

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu accepted credentials from the Ambassadors/High Commissioners of Ecuador, United Kingdom, Kuwait, New Zealand, Guinea, Fiji, and China at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (May 31, 2024)

6 Assam, Manipur Rivers Experience Severe Flooding, Many Districts At High Risk

New Delhi(KCN): Six rivers in Assam and Manipur, including Brahmaputra, and Barak, are experiencing severe flooding, putting numerous districts in the region at risk, the Central Water Commission has said. The Brahmaputra river at Neamatihat in Assam's Jorhat district is flowing at 85.25 metres, which is 0.29 metres above its danger level of 85.54 metres, while the Barak river is in a severe situation. In the Imphal East district of Manipur, the Barak River at Chotabekra is at

30.15 metres, 3.95 metres above its danger level. This significant rise poses a severe threat to the surrounding communities, according to the CWC data.

In Assam, the Barak River continues to impact various districts. At Badarpur Ghat in Karimganj district, the river is at 18.13 metres, 1.28 metres above the danger level while at Annapurna Ghat in Cachar district, it is at 21.52 metres, 1.69 metres above the danger level. At Fulertal in Cachar district, the water level is



at 25.94 metres, 2.06 metres above the danger level, showing a steady trend. At Dholai in Cachar district, it is at 24.9 metres, 0.32 metres above the danger level, with a falling trend. The Kopili River at Kampur in Nagaon district is also in a severe situation, flowing at 62.08

metres, the Commission said, adding this level is 1.58 metres above the danger mark of 60.5 metres. Although the trend is steady, the high water level remains a concern for the local population. In Karimganj district, the Kushiyara river is at 16.5 metres, which is 1.56 metres above its danger level. The river's steady trend indicates that immediate action is required to mitigate potential flood damage, the Commission said. The Katakhali river at Matijuri is flowing at 22.23 metres, 1.96 metres above its danger level, while the Dhaleswari river at Gharmura is at 28.18 metres, 0.13 metres above its danger level. Though the water levels are currently falling, both rivers remain in a severe situation, necessitating vigilance, the Commission said.

A total of 66 candidates are in the fray in the Lok Sabha seats and while 394 candidates will contest the Assembly segments in the fourth phase of simultaneous polls in the eastern state. In the 2019 elections, BJP won Mayurbhanj and Balasore seats, while the BJD bagged Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur Lok Sabha seats. A total of 99.61 lakh voters will decide the fate of 460 candidates in six Lok Sabha seats and 42 Assembly segments in the coastal region of Odisha Saturday amid prevailing hot and humid weather conditions, officials said.

A straight fight is

expected between the ruling BJD and the opposition BJP in the coastal region, where voting will be held from 7am to 6pm in

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Women fishers supports River Ranching under NamamiGange Program at Balagarh, West Bengal

KOLKATA, (KCN): ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore under its flagship NamamiGange project continues the National Ranching Program III at Balagarh, Hooghly, West Bengal towards conservation and restoration of river Ganga. The main objective of the river ranching is to replenish the depleted fish stocks of river Ganga. To date, ICAR-CIFRI has ranned more than 100 lakhs of fish fingerlings of Indian Major Carps in several sites across 4 states of the country. In the Balagarh, West Bengal ICAR-CIFRI has ranned more than 12 lakhs of fish fingerlings in nine different ranching



events from 2017. Recent studies has shown an increase of 8% in the total catch of Rohu, Catla, Mrigal and Calbasu in the stretch. In continuation of this, a ranching cum awareness programme was organized on 31.5.2024 at Balagarh stretch of river Ganga in district

Hooghly, West Bengal under the presence of Dr. Basanta Kumar Das, Director ICAR-CIFRI and PI NMCG project. A total of 3.021 lakhs artificially bred wild fish germplasm of Rohu, Catla and Mrigal seeds (IMC) was released into the river by the fisher women of the area.

of the fishermen beside conservation of native fishes.

Besides ranching, a meeting was also held between Director ICAR-CIFRI and the local fishers for upscaling of conservation in the area. Dr. Das also highlighted about the riverine pollution particularly about the plastics pollution in the river and urged the localites for holistic conservation. In this present program, active participation was noticed among all the sections of the society. Besides this, more than 30 number of woman fishers also took part in the event and were sensitized regarding Ganga rejuvenation and restoration of prized Gangetic fishes.

GSI Organises Workshop on "Landslide Disaster Risk Reduction- Need for Coordination, Cooperation, Skill Enhancement and Implementation Strategy"

Kolkata, (KCN): One-day workshop on "Landslide disaster risk reduction: Need for coordination, cooperation, skill enhancement and implementation strategy" was organised today by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Eastern Region at Darjeeling, West Bengal and was conducted in a hybrid mode (both online and offline) to cater to a large section of participants.

The workshop was organised under the able leadership of Smt. Varsha Ashok Aglave, Additional Director General & HOD, Captain Jai Kishan, Principal, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. Representatives from different stakeholders/



organisations in WB, officers from GSI Kolkata and college students were also participated in the workshop. Discussions on approach in spreading landslide awareness, techniques on landslide studies and its comprehensive mitigation strategies were held amongst the geo-scientists, disaster management personals of the State Government and other participants.

Gop Block HSC Girls Topper Rajanandini wants to be a doctor

PURI, (KCN): Ms Rajanandini Tripathy of Gop block of Puri district becomes HSC girls topper in the block in 2024. She was reading in Nayabat High School. The family belongs to Ms Rajanandini Tripathy and her mother. He lost his father in the year 2021. Mother Ms. Nibedita Mishra took care of the child and tried to meet every needs of her daughter. The child Ms. Rajanandini identified as Ashirbad beneficiary & child in need of care and



protection as per the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act 2015. Since the child got Ashirbad Support from District Child Protection Unit, Puri and the Officials of DCPU keeping regular follow up

and support to the child in order to his progress in education, health, nutrition etc. Several times Ms. Rajanandini attended different life skill programmes, career counseling programme etc organized by DCPU. The child is sober, simple and diligence. He concentrates and read for 9hrs in a day. Ms. Rajanandini appeared HSC examination in 2024 and become Girls topper of the block. Due to concentration and hard working, I reached here

Odisha police ask liquor shops in Berhampur city to close by 9pm till June 6

Berhampur (KCN): Odisha Police has directed all liquor outlets in Ganjam district's Berhampur city to shut shop by 9pm until June 6. The step has been taken to preempt any potential post-election unrest before and after the announcement of the Lok Sabha and Assembly election results, Berhampur SP Sarthak Sarangi said Friday. The directive comes in the wake of a recent incident where a 40-year-old person with a criminal record was fatally attacked at a tattoo parlour in the Housing



Board area under Gosainuagaon police limits. Lok Sabha and state Assembly elections were held in Berhampur parliamentary constituency May 13, with results scheduled for June 4. Though there were no

major election-related disturbances in Berhampur, this preventive measure is aimed at ensuring tranquility during the aftermath of the polls, Sarangi added. While bars are not mandated to close by 9pm, police will intensify patrols in the city to uphold law and order. The Election Commission has declared June 4 as a dry day.

In a separate move, Ganjam SP Jagmohan Meena has instructed tea stalls and dhabas in the district to shut by 8:30pm until June 4, aiming to forestall post-election violence.

Over the past week, more than 100 people with criminal backgrounds have been apprehended across various police stations, with weapons seized from them, the SP added.

Prohibitory orders imposed in Odisha's Bhadrak till end of June 1 polling

Bhadrak (KCN): The district administration of Odisha's Bhadrak has imposed prohibitory orders in all Assembly segment areas till the end of polling Saturday, following reports of clashes between workers of the BJP and BJD, officials said. Restrictions under Section 144 of CrPC came into force from Thursday night and will continue till 6 pm, when voting in the seventh and final phase of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the eastern state concludes, they said. The move comes after Bharatiya Janata Party Yuva Morcha's Odisha unit president Abhilash



Panda, and six of his associates were attacked allegedly by workers of the ruling BJD Thursday evening in Chandbali Assembly segment under Bhadrak Lok Sabha constituency, police said. The move comes after Bharatiya Janata Party Yuva Morcha's Odisha unit president Abhilash

workers are undergoing treatment in hospital, a police officer said. Chandbali block BJP president Kamala Sutar said the party has lodged an FIR and demanded the immediate arrest of the culprits. Panda and the six party

Bainsada police station officer-in-charge Debaraj Jena said three persons have been detained in connection with the attack, but no case has yet been registered against them.

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Save Nature: Save Biodiversity

Saikat Kumar Basu



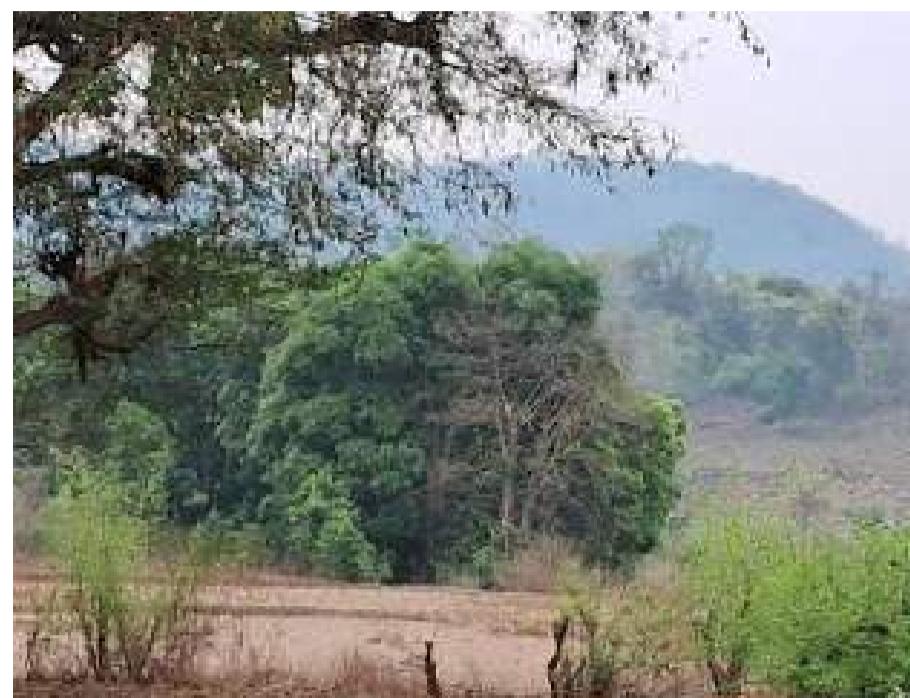
India is one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries, hosting a wide range of ecosystems, including forests, grasslands, wetlands, and coastal areas. The country is home to about 7-8% of the world's recorded species, including around 91,000 animal species and 47,000 plant species. However, India's biodiversity faces numerous threats, including habitat loss and fragmentation due to urbanization, agriculture expansion, and infrastructure development. It is important to note that deforestation, primarily for timber extraction, agriculture, and urbanization, has led to the decline of many forest-dependent species and ecosystems. Pollution, particularly air and water pollution, poses significant threats to biodiversity, affecting both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Invasive species, introduced through trade and transportation, disrupt native ecosystems and

outcompete indigenous species, leading to biodiversity loss. Climate change is exacerbating existing threats to biodiversity by altering ecosystems, disrupting species' habitats, and affecting their reproductive patterns and migration routes. Overexploitation of natural resources, such as overfishing, illegal wildlife trade, and poaching, threatens numerous species with extinction. Despite these challenges, India has implemented various conservation initiatives, including the establishment of protected areas, wildlife sanctuaries, and national parks to safeguard critical habitats and species. Additionally, community-based conservation efforts, sustainable development practices, and environmental education programs are being promoted to engage local communities in biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management.

Biodiversity is crucial for the health and resilience of ecosystems. It provides a wide range of ecosystem services, including:

Ecological Stability: Diverse ecosystems are more resilient to



disturbances such as disease outbreaks, invasive species, and climate change.

Economic Benefits: Biodiversity supports industries such as agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, providing food, medicine, and raw materials.

Genetic Resources: Biodiversity preserves the genetic diversity of species, which is essential for breeding programs, medical research, and adaptation to changing environmental conditions.

Ecosystem Services: Biodiverse ecosystems provide services like pollination, water purification, flood control, and carbon sequestration, which are vital for human well-

being.

Cultural Significance: Biodiversity enriches cultures and societies through spiritual, aesthetic, and recreational values, contributing to our sense of identity and heritage. Biodiversity is fundamental for the functioning of ecosystems, the economy, human health, and cultural well-being. Protecting and conserving biodiversity is essential for sustainable development and the long-term survival of life on Earth.

Factors responsible for the decline of biodiversity. Several factors contribute to the decline of biodiversity:

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation: The

conversion of natural habitats into agricultural land, urban areas, and infrastructure projects destroys ecosystems and fragments remaining habitats, leading to loss of biodiversity.

Pollution: Pollution from sources such as industrial waste, agricultural runoff, and plastic waste contaminates ecosystems, harming both aquatic and terrestrial species.

Climate Change: Rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events disrupt ecosystems and threaten the survival of many species, particularly those with specific habitat requirements.

Overexploitation: Unsustainable harvesting



of wildlife for food, medicine, pets, and ornamental purposes, as well as overfishing and illegal logging, deplete populations and drive species to extinction.

Invasive Species: Non-native species introduced to new environments can

outcompete native species for resources, prey on them, or introduce diseases, leading to declines in native biodiversity.

Habitat Degradation: Activities such as deforestation, land degradation, and soil erosion degrade habitats, reducing their suitability for native species and contributing to biodiversity loss.

Strategies can you use to protect biodiversity? Protecting biodiversity involves a range of strategies, including:

Conservation of habitats: Preserving natural areas

such as forests, wetlands, and coral reefs helps maintain biodiversity.

Sustainable land use: Implementing practices that minimize habitat destruction and fragmentation, such as sustainable agriculture and forestry.

Species protection: Establishing protected areas, enforcing wildlife laws, and implementing breeding programs for endangered species.

Combatting invasive species: Controlling the spread of invasive species that threaten native biodiversity.

Sustainable resource management: Managing fisheries, forests, and other resources in a way that balances human needs with biodiversity conservation.

Education and awareness: Increasing public understanding of the importance of biodiversity and encouraging conservation efforts.

International cooperation: Collaborating across borders to address global threats to biodiversity, such as climate change and illegal wildlife trade.

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lactose intolerance

Prof. Dr. Jyotiranjan Champatiray



Millions of Indians can't digest a certain sugar in milk and milk products called lactose. If you're one of them, you have lactose intolerance. The condition isn't harmful, but it can be uncomfortable and may be embarrassing. There's no cure, but you can manage it by watching how much milk or milk products you drink or eat. Being lactose intolerant is not the same as being allergic to milk. A food allergy is an immune system response. Lactose is the sugar that's in milk.

Our bodies use an enzyme called lactase to break down that sugar so we can absorb it into our bodies. But people with lactose intolerance don't have enough lactase. It's produced in the small intestine. Even with low levels of lactase, some people can digest milk products just fine. For people who are lactose intolerant, their low lactase levels give them symptoms after they eat dairy. When you have lactose malabsorption, your small intestine can't absorb the lactose you've taken in. It passes through your digestive system unabsorbed. When it gets

to your large intestine, it may cause symptoms – that's intolerance. If you have lactose intolerance, then by definition, you're not absorbing lactose and have symptoms. But you can have lactose malabsorption without lactose intolerance.

When we drink milk or have a milk-based product, lactase in our small intestine breaks down the milk sugar. It then gets absorbed into the body through the small intestine. But people who are lactose intolerant don't have it so easy. In them, the lactose doesn't get broken down. Instead, it goes on to the colon, where it mixes with normal bacteria and ferments. It can cause things like gas, bloating, and diarrhea.

The symptoms are no fun, but they're not dangerous. Most people can manage their symptoms by changing their diet and limiting the amount of lactose they consume. Some people do better by cutting lactose out of their diet altogether.

The main cause of lactose intolerance is that you produce too little lactase, the enzyme in your small intestine that breaks down lactose. Your level of gut

sensitivity also plays a role. It's not unusual to eat things your body can't fully digest. They pass through the small intestine into the colon, where they feed the bacteria living there. Those bacteria are different for each person. This is called your "gut biome." Every person's gut tolerance is different, because no two gut biomes are the same. That's why the level and the symptoms of lactose intolerance vary from person to person.

Lactose intolerance breaks down into four types. Primary lactose intolerance. This is the most common type. It happens because your body gradually stops producing enough lactase for you to process dairy products. Secondary lactose intolerance. This happens when an illness or injury causes your body to slow or stop making lactase. It could

happen because of a condition like Crohn's disease, a bacterial infection of your intestines, or celiac disease. It might also start because you injured your small intestine or had surgery on it. Your lactose intolerance might improve – although slowly – once the other problem is dealt with. Congenital lactose intolerance. It's rare, but you might be born not being able to produce enough lactase. This is caused by a gene you inherit from both parents. Developmental lactose intolerance. Premature babies sometimes have lactose intolerance because their small intestines weren't fully developed at birth.

Your symptoms might take hours to show up after you eat dairy products, because it takes time for the undigested lactose to move into your large

intestine. They can include: Bloating, Gas, Nausea and vomiting, Stomach cramps and pain, Diarrhea, Stomach noise – gurgling and rumbling. You may be able to eat or drink small amounts of dairy. Some people do better if they have it with a meal. And some dairy products, like hard cheese or yogurt, may be easier to digest.

Also, there are lots of lactose-free dairy products at the supermarket. Or you can take commonly found over-the-counter supplements (like Lactaid) to break down the milk sugars if you still want the real thing. Talk to your doctor about a liquid lactase replacement. These are over-the-counter drops that you add to milk. Eating foods that contain probiotics might help with your lactose intolerance. Researchers are looking into whether lactic acid bacteria in probiotics might stop your body from turning undigested lactose into gas.

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is not contagious and cannot be transmitted from person to person.

Myth: People with epilepsy are intellectually impaired. **Fact:** Epilepsy does not affect intelligence, though it may present cognitive challenges for some individuals.

Myth: Epilepsy is always a lifelong condition. **Fact:** While epilepsy is chronic for many, some people may outgrow it or achieve seizure control with treatment.

4. **Impact on Daily Life:**

- Epilepsy can affect various aspects of life, including education, employment, driving, and social interactions.

- Stigma and discrimination may result from misconceptions about epilepsy, leading to social isolation and reduced opportunities

5. **Treatment and Management:**

- Medication: Antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) are often prescribed to manage seizures.

- Lifestyle Modifications: Strategies such as stress management, adequate sleep, and avoiding triggers can help reduce seizure frequency.

- Surgical Interventions: In some cases, surgery may be recommended to remove the seizure focus in the brain.

- Absence Seizures: Brief periods of staring or loss of awareness.

- Tonic-Clonic Seizures: Characterized by convulsions and loss of consciousness.

6. **Supporting Individuals with Epilepsy:**

- Educate Yourself: Learn about epilepsy to better understand and support those living with the condition.

- Foster Inclusivity: Create an environment where individuals with epilepsy feel accepted and supported.

- Advocate for Accessibility: Promote equal opportunities and accommodations for people with epilepsy in all aspects of life.

7. **Raising Awareness:**

- Participate in epilepsy awareness events and campaigns to educate others and combat stigma.

- Share personal stories and experiences to humanize the condition and foster empathy.

- Utilize social media and other platforms to spread accurate information and dispel myths about epilepsy.

8. **Conclusion:**

- Epilepsy is a complex neurological disorder that requires understanding, support, and empathy from society.

- By increasing awareness, challenging misconceptions, and advocating for inclusivity, we can create a more supportive environment for individuals living with epilepsy.

Remember, epilepsy does not define a person; it is just one aspect of who they are. With understanding and support, individuals with epilepsy can lead fulfilling lives and contribute to their communities.

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Milk – The Soul of India.

Don't confuse it with Mylk.



was only in North West India, where the cows gave more milk, was milk used in larger quantities

Milk's special significance in India goes back to Hindu mythology and the legend of the SamudraManthan, the churning of the ocean that brought forth the drink of immortality, the amrit, and also the goddess Kamdhenu, which manifested itself as a wish-granting divine cow. Hindus, who make up 81 percent of India's 1.4 billion people, consider cows to be sacred embodiments of Kamdhenu. Krishna worshippers have special affection for cows because of the Hindu god's role as a cowherd. Stories about his love of butter are legendary, so much so that he is lovingly called "Makhanchor," or butter thief. Hindus use milk and its products for religious purposes because it is believed to have purifying qualities, ghee or clarified butter, is used in lamps for rituals, milk is used to bathe Hindu idols on special occasions; sweets made from milk or ghee are used as offerings to gods. It accompanies so much of Hindu life, in rituals from an infant's first food to the last rituals after death. As we have discussed earlier milk has got almost importance in our religion and cultures. Many of us are not aware that there is special offering which was offered to lord Jagannath Jagannath temple, Puri in Odisha and is popularly called as "ChhapanBhog". Out of fifty six items (As the name indicate ChhapanBhog) in ChhapanBhog for preparation of nine items, milk and milk cream is used and almost for preparation of more than twenty-five number of items ghee is used as base material. There is also a ritual that was being celebrated at Jagannath temple, Puri and is called as "DudhMelana". This was celebrated on the day before 'Nabanka'. On this day Lord Rama and Krishna are carried to the JagannathBallabhMutt in a palanquin after "DwipaharDhupa". There the Mahabosevayat, as a tradition milk the cow and fresh milk is offered to Mahaprabhu by pupjapandasevayat. Then lord Rama and Krishna are carried to the DakiniGhara of shrimandir. It implies the importance of milk and its byproducts in our socio cultural context.

In India, milk is more than

Dr. GyanaRanjan Mishra, M.V.Sc.

just a dietary need. It is a weapon to fight malnutrition and to support the livelihood of millions of Indian farmers. It cannot be forgotten that around 85 per cent of the farmers are small farmers in India. They own 45 per cent of the land and own 75 per cent of the animals in the country. There is more equitable distribution of animals in India than land. Around 1970, we had Operation Flood which ushered in the milk revolution. It started in Gujarat with the Amul project. Here through a cold chain milk is collected transported from remote villages to processing plants where the milk is homogenised and packed. Excess milk is converted into butter, cheese and ice cream. While on the one hand this project increased the milk production and increased its supply to the cities on the other hand it improves the socio-economic condition of the rural livestock farmers through dairying. Dairy farming is a major income source for small, marginal, and landless farmers in India. It has been instrumental in augmenting their status of living beyond the farm gate particularly of the women livestock farmers. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) note on dairy production, women traditionally have an important role in milk production in India. The formation of dairy cooperatives has played a significant role in contributing to women's economic empowerment. India's per capita income has risen two-thirds in the past ten years. But unlike in other countries where a higher disposable income would mean an increased meat consumption. India has seen a growth in dairy intake as disposable income grows cementing dairy status as the primary source of animal protein.

While drinking milk was not important in the Indian context particularly among the rural poor, whatever little milk was available at the household level may go bad quickly because India is a tropical country and here the day temperature is fairly high and milk is very sensitive to heat. So the milk was converted to curd and churned for the butter. The butter was made into clarified ghee. The butter milk, which retains the proteins, was consumed as a source of protein. The ghee, rich in fat has longer shelf life and was used for longer period of time and needs no special method of preservation. This ghee is

used almost in every household as a dietary supplement mostly as a flavouring agent. In this way milk serves as efficient media in meeting the nutritional requirement rural poor particularly the protein requirement and according to one study dairy products make up 12 percent of the protein consumptions of the Indians. Another thing common across this large and diverse country like India is the morning cup of milky tea, tiny tea stalls start their businesses early, with migrant labourers normally the first customers. The humble chai, like a true Indian, understands that life is about enjoying the small things. Chai is truly one of India's greatest innovations. In urban India, it's not just the morning glass of milk you drink before you sprint out of the house. Its uses go far beyond the dietary and nutritional need. Buttermilk is a popular summer drink to soothe the stomach. If you are in India, you cannot escape calorie-filled sweets made with milk. Well, a surprising fact about most of the Indians has a sweet tooth, and every Indian authentic meal does not end without the delicious Indian milk sweets and what's more impressive is Indians or anyone who tastes the Indian milk sweets cannot resist having one more to satisfy their tongue.

These days we hear a lot about non-dairy milk alternatives, like oat milk, almond milk, rice milk, soy milk, pea milk, coconut milk and many more which are called Plant Based Beverages. The manufacturers of these PBB (Plant Based Beverage) are trying to misguide and confuse consumers through systematic wrong marketing, using the dairy term 'Milk' or 'Malks' for non-dairy beverages. It's important to note, however, that eliminating nutrient-rich food groups, like dairy, may not only be unnecessary, it could also impact diet and health.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), an apex body for all matters related to food safety and standards in India defined milk as "The normal mammary secretion derived from complete milking of a healthy milch animal, without either addition to that or extraction therefrom, unless otherwise provided in these regulations and it shall be free from

colostrum". On 21 July 2020, FSSAI has published a draft notification, which classifies plant-milk as analogue, an imitation product designed or structured to mimic or offered with non-dairy substitutes as an alternate to animal milk and its products. The draft notifications also prohibits the use of dairy terms that are phonetically similar (Mylk, Malksetc) or have a similar spelling in the nomenclature of the non-dairy product. Simply put, FSSAI does not want to share the word 'milk' with the country's plant-based milk producers. Furthermore, such products would need to have a label that says, "THIS IS NOT A DAIRY PRODUCT". Selection and consumption of any product as part of one's diet are preference-based. If a person is changing his/her food habits by replacing milk and milk products with plant-based dairy alternatives, one needs to consider the real differences between milk and non-dairy milk alternatives in terms of health benefits, nutrients contents, calories, added sugar, other ingredient, as well as the price. Cow's milk, which has a strong nutritional package. One cup of milk (1% milk) has 110 calories, 2.5g fat (1.5g sat fat), 8g protein (more than a hardboiled egg), 12g carbohydrate, 12g sugar, 0g fiber along with it has 300 mg of bone building calcium and 400 mg of potassium including thiamine (vitamin B1), vitamin B6 and zinc that work in concert with other B vitamins like pantothenic acid to help convert your food into energy and magnesium, which also helps to build strong bones. Plus, milk has selenium, which works with vitamin A to help maintain a healthy immune system.

The carbohydrate present in milk is lactose on the other hand to make PBB more palatable, manufacturers often adds sugars in the form of cane sugar, rice syrup and more. While one cup of plain cow's milk contains 12 grams of sugars, all of it comes from naturally occurring lactose, which is digested more slowly and keeps your metabolism more stable over time than refined sugars. The glycaemic index (GI) is a value used to measure how much a specific food increases blood sugar level. The GI of cow milk is much lower than that of PBB. Hence, to reduce the intake of

almond milk needs excessive water (It requires an estimated 15 gallons of water to grow just 16 almonds). Furthermore, each plant source also impacts soil health and farming communities differently. Today, the majority of crops are cultivated in a way that causes degradation of soil and impacts soil biodiversity, and the water cycles negatively. Practices like crop monoculture, intensive agriculture, tilling, and usage of synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides are collectively responsible for environmental damage. Milk in India is considered as gift from god for many reasons. India has a long history of farmers keeping their cows with love and respect, often giving them names, and treating them as members of the family. This is certainly guided by the religious and cultural association of the cow as a sacred mother figure. For this reason, consuming cow milk is culturally more accepted as compared to consuming the milk of any other animal. Cow milk is an integral part of the Indian diet and its consumption is a symbol of keeping good health. At present ancient wisdom, however, is being superseded by western learning. The relationship of the farmer with the cow so also the consumption of milk and its by-products is being altered. There are a number of issues related to milk that was being supported by different groups in India like the Vegans (Vegetarians who do not use milk) another group is of the view that milk should be used only for cow's progeny not by humans, then there is the tussle between the organic and factory produced milk, use of A1 versus A2 milk, milk from alternatives like plant based milk and the list goes on. Though at first sight these issues seems threatening to the special place of the milk in Indian diet in future but nothing to worry consuming cow milk was deeply engraved in the Indian tradition, culture and religious beliefs for good reasons and as we know one can have a question on one's belief, but faith its unquestionable.

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F&A.R.D, Govt. of
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Letter to Editor

**Dear sir,
Noteworthy accomplishment**

Recently, Agniabha marked the second instance of a privately constructed Indian rocket taking off. This accomplishment is noteworthy because the engine utilized a combination of gas and liquid fuel, a pioneering feat for the nation. India's encouragement of a private space sector is commendable, as such initiatives transfer risks from public finances to private investment. Even NASA is urging private enterprises to make significant strides in space exploration. As a recognized space power, India should advocate for global initiatives aimed at restraining the commercialization and militarization of space.

**Dr. Vijaykumar H K
Raichur, Karnataka**

Sir,

When "third man", "fine leg", "googly" and "deep mid-wicket" enter the US of America these would be terms of wonder and curiosity for many Americans who for the very first time will be witnessing the shortest form of cricket as American pitches get ready for T20 2024 World Cup. Though cricket history has records showing matches played in America during the mid 1800s, the baseball crazy nation, did see cricket tournaments played in recent times too. The ICC would be keeping their fingers crossed to see that the tournaments turn out to be a huge success as the US has millions of diehard fans from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Srilanka, Bangladesh, Carribbeans and from other cricket loving nations. There are millions of Americans too who love cricket and those who wish to know about this wonderful game. Altogether cricket and that too the thrilling suspense packed T20s are sure to get huge attention and publicity and spread its fervour world wide. As for our team it's yet another opportunity to display their prowess and power in the T20 format as most of the players carry with them the energy they imbibed during the IPL tournament. Hope they do their best and compensate for the heartbreaking loss in the final of ODI world Cup a few months ago.

**M PRADYU
KANNUR
Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.**



Polling officials are receiving Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and other election-related materials required for the 7th Phase of General Elections 2024 at Barasat, in West Bengal.

NTPC Bongaigaon Observes World No Tobacco Day with Enthusiastic Participation

NEW DELHI, (KCN): NTPC Bongaigaon commemorated World No Tobacco Day with a series of impactful events aimed at promoting a tobacco-free workplace and lifestyle. The program, hosted by the Medical Cell under the leadership of Dr. D Paul, CMO, NTPC Bongaigaon commenced with a pledge ceremony where Shri Akhilesh Singh, Business Unit Head of NTPC Bongaigaon, administered a pledge to all employees, committing to abstaining from tobacco in both their professional and personal lives.

The pledge ceremony was followed by a signature campaign, spearheaded by Shri Akhilesh Singh, which garnered significant participation from employees and



associates, highlighting the collective commitment to a tobacco-free environment. This initiative was not only limited to the main office but extended to various departments within the organization. At the new service building, Shri Induri S Reddy, General Manager (O&M), and Shri Asutosh Biswas, General Manager (Operations), administered the no-tobacco pledge to the Operations & Maintenance employees and associates. Their leadership and participation further motivated the workforce to embrace the no-tobacco ethos.

The hospital within the NTPC Bongaigaon premises also actively participated in the campaign. Medical and nursing staff joined in the signature campaign, demonstrating widespread support for the cause.

World No Tobacco Day is observed globally to highlight the health risks associated with tobacco use and to advocate for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. NTPC Bongaigaon's initiatives align with this year's theme, reinforcing the organization's commitment to fostering a healthier, tobacco-free workplace and community. The enthusiasm and participation in the activities reflect NTPC Bongaigaon's dedication to promoting health and well-being among its employees and associates. The successful observance of World No Tobacco Day marks another milestone in NTPC Bongaigaon's ongoing efforts to create a safer and healthier environment for all.

UN Political Mission In Iraq To End By 2025 After Over 20 Years

United Nations (KCN): At the request of Baghdad, the UN Security Council unanimously decided Friday that the United Nations political mission in Iraq would leave the country at the end of 2025 after more than 20 years.

Earlier this month, in a letter to the council, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohamed Shia al-Sudani called for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to be closed.

Al-Sudani said UNAMI had overcome "great and varied challenges" and that "the grounds for having a political mission in Iraq" no longer exist. The UNSC resolution adopted on Friday extended the mission's mandate for "a final 19-



month period until 31 December 2025 after which UNAMI will cease all work and operations." The mission was established by a UN Security Council resolution in 2003 at the request of the Iraqi government after the US-led invasion and fall of Saddam Hussein. It advises the

government on political dialogue and reconciliation, as well as helping with elections and security sector reform. During the mission's previous renewal in May 2023, the Council asked the secretary-general to launch a strategic review, which was overseen by German diplomat Volker Perthes.

period would provide time to reassure reluctant Iraqis that the transition "will not lead to a reversal of democratic gains or threaten peace and security."

Given that UN missions can only operate with the host nation's consent, Russia, China, Britain and France this month all voiced support for a transition in the partnership between Iraq and the United Nations. The United States was more vague, with UN ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield saying UNAMI still had "important work to do," and making no mention of Baghdad's request. She emphasized the mission's role in organizing elections and promoting human rights, even though Iraq asked that the mission focus more on economic issues.

"False": Temple Trustee On DK Shivakumar's 'Black Magic' Ritual Claim

Bengaluru (KCN): DK Shivakumar's statement is false, said the trustee of a temple in Kerala after the Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister said that political opponents were performing a 'black magic' ritual against him and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah near the Rajarajeshwari temple.

"There is no such puja that is taking place at the Rajarajeshwari temple... We would know if there is any such activity but we still checked," said Madhavan, the Devasthanam trustee. Mr Shivakumar, while speaking to reporters, said that he had credible information that a yagna (special worship) was being conducted by "aghoris" at an isolated place near the temple. "The ritual is underway and is being conducted against me, the Chief Minister, and to destabilise the Congress government," he reiterated.

He also claimed that 21



red goats, three buffaloes, 21 black sheep, and five pigs were being sacrificed for black magic. The trustee, however, said that there was no such near the temple where goats and buffaloes were sacrificed.

Terming the minister's remark "disappointing", he expressed "dissent in dragging the temple into this". "No such puja takes place here. It's just Brahmin puja that takes place. That's all we want to say," he added.

When asked if leaders from the BJP or JD-S are carrying out this ritual, Mr. Shivakumar maintained that

politicians from Karnataka are responsible. "I know who is conducting this ritual. Let them continue their efforts; I don't bother. It is left to their belief system. Despite their attempts and experiments to cause harm, the force which I believe in will protect me," he said.

Elections in Karnataka, campaigning for which saw a high-octane fight between the Congress and BJP, were held in two phases on April 26 and May 7, with 28 seats, in which five seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and two for Scheduled Tribes.

Lt Governor Slams AAP On Delhi Water Crisis, Quotes Mirza Ghalib, Party Reacts

New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Friday blamed the AAP dispensation's "mismanagement" for the water crisis in the national capital and alleged that it has become the government's habit to blame others for its "inefficiency", "inability" and "inaction".

In a video statement, Mr Saxena recited a 200-year-old couplet by Mirza Ghalib, "Umar bhar Ghalib yehi bhool karta raha dhoon chehre par thi aur aaina saaf karta raha", and slammed the government for blaming other states over the current situation.

He also alleged that despite "thousands of crores of rupees being spent by the Delhi government in the last 10 years, old pipelines could neither be repaired nor replaced".

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Somnath Bharti, who is also the Delhi Jal Board (DJ) vice-chairman, alleged this is "BJP made water crisis".

"I am in a meditation camp but forced to resort to X to make aware one and all that as VC, @DelhiJalBoard I requested Honble LtGovDelhi many a times to speak to and facilitate with BJP governments of UP and Haryana to barter 140 MGD treated affluent of Okhla STP with UP and 80 MGD treated affluent of Rithala STPs with Haryana for equivalent raw water for our WTPs but Honble LG laughed it off. At present UP as well as Haryana rather than giving treated affluent for agricultural purposes give Ganga and Yamuna water to farmers. Farmers prefer treated affluent than raw water for better agricultural output. I say

this with complete responsibility that HLG ignored all my requests and pushed Delhi to face this BJP made water crisis. I am all willing to debate with Honble LG if he disagrees," he wrote on X.

Delhi is facing an acute water shortage, with the AAP government accusing Haryana of not releasing the national capital's share of water.

The BJP, on the other hand, has blamed the AAP government for the water crisis and claimed that Haryana is supplying the city 1,049 cusecs of water from the Yamuna that exceeds the agreed-upon quantity.

"From the last few days, the extremely irresponsible attitude of Delhi government is being witnessed. Today in Delhi, women, children, elderly and young men are seen risking their lives and running after tankers for a bucket of water," said Mr Saxena.

"Perhaps no one would have imagined that such heart-wrenching scenes would be seen in the country's capital. But the government is blaming other states for its failures," he added.

The water crisis has become too real to ignore in Delhi as people across areas are being seen scrambling with empty buckets to water tankers, some even jumping the queue to get to the top of them to fill their vessel. "I regret to say that in the last 10 years, to hide its inefficiency, inaction and inability, it has become the habit of the Delhi government to blame others for its every failure and avoid their responsibilities and keep misleading the public through social media, press conferences and by filing court cases," said Mr Saxena.

"This shortage of water in Delhi is solely the result of mismanagement by the government," he added. The Lt Governor said the chief minister's "promise of 24-hour water supply in Delhi has so far proved to be an illusion" and asserted that Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are continuously giving their fixed quota of water to Delhi.

"Despite this, the biggest reason for the severe water shortage in Delhi today is that 54 per cent of the water being produced remains unaccounted for. Forty per cent of water is wasted during supply due to old and dilapidated pipelines," he added.

Delhi Water Minister Atishi has alleged that Yamuna water level at Wazirabad has dropped from 674 feet to 670.3 feet and accused the BJP-led Haryana government of not releasing water. However, Saxena said the Wazirabad treatment plant is not able to function at its full capacity

because the reservoir of the barrage, where the water coming from Haryana is stored, is almost completely filled with silt.

"Due to this, the capacity of this reservoir, which used to be 250 million gallons, has reduced to only 16 million gallons. Till 2013, it was cleaned and desilted every year. But in the last 10 years, it was not cleaned even once and every year others were blamed for the lack of water. I myself had written a letter to the chief minister on this matter last year," he recalled.

Despite thousands of crores of rupees being spent by the Delhi government in the last ten years, old pipelines could neither be repaired nor replaced, nor were adequate new pipelines laid, he added.

Tidal waves pose huge threat to Kendrapara

Kendrapara(KCN): Frequent ingress of tidal waves in seaside villages of this district is posing serious threats to the lives and properties of the residents. These waves are destroying farmlands and are also harming buildings and roads, locals informed Thursday. They stated that unless the embankments are strengthened the waves will cause major damages in future. The threat of tidal waves extends from Talachua panchayat in Rajnagar block to Batighar panchayat of Mahakalapada block. Locals said that the tidal waves have assumed threatening proportions and are affecting cultivation, the main



source of income for people in this district. The situation is the same for Gajaria, Utikana, Kera dagada, Padmanavapur, Gopalpur, Rajgarh, Gadadharpur and Baragaon areas. Locals said that the tidal waves may destroy the geotube wall built at Penthia coast under Mahakalapada sub-division. They informed us that sometimes the waves rise 40 metres above the embankments and surge into the villages. Similarly, the embankments of Brahmani, Kharasrota, Gobari and Hansua rivers are also affected by the saline water of tidal waves, they added. Residents of some of the areas informed that

on the last full moon day, the Patisala river swelled up and overflowed due to tidal waves. In the process, various varieties of crops were destroyed as the water flowed into farmlands. Locals informed that the Odisha government set up an office of the Coastal Embankment

department at Aul in 2004.

The reason behind setting up of the office was to protect the 744.47 km-long coastal embankment spread along Aul, Rajkanika, Rajnagar and Mahakalapada blocks in the district. A joint administrative survey was conducted to

assess the threats due to natural calamities and their impact on human habitats in these areas, April 2022. The district collector, concerned departmental officials,

tehsildars and the BDOs of the areas were in the survey team. It then prepared a report. However, the findings have remained as a report only as nothing has been done to strengthen the coastline.

The report also indicates that the officials of the district administration were aware of the problems that could develop due to weak embankments.

Sources said that nothing has been done due to the apathy of officials. They alleged that many of these officials are hand-in gloves with contractors. The funds sanctioned for various projects have been used to for self-gratification, the sources added.

Locals Basant Kumar Hati from Rajnagar, Subhashis Sarangi of Rajkanika, Sunil Kumar Gantayat from Mahakalapada, environmentalists Hemant Kumar Rout and Radhakant Mohanty said that the office of the Coastal Embankment division has been functioning in Aul since October, 2004. The office is responsible for maintaining the

111.53 km long coastal embankment in Aul sub-division, 237.62 km embankment in Mahakalapada, 302.12 km embankment in Rajnagar and 93.20 km embankment in Rajkanika sub-divisions. When contacted, Subrat Das, superintendent engineer of the Coastal Embankment division said that tidal waves have become a threat due to climate change. He said that various projects have been undertaken to increase the heights of the embankments by four to six metres.

'WADI' project transforms innovative tribal farmer's life

Sundargarh(KCN): In the remote village of Damposh, nestled within Gyanpali panchayat of Kutra block in Sundargarh district, a remarkable transformation in agriculture is underway, locals informed Thursday. They informed that Anugraha Bada, a 35-year-old tribal farmer, has not only transformed his own life but also that of others, with innovative agricultural practices. Anugraha's journey is a testament to the transformative power that agriculture possesses. Anugraha decided to become a farmer since childhood, his family members informed him.

Today, he earns over rupees five lakh annually by developing a mango orchard. He also grows watermelons and chillies on his four-acre farmland, they added. In FY 2023-24 his income stood at 5.2 lakh, they said. This success story began in 2020 year when Anugraha, along with 17 other farmers from Damposh, embarked on a journey with the help of NGO 'SEWAK'. Supported by the district Mineral Foundation (DMF) and the Horticulture department, they launched the 'WADI' project, establishing a mango



orchard on a combined 73 acres of land. 'WADI' is a NABARD-funded tribal development programme (TDP) that aims at promoting sustainable livelihoods for tribal communities and enhancing their incomes. Incidentally 'WADI' means a 'small orchard' covering one or two acres. Once he embarked on the project, Anugraha received assistance from

NABARD. He got wires for fencing his farmlands, solar pumps for irrigation and various other accessories.

Recognising the potential of intercropping while the mango trees matured, 'SEWAK' provided him training on cultivation of watermelon and chillies. Enthusiastic and determined, Anugraha seized this opportunity and in FY 2021-22, he earned approximately Rs



2024-2025



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Odisha cadre IAS officer Saurabh Garg appointed MoSPI Secretary

New Delhi(KCN): The government Thursday appointed senior IAS officer Saurabh Garg as Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

An order issued by the Ministry of Personnel said the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Garg, a 1991-batch Odisha cadre IAS officer, currently serving as Secretary,



Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. Garg will hold the new

period of one year thereafter or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the order stated.

His continuation in the government service on contract basis will be on usual terms and conditions applicable to retired government officers.

The officer will also discharge the functions of secretary to the National Statistical Commission, the personnel ministry order said.

Bajaj Allianz Life launches world's first music video 'Superstar After Retirement', created by retired senior citizens

Pune: Bajaj Allianz Life, one of India's leading private life insurers, launched a world's music video "Superstar After Retirement", created by retired seniors showcasing their creativity and fulfilling their life goals. Retirees including ex-bankers, ex-entrepreneurs, ex-educators, ex-engineers and other professionals, are seen unleashing their hidden talents like singing or dancing, and attempting to live their second innings with utmost zeal and passion.

For most individuals, their dreams and desires take a backseat as they strive to ensure financial security and stability for their families.

Commenting on the

initiative, Mr. Chandramohan Mehra, Chief Marketing Officer, Bajaj Allianz Life, said "Aligned to the brand purpose of enabling LifeGoals, we launched Superstar After Retirement initiative to encourage retired senior citizens to rediscover their talents and explore a world full of possibilities and freedom. Financial security provided through a regular stream of income, post-retirement, allows individuals to pursue their earlier unfulfilled passions."

Bajaj Allianz Life had launched a pan-India talent hunt, to showcase their talent and fulfil their dreams of becoming a superstar. From a total of

over 5400 entries, 11 superstars from different walks of life were handpicked to be part of the music video. All of these participants, at some point of their lives, had aspired to be dancers, musicians, singers, cinematographers, lyricists, art director and stylists, aside from being retired senior citizens.

The music video was created entirely by these 11 senior citizens, after going through multiple enriching workshops with expert mentors from Bollywood. The team's collective efforts for 37 days and 450+ hrs has resulted in this one-of-a-kind music video.

RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

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

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

"Keeping with our

H&M revels in sunset colours and embellished details for The Festive Collection



Bhubaneswar: H&M India invites you to the season of celebrations with a special collection personified by all things sparkle and shine. Featuring party-ready ensembles, the collection spotlights designs showcasing strong shoulders, cropped tops and draped details among the statement suiting, party dresses and matching sets. Rhinestones, sequins and high-shine fabrics bring sophistication and vibrancy

to every piece, while a strong colour palette of hot pink, orange, red, sand, gold and black adds to the celebratory mood.

For the Festive Collection, H&M wanted to create a special collection that draws upon beauty and merriment of the season. Draping along the waistline, shoulder lines and across the body accentuate the female form, while long trousers and skirts contrast with alluring cropped tops.

Tonal looks are vital, but the play of different fabrics and embellishment make it playful and modern.

"The Festive Collection comes at such a special time of year and we're thrilled with the collection. We were really inspired by the importance of light – candles, lanterns and fireworks – and worked that into a vivid sunset colour palette, but also brought in a lot of sequins, rhinestones and satin."

Aakash Sambalpur announces Educational Scholarships for Admissions



Sambalpur: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), a national leader in test preparatory services, has announced various scholarships prior to the commencement of its new session scheduled to begin in April 2024 to enable students to realize their dream of becoming doctors and engineers.

The first scholarship is the Instant Admission Cum Scholarship Test (iACST), offering up to 90% scholarship for admission into Medical, Engineering, and Foundation courses. Additionally, Aakash will provide special discounts to children of martyrs, defense personnel and terrorism-affected individuals.

Mr. Anup Agarwal, Chief Business Officer at Aakash Educational Services Limited, stated, "We are dedicated to providing accessible and impactful educational opportunities for students across India. Through initiatives like iACST and our scholarship programmes, we aim to empower deserving students to achieve their academic and career aspirations. We are proud to continue our tradition of supporting the education of children of our brave Armed Forces personnel and are committed to fostering excellence and inclusivity in education."

The Instant Admission Cum Scholarship Test (iACST) offers students immediate scholarship awards and opportunities

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3,53,188 unit sales

Gurugram: Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May'22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May'21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon."

New Delhi: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has commissioned India's largest electric fleet of 27 forklifts, powered by lithium-ion batteries. Done in partnership with GEAR (Gemini Equipment and Rentals Private Limited) India, this sets the ball rolling

for instant admission. Students can take the exam online and receive details of their earned scholarships instantly, enabling them to secure instant admission under the expert guidance of Aakash faculty. The online iACST, lasting 60 minutes, can be taken between 10 AM and 8 PM on designated exam days.

The Other dignitaries present at the occasion were Nalini Kanta Mohapatra, Branch Head, Bikash Das, Regional Sales & Growth Head, Sumit Kumar, Engineering Academy Head, Santosh Kumar, Foundation Academy Head. The children of martyrs. Similarly, an additional discount of 10% will be given to the children of defense personnel and terrorism-affected individuals over and above their iACST scores. This initiative till date has

benefited over 75,000 students since 2014.

Aakash also celebrates its success in the recent JEE Mains 2024, where 41,263 students qualified the examination. Note-worthy achievements include 4,198 students attaining a percentile score of 95 and above, while 939 students secured a percentile score of 99 and above. Rishi Shekhar Shukla from Hyderabad achieved a perfect 100 percentile, with Abhiraj Singh from Karnal, Sri Ram A from Trinulveli, and Viswanath K S from Hyderabad securing an exceptional percentile of 99.99, among others.

Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

Mumbai: Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their

customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian

Economy contributing to GDP, Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

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

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

The PM Kisan Scheme, a central sector scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India, became operational on December 1, 2018. Under this scheme, income support of ₹ 6000 per year, divided into

three installments, is directly transferred to the bank accounts of landholding farmer families, consisting of the husband, wife, and minor children.

Speaking on this, Sanjeev Kumar, Co-Founder & CEO, Spice Money, said, "At Spice Money, we have been striving to solve the problem of access to banking & financial services in rural India. As the 11th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is rolled out, our 1 million Adhikaris operating across 18,500 pin codes, will be an enabler in ensuring easy access and withdrawal of this subsidy to the rightful 10 crore beneficiaries of this scheme."

Farmers and farmer

families will no longer have to travel large distances to bank branches or just let the money lie idle in their accounts in times of need. Our Adhikaris, trusted banking partners in their communities, will be there at the villages to help farmers withdraw their money, with the help of AePS, thereby providing much-needed safe and secure access to the subsidy amount." Spice Money has been spearheading the efforts towards bridging the financial services gap in rural India by providing banking and financial services to the remotest corners of the country, across 700 districts and 5,000 blocks, thereby revolutionising the way Bharat banks.

Commissions India's Largest Fleet of Electric Lithium-Ion Forklifts

Further, as testimony to its endeavours towards increasing gender diversity in core manufacturing operations, Vedanta Aluminium is recruiting and training women to operate these top-of-the-line forklifts. The company has previously hired transgender employees to operate its forklifts.

aluminium operations at BALCO in Chhattisgarh. These electric forklifts make use of the cutting-edge 'Smart Fleet Management' system to help ensure the highest levels of safety at site. The Smart Fleet Management system uses IoT (Internet of Things) technology to integrate the data collected

by intelligent terminals and provide Vedanta Aluminium insights on a real-time basis with respect to forklift speed, access to operate, collision avoidance, optimization analysis for operational efficiency and equipment maintenance, among others.



Bangladesh prepare for transition to drop-in pitches

New York: With an aim to adapt to the drop-in wickets, Bangladesh began their preparation with a three-hour long net session at Cantiague Park in New York on Thursday (May 30).

Drop-in wickets in New York was a major point of discussion ahead of the team's departure for the USA with the tourists not being familiar with it, unlike some of the other teams in the event. With their first warm-up game against the USA being abandoned due to bad weather in Dallas, Texas on May 28, Bangladesh will be hoping to make the most out of their practice match against India in Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York on June 1.

Bangladesh play two of their group matches of the T20 World Cup in the USA - against Sri Lanka



in Dallas on June 7 and against South Africa in New York on June 10 - before heading to St Vincent in West Indies for their remaining two games.

The Najmul Hossain-led side arrived at the venue nearly two hours after the scheduled time and the focus was on Shakib

Al Hasan who batted for the most amount of time, in three different periods. Following the practice session on Thursday a member of the team management told Cricbuzz that that the players enjoyed their time playing on the drop-in wickets at the Cantiague Park, located

over five miles away from the main ground. "There were no complaints from the cricketers regarding the behaviour of the drop-in wicket and everyone tried to spend as much time as possible to get adapted with its bounce and turn," said the team management member.

"The drop in pitches were okay, the ball came onto the bat well."

"Some extra bounce but batters enjoyed them. These (drop-in wickets) have only been down for a short space of time so once they settle they will be very good," he said, adding that he is not sure how the wickets will behave at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh can heave a sigh of relief as Taskin Ahmed, who recently started bowling with shorter-run after recovering from back injury which forced him to be rested from competitive cricket until now, was found bowling with higher intensity. Bangladesh will have another practice session before they take on India, who arrived at the ground following the departure of the Bangladesh team.

Rodrigues faces race against time to be fit for South Africa series



New Delhi: Jemimah

Rodrigues and Pooja Vastrakar have been conditionally included in India's all-formats squad for the upcoming multi-format home series against South Africa, kick-starting with the first of three ODIs on June 16.

Rodrigues had missed the previous international assignment, India's T20I tour of Bangladesh, due to a back niggle and is currently undergoing rehab at the NCA in Bengaluru alongside Harleen Deol, who is recuperating from a knee injury in her debut Test against England and subsequently missed the one against Australia, returns only for red-ball cricket, while left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad and allrounder Sneh Rana have also been limited to the Test squad.

The selectors have opted for continuity in the T20I format - barely four months out from the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh - and retained majority of the same squad that was on tour in April-May. Pacer Titas Sadhu misses out while Saika Ishaque has been demoted to reserves.

South Africa will play a warm-up 50-overs game, against Board President's XI, in Bengaluru on June 13 before the ODI series begins. The action then shifts to Chepauk in Chennai for the one-off Test starting June 28 - the first between the two countries in nearly a decade - before the concluding T20I leg, starting July 5. Barring the Test, all white-ball matches are day-night affairs.

ODI Squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues *, Richa Ghosh (WK), Uma Chetry (WK), Dayalan Hemalatha, Radha Yadav, Asha Sobhana, Shreyanka Patil, Saika Ishaque, Pooja Vastrakar *, Renuka Singh Thakur, Arundhati Reddy, Priya Punia

Test Squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Shubha Sathesh, Jemimah Rodrigues *, Richa Ghosh (WK), Uma Chetry (WK), Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana, Saika Ishaque, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Pooja Vastrakar *, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Meghna Singh, Priya Punia

T20I squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Shafali Verma, Dayalan Hemalatha, Uma Chetry (WK), Richa Ghosh (WK), Jemimah Rodrigues *, Sajana Sajeevan, Deepti Sharma, Shreyanka Patil, Radha Yadav, Amanjot Kaur, Asha Sobhana, Pooja Vastrakar *, Renuka Singh Thakur, Arundhati Reddy, Standby: Saika Ishaque

Dravid, Rohit content with impression of pitches in New York

New York: Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid inspected the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, where India will play three matches in the Twenty20 World Cup. It was their first visit to the ground and their initial impression of the pitch was that it seemed "normal and good," likely providing favourable conditions for the batters.

The stadium, located in New York's Eisenhower Park, features drop-in pitches for the matches. This has caused some anxiety and apprehension about how the wickets will behave, especially after a few deliveries from Kuldeep Yadav kept low during a practice session at Cantiague Park, where the Indian team has been training for the past two days.



However, the captain and coach are reportedly satisfied with the conditions at the venue. On Friday afternoon, Rohit and Dravid visited the stadium for a photo session with the World Cup trophy, organized by the International Cricket Council (ICC). The

session took place in the outfield of the ground. Meanwhile, the Indian team had a full-fledged net session at Cantiague Park on Thursday afternoon. Despite overnight rains making conditions a bit wet, the practice session was compulsory, and all

players were present. There was no specific batting order during the session, with batters being called into the nets randomly. Rohit Sharma, who will open for India, spent some time batting in the middle of the session. Meanwhile, Virat Kohli is expected to reach New

York on Friday (May 31). He was seen leaving for New York at the Mumbai airport on Thursday and he should be here well in time for India's warm-up game against Bangladesh, to be played on June 1. However, whether Kohli will play the June 1 game is still not certain.

On Friday morning, the Indian team will have an optional training session at Cantiague Park ahead of their only warm-up game before the tournament. India play their league games on June 5 (versus Ireland), June 9 (versus Pakistan) and June 12 (versus Ireland) - all in New York. They play their last league game in Miami (versus Canada) before flying to the Caribbean for the Super Eight matches and knockout contests.

Pooran continues IPL form as Windies serve T20 World Cup warning with 257 vs AUS



warm-up game. Apart from Pooran, captain Rovman Powell hit 52 off 25 balls, while Sherfane Rutherford completed the destruction in the back end with 47 off just 18. West Indies would be happy with their outing given they were not part of the previous edition of the tournament. Windies had failed to qualify for the main round in the

previous World Cup in Australia, which was a low for the country's cricket board. 2022 was the first time that the T20 World Cup was played without West Indies, however, the team qualified for this edition of the tournament due to their rights as the co-host. However, the side seems to have clicked this season, with their batting

at least. Windies only lost 4 wickets in the game and reached a tremendous total against the likes of Josh Hazlewood, Adam Zampa, Nathan Ellis and Ashton Agar. While Australia did not have the services of Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc, Windies were able to hand a proper hammering to Hazlewood (0/55) and Zampa (2/62) from their four overs respectively. Windies would be happy with the six-hitting spree of Nicholas Pooran, who smashed 8 of them on the day. Pooran was in stunning form with LSG in the Indian Premier League 2024 season. The left-hander had smashed 499 runs as a finisher with an astonishing strike-rate of 178. In the IPL 2024, Pooran's highest individual score was 75 as well.

Salt, bowlers star as England crush Pakistan in fourth T20I to take series 2-0



London: Pakistan were

handed a seven-wicket

defeat by England in the fourth and final T20I of the series at the Kennington Oval in London and lost the series by 2-0.

Pakistan were handed a crushing seven-wicket

defeat by England in the

fourth and final T20I of

the series on Thursday, May 30 at Kennington Oval, London. As a result, the Jos Buttler-led side clinched the series by a margin of 2-0 to finish their T20 World Cup 2024 preparations on a high. After being put in to bat first, the visitors were bundled out for just 157 in 19.5 overs as all the English bowlers hared the wickets among them.

In reply, the hosts made a mockery of Pakistan's

total chasing down the target in just 15.3 overs and sealed the series. The series brought an end to the preparations for the upcoming T20 World Cup for both teams as they will straight away get on with their campaign in the mega event next month.

Earlier in the day, after being asked to bat first, Pakistan got off to a good start by their famed opening duo of captain Babar Azam (36 off 22) and Mohammad Rizwan

who added 59 runs for the first wicket off 35 balls. However, after their stand was broken by Jofra Archer, who dismissed Babar in the last over of the powerplay, Pakistan's middle order crumbled against the spin trio of Adil Rashid (2/27), Moeen Ali (1/23, 2 overs) and Liam Livingstone (2/17, 3 overs). Fakhar Zaman (9 off 9), Shadab Khan (0 off 1) and Azam Khan (0 off 5) returned to the pavilion cheaply leaving their side reeling at 86/5. Usman Khan tried his best to get Pakistan out of their 'hell hole' with a crucial innings of 38 (21) laced with three fours and two sixes. The 29-year-old holed out against Livingstone in the 15th over and two balls later Shaheen Afridi also lost his stumps against the off-spinner as Pakistan were left staring down the barrel on 126/7. Iftikhar Ahmed (21 off 18), Naseem Shah (16 off 18) and Haris Rauf (8 off 7) occupied the crease for the last five overs to take their team's total to 157. In the second innings, England captain Jos Buttler (39 off 21) and his opening partner Philip Salt (45 off 24) came out with a clear intent of chasing down the target quickly adding 82 runs for the wicket off just 38 balls.