Pakistani actor Mahira Khan ties the knot for second time, groom Salim Karim gets emotional. Watch first wedding video



Pakistani actor Mahira Khan, known for her roles in Raees and Humsafar, has tied the knot for the second time. Several pictures and videos of the actor have emerged online. Mahira got married to businessman Salim Karim. Taking to Instagram, Mahira's manager Anushay Talha Khan shared a video as Mahira walked down the aisle towards Salim. The groom was seen wiping his tears in the clip. Salim also walked towards her and lifted her veil. An emotional Salim kissed Mahira's forehead and hugged her. The bride was also seen getting emotional as she wrapped her arms around Salim. For her special day, Mahira wore a pastel lehenga with a veil. She also opted for matching diamond jewellery. Salim was seen in a black sherwani and a blue turban. The duo got married in Murree, Pakistan, in an outdoor ceremony. Reacting to a video shared on Instagram, a fan wrote, "She's looking absolutely gorgeous," read a comment.

As per Tribune.com, Mahira had earlier confirmed dating Salim while speaking with Samina Peerzada. In 2022, when Mahira was asked if she was in love, she smiled and nodded her head. "Yeah, I think I am in love. I don't know, I am so shy about it," Mahira had said. She had also confirmed that he wasn't from the industry. Mahira will be seen with Fawad Khan and Sanam Saeed in the Netflix series Jo Bachay Hain Sang Samait Lo. The show, an official adaptation of Farhat Ishtiaq's bestselling 2013 Urdu-language novel, is the streamer's first Pakistan-themed original, reported

Variety. The story revolves around Sikandar, a Harvard law student who experiences a life-changing incident that makes him keep others at bay, and Liza, a talented artist who is bursting with life but has had a troubled past.

Jo Bachay Hain Sang Samait Lo will also feature Ahad Raza Mir, Hamza Ali Abbasi, Bilal Ashraf, Maya Ali, Iqra Aziz, Hania Aamir, Khushal Khan, Nadia Jamil, Omair Rana and Samina Ahmed. Momina Duraid serves as the showrunner of the series, which is being shot in Italy, the UK and Pakistan.

universal." Kofuku focuses on people and their perspective towards life. It is based around Adah Sharma's, Sadaf, who comes to a remote hill station from an urban city and meets a visually impaired stranger in a Mussoorie cafe who shows her around. As she intended to permanently bid goodbye, the stranger changes her mind with an insight into his life and its philosophies.

Adah Sharma recalled her role and said, "Sadaf is someone I don't actually identify with a lot. I am someone who's a little more grateful (towards life) but it was interesting to play her because she is someone who can see but she is not looking in the right place for happiness. She is basically living her life with eyes shut." "Jatin is playing someone who is visually impaired but he can see so much more than someone with 6/6 vision. She goes to make a decision in her life but it's Jatin who stops her.

"Sometimes you meet people and realise there are so many ways in which you can be living your life differently. We all try to do different things to be happy. You think accumulating a lot of wealth will make you happy, someone might think having a lot of movies will make you happy, or starting a business will. Happiness is actually within you. Similarly, our film is very simple. It's conveying the same message." Jatin Sarna went on to weigh in, "The grass is always greener on the other side. The film also talks about focusing on what you have rather than looking at others' plates. We just want to achieve this and that in life. In that race, we forget to live life. Life is uncertain, especially after what we have seen during covid. After working on this film, my perspective towards life has changed. One should just make peace with life and enjoy, this is my take from the film." Adah and Jatin were clearly more invested in the film, not just professionally but also on a personal level. When asked about their shoot time together, Jatin had only great things to tell about his co-star and team.

"Our producer, Pradeep is such a sweetheart. He made sure we got everything on the sets that was

# Will BJP sail on Hindu-Muslim agenda and OBC appeasement?



After a befitting defeat in just held Lok Sabha elections, despite its Hindu-Muslim divide agenda, the BJP does not seem to have learnt any lesson.

It is pertinent to mention here that the BJP, whose candidates contested in the name of Modi, won in 240 seats out of total 543 seats in Lok Sabha, falling short of the 272-majority mark. Its tally remained far behind from previous two elections wherein it had won 303 and 282 seats in 2019 and 2014, respectively, to have a majority on its own. Now BJP government is stacked on such two pillars which can fall at any time. With the support from key allies N Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Nitish Kumar's JD(U), which won 16 and 12 seats in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, respectively the BJP is enjoying the power game. Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar, is an experienced and expert power game changer and he can turn the tables at any moment. The political analysts observe that despite knowing its weak base, the BJP is still waving its flag in the same manner and in addition it is trying to crack the society in caste segments also. The speech of Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, in a rally on 16th July in Haryana clearly reflects the party's agenda for the forthcoming assembly elections.

After losing five out of ten seats in Lok Sabha election held in May, 2024 in Haryana, Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP), along with its old Hindu-Muslim agenda, has started to lure Other Backward Class (OBC) voters to sail through the forthcoming Assembly

Elections going to be held in October 2024. Seeing the annoyance of the farmer community, comprising of all segments- without any caste and creed differentia, against the party and especially the then Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, before the Lok Sabha elections, the High Command had replaced Mr. Khattar with the present Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, an OBC category person, the then sitting MP. However, the anti-incumbency was so high that the party had to see a befitting defeat in just held Lok Sabha Elections and had to lose its ground in five out of ten seats. In 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the party had captured all the ten seats squeezing the main opposition party, congress to zero. But in Assembly elections held just after six months in October 2019, the BJP could not get the majority mark and had to adopt the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), to save the Chief Minister's chair.

The political observers smell that as the farmers' anger against the BJP is still on high pitch, so the party has decided to bifurcate the farmers in castes and religion segments. The Party seems to sail on the OBC category in the forthcoming Assembly elections and has started to bifurcate the voters on caste basis in addition to its all-time favourite Hindu - Muslim segmentation.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah while addressing the 'Pichhda Varg Samman Sammelan' at Mahendragarh, Haryana on July 16, not only revolved his speech around the OBC category, but also tried to woo anti-Muslim general category Hindu castes by expressing BJP's anti-Muslim stand.

Mr. Shah denounced the Congress party for its soft corner towards Muslims and said, "We will not allow reservation for Muslims in Haryana."

Shah said that Congress gave reservation to Muslims in the backward class in Karnataka. If they come to Haryana, they will do the same here. He assured that reservation for Muslims will not be allowed in Haryana. What is the factual position of Muslim Backward classes reservation in Haryana? Reacting over the statement of Home Minister Amit Shah about the Muslim reservation in Haryana, Aftab Ahmed Deputy Leader of Opposition in Haryana Legislative Assembly claims that 60 percent of Muslims in Haryana already are the part of backward class list and enjoying the reservation. Aftab added, "Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Govt Jobs and admissions in Educational Institutions) Bill, 2016, backward classes are divided into two categories. BC 'A' is an exhaustive list of 71 castes amongst which 13 are Muslim communities. Similarly, Meos are included in BC 'B' category along with other Hindu castes."

CPI(M) has also alleged that Amit Shah is deliberately misleading the people. The reality is that backward class Muslims and Meos already come under the reserved category.

The

Haryana State Secretariat of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has expressed strong objection to some parts of the speech given by Home Minister Amit Shah in a program organized in Mahendragarh. The Party in a reaction alleged that in a conference held in the name of backward classes on Tuesday, Amit Shah targeted the Muslim community and said that the reservation of backward classes will be abolished and given to Muslims in Haryana as Congress has done in Karnataka.

In a press release issued by the CPI(M) on Wednesday, the statement of the Home Minister was described as a malicious attempt to

spoil the social harmony of different communities by spreading hatred among them and it was said that this is a criminal act from the legal and social point of view. When the Home Minister himself makes such statements, it is not difficult to guess how dangerous a message it gives to the country. The party believes that the cheap politics of dividing people in the name of religion and caste for electoral gains has been the well-known

was not allowed to be implemented for many years. He said that in 1980, the then Prime Minister put the Mandal Commission on hold and when it was brought in 1990, the then Prime Minister opposed it. He said that Prime Minister Modi has provided constitutional rights to the OBC society by giving constitutional recognition to the OBC Commission. Shah added that for the first time, Modi ji has given 27 percent reservation in Kendriya Vidyalayas,

reservation. Similarly, there is an existing provision of 8 percent reservation for the BC-A category in urban local bodies. Now, a 5 percent reservation will also be provided for the BC-B category. Union Minister Amit Shah said that following the Central Government's guidelines, the creamy layer limit for backward classes in Haryana has been increased from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh annually. Similar to the

Amit Shah on behalf of the people of Southern Haryana, emphasized that they (Yadavs) have consistently supported the BJP by giving all seats to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He highlighted the unwavering support of the OBC and BC classes towards the BJP from the beginning. Rao Inderjit said that the BJP government has taken meaningful steps by forming a commission for backward classes. Though Union Minister of State Rao Indrajit Singh was claiming full support of OBC and BC classes to the BJP, but his statements on separate platforms reflect his anguish. He shows his resentment time and again that he is the only MP to be made a Minister of State (MoS) for two decades. While addressing a gathering on Saturday, 13th July, Rao Inderjit Singh's lava erupted, as quoted by Indian Express in its July 17, 2024 edition.

Rao Inderjit Singh, who is said to represent the Yadav-dominated southern Haryana, had time and again openly criticised the Khattar government for discriminating against southern Haryana in allocation of development works. Now it is crystal clear that the Ahirwal leader Rao Inderjit Singh is not satisfied with his status in BJP government and claims Chief Minister's chair for the neglected Ahirwal area. But BJP has dashed his hope to ground by declaring in advance that present CM Nayab Singh Saini will remain the Chief Minister after the forthcoming assembly elections also, if BJP wins. Amit Shah had announced so during his last month's visit to Panchkula, Haryana, leaving no scope for any other leader to claim his occupancy on this chair. Now the question arises, "Can Nayab Singh Saini, a member of caste having 1 percent population in the state represent the entire OBC, despite the fact that another Saini caste leader, Raj Kumar Saini is working with INDIA block to defeat BJP?"

Political analysts predict that turning a deaf ear towards Ahir community and its leader Rao Inderjit Singh may not only give a setback to BJP in nearly 18 assembly constituencies in Haryana but also negate BJP's move of uniting OBC castes under Nayab Singh Saini. Declaring Saini as its next CM face may spoil the whole plan of BJP. The public is taking Nayab Singh Saini as a representative of former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and not a representative of OBC. Nayab Singh himself also claims him as a 'Chela' (disciple) of Khattar.

Will the BJP high command listen to the public voice?

**Senior Journalist, Columnist & Political Analyst**

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devious trick of the BJP and the BJP has not learned any lesson even from the recent shameful defeat in Ayodhya and Badrinath.

**Shah Claims How BJP benefitted OBC?**

Union Home Minister claimed that in 2014, Shri Narendra Modi, in his first speech as Prime Minister in Parliament, had said that this is a government of Dalits, poor and backward. The Home Minister said that his party has given the country its first strong Prime Minister who comes from a backward class. He said that today, out of 71 ministers in the Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Modi, 27 are from Backward Classes, including 2 from Haryana. He said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has honoured the entire OBC community from the country, including Haryana.

Criticizing the previous congress government for keeping the OBC's deprived of their rights, Amit Shah said that when the Kaka Kalekar Commission was formed in 1957 for the reservation of OBCs, it

Navodaya Vidyalayas, Sainik Schools and NEET examinations. Along with this, a historic decision was also taken by Prime Minister Modi to increase the limit of the creamy layer by excluding agriculture and salary income from it.

Union Home Minister said that the Haryana Government has also launched several schemes for the welfare of backward classes. He said that in Haryana, a backward class person has been made the Chief Minister and now the state will move forward under the leadership of Nayab Singh Saini.

Amit Shah said that the Haryana government has taken another historic decision by increasing the reservation for backward classes in Panchayats, Municipal Corporations, and Municipalities. Previously, there was a provision of 8 percent reservation for the BC-A category in Panchayati Raj institutions. Now, an additional 5 percent reservation will be provided for the BC-B category. This decision will significantly benefit the people of Haryana by expanding access to

Government of India, salary and income from agriculture will not be clubbed in this limit, benefiting lakhs of people.

Hitting BJP with a harsh

reply, former Chief Minister of Haryana Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that it was BJP that had curbed reservation, welfare schemes for Dalits and Backward classes ever since it came to power.

"The BJP reduced the creamy layer limit from Rs 8 lakh to 6 lakh to squeeze the reservation of backward classes. Income from agriculture and salary were also added to decide the creamy layer limit. As a result, lakhs of people from backward category were deprived of their reservation right."

The BJP government should seek an apology from backward classes, not their vote," Hooda added.

Whether all OBC's will go with BJP?

Union Minister of State Rao Indrajit Singh, a leader of the largest and strongest OBC (Ahir-Yadav) community in Haryana, welcoming

Everyone knows that I have proven myself by getting elected six times, but not everyone knows I am the only MP to have secured the MoS position for this long. This food is for thought."

Supporting the feelings of Rao Sahab, the crowd chanted, "Haryana Ka Mukhya Mantri Kaisa ho, Rao Inderjit Jaisa ho."

would have become a crime-free society. Anyway, the problems of education are not something that can be solved by any crime. This requires long discussion. As long as the system of solving question papers in three hours remains the measure of intelligence and ability, the problems related to it will continue to increase. Therefore, while searching for alternatives, we will also have to keep in mind the need for thinking and passion, which is Peter Kropotkin.

**Retired Principal Educational Columnist MALOUT punjab**

## Exams are failing our education system

**Vijay Garg**



Peter Kropotkin, the great Russian revolutionary and geographer, wrote a small booklet in the late 19th or perhaps early 20th century for young people who wanted to pursue a career after finishing school. Its Hindi translation was published

in India under the title 'Navyuvan Se Do Baatein'. Kropotkin explains in this what should be the thinking of those who want to become doctors and what should be the spirit of those who want to become engineers, professors etc. Needed? Kropotkin was assuming that the children who have completed schooling must have learned and known a lot, after this the real question remains only about their thinking and passion. Only through this can good professionals be prepared, the rest of the knowledge will be available to them in the

institute they go to. In our society with exams like NEET, JEE, NET to pursue a career, thinking and passion are the two things that no one asks about anymore. It has often been said that in India there is no education system but in reality there is no education system. Enough. There is an examination system. One who passes this is considered capable and learned. Read something, don't read, learn something, don't learn, it doesn't matter much. The real test of knowledge is some questions printed in the question paper. The

one who solves them by any means overcomes every obstacle. What to know, what to understand, what to multiply, what to learn, all these are meaningless. This is the reason why parents are ready to pay any amount so that the child passes the examination. Even family members, friends and relatives even sacrificed their lives for this. Are ready to even bet. When examination is the only obstacle to a good future for an entire generation, then in this era of business, many businesses have started to help them overcome it.

There are coaching, tuition, guide books and now there are even online arrangements. Like many other businesses, there is a dark underbelly to this business, where paper leaks occur regularly. Pay the price, get the question paper before the exam. Still, if there is any problem, there is Solver Gang, they will also provide you the answers to the questions. Here you will even find someone who will take the exam in your place by taking huge amount of money. A few years ago, some learned professors of IIT had said and written a lot about coaching institutes. In his words,

school education should be such that after that there is no need for coaching. But another truth is that our schools also work like coaching institutes to a great extent. Their aim is also to make the children pass the examination. But even that professor could not give any solution. They did not even have the option of those examinations, for which thousands of coaching businesses across the country were not running. Rather, a system has also been formed which is called coaching mafia. These professors had said one more thing, which is important. He said that

# iLEAD Hosts grand convocation for the graduating class of 2024

**Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE):** The Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship, And Development (iLEAD) recently hosted grand Convocation ceremony for the 2024 pass-out batches. The event was a significant milestone in recognizing and celebrating the academic achievements of nearly 600+ students from the iLEAD School of Business, School of Creativity and School of Science and Technology. Almost 60% of the students from the batch received placement, 30% opted for higher studies and 10% students chose the route of entrepreneurship. The two-day ceremony

witnessed Mr. Pradip Chopra, Chairman of iLEAD, emphasizing the importance of integrity, humility, and technology urging graduates to embrace sustainability through innovative practices. Distinguished guests on the first day, Prof. Chandradeep (CD) Mitra, Founder & CEO at PipalMajik, and Mr. Prosenjit Baksi, Consulting Editor of Prasar Bharati, shared invaluable insights with the audience. Prof. Mitra encouraged students to focus on the journey rather than just the milestones, stating "Life is a journey and there are lots of milestones. But don't run

towards the milestone. Just set your goals and focus to make the goal successful with hard work." Mr. Baksi stressed the significance of skill development and professional commitment for success. On the second day, Mr. Goutam Biswas, Director of Duragen Energy Pvt Ltd, and Dr. Saibal Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Director of Institute of Business Management, Jadavpur University, graced the event. Mr. Biswas emphasized commitment and integrity as crucial to career growth. Dr. Mukhopadhyay motivated students to leverage their skills and knowledge for diverse

career opportunities, stating, "Leadership isn't a destination, it's a continuous journey." The students ranging from across various departments dressed in their graduation gowns and caps were felicitated with their degree certificates on stage. Our honourable dignitaries also handed over special awards in categories of "Academic Excellence", "Best Disciplined", "Best Research Publication", "Brand Ambassador" and "Most Well Rounded" to the winners from their respective courses. On their big day, the

parents of the graduating students were elated to be part of the celebration. Reflecting on their son's journey, the parents of Jonathan from the BBA batch expressed pride and gratitude towards iLEAD's faculty for nurturing his academic success. "After school we decided BBA for him because I am in business. We didn't know much about iLEAD before he got in here. But once he was here, we got to know more and it is an excellent place. Jonathan has changed a lot. We have seen a boy becoming a man and definitely iLEAD has played a major role in that", they said.

## Swami Vivekananda Medal of CU presented to internationally acclaimed Sanskrit scholar D.Prahladachar

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** Professor Santa Datta (De) Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta presented prestigious Swami Vivekananda Gold Medal of Calcutta University to internationally acclaimed Sanskrit scholar Shri Vidyareshwar Teertha Prof D.Prahladachar ex Vice Chancellor National Sanskrit University, Tirupati on 15th July 2024 at an elegant function at prestigious Senate Hall of University of Calcutta in Kolkata. The prestigious Swami Vivekananda Medal was presented to Professor D. Prahladachar for his



outstanding contributions to Sanskrit Studies, Philosophical Knowledge, Tradition of Bharatavarsha, across the world. His expertise spans Navya-nyaya, Sahitya, and Dvaita Vedanta. He has been

(C.S.U.), New Delhi delivered PREMCHANDRA TARKAVAGISH ENDOWMENT LECTURE 2024 on "Logic of Realism". Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi, Vice Chancellor, Central Sanskrit University

importance in every day life. Pt. Premchandra Tarkavagish was a polymath, logician and Sanskrit scholar who fought for preservation of Sanskrit language with Lord Macaulay when he made efforts to stop teaching and usage of Sanskrit as mentioned by Shri Biswanath Chattopadhyay, a 5th generation descendant of Pt. Premchandra Tarkavagish. Dr. Kamal Kishor Misra Associate Prof. of Dept. of Sanskrit coordinated the program under mentorship of Dr. Debasish Das Registrar of University of Calcutta.

## SMP, Kolkata Welcomes Inaugural Vessel of CCS Route by Pacific International Lines

**Kolkata (KCN):** Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP, Kolkata) proudly announces the inauguration of the China Calcutta Service (CCS) at Kolkata Dock System (KDS) in alliance with Pacific International Lines (PIL), a stalwart in feeder and container service, for over three decades. This pioneering direct weekly service from China to Kolkata addresses the increasing demand for reduced transit times from the Far East Ports to Kolkata. The CCS will feature three dedicated vessels – Kota Ria, Kota Rukun, and Kota Rakyat – each with an average parcel load of 622 TEUs, specially tailored to navigate lower draft conditions. This service

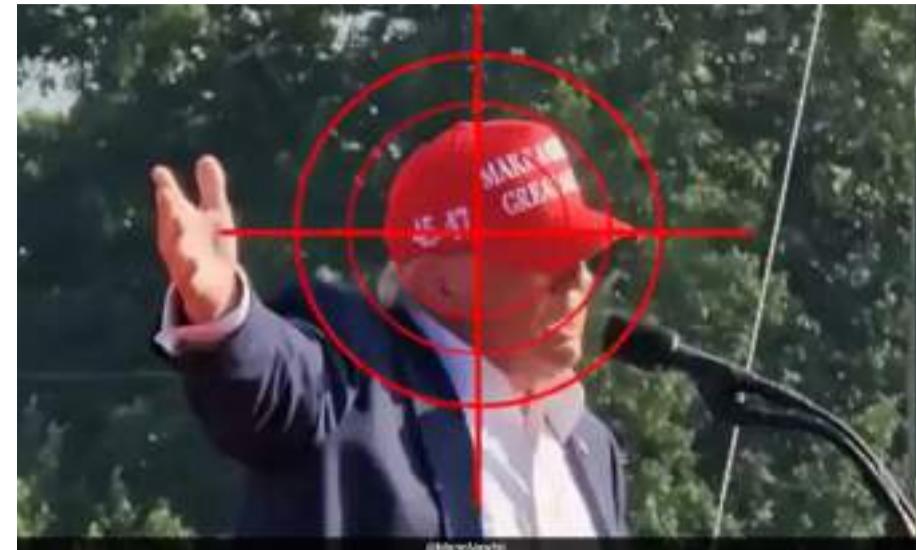


promises a transit period of just 10 to 12 days, significantly enhancing logistical efficiency and meeting the needs of customers in India and Nepal. The port rotation for the route includes: XIAMEN – SHEKOU – SINGAPORE

– KOLKATA – SINGAPORE – XIAMEN, providing robust connectivity and fostering trade growth in the region. The inaugural vessel of this service route, M/V Kota Rakyat, was welcomed by Deputy Chairman, SMP,

service is set to bolster the shipping efficiency for the burgeoning EXIM trade across West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, the Northeast states of India, as well as Nepal and Bhutan. Congratulating the team KDS behind the achievement, the Chairperson, SMP, Kolkata, Shri Rathendra Raman said, "In line with this development, we have planned for a concession Scheme to stimulate vessel calls and container operations, effective for FY 24-25." Shri Raman added, "With the introduction of the CCS, it is anticipated that the volume of container traffic handled at KDS will witness a substantial increase, driving a higher growth rate."

## Shooter Had Trump's Face Right In Middle Of Crosshairs, Shows New Video



**New Delhi:** A new video with a graphical reticle shows US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's head in the middle of what would have been the sniper's crosshair. The video shows Mr Trump's tilting his head to look at a screen graphic and leaning into the microphone saved his life, according to a post on X by US journalist Mario Nawfal, whose 'The Roundtable Show' is billed as the biggest example of citizen journalism.

"New footage shows Trump dodging a perfectly aimed shot. Close-up footage reveals Thomas Crook's shot was perfectly centred on Mr Trump's head... The footage was captured just seconds before the shot," Mr Nawfal said in the post. The US Department of Homeland Security is investigating the Secret Service's handling of security at the campaign rally where the gunman tried to assassinate Mr Trump.

The Secret Service has faced intense scrutiny since Saturday's shooting in Butler, Pennsylvania, during which a gunman opened fire on the Republican presidential candidate from an exposed rooftop some 150 metres away from the stage where Mr Trump was speaking. Mr Trump was wounded

## Gangster Amarjeet Bishnoi, Part Of Rohit Godara Gang, Arrested In Italy



**Jaipur (KCN):** Amarjeet Bishnoi, a key member of the gang of Canada-based Rohit Godara, has been caught in Italy after he was detected there by the Special Task Force of Rajasthan Police. The man was hiding in Trapani – a small fishing village in Sicily, known to be the home of the mafia in the 1950s and 60s.

There are eight cases against Amarjeet Bishnoi, including ones involving murder and dacoity. He was carrying a bounty of ₹ 50,000 on his head.

believe the muscle power and logistics for the Lawrence Bishnoi gang is provided by Godara.

Rohit Godara and Goldy Brar – wanted for the murder of singer-politician Siddhu Moose Wala – are co-conspirators in multiple cases. Amarjeet Bishnoi is wanted for the murder of gangster Raju Theth in 2022 – for which his brother Sarabjeet is already in jail. He is suspected to have provided the logistics, including the gun used in the murder.

The police don't rule out the possibility that they were also involved in the murder of social activist Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi, who was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Jaipur on 5 December 2023. The Lawrence Bishnoi gang had claimed responsibility for the murder.

The police said Amarjeet Bishnoi was the logistics operator for the Godara gang. The other key member is Virendra Charan. The police said the Rohit Godara gang is hand-in-glove with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. The police

believe the muscle power and logistics for the Lawrence Bishnoi gang is provided by Godara. Rohit Godara and Goldy Brar – wanted for the murder of singer-politician Siddhu Moose Wala – are co-conspirators in multiple cases. Amarjeet Bishnoi is wanted for the murder of gangster Raju Theth in 2022 – for which his brother Sarabjeet is already in jail. He is suspected to have provided the logistics, including the gun used in the murder.

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## Tribals Demand New State 'Bhil Pradesh' By Breaking Rajasthan, Gujarat, 2 Other States

**Jaipur (KCN):** The Rajasthan tribal community has demanded the creation of a new state called 'Bhil Pradesh', a demand which the state government has already rejected. The tribal society has demanded the formation of the new state by combining 49 districts of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya



Pradesh. There is also a demand to include 12 districts out of the old 33 districts of Rajasthan in the new state. Thirty five organizations including Adivasi Parivar, the largest organization of Bhil society, had called a mega rally on Thursday. Maneka Damor, founder member of the Adivasi Parivar Sanstha, said at

the rally that tribal women should not follow the instructions of the Pandits. Tribal families do not apply sindoor, do not wear mangalsutra. Women and girls of the tribal society should focus on education. From now on, everyone should stop fasting. We are not Hindus, she said.

Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra gathered for the meeting held at Mangarh Dham in Banswara. The security agencies of the state were on alert over the meeting and the internet was also shut down in the area of the mega rally. The demand for Bhil Pradesh includes 12 districts of Rajasthan and 13 districts of MP

# Mangrove plantation in Ganjam to tackle coastal erosion, storms

**Berhampur (KCN):** With coastal erosion and natural calamities such as cyclones taking alarming proportions due to climate change, the Ganjam district administration has planned to take up mangrove plantations along the coast to combat this situation. The southern district has faced several natural calamities in the past. The Super Cyclone of 1999 was the worst of them which brought severe devastation to the coastal districts of the state, especially Ganjam. While the wind speed was over 200 km per hour, the district received heavy rainfall of 194.72 mm for two days, October 16 and 17, before the cyclone made landfall October 29. The district further received

heavy rainfall of 145.84 mm October 29 and 30 which destroyed the crops, houses and properties of the residents. As many as 176 people died and 402 persons were injured in this calamity. The district had pegged the loss at Rs 1,066.59 crore and presented it before the state government which provided compensation for the loss. Later, the cyclonic storm Phailin in 2013 also proved disastrous for Ganjam district as over, 90,000 houses and 50 per cent of the farmlands were destroyed. The state government took a series of steps to compensate the district. However, the worst affected were the people living near the coastline. The scar left behind by Phailin is yet to



be erased from the minds of the residents. The cyclonic storms Titli, Hudhud and Fani, which occurred later, did not have any serious impact on the district.

The district administration promptly evacuated the residents living near the sea and shifted them to safety as per the order of the state government. However,

climate change has brought in a new threat for the district in the form of coastal erosion. Erosion of the coast at Podampeta in Ganjam block and at Sunapur in Chikiti block has posed a serious challenge for the district administration. The coastal erosion has wreaked havoc at the seaside Podampeta

village where rising tidal waves have washed away several houses of the fishing community. The district administration has rehabilitated the residents of Podampeta under Odisha Disaster

Recovery Project (ODRP) but is yet to find any solution to protect the coast from erosion. As the threat of coastal erosion looms large on the district, the Berhampur Forest Department has come up with the idea of planting mangroves to combat coastal erosion under the Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities (ECRICC) project.

Observers claimed that if the project becomes successful, then it will prove to be a boon for the district. Meanwhile, the Forest Department has planted 15,000 mangrove saplings on six hectares of land at the

Purunabandha and Gokharkuda area under Khallikote forest range. The district will take up further plantation if this project becomes successful. Here, the canal embankment is being made in fishbone style, work on which has started from this month. The single bonny saplings are growing well among the six varieties of mangrove saplings which can grow well in clay and sand mixed soil. The single-bonny saplings can resist up to 40 PP, said Ranjan Kumar Bhoi, the district coordinator of ECRICC. He said the saline water ingress to the area is more while fresh water is

available during the rainy season.

As a result, mangrove forests can grow well in this area, he said. The saplings will be brought from Balasore and Kendrapara. A 10-member team has undergone training on mangrove plantations in Kendrapara. A technical team from Rajnagar in Kendrapara also visited the area and took stock of the coastline and the mangrove plantation. The climate of the district is conducive for mangroves and further plantation will be taken up at Sunapur and Bahuda seashore if the project at Podampeta and Gokharkuda proves successful, they said.

## Devotees witness Suna Besa on tallest chariot



**Keonjhar (KCN):** Thousands of devotees from various parts of the state witnessed the Suna Besa (golden attire) of the Trinity — Lord Baladev, Lord Jagannath and Devi Subhadra — at the world's tallest chariot here, Wednesday. Besides armed security forces, CCTV cameras installed at various places near the chariot kept a close watch on the precious ornaments and law and order situation during the festival. The deities wore valuable gold ornaments fixed with precious gem stones weighing around 16 kg during the festival, temple sources said. The deities

were decked up with traditional gold ornaments donated by the former royals. Mahendra Nath Murmu, SubDivisional Police Officer, Keonjhar said, "The Suna Besa was performed with tight security with deployment of 14 platoon police forces. 12 CCTV cameras were installed and barricades placed around the chariot to help devotees witness the Suna Besa from a distance." Retired professor Banabihari Mishra said, "The gold ornaments include donations made by the monarchy, where the portrait of the royal family is engraved. The total cost of the ornaments is

estimated to be over Rs 100 crore owing to its antiquity." Devotees were allowed to witness the Suna Besa from 3pm till 10pm and no one was allowed near the deities. "Earlier gold plated ornaments were being used for Suna Besa. But for the last seven years, Suna Besa is being held with real and antique gold ornaments," said Ramakanta Swain, principal of Pateswar Higher Secondary School. According to historians, this event was resumed in the year 2009 after a lapse of about five decades. The last Suna Besa was conducted in 1961 in the presence of

the last king of the then princely state of Keonjhar. Sources said about 40 kg gold ornaments and other precious stone studded ornaments of the deities are kept in bank and treasury lockers. The 16th century shrine of Lord Baladev was built by King Laxmi Narayan Bhanja Deo. The chariot of Keonjhar is said to be the tallest in the world at 72 feet height. Sources said a large amount of ornaments were stolen from the temple locker many years back. After the incident the ornaments were kept in a bank locker.

## Boudh cop arrested while smuggling ganja in Chh'garh



**Boudh (KCN):** A police officer from this district along with a driver was arrested by Chhattisgarh police while smuggling cannabis, sources said Wednesday. The accused were identified

as Gagan Meher, a traffic ASI currently posted at Purunakata under Harabanga block in this district, and the car driver Rabindra Bhukta, a resident of Salakata village under Harabanga

block. According to sources, Meher was caught by Chhattisgarh police with 70 kg of cannabis in the car. The car and the contraband were seized and both Meher and the

driver were arrested. A case was filed and the duo was presented in court Wednesday. Meher, who was recently promoted and transferred to Angul district, was still involved in the cannabis trade which he was doing while serving as a traffic ASI in Boudh. This is the second case against him related to cannabis smuggling in Boudh. Intellectuals in the district said if law enforcers themselves are involved in the trade, the problem of cannabis smuggling will only worsen instead of being eradicated.

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# Bharat SaaS Yatra Commences Journey from Bhubaneswar, Celebrating India's SaaS Industry Rise

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN)-** The Bharat SaaS Yatra, a groundbreaking initiative dedicated to celebrating and nurturing India's dynamic Software as a Service (SaaS) sector, officially commenced its journey from Bhubaneswar today. With a resolute mission to inspire and empower the next wave of SaaS entrepreneurs nationwide, this transformative endeavour will traverse through 20 cities, orchestrating immersive SaaS exhibitions to showcase the extraordinary journey and accomplishments of India's SaaS ecosystem.

The momentous inauguration ceremony was organised in association with Startup Odisha for Odisha chapter, gathering over 100 prominent individuals and industry stakeholders. Dr. Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman of Startup Odisha, presided over the inaugural event held at Srusti Academy of Management, Bhubaneswar. Against the backdrop of Odisha's flourishing entrepreneurial landscape, with over 1800



emerging startups, the commencement of the Bharat SaaS Yatra signifies a significant milestone in the state's startup ecosystem. Among these burgeoning ventures are notable SaaS startups like Bookiningi, Typoo, Retrod, Fydo, and Goodmeetings.a.i, underscoring the vibrancy and innovation deeply ingrained within Odisha's startup ecosystem. India currently hosts approximately 7000 SaaS companies, generating an impressive revenue of

\$12-13 billion. To support and amplify this momentum, the Bharat Startup Yatra has forged partnerships with several State Govt agencies like Startup Odisha, SaaS BOOMi, Upekha, and other ecosystem players from SaaS. Their collective aim to catalyze more individuals to venture into the SaaS domain as well as honor the contributions of industry pioneers. With a shared vision of establishing India as a global leader in product innovation, this initiative stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs nationwide. The journey

ahead will be documented in various forms, including podcasts, interviews, shorts, and culminating in a documentary for OTT platforms like Netflix and theatrical screenings in PVR cinemas. Reflecting on the occasion, Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman of Startup Odisha, remarked, "The Bharat SaaS Yatra marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards fostering a thriving startup ecosystem in Odisha. We are proud to be the first destination for the Yatra, which will undoubtedly ignite the aspirations of countless entrepreneurs across the nation."

Sri Maneru, Founder, Bharat SaaS Yatra expressed excitement, stating, "We are thrilled to embark on this transformative journey from the vibrant city of Bhubaneswar, which boasts one of the most proactive startup missions in Odisha. Through the Bharat SaaS Yatra, we aim to celebrate the resilience, innovation, and collective spirit of India's SaaS community, while paving the way for a future filled with limitless possibilities."

## Workshop on causes and Diagnosis of Bleeding



Bhubaneswar: Apollo Hospital Hematology Department is organizing one workshop on diagnosis and management of Thrombotic disorders under the aegis of herpetology. On 2nd Nov,

2023. The Diagnosis of these disorders is very important which affects people of all ages. Making proper diagnosis and giving appropriate treatment will save many lives particularly the young. All the laboratory

tests for making proper diagnosis is available in Apollo Hospital, Bhubaneswar. These tests are hardly available in few laboratories in odisha. Under one roof in Apollo Hospital, Bhubaneswar all the facilities are also available for this disorder for diagnosing and treating these cases. We are happy to hold this workshop and bring awareness among the medical fraternity of odisha.

operations, Nepal will receive 21.9% of the electricity generated by the Arun-3 power plant as free power. This underscores the exemplary cooperation between India and Nepal in harnessing the potential of renewable energy resources and reaffirms their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations.

On the joint venture, Sudipta Mukherjee, Deputy Managing Director, Texmaco Rail & Engineering Ltd., said, "Texmaco-SSFMPL JV is honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of contributing to the Arun-3 hydroelectric power plant project in Nepal. We are committed to delivering excellence in every aspect of our work and in advancing renewable energy solutions. This venture exemplifies our dedication to sustainable progress."

The Arun-3 hydroelectric power plant, administered under the build, own, operate, and transfer (BOOT) model, is a collaborative endeavour between India's SJVN and the Government of Nepal. SAPDC, a wholly owned subsidiary of SJVN, will oversee the plant's operation for a period of 25 years, which excludes the initial five-year construction phase. Following this operational phase, ownership of the power plant will be transferred to the Nepal government. One of the most salient features of this agreement is the substantial benefit it bestows upon Nepal. Over the initial 25 years of commercial

## FURO Sports Shoes welcomes Shahid Kapoor as its Brand Ambassador

Bhubaneswar: FURO Sports Shoes, (from the house of Red Chief Shoes), is thrilled to announce its much-coveted collaboration with the Bollywood Superstar, Shahid Kapoor. Shahid's youthful and sporty personality of an affable boy gels with the aspiring core values and ethos of FURO Sports Shoes. Shahid appeals to a wider audience across all age groups. While his exceptional fitness lifestyle, dancing prowess, and romantic-action-oriented movies attract the youth, his responsible family guy persona connects with relatively mature age groups as well. Mr. Manoj Gyanchandani (Managing Director) expressing his views on the collaboration, shares, "We are extremely honored to welcome Shahid Kapoor as the newest FURO family member. We couldn't have asked for a better partner in 2022 who comes with such high credible energy which is much needed in such dynamic times to inspire the youth towards athleisure lifestyle. We look forward to a successful partnership with him and hope to have a mutually beneficial long-term relationship."

Mr. Rahul Sharma, (Marketing Head) further shared "To continue leveraging our association both in mass media & digital platforms – Shahid would be part of our forthcoming Brand campaigns, which are back to back lined up starting few weeks from now."

## BOB Financial crosses the 1 Million Credit Cards mark

Mumbai: BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (Bank) that issues and manages Bank of Baroda Credit Cards, has crossed the 1 Million Credit Cards mark.

As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Bank of Baroda Credit Cards have grown 9X over the last four years – from 0.12 million cards in March 2018 to over 1.1 million cards in March 2022. Further, the monthly spends on credit cards have grown 10X over the same period – from Rs.80 crore in March 2018 to Rs.830 crore in March 2022.

In CY2022, cobranding with IRCTC, HPCL, Defence Services, and partnerships with fintechs have been some of the key initiatives in the ongoing transformation journey.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shailendra Singh, MD & CEO, BFSL said, "In 2017, we started on a journey of transforming BOB Financial into a leading credit card issuer in India. Crossing the 1 million credit cards mark is an important milestone. However, while we celebrate this achievement, our ultimate aspiration is to become one of the largest Credit Card issuers in the country, serving customers of every demographic and socio-economic classification."

BFSL has been focusing on investing in people, processes and technology to enhance customer experience.

## TSJU calls for ban on advertisements to politically aligned media outlets

**Hyderabad, :** The Telangana State Journalists Union (TSJU) convened its State executive meeting at the State office located at RTC Chowrasta, here on Tuesday. In a session

Papani Nagaraju as Treasurer. During the meeting, the executive resolved to establish the Indira Gandhi Mutually Aided Co-operative Housing Society as an affiliate of the Union. government to refrain from issuing advertisements to media organizations aligned with political parties. The State executive committee pledged to actively advocate for this cause.



chaired by Naragouni Purushotham, vice-presidents of the National Union of Journalists India (NUJI) unanimously elected the State executive. Esteemed journalist Murhu Chandramohan was elected State President, with Tokala Anil Kumar assuming the role of General Secretary, Kommala Vasu Kumar as State Secretary, and

## Ambuja Cements introduces Cool Walls, a special product that keep homes cool in summers and hot in winters

**Mumbai :** Ambuja Cements Ltd, one of India's most sustainable cement manufacturers, is now offering an innovative green solution

consistent quality and enhanced strength (>5 MPa) are the main differentiators of this product.

Ambuja Cool Walls is an innovative solution to the problem faced by traditional construction with non-sustainable products. The challenge poised by traditional construction today are efflorescence on walls, termite attack, water absorption and highly prone to earthquakes. Ambuja Cool Walls along with unique jointing mortar makes the wall stronger and eliminates the problem faced by traditional construction practices.

Ambuja Cool Walls is a sustainable product made with an innovative heat-barrier technology that is far superior to any other products available in the market. The 'heat barrier technology' of this product helps to maintain inside temperature of any house lesser by 5°C as compared to external temperature. These innovative heat barrier technology,

## KiIT International School becomes the only school from Odisha to win at ToyCathon

**Bhubaneswar:** The revered founder of KiIT International School, Shri Achyuta Samanta, has always inspired and encouraged the youth to think outside the box. This motivation has led to an immense achievement for the school. A game, 'Untold Stories', designed by Shree Roy, a 10th Grade student of KiIT International School, has been selected as one of the top 7 winning games at ToyCathon, an inter-ministerial initiative of GOI, in association with AICTE.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mona Lisa Bal, Chairperson, KiIT International School said, "This is an extremely proud moment for KiIT International School family. I congratulate Shree for her endeavours. This is an accomplishment not just for

her but the entire school. We always nurture our students to think beyond their textbooks and take interest in activities outside their classroom. I am glad that this morale-boosting has steered us to achieve this great honour. I firmly believe that these leaders of tomorrow can drive us towards a better tomorrow with proper education and guidance."

Shree's game 'Untold Stories' is a multiplayer game where one must answer questions about India's heritage to move on to the next level. With this game, Shree intended to revive the art and culture of India. With modernization and technology, most youngsters are glued to their smartphones and the internet. Shree designed this game with the help of the



# Stokes sees Anderson's retirement as opportunity for 'phenomenal performer' Woakes

**New Delhi:** With James Anderson's retirement, the door has opened for other bowlers to lead England's pace attack in Test cricket and skipper Ben Stokes believes the opportunity is especially ripe for Chris Woakes, who is set to play his 50th Test on Thursday.

"I see it (James Anderson's retirement) as an opportunity for someone like Chris Woakes to take up the leadership role in the bowling unit," Stokes said on Wednesday. "Woakes is a very experienced bowler, a very experienced player. We have been so used to Jimmy and Broad doing that. But we don't have them now. I see that as an opportunity for Woakes. (Woakes has been) A phenomenal performer, especially in England and great for him now to lead the

attack." Anderson brought curtains down on a 22-year Test career when he retired following the recently-concluded Lord's Test against West Indies but the veteran pacer will stay on with the squad as part of the support staff.

"The last few days has been really good," Stokes said. "You can see that the lads are really desperate to pick his brains. Obviously before that it was a bit different. Jimmy has always been preparing for his games, so it's about letting him do his stuff and pick his brains as much as you can, that felt appropriate. But now obviously he's just standing there and you can see lads drawn towards him wanting to pick his brains about what he thinks, how he holds certain deliveries.

"I think it has been a very,

very smooth transition. But there is no doubt that there has been emotions with Jimmy. But with him still being around the team, I think he still knows that he has so much more to offer to the game with the ball. Couldn't think of a better bloke to be able to pass on the knowledge of fast bowling to the guys we have with us at the moment."

The England captain also confirmed that Dan Lawrence has been kept on standby for Ben Duckett, who is expecting the birth of his first child sometime during the Trent Bridge Test.

"There's a plan in place for Ben and his partner. We'll just have to make a decision if it was to happen before the game started. If anything happens throughout the Test match, Ben will just

go and come back into the team. He's obviously desperate to play at his home ground but the message from me and Baz is family always comes first. Whatever decision you end up making, you'll get the support of me and Baz." He also confirmed that Gus Atkinson will share the new ball with

Woakes in the second Test, where he's hoping that the team will be able to keep up the standards they put on display last week at Lord's. An all-round effort, led by Gus Atkinson's 12-wicket haul, had powered England to a comfortable victory by an innings and 114 runs.

"It was a very, very good

team performance (in the first Test). We want to go there and perform at least to the same level if not better. When you dominate the game like we did last week, it's hard to go back and think where we could improve. I was really happy with how things went last week but we're always looking to put better

performances as we go on. If we can put up a better performance than we did last week, we'll be in a very good shape."

However, he isn't discounting the probability of a West Indian fightback. "We know that West Indies are a very, very proud team. We've always had competition against them. Last week what happened, we're not taking into consideration how the rest of the week will go. International sports is a great leveller, we know that. We can't

only with his 12 wickets but finding another bowler who can bowl 87-89 miles an hour is very exciting, the prospect of watching Gus Atkinson running in from one end and Mark Wood from the other. "First time I saw Gus live was at the World Cup last year in India. He just had all the attributes of a very, very good bowler. A lot of it is to do with the Dukes ball, how it has behaved. There has not actually been that much movement in the air with the new ball. It's generally been off the surface, hitting the seam, and Gus is a very good exponent of that. At 10-12 overs you get a rough on one side and that is when it really starts to swing, so that is where me and Woody come in. Woody bowling at 94mph with the ball swinging is going to be tough for anyone."



## Allround LAKR create more misery for the Orcas

**New Delhi:** Ryan Rickelton's 89 off 52 deliveries went in vain for the Seattle Orcas as they slumped to their fourth defeat of MLC 2024, losing to the Los Angeles Knight Riders. After taking a couple of overs to get set on an uneasy surface, Rickelton broke the shackles against Spencer Johnson scoring 19 runs in the third over of the game. An eventful fourth over saw the back of Shehan Jayasuriya who premeditated a reverse scoop while Quinton de Kock was caught short of his ground trying to take a quick single.

Having consolidated in the middle with Heinrich Klaasen, Rickelton smashed Waqar Salamkheil over deep mid-wicket and back over his head rocketing the Orcas to 70-2 in 9 overs. Klaasen was then run out at the non-striker's end after



Rickelton played a ball back to Narine. While Rickelton managed to hold up one end, singles were hard to come by on a tacky pitch at Morrisville. Only two double-digit scores in the entire innings meant that the Orcas mustered only 142-6 in 20 overs. Andre Russell bowled his four overs without conceding a boundary for LAKR. The Orcas who brought in Lungi Ngidi struck in the third over with casting Sunil Narine as his struggles with the bat this tournament continued. Unmukt Chand got the

perfect welcome to the crease in the fourth over as Harmeet Singh bowled two deliveries down the legside which he swept behind square for four, while Jason Roy ended the over with a third boundary. The two batters kept the scoreboard ticking and were 47-1 at the end of the powerplay. They rotated strike well and managed to get the odd boundary almost in every over keeping the run rate under check. Rickelton couldn't stay out of the game as Roy looked to take down Harmeet but a

top edge was safely taken by the opener at backward point and David Miller departed soon after. Chand however, stood strong and brought up his fifty pulling Ali Sheikh over deep mid-wicket for a maximum and looked like he would take the LAKR across the finish line. He ended up lofting Harmeet straight down long on's throat. Before, any jitters were sent through the LAKR camp, Andre Russell and Saif Badar hit a maximum each leading the West Coast side to their second win of the tournament.

**Brief Scores:** Seattle Orcas 142/6 in 20 overs (Ryan Rickelton 89, Heinrich Klaasen 23; Andre Russell 1-15, Sunil Narine 1-21) lost to Los Angeles Knight Riders 143/6 in 19.1 overs (Unmukt Chand 62, Jason Roy 27; Harmeet Singh 2-27, Cameron Gannon 2-35) by 4 wickets.



## How Kylian Mbappe can fit into Carlo Ancelotti's Real Madrid plans

**New Delhi:** With Real Madrid sealing the mega-signing of Kylian Mbappe, manager Carlo Ancelotti will have a big task on his hands when it comes to utilising the French forward to the best of his capabilities in the squad.

Real Madrid have significantly stunned the football world with the mega-unveiling show of their new superstar signing, which boasted uncanny similarities with what happened during Cristiano Ronaldo's presentation as a Los Blancos player back in 2009. Wearing the number 9 shirt, a fully packed Santiago Bernabeu welcomed Mbappe in thunderous fashion, with many even hailing the 25-year-old as the new superstar or, a "Galactico".

After what was close to a six-year dramatic transfer saga, Mbappe sealed a permanent move to his dream club, and

Although Mbappe has shown many a time in his football career that

will be seen sharing the field and locker rooms with the likes of Vinicius Jr, Rodrygo Goes and Luka Modric. However, the big question is still lurking around, asking where Mbappe can truly fit for Real Madrid. It is certain that Carlo Ancelotti may have to tweak his La Liga 2023-24 and UEFA Champions League 2023-2024 winning formation, but whether Mbappe will stick to his usual left-wing position or not marks the start of another set of arguments.

While Mbappe has already been announced as

Benzema's successor

for the number 9 jersey, the 25-year-old might also have to take over his former France national teammate's position.

With the likes of Joselu having seen out his loan deal at Real Madrid and made a move to Qatari side Al-Gharafa, Los Blancos will be needed to fill in the slot with effectiveness, and Mbappe's pace and goal-scoring abilities might make Ancelotti experiment a little. Across the last two seasons, we have seen Vinicius Jr often move to the centre-forward position from his usual left-wing spot for Real Madrid. This might be a window which Ancelotti might explore, but that too carries a heavy cost. In case Mbappe plays down the left wing and Vinicius takes the more central role, that limits the play area for the other Real Madrid forward, Rodrygo.

**New Delhi:** Tom Latham open to taking charge of ODI team

opportunity to do that it would be really special." It remains to be seen if New Zealand seek a single captain for both the white-ball teams for such a decision would hinder Latham's chances considering he hasn't featured in a T20I XI for more than a year now. Test captain, Tim Southee, could then be a contender to be given the reins of all the three sides.

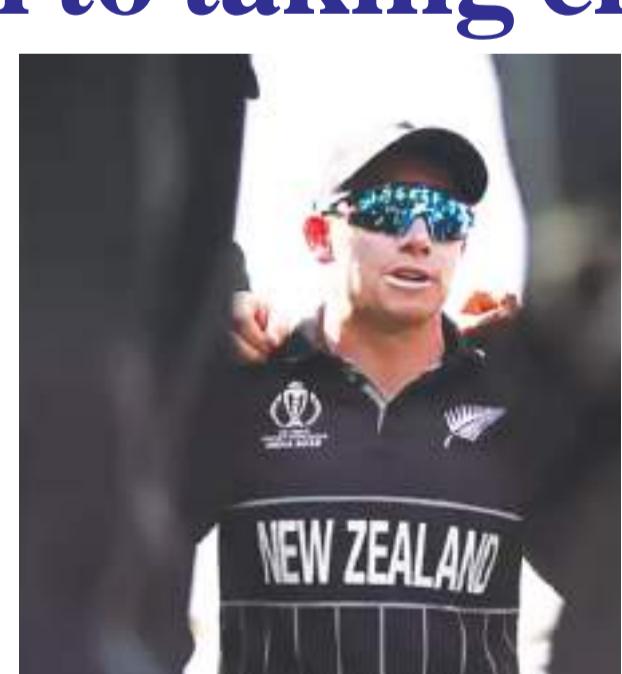
Coach Gary Stead revealed that although the management hadn't reached the final stage of selection, Latham was definitely on their shortlist of being named captain. "We're not at the stage of confirming it yet, so I don't want to speculate whether Tom will be a named captain or not.

But he's certainly one guy that will be in discussions around that role," Stead said.

"The important thing is who ever is in place, we want in place for two to three years or so, leading to that next [ODI] World Cup. That will be one of the important decision-making factors that we discuss."

The need for captaincy change has come about after New Zealand were dealt some big blows in the last two years since Trent Boult's decision to forego his central contract to have the flexibility of playing in various T20 leagues around the world.

Soon after a disappointing T20 World Cup campaign last month, Williamson,



Lockie Ferguson and Adam Milne have also declined their central contracts with the former captain taking up a casual contract instead. However, barring the

"I think at the moment where cricket's going in New Zealand is slightly different. It's certainly not a black and white situation, and certainly changing with all these leagues popping up. Guess everyone is in a slightly different boat in what their future may look like depending on their age or stage they are in life," Latham said. Latham added that the flexible contract system has worked well since inception but with the growing number of T20 leagues popping up and the changing landscape of cricket, it was something that the board and the players' association might need to review.

"Don't know what the

right system is, there is a lot of flexibility within our contracts at the moment, but I think with the changing landscape of cricket I'm sure it will be something that New Zealand Cricket and the players' association look at and try and come up with something," he said.

"We've seen over many years now, at times we haven't had those senior guys. That gives me an opportunity as a senior player to step up and lead as well. But also other guys who haven't necessarily had opportunities in the past to step up in different leadership roles. It's never great when you miss guys of Kane's calibre, but it gives opportunities to other

guys to put their best foot forward." The Black Caps have a big summer following their tour of India in October later this year, with the likes of England, Sri Lanka and Pakistan all paying visit either side of the Champions Trophy.

"We've got a lot of cricket in the summer [and] got an ICC pinnacle event [the Champions Trophy] which is exciting to look forward to. So whether it be with different personnel, whether it be with the guys we are used to having, whenever we can have them I'm sure that will be great, but think we've certainly got to be pretty fluid with what things look like in the future," Latham said.