

<p>Bari (Italy)(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday met French President Emmanuel Macron and discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership including in areas of defence, nuclear and space, and exchanged views on key global and regional issues.</p> <p>PM Modi also met his British counterpart Rishi</p>	<p>Sunak and is believed to have discussed bilateral relations and issues of common interests. He held talks with Ukranian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as well. It is learnt that Zelenskyy briefed Modi on various aspects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.</p> <p>Modi met the three leaders on the sidelines of the G7 summit here in the southern resort town</p>	<p>of Italy.</p> <p>“Taking Strategic Partnership to new levels! PM @narendramodi met P r e s i d e n t @EmmanuelMacron of France on the sidelines of the 50th G7 Summit in Apulia, Italy,” Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.</p> <p>“The two leaders discussed ways to</p>	<p>further strengthen the partnership including in areas of defence, nuclear, space, education, climate action, digital public infrastructure, critical technologies, connectivity and culture. They also exchanged views on key global and regional issues,” he wrote.</p> <p>It is Prime Minister Modi’s first foreign trip</p>
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Odisha CM expresses grief over death of two Odias in Kuwait fire




after assuming office for a third time this month. The two leaders last met in January when the French President visited India to attend the 75th Republic Day of India. During their last meeting, the two leaders reaffirmed their shared vision for bilateral cooperation and international partnership, outlined in Horizon 2047 and other documents from the July 2023 Summit. Horizon 2047 Roadmap sets an ambitious and broad-ranging course for the bilateral relationship for 2047, the centenary year of India's independence. Modi is attending the 50th G7 Summit on the invitation of Italian President Giorgio Meloni and will address an Outreach session on Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Africa and the Mediterranean alongside leaders of other invited countries and Pope Francis.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): President Droupadi Murmu and Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday greeted the people of Odisha on the occasion of Raja, an agrarian festival celebrated in the state. The President said the people of Odisha celebrate the festival by showing their respect to soil and clouds. “On the occasion of this agrarian festival, I wish happiness, peace and prosperity to the people of the state and country,” Murmu said. The Chief Minister said, “May this unique festival of Odisha culture and tradition bring joy and happiness to everyone’s life.” The Raja festival is being celebrated in the state for three days from Friday. The very first day of the festival is termed ‘Pahili Raja’ which is also considered to be the last day of the month Jyestha (summers). The second day of Raja festival signifies the beginning of the solar month of ‘Mithuna’, marking the arrival of monsoon. The third is Bhumi Dahana or ‘Sesa’. During this period, it is believed that mother earth menstruates and prepares herself for future agricultural activities with the arrival of monsoon. The Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) has made special arrangements to provide ‘Pithas’ (types of sweetmeat) during the festival.

New Delhi(KCN): The Union law ministry plans to place before the Union Cabinet the report of the high-level committee on 'one nation, one election', sources said Friday. They said placing the report before the Cabinet "at the earliest" is part of the 100-day agenda of the Legislative Department in the law ministry. Ahead of Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had directed all union ministries and departments to draw up a 100-day agenda for the next government. The high-level committee on 'one nation, one election' headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind had submitted its report to President Droupadi Murmu March 15, recommended simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies as the first step followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days. The panel had also proposed setting up of an 'Implementation Group' to look into the execution of the recommendations made by the committee. Simultaneous polls will help save resources, spur development and social cohesion, deepen "foundations of

New Delhi(KCN): The government will not tolerate any malpractice or irregularities in the conduct of exams and accountability of the National Testing Agency will be fixed if lapses are found, Union Education Minister, Dharmendra

The Kovind panel's report on before Cabinet 'at the earliest'



democratic rubric” and help realise the aspirations of “India, that is Bharat”, the panel had said.

The panel also recommended preparation of a common electoral roll and voter ID cards by the Election Commission of India in consultation with state election authorities.

At present, the ECI is responsible for Lok Sabha and assembly polls, while local body polls for municipalities and panchayats are managed by state election commissions.

The panel recommended

as many as 18 constitutional amendments, most of which will not need ratification by state assemblies. However, these would require certain Constitution amendment bills that would need to be passed by Parliament.

Some proposed changes regarding the single electoral roll and single voter ID card would need ratification by at least half of the states.

Separately, the Law Commission is also likely to come up soon with its own report on simultaneous polls, of which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a strong votary.

State On Raja Mode

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odia people residing in Odisha and outside the State have started celebrating the three-day long annual Raja Festival, a festival to celebrate womanhood. The pleasant weather in Bhubaneswar added more favour to the celebration. Raja Parba or Mithuna Sankranti is a three-day-long festival and the second day signifies the beginning of the solar month of Mithuna from which the season of rains starts. Though celebrated all over the state it is more enthusiastically observed in the coastal districts. The first day is called Pahili Raja, second is Raja Sankranti and third is Bhumi Dahana or Basi

Raja. Today is Pahili Raja. During all the three consecutive days they are seen in the best of dresses and decorations, eating cakes and rich food at the houses of friends and relatives, spending long cheery hours, moving up and down on improvised swings, rending the village sky with their merry impromptu songs. Adding to it, many organizations are celebrating the festival in public places. Many malls and restaurants are hosting programs for the celebration of Raja festival. Swinging on wooden planks hung from trees, eating traditional cakes and dishes, wearing new dresses, styling

themselves, and a series of cultural events have been lined up by young girls to celebrate the festival. During this period, it is believed that Mother Earth menstruates and prepares herself for future agricultural activities with the arrival of monsoon. Different kinds of pithas such as Poda Pitha, Manda, Kakara, Arisha, Chakuli and Chandrakala have been made in every household. The social media like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram flooded with Raja Parba wishes. Personalities like President of India Droupadi Murmu, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, Governor Raghuraj Das, Union Minister



Dharmendra Pradhan and other leaders wished people on this occasion. The people of Odisha celebrate the Raja by showing their respect to soil, rain and by including in playing swings, relishing pithas and paan.

On the occasion of this agricultural festival, I wish happiness, peace and prosperity to the people of the state and country," the President said on X.

Chief Minister Mohan Majhi said, "May this festival which highlights Odia tradition and culture bring happiness to the lives of people." Poda pitha, arisa, kakara,

other pithas and various other delicacies are a major attraction of the festival. Due to lack of time, many women now prefer to buy pithas instead of preparing them at home. Several pitha outlets have been opened across the city for the festival. The Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) has made special arrangements to provide Pithas during the festival. To make the celebration grand, three 'Pitha on Wheels' vans have been provided for sale of Raja delicacies and shall be stationed at Master Canteen, KIIT Square, ITER – Khandagiri from 8 AM to 12 noon and 4

PM to 7 PM, OTDC officials said. These vans will provide an option for take away of Raja Pithas and other delicacies. The Pitha on Wheels is also stationed at Sambalpur. Raja Pitha counters have been set up at Silver city Boatclub, Cuttack, ISBT Café and Nimantran Restaurant Bhubaneswar for sale to the public during the three days. People are thronging various shops to buy meetha paans in cities like Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Kendrapara. It is said that the Raja parba is incomplete without a paan. The traders have also come up with new ideas to attract customers.

Sarangi Inaugurates Raja Utsav

Bhubaneswar(KCN): MP Aparajita Sarangi today inaugurated Raja Mahotsav Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) headquarters, Panthanivas. Raja, an annual festival celebrating womanhood in Odisha, has been kicked off at the Panthanivas promoting authentic Odia delicacies coupled with celebrations during Raja including swings, alata and mehndi for girls and young women. Ekamra Bhubaneswar MLA Babu Singh was also present at the event. As part of the three-day festival, special arrangements have been made to ensure sale of Raja delicacies and sweets across all hospitality units of OTDC. Further, traditional swings have been set up and Mehndi artists invited at



Panthanivas Bhubaneswar to decorate the hands of women visiting during the festival free of cost, officials said. To make the celebration grand, three 'Pitha on Wheels' vans have been provided for sale of Raja delicacies and shall be stationed at Master Canteen, KIIT Square, ITER – Khandagiri from 8 AM to 12 noon and 4 PM to 7 PM.

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Panthanivas, Bhubaneswar from June 13 to 16, 2024. The event had officers from OTDC including Director of OTDC Shri Sachin Ramachandra Jadhav, General Manager Lalatendu Sahoo, Working President of Utkal Paryatan Nigam Employee Association Benudhara Patra among others present on the occasion.

Cuttack-Paradeep and Paradeep-Haridaspur Railway Sections inspected by ECoR General Manager:



BHUBANESWAR(KCN): East Coast Railway General Manager Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of Cuttack-Paradeep and Paradeep-Haridaspur Railway Sections and other infrastructure related development in Paradeep area. During the inspection,

Shri Funkwal reviewed traffic facility works in Paradeep area and inspected Railway Sidings, various infrastructures and traffic related works. The purpose of this inspection was to access the developmental activities of Railways in enhancing traffic facilities and ensuring hassle-free train

operations in both the Railway Sections. General Manager also took the opportunity to review the ongoing developmental works in Paradeep area. During the inspection, Divisional Railway Manager of Khurda Road Railway Division Shri H. S. Bajwa and other Principal Heads of the Departments of ECoR

assisted Shri Funkwal. General Manager Shri Funkwal also emphasized the importance of maintaining close coordination with stakeholders like Paradeep Port Trust and industries like JSW in the area to optimize revenue generation, which will have a direct positive impact to the Nation.



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Fortifying Democracy : The Urgent Need for Stronger Anti-Defection Laws to Curb Political Opportunism



In recent years, the political landscape has been marred by a surge in defections where politicians switch parties, often seeking personal gain at the expense of voters' trust. This phenomenon undermines the very essence of democracy as elected representatives betray the mandate given to them leading to political instability and eroding public faith in democratic institutions. A robust legal framework is imperative to deter such opportunistic activities and safeguard the sanctity of the electoral process. Political defections are not a new phenomenon but their frequency and impact have grown alarmingly. Politicians

often switch parties for promises of better positions, financial incentives or to align with the ruling party for political leverage. This not only disrupts governance but also makes a mockery of the voters' mandate. For instance, in India a significant number of legislators have switched parties post-elections causing political turmoil and necessitating re-elections at the taxpayers' expense. A notable example is the 2019 Karnataka political crisis, where a series of defections led to the collapse of the state government. Similarly, in 2020, Madhya Pradesh witnessed a dramatic shift in power when several MLAs defected from the Congress to the BJP resulting in the fall of the Kamal Nath government. Such instances highlight the urgent need for stringent anti-defection laws. Many countries have attempted to address this issue through anti-defection laws. For example, India's Tenth

Prasara Khuntia

Schedule, added to the Constitution in 1985, aims to curb the evil of political defections. This law stipulates that a member of parliament or a state legislature who defects to another party is disqualified from continuing in office. However, the law has loopholes. It allows for defections if a substantial number of legislators (at least two-thirds) from a party decide to join another, thereby encouraging mass defections. Similarly, in the United Kingdom, the Recall of MPs Act 2015 allows constituents to recall their Member of Parliament if they believe the MP has acted against their interests including switching parties. However, this process is lengthy and rarely results in actual recall, limiting its effectiveness as a deterrent. To effectively address political defections, it is essential to fortify existing laws and introduce new measures. Here are some proposed reforms:

1. Mandatory

- Resignation and Re-Election : Legislators who switch parties should be mandated to resign and seek re-election. This ensures that the decision to defect is scrutinized and approved by the electorate, maintaining democratic accountability.
2. Stricter Disqualification Norms: The anti-defection laws should eliminate the provision that allows mass defections. Any member defecting, regardless of the number, should face disqualification.
3. Financial Penalties and Loss of Perks: Defectors should face financial penalties and lose benefits such as pensions, government housing and other perks associated with their position.
4. Transparency in Political Funding: To discourage defections driven by financial incentives, there should be greater transparency in political funding and stricter regulations to curb illicit financial inducements.

5. Strengthening Internal Party Democracy: Political parties should foster internal democracy ensuring that members' grievances are addressed within the party framework reducing the impetus to defect. Political defections undermine the democratic process, disrupt governance and betray voters' trust. Strengthening anti-defection laws is crucial to curbing this opportunistic behavior. Legislators must be held accountable to the electorate ensuring that the mandate given by the people is respected. By introducing stringent measures we can restore faith in the democratic process and ensure stable governance. It is high time that lawmakers rise above partisan interests and enact reforms that fortify the integrity of our political system.

The author is a journalist and columnist

A forgotten meteriologist

Saikat Kumar Basu



Kolkata and gangetic West Bengal are going to experience another cyclonic hit called Remal. In recent years Kolkata has witnessed many devastating cyclonic hits like Amphan, Yash, Ayela, Bulbul, Fani etc. But do you know the term 'cyclone' was coined by a British man residing in Calcutta?. He was Henry Piddington. He was born in England and had interest in sailing. He took a training and became Commander in Marine Service in East India and China. During 1840s, he settled in Calcutta .He had experienced many storms while sailing through sea and in Calcutta, he pursued a career in Science mainly focusing in Science of Weather. He was



particularly interested in storm wave or storm surge and wrote the detailed account of storm waves and their effects. During those days, British Government had a plan to build a port on the bank of Matla River. But Piddington was totally against it and warned the government that the river would be exposed to heavy cyclonic hazards. But everybody ignored him and he became "madman" to the general public. In 1864, it was inaugurated and The port was named

as Port Canning after the then Governor-General Lord Canning. But after three years of its inauguration, the port was struck by a cyclonic hit and it was destroyed. He wrote a book "a horn - book for the Law of storm for the Indian and Chinese Seas." in 1884. Apt 6--409 43 Street South, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, T1J4B3 Email: saikatbasu@alumni.uleth.ca The Author is a Canada based indian Agro Scientists

Know the Knower

Prof. Dr. Umesh Chandra Patra



MEN everywhere are frittering away the precious years allotted to them on earth, in three vain pursuits: praising oneself, thrusting one's interests forward, aggrandizement at all costs; defaming others, blackening the reputations of others, scandalising the good and fawning upon the bad; talking frivolously, or irresponsibly, stoking the fires of hatred or slinging mud, helter skelter, with no care for the injury done. Men try to know everything about everybody else; but, they do not try to know about themselves! The attempt to know about the knower is called sadhana; knowledge about the knower is Atma Vidhya. It is only through that knowledge that man can live in peace anywhere. For, when we know that our are but a spark of the Divine and that all else are the same Divine sparks, we look upon all with reverence and true Love; our heart is filled with supreme joy; and the assertions of the ego are rendered ineffective. Man seeks joy in far places and peace in quiet spots; but, the spring of joy is in his heart, the haven of peace is in himself. Even when he walks on the moon, man has to take with him, his fears, his anxieties, his prejudices and his pet aversions. Have faith in God, and in the correctness of moral living. Then, we can have peace and joy, whatever may be the fare that fortune offers we.

Goodness, compassion, tolerance - through these three paths, one can see the Divinity in oneself and others. Softness of heart is condemned by people today as weakness, cowardice and want of intelligence. The heart has to be hardened, they say, against pity and charity. But, that way lies war, destruction, downfall. Love alone confers lasting happiness and peace. Sharing alone can reduce grief and multiply joy. Man is born to share, to serve, to give and not to grab. When you instal faith in God as a .precious truth in the altar of our heart, we will welcome with equal' alacrity the blows and blossoms of fortune. Man can have the highest joy and can share that joy with others; but he is now having only grief and sharing that grief with others. A king once granted a woodcutter in the forest an extensive sandal wood plantation as inam (gift), in return for an act of hospitality that he had the chance to offer him. The fellow did not realise the value of the wood nor did he investigate the meaning and mode of the fragrance that emanated from the wood; he cut all the trees in a short time and burnt them for selling as charcoal. Most men waste their lives; they make charcoal out of sandalwood and are happy at the few chips, they get in exchange! By means of prayer we can win the Grace of God; prayer saves you from slavery to the senses; when we extol God and feel that you are activated by His Will, you will become free from anger, anxiety, prejudice and envy; these passions ruin physical and mental health. Whenever we feel greed or resentment, try to control the emotion. Treat it as we would treat an illness; find the cure and master it.

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Raja Festival & Mother Earth



Raja is primarily observed for three days. The very first day of this three day long festival is termed as Pahili Raja which is also considered to be the last day of the month Jestha (summers). The second day is named as Raja Sankranti; first day of the month Asadha(monsoons). The concluding day is named in local dialect as Bhuin Dahana popularly known as Sesa Raja (last day).

However, the festival in some parts of the regions actually ranges for a period of four days with inclusion of the fourth day termed as Basumata Puja or Basumata Gadhua (Bathing & praying of mother earth). Odisha, the eastern coastal state of India, is known for its rich heritage and culture. Apart from the world-famous Ratha Yatra, which takes place in June, Odia people also celebrate a unique festival called Raja. This is a three-day-long festival dedicated to Mother Earth (Bhuma Devi) and womanhood at large. The festivities begin a day before Mithuna Sankranti and conclude two days after



that. The first day of the festival is called Pahili Raja, the second is Mithuna Sankranti and the third Bhu daha or Basi Raja. The preparation begins one day before Pahili Raja, and it is called Sajabaj. Primarily, it is a time for the unmarried girls to prepare for their

consort of Lord Vishnu, undergoes her menstrual cycle during this period. Interestingly, the word 'Raja' in Odia means menstruation, and it is derived from Rajaswala, meaning a menstruating woman. Surprisingly, it is a festival that celebrates this aspect of womanhood which makes the feminine entity unique. Menstruation is considered as a sign of fertility, and therefore, it celebrates femininity and her ability to give birth to another life. During the Parba, Odia people do no undertake any construction works or tilling that requires the earth to be dug. And by not doing such activities, they pay ode to the Mother Earth who needs

a break from routine work. The festival concludes with a custom called Vasumati Snana or the bathing of Bhuma Devi. Women worship a stone that symbolises the Mother Earth. They give her a bath with turmeric paste and offer her flowers and smear her with Sindoor. This festival is also associated with the end of the summer season and the arrival of the monsoon. And therefore, it is also associated with agriculture and cultivation related communities and activities. "Sai Bithi", 7D/1354, Sector-9, CDA, Cuttack, E-mail : anupam2bhuyan@gmail.com

Raja Parba

Nirupama Bhuyan



Odisha, the land of Lord Jagannath, celebrates 13 festivals in 12 months (a popular proverb among the locals) meaning Odisha celebrates endless festivals throughout the year. Among all this one important festival is Raja Parba which is celebrated for three days during the mid of June, preferably starts from 14th June and ends in 16th. During this period, the state remains in a state of jubilation and

celebration. The scorching rays of Summer of April and May calm down by the advent of South- West Monsoon in the first week of June through its tender drops. The sky that was blue during Summers turns out to be dark and white with patches of rain-bearing cloud moving here and there. It is in this occasion of soothing weather, relief from the heat and the new hope for next agricultural season Raja Parba is celebrated. Hence, it is a festival that is of great importance for the people who depend upon agriculture for their livelihood. Further, the word Raja itself in Odia means menstruation and it's a conjecture that

mother Earth goes for three days long menstrual cycle during this period. So, in this occasion no activities like tilling, construction or any other that hurts mother Earth are done. These three days of the menstrual cycle of earth ends in the fourth day with Basumati Gaadhua which means the bathing of mother Earth. In this eve people worship mother Earth by bathing pieces of stone as it's a replica and pray for a prosperous agricultural year in the days to come. This ritual of celebrating the menstrual cycle of Mother Earth through Raja festival is an acknowledgement of the fact that the society had no taboo regarding the menstruation of women in past days. It

was treated as normal in the society where today women are kept in segregated place during their periods and are not allowed to enter a temple treating them impure. For many, Raja festival is significant for it's closeness to agricultural class and people at large celebrate it for fun and merrymaking. On the other hand, we miss a larger message of women liberation that this festival signifies. It acknowledges the women as it is created by nature and hence freeing her from a societal burden. As a message to society, this Raja festival, has a name Raja meaning the menstruation which is often kept secret in many societies, leads to a greater acceptance of genuine woman issues. Not in many parts of the country except Odisha, celebrate this festival and it is even

unknown to many. But in a world where women rights are sought, women menstrual hygiene is a serious issue with 23 million girls dropping school in India due to it, this festival should be an eye-opener for many. Along with all awareness campaigns, the celebration of this festival of Raja will improve the women menstrual hygiene and will help liberate more and more women from societal taboo. One last important aspect of this Raja festival is the acknowledgement of nature's contribution to human life and humans' duty for the maintenance of good health of nature. This mutual relation is very much essential for the promotion of sustainable development along with the protection of nature. During Raja

festival, not hurting mother Earth for three days is exactly the promotion of sustainable development goals of the United Nations for protection of earth through climate action, and the women's liberation and menstrual hygiene are in the line with sustainable development goal of gender justice for women. This highlights the fact that the festivals of our society have a greater practical and philosophical Dimension that is often essential for a sustainable universe and egalitarian society for all. Indeed Raja Festival is one of such kind. Ex. District Co-ordinator (Education), Sri Satya Sai Seva Sangathan, Kendrapara District, Odisha, Mob. : 9937470980

Give Blood, Save Lives, Be a Hero



World Blood Donor Day, celebrated annually on June 14th, emphasizes the critical importance of blood donation and honours the selfless contributions of voluntary donors. Established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2004, this day serves to raise awareness about the need for safe blood and blood products and to express gratitude to those who donate. As we approach World Blood Donor Day 2024, it is essential to reflect on the significance of blood donation, explore national and international statistics, and highlight the ongoing need for donor participation. Blood donation is a fundamental aspect of modern healthcare, crucial for saving lives during emergencies, surgeries, and for patients with chronic illnesses. Blood and blood products are indispensable for treating severe trauma, supporting major surgeries, managing childbirth complications, and treating conditions such as anemia, cancer, and thalassemia. The

universal nature of blood donation means that a single donation can potentially save multiple lives, as blood can be separated into its various components: red cells, plasma, platelets, and cryoprecipitate. According to the WHO, approximately 118.5 million blood donations are collected globally each year. Despite this seemingly large number, there is a significant imbalance in the availability and distribution of safe blood. High-income countries, which comprise 16% of the world's population, account for 40% of the total blood donations. In contrast, low- and middle-income countries often struggle with shortages, impacting their ability to provide adequate healthcare. In high-income countries, blood donation systems are well-established, with most donations coming from voluntary, unpaid donors. These systems benefit from advanced infrastructure, robust regulatory frameworks, and widespread public awareness campaigns. For instance, in the United States, approximately 13.6 million units of whole blood and red blood cells are collected annually, with a donor rate of about 37.8 donations per 1,000 population. Similarly, European

countries like Germany and France maintain high donation rates, with well-organized blood services ensuring a steady supply. In low- and middle-income countries, the scenario is often starkly different. These nations face numerous challenges, including limited infrastructure, inadequate funding, and cultural barriers that impede the growth of voluntary blood donation. In many cases, family replacement donors or paid donors fill the gap, posing significant risks to blood safety due to higher rates of transfusion-transmissible infections (TTIs) such as HIV, hepatitis B and C, and syphilis. For example, in India, the world's second-most populous country, the demand for blood far outstrips supply. The country requires an estimated 12 million units of blood annually but collects only around 9-10 million units. Despite growing awareness campaigns and increasing participation from voluntary donors, the reliance on family replacement donors remains substantial. Efforts to bridge this gap include initiatives by the National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) and various non-governmental organizations that organize blood drives and educational programs to

encourage voluntary donation. In sub-Saharan Africa, the situation is even more dire. The WHO reports that this region has some of the lowest donation rates, with an average of 4.4 donations per 1,000 population. Countries like Nigeria and Kenya face chronic shortages, exacerbated by high prevalence rates of TTIs. In response, international aid organizations and local health ministries are working to improve blood safety and increase the number of voluntary donors. Programs such as the Safe Blood for Africa Foundation and WHO's regional initiatives are crucial in these efforts. Globally, numerous initiatives aim to enhance blood donation systems and ensure a safe and sufficient blood supply. The WHO's Blood Safety and Availability program provides technical support to countries to strengthen their national blood systems. Key components include improving donor recruitment and retention, enhancing blood screening processes, and developing robust regulatory frameworks. One notable success story is the progress made in Thailand. Over the past few decades,

Thailand has transformed its blood donation landscape through a combination of government support, public awareness campaigns, and collaboration with organizations like the Thai Red Cross Society. As a result, the country has achieved a donor rate of 23.6 donations per 1,000 population, with 100% of donations coming from voluntary, unpaid donors. Another exemplary model is found in Brazil. The country has developed a comprehensive national blood program, which includes mobile blood collection units, extensive public education efforts, and partnerships with community organizations. Brazil's integrated approach has resulted in a steady increase in blood donations, with a donor rate of approximately 16.2 donations per 1,000 population. Advancements in technology and innovation are playing a pivotal role in improving blood donation systems worldwide. Digital platforms and mobile applications are increasingly being used to streamline the donation process, enhance donor recruitment, and improve communication between blood banks and donors. For instance, in India, the e-RaktKosh initiative, a comprehensive IT

solution, has been implemented to manage the country's blood supply chain. This platform facilitates real-time tracking of blood availability, donor databases, and distribution networks, thereby improving efficiency and transparency. Similarly, in the United States, the American Red Cross has developed a mobile app that allows donors to schedule appointments, track their donation history, and receive notifications about urgent blood needs. This user-friendly approach has significantly enhanced donor engagement and retention. Despite the progress made, several challenges continue to impede the global effort to ensure a safe and sufficient blood supply. One of the primary challenges is the disparity in blood donation rates between high-income and low- and middle-income countries. Addressing this gap requires a multifaceted approach, including strengthening healthcare infrastructure, increasing public awareness, and fostering a culture of voluntary donation. Ensuring the safety of blood remains a critical concern. Rigorous screening and testing protocols are essential to prevent the transmission of TTIs.

Developing countries, in particular, need support to implement and maintain high standards of blood safety. The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted vulnerabilities in blood donation systems. Lockdowns and social distancing measures have led to a significant decline in blood donations worldwide. To mitigate these impacts, innovative approaches such as mobile blood drives, appointment-based donations, and extended operating hours for blood banks have been adopted. These strategies have proven effective and should be continued to ensure resilience in the face of future challenges. Looking ahead, the global community must continue to prioritize blood donation as a critical component of healthcare. Governments, healthcare providers, non-governmental organizations, and individuals all have roles to play. National policies should focus on creating enabling environments for voluntary donation, investing in healthcare infrastructure, and ensuring equitable access to safe blood. Public awareness campaigns must be sustained and intensified to educate communities about the importance of blood donation and to dispel myths and misconceptions. Schools,

workplaces, and community organizations can serve as platforms for promoting blood donation and organizing regular blood drives. World Blood Donor Day 2024 is an opportunity to celebrate the selfless contributions of blood donors worldwide and to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring a safe and sufficient blood supply for all. While significant progress has been made, much work remains to be done, particularly in addressing the disparities between high-income and low- and middle-income countries. By leveraging technology, fostering international collaboration, and promoting a culture of voluntary donation, we can build resilient blood donation systems that save lives and improve health outcomes globally. As we commemorate this important day, let us pledge to support and participate in blood donation efforts, recognizing that each donation is a lifeline of hope for those in need.

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Sharp increase in tainted leaders - a matter of concern

-Lalit Garg -



The 18th Lok Sabha has been elected in the country. The world's largest democracy and record number of voters are to be proud of, but there are also disturbing trends in this democracy. The news is that out of the 543 members of Lok Sabha elected recently, no less than 46 percent have criminal records, which is three percent more than the last time. In Indian politics, people with criminal image or facing criminal charges are the potential threat to the government and the nation both, in every conceivable way, which is a matter of worry for every citizen. Will the democratic purity and sanctity of the country be protected in this situation? Will these tainted people not criminalize our system over time? The latest report by the Association of Democratic Reforms, an advisory body that analyses issues related to the criminals in Indian politics, shows that while 233 (43%) of the MPs elected in 2019 had accepted criminal cases

registered against them, 251 MPs elected for the 18th Lok Sabha have accepted criminal cases registered against them, which is 46% of the total number. Today, a big question is how to make Indian politics crime-free. It is not without reason that the increasing interference by criminals in Indian politics has created such a problem that instead of appearing in court, an MP who is accused of kidnapping reaches Rashtrapati Bhawan to take oath as a minister. Leaders like Arvind Kejriwal say in the general elections that the people should vote for Aam Aadmi Party in large numbers, so that he can be saved from going to jail. Here the most important question is how will we establish a good governance and honest system by giving responsible positions to such characterless and criminal elements? How will he live up to the trust of the general public? How will the doors be closed for the tainted persons to reach the Parliament? In fact, on the alert initiative by the Supreme Court, all political parties have started publishing the criminal records of Lok Sabha and Assembly candidates since the year 2020. Certainly, the purpose of this order was to free the country's politics from the crooks

tainted with criminal image. But in reality this did not happen, because the priority of all political parties was to gamble on the winning candidates, even if they had a criminal record. The big question is who will present the ideal in politics then? What happened to those people who always presented the ideal picture by making every sacrifice possible? They became exemplary for millions, became ideals-- whether it was the freedom struggle, security of the country, security of religion, protection of their word or the question of protection of their culture and identity, they sacrificed everything to fulfil their duty and promise. Heroes like Maharana Pratap, Bhagat Singh, Durgadas, Chhatrasal, Shivaji made big sacrifices by abandoning all comforts of life. Guru Govind Singh got both his sons bricked into the wall and Panna Dhay sacrificed her son for her devotion to her master. Temples should be built for such people. If their temples are not built, people bow their heads in reverence, as soon as their names are mentioned. But the way our national life and thinking have been distorted today, our politics has become selfish and narrow-minded, our behaviour has become false, we have worn more masks



than faces, it has destroyed all our values. With the rise of criminals in politics, citizens of the nation are worried and confused about the future of the country. The time has come when some top people will have to make Herculean efforts to protect the country's culture, glorious heritage. A new standard will have to be set before the directionless leadership class. If a person is accused in any murder, kidnapping, murder or any other serious crime, then the attempt to protect him by calling him a political person, or the evil attempt to take political advantage will have to be stopped. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always given priority to corruption and crime free politics, but in the battle to win elections, he has also been seen giving shelter

to criminal politicians. All political parties have given tickets to tainted candidates. This highlights the huge difference between the words and actions of political parties. The question is-- what will be our future if such tainted people who formulate policies for the country continue to be the makers of our destiny? Will people with criminal backgrounds not affect our law and order after being elected as public representatives? What will be the future of our society and system? Why don't the leaders who talk about all the ideals and question the actions of the leaders of other parties take honest initiative to free politics from the dominance of criminals? Why don't all political parties agree for purity and sanctity in Indian democracy?

Certainly, if no serious initiative is taken in this direction in time, then this percentage of tainted people will continue to increase in the coming years. Along with this, the big crisis is that the dominance of leaders who have become millionaires by hook or crook is increasing in the lower house of the country. This time, there are 504 millionaires among the MPs elected to the Parliament. In such a situation, can it be expected that a common man who lives off his hard-earned money can ever think of becoming an MP? Tainted and criminal politicians are becoming a big irony and anomaly of democracy. It is not just about the Lok Sabha, there is such a contradiction and anomaly in the governments of various states that a leader with

a criminal image becomes the Law Minister, an illiterate or less educated representative is made the Education Minister. The same happens with other important ministries. What kind of helplessness is this of political parties? Often the reality of the claim of making politics crime-free comes to the fore when the opportunity comes to form a coalition government in a state or at the Centre. It is a matter of happiness that such helplessness has been controlled to a great extent in the cabinet of the coalition government formed at the Centre. Only one demand is heard from those who protect the nation on the borders that after death our dead body should be sent to our home. When we read such things, our head salutes those soldiers; it seems that the spirit of patriotism and sacrifice has not died yet. But when will such an ideal be present in politics? The light of the lamp of character and morality in politics has become dim; oil will have to be poured. Whether it is the CBI raids and prison bars on the houses of ministers in the Delhi government or the coronation of criminal elements in the formation of the Bihar Council of Ministers, these are serious issues on which there should be an intense debate in politics, there should be a meaningful

effort to purify politics, this should be the priorities of new India - strong India. Everyone is running and shouting for their identity and self-interest. Some try to establish their independent identity with money, some with their beauty, some with their scholarship, some with their behaviour. The condition of politics is even worse that here leaders resort to crime, corruption and immorality to rule the hearts of the people. There are attempts to divide the people on the basis of caste, regional, and communalism. But how much illusion do we nurture? Identity is not built without character. Everything else is temporary. Character is a sadhana, austerity. Just as the belly of ego is big, it needs something or the other every day. Similarly, political character needs daily protection and all this can be achieved only with strong morale, clean image, honesty and freedom from crime. In politics, only a leader with character and morality is respectable and acceptable.

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Army Good Will School Students Attended ISRO, S Yuvika 2024 Programme



Srinagar, (KCN): Army Goodwill School, Wuzur is being run under the aegis of chinara corps, proudly announces the selection of three of its exceptional students for the ISROs prestigious YUVIKA-2024 programme. This achievement was secured through a rigorous online screening test, underscoring the student's remarkable potential and dedication. The selected students participated in a 14 day residential programme hosted at ISROs residential center in

Dehradun. The programme was designed to ignite a passion for space science among young minds. It provided an immersive learning experience, blending theoretical knowledge with hands-on activities. Through this initiative, ISRO aims to cultivate a scientific curiosity and inspire the next generation of space enthusiasts. This remarkable opportunity was made possible under the mentorship and

guidance of teachers, principal and an unwavering support of the Bharathi Airtel Foundation. Their support underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in nurturing young talent and fostering educational growth. We are elated and immensely proud of our students for achieving this unprecedented milestone. It is a testament to the talent and hardwork that thrives within the wall of Army Goodwill School, Wuzur.

FSSAI-ER Issues Prohibition of Sale against Bhikharam Chandmal Snacks & Savouries for using Synthetic Food Colour- Tartrazine (INS 102), not Permitted under FSS Act, 2006

Kolkata, (KCN): An enforcement sampling was conducted at the premises of a Food Business Operator (FBO) at Howrah, West Bengal by the Central Food Safety Officers, FSSAI-Eastern Region as a part of the monitoring and vigil during the festive season wherein samples of Bhikharam Chandmal Snacks & Savouries were drawn and sent to lab for analysis. The reports of the lab indicated that samples are 'Unsafe' due to the presence of Tartrazine (INS 102) which is not permitted for the said products. The above findings indicate violation of provisions of FSS Act, 2006 and the product regulations made there under. Acting swiftly in the matter, the Designated Officer, FSSAI-Eastern Region issued a Notice of Prohibition of Sale for all

such products manufactured at the premises in violation of the mentioned provisions. Further the enforcement and legal action including initiation of recall of the implicated products is being undertaken by this office. FSSAI, along with States/UTs Food Authorities, is continuously monitoring the quality and safety of food products for consumers in the country by drawing and testing samples. FBOs found to be in violation of the rules are liable to face fine and legal action under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. FSSAI seeks to prevent non-compliant practices and ensure that consumers across the nation have access to safe and high-quality food products through stringent inspections,

monitoring, and enforcement campaigns. FSSAI has strongly advised all FBOs to follow the standards of food products prescribed by FSSAI and ensure safe and hygienic practices for the manufacturing of food products. Any noncompliance may result in strict action against the violating FBOs. FSSAI encourages consumers to report any instances of food safety concerns to maintain the highest standards of food safety across the country. The consumers may share their concerns related to food safety matters directly with FSSAI through a dedicated "Food Safety Connect" portal which can be accessed at <https://foscos.fssai.gov.in/consumergrievance/> and the Food Safety Connect App.

Dolls Theater Puppetry Workshop in Burdwan



KOLKATA, (KCN): A three-day puppet theater workshop was held from June 7 to June 9 at Tepantar Natyagram in Satkahaniya, Burdwan. Which is organized by Kolkata's Dolls Theatre. This is the first Dolls Theater workshop to be held outdoors in the midst of nature. This initiative of the organization is to spread puppetry in the marginal

areas of different districts. In this workshop, 21 students of different ages from different districts learned various lessons of hand puppetry under the supervision of internationally renowned puppet artist Sudip Gupta and artist Sriparna Bhanj Gupta. On the last day of this three-day workshop, the students presented

three puppet plays in the midst of nature. The subject of which was nature. Dolls Theater was accompanied by Bhavna Theater magazine and Tepantar Natyagram. Parents were also present with the students in the camp. Entrepreneurs said that such workshops will be conducted more in the future.

ICET-2024 results released

Hyderabad, June 14 (KCN): Telangana Integrated Common Entrance Test (TG-ICET)-2024 results have been released here on Friday. The conduct of the ICET-2024 has been entrusted to Kakatiya University. Releasing the ICET-2024 the results along with Chairman of Telangana Council of Higher Education Prof R Limbadri, Convenor Prof. S. Narasimha Chary, Registrar of Kakatiya University Prof. Perati Malla Reddy, Chairman of ICET-2024 and Incharge Vice Chancellor of Kakatiya University Vakati Karuna said that 77942



had taken the Test of which 71647 qualified. The Test was conducted on the 5th and 6th June with two sessions on the first day and one session on the second day in 111 centres in Telangana State and 5 centres in Andhra Pradesh. Detailing the ranks, the

Incharge Vice Chancellor said that Syed Muneebullah Hussaini of Hyderabad secured the first rank while Jella Bharath of Ranga Reddy district, second rank and the third rank by Kandala Lasya of Medchal Malkajgiri district, fourth rank by Palagulla Rishika

Reddy of Nizamabad the fifth by Kotnana Siva Kumar of Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. The candidates who appeared for the test can check their score and rank besides downloading their rank card by visiting the website of the TCHE at <https://icet.tsche.ac.in>,

she added. The Test was held for the candidates seeking admission into MBA and MCA courses in the universities and their constituent and affiliated colleges in the Telangana State for the academic year 2024-2025. Vice Chairman of Telangana Council of Higher Education Prof V Venkat Ramana and Prof SK Mahamood, Secretary Prof Sriram Venkatesh, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Business Management Prof P. Amaraveni, Chairman of the Board of Studies of Commerce and Business Management Prof K Rajender and former Convenor Prof P Varalaxmi were also present.

"Amazing People": Bill Gates Recalls India Story In Nikhil Kamath's Podcast

Mumbai (KCN): Microsoft Co-founder and billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates has reflected on his relationship with India on the popular podcast series 'WTF is with Nikhil Kamath' with the Zerodha Co-founder and entrepreneur. Appearing on the new segment 'People By WTF' hosted by Nikhil Kamath, Bill Gates said he has had a great relationship with India. "We hired some very smart IT graduates, and brought them to Seattle," he recalled.

Reflecting on his journey with India, Bill Gates said, "I've had a fabulous relationship with India starting with the Microsoft experience where we hired some very smart IT graduates, and brought them to Seattle. Later, they went back and created a development centre for us that's now in four locations, with 25,000 people. Of course, a lot of the amazing people I worked with in Microsoft were hired from India." Praising present Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Bill Gates said, "On the top of that list is



Satya, who now is doing a great job as the CEO. In my digital first career, the connection with India was fun and made a huge difference in what the company was able to achieve." It was during that time that I was kind

of learning, 'Oh wow, India is such a study in contrast, first class in so many ways, but still a lot of poverty and challenges.' However, he also flagged the country's legal system for the

delay in delivering quick justice, looking at the backlog of cases in the Indian courts. Drawing parallels between the US and Indian legal systems, Bill Gates said, "Believe me, the legal things done in the US won't apply here. But, just imagine, if you could make everybody in the legal system four times more productive, that changes justice because right now the backlog is kind of nightmarish. And here, you know, comes a potential solution."

Amit Shah Reviews Security Situation In J&K After Terror Attacks

New Delhi (KCN): Home Minister Amit Shah today chaired a high-level meeting to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir following recent terror attacks. The meeting comes a day after the Prime Minister also reviewed the situation in the Union Territory. The top security brass briefed the Home Minister about the counter-insurgency measures taken after back-to-back terror attacks in the Jammu region. A 360-degree review will be done on Sunday. Mr Shah will chair the meeting in which National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir



Manoj Sinha will participate along with the Chiefs of the Army, Intelligence Bureau and Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW). The Home Minister will also review the preparedness of the Union Territory's administration for the Amarnath Yatra. The Amarnath yatra is to begin from June 29 this year. The holy expedition

includes a 52-day yatra to the 3,880-metre-high shrine, located in the south of the Himalayas. Devotees from all over the country will begin their pilgrimage from the Jammu base camp. A unified command meeting was held earlier this week in Srinagar, after which a security audit of Jammu was done by the

forces. "Some gaps were identified in the present grid. Officers from the Jammu and Kashmir administration will brief the Home Minister and the NSA about what steps have been taken to strengthen the existing security grid," a senior officer told NDTV. The Director General of

Para forces along with other officers will also attend the high-level security review meeting, the officer added. Yesterday, the Prime Minister and the NSA reviewed the ground situation and then later spoke to Mr Shah. Terrorists struck at four places in the Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir over the past four days. On June 9, terrorists launched an attack on pilgrims in a bus in the Reasi district, leaving nine people dead. On Tuesday, a suspected Pakistani terrorist was killed by security forces in the Kathua district. The overnight encounter ended after a second terrorist was also gunned down on Wednesday. A CRPF soldier was killed in action.

Awareness on Child Protection at Baliharachandi Temple on the occasion of Raja

PURI, (KCN): An awareness programme was conducted by District Child Protection Unit & District Administration, Purion 14th June 2024 at Baliharachandi Temple, Brahmagiri among the devotees and local people on the occasion of Pahili Raja. Mr. Manoj Kumar Tripathy, District Child Protection Officer, Mr. Sangram Kishore Samal, PO CNCP, OSCPS Mr.



Saktipad Mishra and Mr Rama Shankar Patra Ex CWC Member, Mr.

Subhanarayan Satapathy POIC, Mr. Debasish Jena Coordinator CHL

and Other CHL members created awareness among the public present

over there. Leaflet distributed to the people and placard campaign conducted on prevention of child marriage, child labour, child trafficking, child sexual abuse etc. The team reached at every Chhapa the camp of villagers came across various corner of Brahmagiri Block for 3 days and staying there and the temple management committee members aware on child protection.

Customized Vehicles For STR

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In another move to make Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) a poaching free zone, State Wildlife Organization has launched customized vehicles for movement of frontline staff for patrolling in all corners of the tiger reserve.

Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden Susanta Nanda said STR is famous for its tigers and elephants. It alone is the home of 90% tiger, 16% leopards and 25% elephants of Odisha. Similipal is the only home of an actively breeding population of unique melanistic tigers in the world.

There are many species of rare, endangered, threatened and

vulnerable plants and animals. Mahaseer, Hornbill, Chowsingha, Mouse deer, Giant Squirrel, Flying squirrel, Ruddy mongoose, Mugger crocodile and Rufus tailed hare are examples of this unique biodiversity, he said.

Similipal is the 61h largest Tiger Reserve of the country in terms of geographical extent and is one of the densest in terms of forest cover. Many hills in Similipal like Meghaseni, Khairibiru, etc. reach beyond 1100 m. elevation.

Further, the STR has 1011.5 kms length of road network connecting 214 anti-poaching camps, 16 watchtowers, 19 check posts, monitoring and protection of wild tigers in Similipal Tiger



Reserve is a daunting task due to presence of innumerable hills, perennial streams and inaccessible roads, the PCCF said.

Therefore, customized vehicles are a necessity for movement of frontline staff, transportation of camp equipment, provisions for the staff as well as for carrying out patrolling at

night during which the wild animals pose risk to life of the frontline staff, he said.

“This is more evident during the monsoons. Due to the stringent protection measures, the poachers attack the frontline staff with their weapon which lead to martyrdom of two bravehearts of the Forest Department in the recent

past, Shri Nanda stated. Stating that Similipal has the potential to restock tiger population in the eastern region of the Central-India landscape in general and the forests of Odisha, the PCCF Wildlife said effective protection of tiger reserve

will foster a viable tiger population with long term survival.

The ongoing present tiger estimation by the state is encouraging with establishment of source population. So, the Government has been pleased to allow 14

Bolero Campers for Similipal Tiger Reserve Foundation with support of Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC). He said the Bolero Campers have been modified to suit the working environment inside the forests Similipal and efficiently carry out protection duty in all conditions.

The 4 WD (four-wheel drive) will enable the movement of frontline staff for traversing the steep ghat roads as well as muddy dirt roads during the monsoons.

The vehicles are fitted with winches which would be helpful in rescue operations especially during monsoons, remote

controlled movable search light has been fitted over the vehicles to see all directions at night, the vehicles have been painted with olive green colour to camouflage with the forest to evade easy detection by poachers, seats and along with hood has been provided in the back to accommodate maximum frontline staff for protection, etc.

The vehicles will be deployed in the sensitive areas especially in the core area for use by Similipal Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), Joint Task Force (JTF) and other Frontline staff for protection duty, Shri Nanda informed.

Farmers turning away from growing paddy as profit dips



Jajpur(KCN): Farmers are gradually turning away from growing paddy crop due to declining profit, a report said. An analysis of the earnings of farmers from paddy cultivation in the last five years reveals that profit from the crop has been quite disappointing. This is despite the fact that the agriculturists have been working hard during summer, rain and winter seasons to raise the crop.

Reports said on average, farmers earn around Rs 607 to Rs 728 as profit from a quintal of paddy which is forcing many to turn away from the cultivation. The phenomenon has raised fears of a sharp rise in the prices of food products in the coming days. Observers attributed administrative negligence as the reason behind the declining profit of farmers from paddy cultivation.

Some farmers requesting anonymity claimed that if a quintal of paddy was not sold at Rs 3,100 per quintal, as per the announcement made by the Union government, their hopes of getting adequate

profit would fade away. The declining profit from paddy cultivation has frustrated poor and marginal farmers and led to their migration to other states in search of alternative livelihoods. On the other hand, rapid industrialisation is directly, and indirectly, impacting rural life and agriculture. Climate change is also impacting cultivation as farmers have to battle drought and floods at frequent intervals to save the crop from destruction. Farmers are also facing losses due to the absence of irrigation facilities for cultivation, while irregularities and negligence in paddy procurement have hit them hard.

According to reports available from the state Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Department, farmers spent Rs 1,208 per quintal of paddy cultivation in FY 2019-20, but sold the harvested paddy at Rs 1,815 per quintal.

Similarly, farmers spent Rs 1,245 per quintal and sold the crop at Rs 1,868 in 2020-21 fiscal, while Rs 1,293 was spent per quintal and sold at Rs


1,940 in 2021-22 FY. Farmers spent Rs 1,360 per quintal and sold at Rs 2,040 in 2022-23 FY, while they spent Rs 1,455 per quintal of paddy and sold it at Rs 2,183 per quintal in 2023-24 FY.

The district administration has strictly advised the regulated market committees (RMCs) to ensure that farmers do not face any problems during paddy procurement. Paddy should be procured there at the right time and steps be taken for hassle-free payment to the farmers. However, no one ever bothers if the paddy was procured at the right time, the number of PACs (primary agriculture cooperative societies) opened, and if farmers were paid properly or not. The elected political representatives also forget about the farmers. As a result, the problems of the farmers receive little attention, and they continue to be fleeced due to the alleged negligence and bonhomie between the officials and middlemen. These loopholes frustrate the entire paddy procurement process

which starts late every year to help the middlemen, it is alleged. As a result, farmers resort to distress sales and relieve their paddy stocks to middlemen at Rs 500 to Rs 600 below the per quintal MSP.

Earlier, farmers had to endure a lot of hardship as the paddy procurement process was dependent on millers. Realizing the problem, the state government started procuring paddy through the government or authorised PACs.

However, some unscrupulous officials in cahoots with middlemen started fleecing the farmers like before, it is alleged. Sources said that the mandis are opened late, or not opened at all. Officials are even allegedly manipulating the registration, and in providing tokens to the farmers for paddy procurement. This has only resulted in losses for the farmers and coming on the way of them becoming self-reliant.



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AU Small Finance Bank Launches Business Cashback RuPay Credit Card

Jaipur/ Bhubaneswar, : AU Small Finance Bank has partnered with RuPay to introduce the Business Cashback RuPay credit card, an innovative solution tailored to meet the financial requirements of self-employed customers. This latest offering is aimed at providing a diverse range of benefits to small businesses. The Credit Card was launched in the esteemed presence of Mr. Dilip Asbe, CEO of National Payments Corporation of India and Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank. AU Small Finance Bank's Business Cashback RuPay Credit Card simplifies financial operations for businesses

with benefits like upto 2% cashback, 48 days interest-free credit, and instant loans. It also offers fire insurance, burglary, and housebreaking coverage, making it a one-stop solution for businesses. "At AU Small Finance Bank, we understand that the small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of Indian economy and we have been serving this segment since the last 28 years. We are committed to providing innovative financial solutions that cater to the unique needs of this segment and Business Cashback RuPay credit card is a testament to our commitment to the MSMEs. As the self-



employed customer segment is at the heart of our bank, we are focused on adding value to these customers and promoting credit inclusion. Going forward, we shall work towards bringing customized benefits to

MSMEs through our other Credit Card variants too," said Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO of AU SFB. The credit card also provides lifestyle and travel benefits. Their Silver Spoon Dining Program also offers cardholders up

to 30% off at over 300 restaurants, 8 complimentary railway lounge access per annum, and 1%* fuel surcharge waiver. "I am delighted to attend the launch event and witness the introduction of AU Small Finance Bank's Business Cashback RuPay Credit Card. National Payments Corporation of India is committed to promoting innovation in the banking sector, and this credit card is a clear example of that. AU Small Finance Bank has consistently demonstrated their dedication to excellence and innovation in the banking industry. This credit card is a fantastic solution that empowers self-employed individuals

and promotes financial inclusion. I'm confident that this credit card will be a great success and benefit numerous businesses. Congratulations to AU SFB, keep up the great work," said Mr. Dilip Asbe, CEO, National Payments Corporation of India. AU Small Finance Bank is one of the leading providers of innovative and reliable financial solutions for self-employed individuals and businesses. With an unwavering commitment to excellence and credit inclusion, the bank continuously improves and deepens its services, offering a comprehensive range of benefits.

Tata Power leads EV charging space with a pan-India network; showcases wide-range of hi-tech EZ Charge solutions at Auto Expo 2023

Bhubaneswar: Tata Power, one of India's largest and fastest growing EV Charging solutions provider showcased its wide-range of hi-tech EV charging solutions at the ongoing Auto Expo 2023 in Greater Noida. A first-hand experience of the technology that is driving Tata Power's widespread EV charging network - EZ (read easy) Charge was provided to the visitors, including the award-winning and one of the most downloaded mobile apps for EV charging - Tata Power EZ Charge, which ensures a seamless user experience through features that will help commuters find the nearest charging station, know the real-time availability of charging points, and receive updates on charging status, amongst many others. Information about Tata Power's one of its kind Network Operations Center (NOC) located in Mumbai was also on display. This center aids in the effective operational management of charging stations across India. NOC is integrated with the online platform that supports Tata Power's EZ Charge services, has a real-time communication link with all on-board chargers, and aids in the early detection of tech-related issues. The NOC additionally supports quick problem solving, back-end system support, and proactive planning for charging infrastructure upkeep. Tata Power has also kicked off an ambitious nationwide plan of setting up approx. 25000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the country to support faster adoption of e-mobility over the next 5 years.

Muskaan Litfest for Child Authors showcases young literary talent

Bhubaneswar : Some of the leading social, cultural, corporate and literary organizations of the country came together for the first time to host a unique literature festival - `Muskaan Litfest for Child Authors' - under the Muskaan initiative of Kolkata-based non-for-profit trusts, Prabha Khaitan Foundation and Education for All Trust. The three-day event was held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) premises in Delhi. Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Dr M u n j a p a r a M a h e n d r a b h a i

Kalubhai, interacted with 30 school-going young authors from all over the country. "Muskaan is a brilliant initiative of PKF to give a platform for the young talented writers to showcase their works and inspire future talents," the minister said. He also gave certificates to the young authors. Ruskin Bond, the most popular, loved and revered author among the children, in a message lauded Prabha Khaitan Foundation for its commendable efforts to promote the habit of reading among children through the Muskaan initiative. The three-

day Litfest (Jan 10-12) was organized in collaboration with IGNCA and in association with India International Centre and Sahitya Akademi as the knowledge partner. Shree Cement supported the event as a part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. The festival was inaugurated in the presence of Priyank Kanoongo, Chairman, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). Also present on the occasion were Sachchidanand Joshi, member secretary, the executive and academic head of IGNCA; K N Shrivastava, Director of

IIC, and K Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. "Literature is the mirror of society. It is important to provide child authors the right environment and upbringing to promote literature," Kanoongo said. He asserted that instead of social media, the children should take more interest in writing and literature. The evening was marked by a scintillating cultural programme 'Udaan' conceptualised by Shinjini Kulkarni, Ehsaas Woman of Prabha Khaitan Foundation. Huma Khalil Mirza, Ehsaas Woman of Delhi and Unnati Singh, Ehsaas

Woman of Indore, also chipped in and livened up the show. Teams of women achievers who work to create cultural capital and assets are a part of a Ehsaas Woman network in major cities of India under the aegis of Prabha Khaitan Foundation. Dancer and choreographer Avirup Sengupta, who works with specially-abled children through Prayas Foundation, presented an enthralling performance. The Foundation had flown in children from Kolkata for the special performance. The latest issue of PKF newsletter Prabha, based on the theme of children's literature, was formally released.

OYO halves stay prices for in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela

Bhubaneswar: Global hospitality technology platform OYO has offered a 50% discount on stay across all its hotels in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela for Hockey World Cup. The scheme is valid for the entire duration of the tournament from January 13-29, 2023. Approximately 80OYO hotels are covered under this scheme in these two cities. More than 1500 rooms will be available to accommodate the guests. Odisha is hosting the international event for the second consecutive time, the previous one having been held in Bhubaneswar in 2018. Steel City Rourkela will be the fourth Indian city to organise the event. The matches will be held at two venues - Birsamundra Hockey Stadium in Rourkela and Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Divided into four groups of four teams each, a total of 16 teams this year are vying for the World Cup trophy. The host country, India, has been placed in Group D along with England, Spain, and Wales. Thousands of spectators from all around the world are expected to visit Bhubaneswar and Rourkela for this mega hockey tournament. To avail this discount, guests can download the OYO App, click on the red 'Nearby' icon to discover a valid participating hotel, select the coupon code 'HockeyWC' and hit the Book Now button. They can also resolve their queries quickly with OYO's 24*7 chatbot - Yo! Chat. There are many hotels such as Hotel Swain Heritage, Hill Side Aqua, Aditya International, Prime Residency and Hotel Bhinna Sakhal in Bhubaneswar and Hotel Priyal Amrit Sagar and The Prestige Tridev in Rourkela located in close proximity to the stadiums making it convenient for the guests to stay and enjoy scintillating hockey matches throughout the tournament.

TRENDS, INDIA'S LARGEST FASHION DESTINATION NOW OPENS INBADA BAZAAR,BERHAMPUR

Berhampur / Bhubaneswar, India's largest and fastest growing apparel and accessories specialty chain of Reliance Retail, TRENDS, announced the launch of its third new Store in Berhampur Town of Odisha. Trends is truly democratizing fashion in India, by strengthening its reach & connect with consumers in India - right from Metros, mini metros, to Tier 1, 2 towns and beyond & is India's favorite fashion shopping destination. The Trends store at Bada Bazaar, Berhampur boasts of modern looks and ambience featuring an exciting range of good quality and fashion merchandise that is relevant to the consumers of the region and at prices that are affordable and seen as high value for money. Customers of this town can look forward to a uniquely special and superlative experience of shopping for trendy Women's Wear, Men's Wear, Kids Wear & Fashion Accessories, at delightful prices. This 7800 sq. ft store, which is the third Trends store in the Berhampur town has a special inaugural offer for its customers, besides great relevant fashion and amazing prices: - Shop for Rs.3999 and get Merchandise worth Rs 3999 absolutely free and not only that the customers will also get coupon worth Rs.4000 absolutely free on purchase of Rs.3999. So head to Trends new store now in Bada Bazaar, Berhampur, for the joy of a great fashion shopping experience!

Almonds Food for Fitness

Bhubaneswar : Engaging in exercise promotes a healthful lifestyle, but even when performed correctly, exercise causes fatigue and muscle damage. Recovery from exercise is important because it leads to muscle gain and improved fitness over time. A new study involving people who exercise occasionally (less than three times per week) demonstrated that snacking on almonds reduced feelings of fatigue and tension, increased leg and lower back strength during recovery, and decreased muscle damage during the first day of recovery. David C. Nieman, DrPH, FACSM, Professor and Principal Investigator, Human Performance Laboratory, Appalachian State University, led this novel research, supported with funding from the Almond Board of California. Dr. Nieman's team wanted to see if an almond snack compared to a high-carbohydrate cereal bar snack would improve inflammation and recovery in adults engaging in 90-minute exercise sessions. "What we found tells us definitively that almonds should be added to sports nutrition strategies to help people recover better from exercise," explained Dr. Nieman. "Almonds are food for fitness. Carbs get most of the attention when it comes to fueling for exercise, but almonds offer a nutrition package, including good unsaturated fats, the antioxidant vitamin E, and proanthocyanidins (class of polyphenols, which are protective compounds in plants) that help explain the beneficial outcomes in our study." One serving of almonds (28g) has 13 g of good unsaturated fat and only 1 g of saturated fat.

Tata Power leads EV charging space with a pan-India network; showcases wide-range of hi-tech EZ Charge solutions at Auto Expo

Bhubaneswar: National, Tata Power, one of India's largest and fastest growing EV Charging solutions provider showcased its wide-range of hi-tech EV charging solutions at the ongoing Auto Expo 2023 in Greater Noida. A first-hand experience of the technology that is driving Tata Power's widespread EV charging network - EZ (read easy) Charge was provided to the visitors, including the award-winning and one of the most downloaded mobile apps for EV charging - Tata Power EZ Charge, which ensures a seamless user experience through features that will help commuters find the nearest charging station, know the real-time availability of charging points, and receive updates on charging status, amongst many others.

Information about Tata Power's one of its kind Network Operations Center (NOC) located in Mumbai was also on display. This center aids in the effective operational management of charging stations across India. NOC is integrated with the online platform that supports Tata Power's EZ Charge services, has a real-time communication link with all on-board chargers, and aids in the early detection of tech-related issues. The NOC additionally supports quick problem solving, back-end system support, and proactive planning for charging infrastructure upkeep. Tata Power has also kicked off an ambitious nationwide plan of setting up approx. 25000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the country to support

faster adoption of e-mobility over the next 5 years. Greater Noida, January 12, 2023: Taking a leap in the era of sustainability and green mobility, Ward Wizard, a leading manufacturer of electric two-wheeler Joy e bike, today launched its new high-speed electric scooter 'MIHOS' with Poly Dicyclopentadiene Material (PDCPD) to bring high standards of durability for the riders. Designed and developed by Ward Wizard's R&D team in Vadodara, MIHOS, is a retro-style electric scooter. It is equipped with advanced technology, and user-friendly features with a vehicle sound simulator for additional safety of the riders on the road. It also features a broad seat for enhanced riding comfort. The production will take place at the company's state-of-the-

art manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat and the deliveries will commence in a phased manner across the country. Speaking on the launch occasion and the company's prospects, Mr Yatin Gupte, Chairman & Managing Director, Ward Wizard Innovations & Mobility Ltd, said, "As one of the first promoters of electric mobility in the country, we are committed to building a sustainable environment and greener planet for the generations of today and tomorrow. Our new product MIHOS is designed and developed keeping in mind the aspirations of the customers and market demand. The scooter will not only excite the customers with its retro look and advanced features but will also provide extra safety with its high stan-

dards of durability and comfort across various road conditions. The company is further investing in R&D for creating a holistic e-mobility ecosystem and developing India's first EV ancillary cluster to accelerate the adoption and growth of green mobility in the country. The year 2023 is going to be the establishing year of EV mobility in the country." Making another move in strengthening its product portfolio in the electric motorcycle category, the company also unveiled the concept of its city electric motorcycle 'Rockefeller' at the expo. The concept motorcycle is designed keeping in mind the need of the riders for daily riding. The company is planning to launch the motorcycle by the end of FY'24.

England demolish Oman inside 20 overs for massive NRR boost



New Delhi: A determined England came back strong in the ongoing T20 World Cup as they demolished Oman inside 20 overs for a huge win. England's bowlers ran riot by bowling Oman out for just 47 in 13.2 overs before taking not more than 19 balls to gun down the paltry total. As early as in the powerplay. Oman made a poor start with Jofra Archer and Mark Wood breathing fire in the powerplay. The two gun pacers picked a couple of wickets each in the

powerplay to leave Oman reeling at 25/4. From thereon, England just didn't look back as Adil Rashid wrecked the lower order to finish with a four-wicket haul. After a quiet first over, Pratik Athavale gave Jofra Archer the charge to fetch a boundary but the pacer struck the very next ball. Archer then was up to the task again, this time with a slower leg cutter that the batter guided straight to gully. The pacer could have easily had a third wicket in the powerplay had Moeen Ali not dropped an

easy chance. Oman's hopes of getting through the powerplay with no further damage took a huge hit when Mark Wood came into the attack. He struck first ball as Zeeshan Maqsood got a leading edge first ball. Wood's pace was too much for Kashyap Prajapati as he played a tame shot with no timing at all to give Wood his second wicket. If Oman thought they could breathe easy after that initial burst, they were in for a rude shock. Adil Rashid fetched a wicket first ball when

Khalid Kail was stumped. Wood rearranged the stumps in the next over to pin Oman further down and from thereon, they simply couldn't stage a comeback. Rashid just kept it simple against the tail enders as he ran through the lineup before Archer hit the final nail in the coffin. It was over before you could even realise it. That's how quick the game ended. In total, England took only 16.3 overs to finish the game, which is less than an entire innings. Phil Salt

took full toll of this opportunity to boost the NRR big time as he smashed Bilal Khan for two sixes off the first two balls of the run chase. While Bilal did get his revenge off the third delivery, the wicket didn't deter England who also lost Will Jacks in the second over. While Jonny Bairstow fetched a four first ball, Buttler decided to waste little time as he smashed four boundaries and a six off Bilal. Bairstow then completed the formalities with another boundary to put Oman out of their misery.

Anderson to retire after Lord's Test against West Indies



LONDON: James Anderson, the highest wicket-taking paceman in Test cricket, has announced that the first Test against West Indies to be played at Lord's from July 10, will be his final Test appearance. "Hi everyone. Just a note to say that the first Test of the summer at Lord's will be my last Test," Anderson wrote in an Instagram post. "It's been an incredible 20 years representing my

country, playing the game I've loved since I was a kid. I'm going to miss walking out for England so much. But I know the time is right to step aside and let others realise their dreams just like I got to, because there is no greater feeling. "I couldn't have done it without the love and support of Daniella, Lola, Ruby and my parents. A huge thank you to them. Also, thank you to the players and

coaches who have made this the best job in the world. "I'm excited for the new challenges that lie ahead, as well as filling my days with even more golf," he added. "Thank you to everyone who has supported me over the years, it's always meant a lot, even if my face often doesn't show it." Anderson, who made his Test debut for England in May 2003 against Zimbabwe,

became the first fast bowler to reach the milestone of 700 Test wickets in the fifth Test against India in Dharamsala earlier this year. He is nine wickets away from surpassing Shane Warne as the second highest wicket taker in Test cricket. Anderson has picked up 32 five-wicket hauls and three 10-wicket hauls, with a best of 7 for 42 (vs West Indies at Lord's in 2017) and 11 for 71 (vs Pakistan at Trent Bridge in 2010). He has scored 1353 runs with one half-century - 81 against India at Trent Bridge in 2014. According to a report on The Guardian, Anderson recently had a conversation with Test head coach Brendon McCullum who flew down to England to tell the senior pacer that the team was looking to the future. Anderson, almost 42 years, has not had too many fitness issues but was used sparingly by

England in the Tests against India, bowling only 110 overs across four Tests (seven innings) in which he picked up 10 wickets. He didn't have a great Ashes last year, averaging 85.40 for his five wickets in four Tests. Stuart Broad, who played 138 matches with Anderson, retired after the final Ashes Test in 2023 having crossed 600 Test wickets during the series. Broad later revealed to Daily Mail that he had an understanding with Anderson that they would not retire at the same time. "It was like an unwritten clause in a contract that Jimmy and I never wanted to finish at the same time. We always wanted an overlap one way or the other, a crossover of knowledge, not 300-plus matches of Test experience disappearing out of the changing room."

Clinical Afghanistan breeze into the Super 8s

New Delhi: Afghanistan produced a strong bowling performance for the third game running to register a comfortable seven-wicket win over Papua New Guinea at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba. By virtue of this result, Afghanistan officially booked their spot in the Super 8s. It also meant that New Zealand were eliminated with West Indies already

Haq then got into their work, striking twice apiece with the new ball to slice PNG open. There was some movement on offer and the uneven bounce made things tougher for the batters. Once the ball got softer, PNG were able to hang in there. They also managed to render Rashid Khan wicketless while also getting some runs off the Afghanistan

heave, only to find their woodwork rearranged. To their credit, PNG's new-ball bowlers kept it simple and created pressure on the batters by not giving easy scoring opportunities. Had Kiplin Doriga held onto a regulation take, Afghanistan could have lost their third wicket in Gulbadin Naib. A low target meant that Gulbadin Naib and



having qualified after their win over the Black Caps. Like Afghanistan's previous two encounters, their bowlers once again caused the wreckage inside the powerplay, leaving PNG tottering at 30/5 after the first six overs. It soon became 50/7 and if not for a minor resistance from Kiplin Doriga and Alei Nao, the total could have been much more embarrassing. Afghanistan were made to work hard in the chase but they got the job done with relative ease. The first ten deliveries of the PNG innings didn't seem to suggest the carnage that followed thereafter. Fazalhaq Farooqui's first over was a quiet one and Tony Ura greeted Mohammad Nabi with a cracking square cut first ball. However, a freak run out gave Afghanistan the first breakthrough with Assad Vala caught short. Farooqui and Naveen-ul-

skipper. However, gifting away two run outs meant that PNG were never getting to a respectable total. Chad Soper was the first of the two as he fell to a needless piece of running while Norman Vanua was unfortunate as his bat got stuck on the ground, thereby preventing him from reaching the crease. Kiplin Doriga and Alei Nao added some handy runs during this phase, aided by a plethora of extras. With just two wickets in hand, PNG were never going to make any considerable acceleration at the back end. The only question was whether they could get the score past triple figures but they fell just short. After successive century opening stands, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran fell cheaply, giving PNG a glimmer of hope early on. Both fell to rash strokes, stepping out to

Azmatullah Omarzai could take their time in going about the chase. The latter was dismissed in unfortunate fashion as a nip-backer literally rolled through to castle him. Naib, though, batted flawlessly barring that dropped catch and in the company of Mohammad Nabi, wrapped things up with 29 balls to spare. As they got closer to the target, the duo got things done in a canter. Brief scores: Papua New Guinea 95 in 19.5 overs (Kiplin Doriga 27; Fazalhaq Farooqui 3-16, Naveen-ul-Haq 2-4) lost to Afghanistan 101/3 in 15.1 overs (Gulbadin Naib 49*; Semo Kamea 1-16) by seven wickets. Afghanistan next take on West Indies in what is an inconsequential game with both teams having made it to the Super 8s. Papua New Guinea, meanwhile, take on New Zealand in their final fixture of the tournament.

Shakib ends lean drought to keep Bangladesh on course

New Delhi: Bangladesh veteran Shakib Al Hasan finally brought an end to his lean patch as he delivered in a crucial tie against Netherlands in the ongoing T20 World Cup. Ahead of the first time, perhaps for the first time in his career, Shakib saw his place being questioned due to his lean run. Shakib was struggling with the bat while the old magic was missing from his bowling as well that certainly took a toll on his reputation as it was at stake before he turned it around with a man-of-the-match display. The left-handed batter, who made an unbeaten 64 coming at number four, earlier made a T20I half-century back in October 2022. Coming into the Netherlands game, Shakib

had scored 8 against Sri Lanka and 3 against South Africa in his last two innings. After the game, Shakib was asked if he has answered the critics finally. "A player never comes to answer any questions," Shakib shot back. "A player's job is to bat for the team if he's a batsman and contribute to the team. If he is a bowler, his job is to bowl well. The

wicket is about luck. If he is a fielder, he should save each run and take as many catches as he can. Here, actually, there's nothing to answer for anyone." "I think it is important for a current player (to see) how much he can contribute to his team. When he can't contribute, then naturally there would be discussions and I don't think it is a bad thing," he added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of AAM ADHIKAR MISSION (name of the party). The office of the party is located at PLOT NO-815, UNIT-8, JAATI NAGAR, NARAYANA CHOWK, JAJPUR TOWN, JAJPUR, ODISHA-755001. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under section 29A of the Representation of People Act 1951. Name and Address of the office bearers of the party are as follows: - PRESIDENT- LOKANATH PRASAD SAHOO, R/O- VILL-DUMUKA, TOWN-DUMUKA, P.S-MARSAGHAI, DIST- KENDRAPARA. GENERAL SECRETARY- SNEHALATA SAHOO, R/O-VILL-DUMUKA, TOWN-DUMUKA, P.S- MARSAGHAI, DIST- KENDRAPARA. TREASURER- SRABANI SARITA, R/O- VILL- BARABATI (PART), TOWN- BICHITRAPUR, P.S- JAJPUR, DIST- JAJPUR. If anyone has any objection to the registration of AAM ADHIKAR MISSION (name of the proposed party) they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.