

Puri Jagannath temple's Ratna Bhandar to be opened July 8



Bhubaneswar(KCN): A senior Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) official said Wednesday that the Ratna Bhandar (treasury trove) of Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri will be opened July 8 when the holy triads will be out of the shrine on the annual nine-day sojourn.

The holy triad will embark on the nine-day sojourn (Rath Yatra Festival) leaving the sanctum sanctorum of the temple July 7.

The missing keys of Ratna Bhandar was one of the major poll planks of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which had assured to initiate a probe into the mystery behind the missing keys and carry out an inventory of the ornaments stored in the treasure trove if the party wins the elections. "The Ratna Bhandar will be opened on July 8 in the presence of the technical core conservation committee of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the 12-member Ratna Bhandar committee formed by the state government. Following the inspection

and assessment of the condition of the treasury trove of the 12th century shrine, decisions will be taken regarding the immediate steps needed for conservation and preservation of Ratna Bhandar," said DB Garnayak, the Superintendent Archaeologist of ASI. Garnayak further added that several cracks and broken stone pieces and missing iron beams were spotted during the inspection of the outer chamber of the Ratna Bhandar in 2018. Similarly, a 15-member ASI team comprising architects, expert engineers and scientific photographers through laser scanning carried out in November 2023 had also detected cracks at several places on the outer walls and joints of Ratna Bhandar. He also stated that rain water may be seeping

inside the Ratna Bhandar through the cracks.

Meanwhile, noted sand artist and Padma Shri Sudarshan Pattanik urged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to take immediate steps towards the repair of Ratna Bhandar.

Notably, the Ratna Bhandar of the Jagannath temple has two chambers.

The inner chamber contains precious ornaments used on rare occasions, while those ornaments needed during daily rituals and particular festivals are kept in the outer chamber of the Temple's treasury.

The inner chamber was last opened around 39 years ago, July 14, 1985. The inventory of precious ornaments kept in the treasury of Jagannath Temple was conducted in 1978 for the last time.

No decision taken on Puri Ratna Bhandar opening: Odisha Law Minister

BHUBANESWAR,(KCN): In an unprecedented turn of events, Odisha Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan on Wednesday refuted claims made by the Superintendent of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) regarding the opening of the Ratna Bhandar (treasure trove) of Puri Srimandir on July 8. "No decision regarding the opening of Ratna Bhandar on July 8 has been taken yet. A govt official commented on the matter and created confusion to cover up his own mistake. Proper action will be taken against the concerned govt official. A decision on opening of the Ratna Bhandar will be taken after examining the matter," said Harichandan. The whole confusion arose after ASI Superintendent DB Garnayak informed earlier in the day that Puri Ratna Bhandar will be opened during Rath Yatra. Garnayak had informed that a decision in this regard has been taken at the temple managing committee meeting. He had also said that inspection will be done on July 8 and the Ratna Bhandar will be opened in the presence of the core committee and technical committee. "As per the 2018 report, an inspection was done and cracks were observed, some stones had fallen and some iron rods were missing. The condition was not good. In the laser scanning, cracks were detected in the outer wall and joints. Through these cracks, rainwater might be entering," Garnayak had said. Later Garnayak again clarified that the Odisha government will take a decision on when to open the Ratna Bhandar and ASI is prepared for the conservation work."



Odisha CM Mohan Majhi Seeks Public Suggestions For Annual Budget 2024-25



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has appealed to the people of Odisha to send their suggestions through a dedicated web portal, e-mail, WhatsApp and SMS as the inputs will be used by the state Finance Department in the process of preparing the Budget web portal, e-mail, WhatsApp and SMS.

"Finance Department has been holding Pre-Budget consultations with a cross-section of the society. I am to indicate here that our Government is the People's Government. So there is a need to seek common people's proposals and opinions for the budget-making process," read a communique from the

Chief Minister's office. To make the budgetary process more open and participative using Information and Communication Technology (ICT), the Finance Department has initiated obtaining inputs for Budget preparation through the dedicated Budget web portal, e-mail, WhatsApp and SMS. Now, the Finance Department invites suggestions in a structured format in the Budget web portal <https://budget.odisha.gov.in/> to be used as input in the preparation of a full-fledged Annual Budget for 2024-25. Suggestions can also be sent by e-mail to the address odisha.budget@gov.in. Similarly, suggestions for Budget are also being invited through WhatsApp to the Mobile number (+91) 9438161111, and through social media platforms like X (@F D O d i s h a), Face book (@FinanceOdisha) and Instagram (@fdodisha). This facility will be available from 20th June 2024 till 5th July 2024.

Members of the public, Civil Society organisations, Advocacy Groups and other stakeholders have been also requested to make use of this unique opportunity to participate in the budget-making process of the State Government.

Five-Time Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Now Leader Of Opposition



BHUBANESWAR,(KCN): Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha for 24 years, will now be on the side of the assembly -- as the Leader of the Opposition. The 77-year-old was chosen for the post today by the MLAs of his party.

"We had a meeting of the MLAs of the BJD. I congratulated and thanked them. They have elected me as the Leader of the Opposition and leader of BJD legislature party," he told reporters.

"I have also announced the new post for Prasanna Acharya as the Deputy Leader of the BJD in the legislature, Pramila Mallik as the Chief Whip and Pratap Keshari Deb as the Deputy Chief Whip of the BJD," Mr Patnaik added.

All the new MLAs of the Odisha assembly took

oath today. The new Chief Minister, Mohan Charan Majhi, has already allocated portfolios to his council of ministers, keeping home, finance and several other departments to himself. Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo has been put in charge of agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment and Energy departments. The former Chief Minister's party posted its worst performance in over two decades this year, losing majority in the state and failing to

open account in parliament.

The BJP won 78 of the 147 assembly seats, the BJD won 51.

What alienated the voters were the local-level instances of corruption that flourished despite the clean image of the Chief Minister. There were allegations that the local leaders of the BJD sought bribes to ensure provision of government services. Ensnared at his residence post-Covid, the Chief Minister was seen by many as uncaring.

NEWDELHI,(KCN): In a major decision, the Union Cabinet has approved a minimum support price of at least cost plus 50% for 14 crops ahead of the Kharif (summer) sowing season. The minimum support price of paddy has been increased by ₹ 117, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a Cabinet briefing on Wednesday. A legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) has been a long-standing demand of farmers who have staged large-scale protests, including some held earlier this year, to press for it. The MSP decision is also significant because it comes ahead of Assembly polls in states like Haryana, Maharashtra and



Jharkhand, which are scheduled to be held later this year.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always given preference to farmers. The first decision in the third term was taken for farmers. In today's Cabinet meeting also, a very important decision was taken for the welfare of

farmers. The Kharif season is beginning and the Cabinet has approved a minimum support price of 14 crops for the season," Mr Vaishnaw said.

"In the 2018 Union Budget, the government of India had taken a clear policy decision that the MSP has to be at least 1.5 times the cost

of production. Today's decision is in line with this principle. The cost has been established in a scientific manner and is based on a study by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices in various districts and tehsils across the country," he added.

The MSP for paddy for the season has been

Senior BJP leader Surama Padhy files nomination for Odisha Assembly Speaker



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Senior BJP leader and Ranpur MLA Surama Padhy Wednesday filed her nomination paper for the election to the post of Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly.

Accompanied by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and deputy chief ministers KV Singh Deo and

Pravati Parida, Padhy submitted her nomination paper with Dasarathi Satpathy, the secretary of the Odisha Legislative Assembly. Earlier, the BJP legislature Party had unanimously decided on Padhy's name for the post of Speaker. She is likely to be declared as the Speaker of the 17th OLA

Thursday. Padhy will become the second woman Speaker

of the state after Pramila Mallik of BJD. Mallik was the Speaker in the

16th OLA. Padhy was first elected to the Odisha Assembly

from Ranpur seat in Nayagarh district on a BJP ticket in 2004. She had also served as a Minister of State with Independent charge in the Cooperation department in the BJD-BJP coalition government in Odisha from 2004 to 2009. This time, the BJP has formed government of its own in Odisha after

the saffron party won 78 seats in the 147 member Odisha Assembly. The BJD has 51 MLAs, Congress 14, CPI(M) one and independents 3. Though BJP has 78 members, it has secured support of three independent MLAs taking the saffron party's strength to 81 in the 147 member Odisha Legislative Assembly.

Life in every moment

by Anupama Bhuyan

We have likes
We have dislikes
We want life to be
As we like it to be

But do we know
What we truly want
For are we happy
When we get what we want

How do we solve this quest
How do we move forward
From this constant tussle
Of likes and dislikes

Life as is in every moment
Enjoy it for what there is
Accept it for what it is
Live every moment as is.



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"Leap Before You Look."

By. Dr. Bichitrananda Acharya

"The sense of danger must not disappear:
The way is certainly both short and steep,
However gradual it looks from here;
Look if you like, but you will have to leap."
How do you remember your life journey?



The Bivab, Acharya Colony, Baliguda,
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Indian culture: Customs and traditions



Indian culture is among the world's oldest as the people of India can track their civilization back as far as 4,500 years ago. Many sources describe it as "Sa Prathama Sanskrati Vishvavara" — the first and the supreme culture in the world, according to the All World Gayatri Pariwar (AWGP) organization.

Western societies did not always see the culture of India very favorably, according to Christina De Rossi, an anthropologist at Barnet and Southgate College in London. Early anthropologists once considered culture as an evolutionary process, and "every aspect of human development was seen as driven by evolution," she told Live Science. "In this view, societies outside of Europe or North America, or societies that did not follow the

European or Western way of life, were considered primitive and culturally inferior. Essentially this included all the colonized countries and people, such as African countries, India, and the Far East."

However, Indians made significant advances in architecture (Taj Mahal), mathematics (the invention of zero) and medicine (Ayurveda) well in advance of many western civilizations. Today, India is a very diverse country, with more than 1.3 billion people, according to the CIA World Factbook, making it the second most populous nation in the world after China. Some estimates, such as those by Statista, place the population at very nearly 1.4 billion. The ethnic makeup of India, according to the CIA is 72 percent Indo-Aryan (a coverall term for

people of largely Central Asian descent) and 25 percent are Dravidian (being largely of South Asian descent).

About 35 percent of the population lives in urban areas with an estimated annual rate of a little over 2 percent moving to cities each year. New Delhi is the most populous city in India with a population of 31.18 million people, according to the CIA, second only to Tokyo, Japan for its population size. Mumbai is the second largest city in India with 20.67 million people, followed by Kolkata, Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad, all with more than 10 million people.

According to Statista, 26.16 percent of India population was under 14-years-old as of 2020, 67.27 were aged 15 to 64 and 6.57 percent were 65 or older.

India has 28 states and seven territories, according to the World Health Organization. There is no official language in India, according to a Gujarat High Court ruling in 2010, though Hindi is the official language of the government and English is considered a subsidiary official language. The Constitution of India officially recognizes 23 official languages.

Many people living in India write in Devanagari script. In fact, it is a misconception that the majority of people in India speak Hindi. Though many people speak Hindi in India, at least 56 percent of Indian residents speak something other than Hindi, according to the CIA. Bengali, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Gujarati and Urdu are some other languages spoken in the country.

Sanskrit, an ancient Indo-European language, came from Northern India. How the language started has been a point of argument amongst linguists. It shares many similarities with English, French, Farsi and Russian languages. New DNA research in 2017 found that an Aryan migration may have introduced the beginnings of Sanskrit.

"People have been debating the arrival of the Indo-European languages in India for hundreds of years," said study co-author Martin Richards, an archaeogeneticist at the University of Huddersfield in England. "There's been a very long-running debate about whether the Indo-European languages were brought from migrations from outside, which is what most linguists would accept, or if they evolved indigenously."

TREES TALKING

By. Dr. Arundhati Devi

A shy wind threading leaves after a massacre,
Or the smell of coffee and no one there
Some humans say trees are not sentient beings,
But they do not understand poetry
Nor can they hear the singing of trees when they are fed by
Wind, or water music
Or hear their cries of anguish when they are broken and bereft
I have heard trees talking, long after the sun has gone down:
Imagine what would it be like to dance close together
In this land of water and knowledge . . .
To drink deep what is undrinkable.



Director & Secretary, International Indency
Prevention Movement,
Odisha, Cuttack, Mob. : 9937172810

BROWN EYES

Amruta Priyambada Bhuyan

Brown and bold
Yet rich and deep
Stood these eyes
Unloved and free
The most beautiful eyes of all
With a colour so full and pure
But what many know
When shown in light,
These eyes, are sight
With a various shades
Are the brows to crake
Attracting & Stunning with the power
They hold, is a secret to be hold
Do not ever underestimate brown eyes
For they can bring you down to your knees
With their strength beneath.



Ashelles Public School,
Std.VII, CDA, Cuttack

Quotation of the Day

"Behind all your stories is always your mother's story, because hers is where yours begins."

MITCH ALBOM

Temples Of Khajuraho

India is known to have more than 2 million Hindu temples. These temples reflect the variety of Indian culture and way of life. Temple architecture in India has always embodied an underlying vision. It is a representation of experience, space and time.

The art and architecture involved in the construction of Hindu Temples is well defined in the Shilpa Shashtra. It mentions three main kinds of temple architecture in India: Nagara or the Northern Style, Dravida or the Southern style and Vesara or the Mixed style. The defining features of a Nagara style are Garbhagriha (Sanctum Sanctorum), Shikhara (Curvilinear tower), and Mandapa (Entrance Hall). The Nagara style developed gradually as the earlier temples had only one Shikhara, while the later temples were constructed with multiple Shikharas and the Garbhagriha can always be found under the tallest tower.

The Temples of Khajuraho are a predominant feature of the construction of a Hindu temple is that the face of the temple should be towards the direction of sunrise. All the temples of Khajuraho have been built with this in mind. Moreover, the carvings reflect the four goals of life in Hinduism, viz, dharma, kama, artha, moksha.

which is lighted by large windows.

Khajuraho, known for its ornate temples, was built by the Chandela rulers between 900 CE to 1130 CE. The first mention of Khajuraho and its temples is in the accounts of Abu Rahyan al Biruni (1022 CE) and Ibn Batuta (1335 CE). The temples were said to have been spread across 20 square kilometres and there were around 85 temples in the 12th century. The ravages of time have reduced the number of temples in Khajuraho to just 20 today.

The Chandela Empire ruled central India from the tenth to the fourteenth centuries. Chandelas were well known for their interest in art and architecture. Although followers of Shaivism, the Chandelas were also said to have been inclined towards Vaishnavism and Jainism as well.

The carvings at the temples seem to be predominantly about Hindu deities and mythology. The architectural style also follows Hindu traditions. This can be validated by various factors. A predominant feature of the construction of a Hindu temple is that the face of the temple should be towards the direction of sunrise. All the temples of Khajuraho have been built with this in mind. Moreover, the carvings reflect the four goals of life in Hinduism, viz, dharma, kama, artha, moksha.

The monuments built by the Chandelas were famous for their architectural and sculptural glory. The Chandelas were also deeply interested in performance arts and the various forms of music and dance. This is evident from the sculptural representation of various scenes of music and dance depicted on the walls of these temples.

Erotic imagery is very common in the Temples of Khajuraho. Sculptures of celestial nymphs with broad hips, heavy breasts and languishing eyes are commonly found in the Kandariya Mahadeva and Vishwanath Temple. These sculptures are believed to reflect the idea of female beauty and fertility. Other scenes depicted on the walls of the temples are a part of the Narathara (the human life cycle) signifying how sexual procreation and kama are an essential aspect of human life.

The major focus of the study of the Temples of Khajuraho have been on the sculptures. The walls of these temples have some of the best sculptures of the time, making Khajuraho a representation of excellent artistic features. It is believed that the temples constitute five different sets of sculptures: These sets of sculptures and erotic images represent scenes from day to day life.



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JNU – Jahangir National University Trailer Shows Clash Of Ideologies Inside Campus



The trailer of the upcoming film 'JNU – Jahangir National University' was unveiled on Monday. It showcases the story of Sourabh Sharma, portrayed by Siddharth Bodke, whose journey at the titular university becomes a battleground against what he perceives as anti-national activities. As per the film's narrative, these activities are orchestrated by left-wing students. The film promises to delve into the complexity of student politics and ideological confrontations within educational institutions. The film also stars Urvashi Rautela, Siddharth Bodke, Piyush Mishra, Ravi Kishan, Vijay Raaz, Rashami Desai, Sonnalli Seygall, Atul Pandey, and Kunj Anand. In the pursuit of challenging the dominance of leftist ideology within

the university along the way, Sourabh also finds love and support from Richa, who becomes his life partner and a pillar of strength. As he rises in student politics, winning elections and assuming leadership roles, Sourabh opposes what he views as anti-national agendas propagated by the left-wing students. The trailer also showcases the JNU 2016 controversy where some students allegedly raised anti-national slogans. The film is slated to release in June 2024.

Zee Rishtey Awards Is Back! Nominations are OUT



After entertaining viewers with stories and characters that have found their place in their hearts, Zee TV is all set to enthrall the audience yet again with its annual celebration of Zee Rishtey Awards. Year after year, the grand extravaganza has celebrated the deeply cherished relationships that the viewers have with their favourite Zee TV characters while awarding the finest work by the actors, directors, producers, creative teams and technicians. However, this year, with Holi just around the corner, what better platform for families to come together and celebrate the festival of colours than Zee Rishtey Awards? So, get set for a splash of vibrant colours as the Zee Kutumb comes together

to celebrate familial bonds with a night full of splendid performances, lively banter, and light-hearted pranks because - BURA NA MAANO, FAMILY HAI! Zee TV kicked off the festivities by hosting a star-studded Nomination Party which saw everyone's favourite Zee TV faces take to the red carpet in their most glamorous and stylish attires, captivating everyone present. Popular stars like Shabir Ahluwalia, Sriti Jha, Shraddha Arya, Dheeraj Dhoopar, Arjun Bijlani, Arjit Taneja, Neeharika Roy, Nikki Sharma, Paras Kalnawat, Sana Sayyad, Baseer Ali, Shakti Anand, Rohit Suchanti, Aishwarya Khare, Maera Mishra, Krishna Kaul, Abrar Qazi, Ruchi Sharma, Avinesh Rekhi, Tanisha Mehta, Manasi

Joshi Roy, Navika Kotia, Karanvir Sharma, Aditi Sharma, Richa Rathore, Yesha Rughani, Seerat Kapoor made heads turn at the Zee Rishtey Awards' Nomination Party. The stars of Zee Kutumb looked stunning on the red carpet with their stylish and glamorous outfits. While the heartthrob Dheeraj Dhoopar stole everyone's heart in his black studded suit, popular actor Shabir Ahluwalia walked the

red carpet in a quirky combination- Blue Jodhpuri paired with sneakers. Renowned actor Avinesh Rekhi looked handsome in a black suit, and Tanisha Mehta looked gorgeous in an all-green Indian ensemble. Manasi Joshi Roy and Navika Kotia also stole the show with their beautiful and elegant looks. Shraddha Arya also graced the red carpet in an all-black and royal blue ensemble respectively.

The Zee Kutumb, then, gathered to witness some wonderful acts. They even indulged in some fun games and engaged in some light-hearted banter during the Nomination Party. With loads of surprises in store for the night, you cannot miss the Zee Rishtey Awards' Nomination Party, when it airs at 5:30 PM on Sunday, 18th February on Zee TV.

Now that the nominations are announced, vote for your favourites by giving a missed call on - 8291829173 for your Favourite Jodi, 8291829174 - Favourite Character - Male, 8291829175 - Favourite character - Female, 8291829176 - Favourite Dharavahik. Viewers can also vote via zra2024.zeetv.com.

Jackie Shroff, Neena Gupta Win Hearts In 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka', Fan Urges Everyone To 'Forget The Archies'



Veteran actor Jackie Shroff has struck another chord with the audience with his family entertainer 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka'. Critics and fans alike are showering love on Jackie for his heartfelt portrayal in this film that explores the highs and lows of life. Sharing the screen with the talented Neena Gupta, reviews highlight the delightful on-screen chemistry between the two seasoned actors. Critics expressed, "Jackie Shroff and Neena Gupta shine as individual performers but

also have great onscreen chemistry. Their random conversations, such as about body hair, are as hilarious as deep ones are heart-touching - Kamath compares his lonely existence to the sea waves crashing against rocks. Jackie is outstanding in a scene towards the end when he has a monologue where he compares human life to a video game."

Another fan added, "A sweet little gem called Mast Mein Rehne Ka released along with Archies. Jackie Shroff and Neena Gupta

Rakhi Sawant in mast mein rehne ka." Fans have taken to social media to express their admiration for the legendary actor. It is evident that Jackie Shroff's magnetic presence and nuanced performance have made 'Mast Mein Rehne Ka' a

must-watch for those seeking a heartwarming cinematic experience. The legendary actor continues to captivate audiences with his timeless charm and unmatched acting prowess. In the film, the two will be seen overcoming loneliness in Mumbai city. "I agree today our life has become difficult. Youngsters are facing a lot of problems...there's so much competition out there but we should not take too much stress in our life. Thoda mast mein bhi hona chayie (There

should be some fun too)," Neena Gupta told ANI.

Echoing the same sentiments, Jackie Shroff said, "One should maintain a perfect balance in life... be healthy... do yoga, love nature... use technology but use it for good...Everyone is dealing with some kind of problem in their life..it all depends on how one reacts to it... Take care of health."

'Mast Mein Rehne Ka' is now streaming on Prime Video.

Animal: Sara Ali Khan Never Auditioned For Tripti Dimri's Role In Ranbir Kapoor-Bobby Deol's Starrer



Actress Tripti Dimri might have a brief appearance in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's latest blockbuster 'Animal', but the actress has managed to become the talk of the town for her performance. Her intimate scenes with Ranbir Kapoor in the film have been a topic of debate on the internet with a section of people criticizing the makers for promoting toxic masculinity.

While Tripti Dimri has been garnering acclaim for her portrayal in the film, several reports

claimed that Sara Ali Khan had auditioned for the role of 'Zoya' but could not crack it. Putting all the rumors to rest, an industry insider revealed that "Sara Ali Khan never auditioned for Sandeep Reddy Vanga's latest released 'Animal'."

For the unversed, rumours of Sara Ali Khan auditioning for the role played by Tripti Dimri in the film made headlines recently. The report claimed that Sandeep wasn't convinced that Sara would be able to pull off

the bold scene in the film. He, however, was impressed by Tripti when she auditioned for the role and cast her in the film, claimed the report. Sara Ali Khan is among the prominent Bollywood actresses of this

generation. She made headlines with her debut in 'Kedarnath' and has been a part of films like 'Atrangi Re', 'Love Aaj Kal', 'Simmba', 'Coolie No 1', 'Luka', 'Gaslight' among others. She was recently seen in 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke'

opposite Vicky Kaushal. She will be next seen in 'Ae Watan Mere Watan', which will premiere on Amazon Prime Video. Tripti Dimri played the role of 'Zoya' in Animal. Though she had a small screen time, her role is one of the most talked-about elements of the film. Tripti Dimri spoke about her intimate scenes with Ranbir Kapoor in 'Animal'. She said that Ranbir and Sandeep made sure that she was comfortable doing the scenes. She also mentioned Ranbir coming and checking up on her

every 5 minutes to ensure that she is not feeling awkward. Tripti made her acting debut in the comedy film 'Poster Boys' (2017) and had her first lead role in the romantic drama 'Laila Majnu' (2018). She gained acclaim for her performances in Anvita Dutt's films 'Bulbbul' (2020) and 'Qala' (2022), before bagging 'Animal'. She has a film with Vicky Kaushal among her upcoming projects. Released on December 1, 'Animal' is getting an overwhelming response from the audience.

Kudos to Election Commission of India



The political discourse in India is currently characterized by loud and often uncivil exchanges. Criticism of every aspect of the electoral process has become commonplace. The opposition parties have marshaled substantial resources to vigorously criticize the Election Commission of India (ECI) at the press conference organized by the Commission. They were poised to vociferously challenge the election results.

Rajiv Kumar, the Chief Election Commissioner, deserves commendation for organizing the press conference to dispel any doubts regarding the integrity and fairness of the elections. Kumar spared no effort to demonstrate the transparency of the democratic process. He meticulously

addressed even the smallest details of the vote counting process, using a poetic touch to maintain a congenial and engaging atmosphere in the packed ECI hall. His responses to the media's inquiries were precise and thorough, and his use of Urdu couplets contributed to a warm, comfortable, and amicable environment. In conclusion, it can be said that he left no grounds for any further complaints.

Feeling elated at the end of the press conference, Kumar remarked, "We have successfully achieved one of the significant milestones in our journey. This accomplishment is not only a testament to our collective commitment but also a source of pride. Our hard work has paid off, and we have learned valuable lessons. We have already demonstrated our dedication to ensuring impartial elections. Life is about growth, and our

involvement in these initiatives provides us with continuous opportunities to develop new skills that will serve us throughout our tenure."

Issuing a word of caution, he remarked, "However, the true moment of reckoning awaits us tomorrow (counting & result). The path ahead will not be without challenges. We will encounter obstacles and missed opportunities, potholes, and roadblocks. Nonetheless, we are all in this journey together, having come this far. We must continue to persevere, driven by our belief in our potential to achieve our aspirations, and our conviction that we are deserving of success. Let us have faith in ourselves so that we may reach our goals and realize our dreams. Let us strive to be the best versions of ourselves, thereby bringing joy and pride to our lives and to the lives of those closest to us. It is now time to take the next steps in

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



Rajiv Kumar addressing press conference



Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, Rajiv Kumar, and Gyanesh Kumar

There is a significant and controlled threat posed by deepfakes through AI-generated synthetic content. The Election Commission (EC) issued notices to top political leaders, and First Information Reports (FIRs) were filed against many individuals, while senior officials were transferred to ensure the integrity of the electoral process. During the 2024 general elections, over 90 percent of the 495 complaints of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations were resolved. Seizures amounting to ₹10,000 crore, including cash, freebies, drugs, and liquor, were made during the 2024 polls, in contrast to ₹3,500 crore in 2019. Previously, all development work ceased during the MCC period; however, the EC now granted permissions within 48 hours for 95-98 percent of project applications. Only 39 re-elections were necessary in the 2024 general

elections, compared to 540 in 2019. Nearly four lakh vehicles, 135 special trains, and 1,692 air sorties were utilized to facilitate the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. India set a world record with 642 million voters, including 312 million women, participating in this year's Lok Sabha elections. Over 68,000 monitoring teams and 1.5 million polling and security personnel were involved in conducting the world's largest electoral exercise. Responding humorously to social media memes that referred to election commissioners as 'Laapataa Gentlemen' (Missing Gentlemen), Kumar quipped, "We were always here, never went missing. Now, memes can say that the 'Laapataa Gentlemen' are back."

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Include Tomatoes In Your Skincare Routine



Tomatoes are also a great option for your regular cleansing, toning, and moisturizing skincare routine. The best part about it is that it is so easily available in every house.

Slightly acidic in nature, tomatoes are exceptionally beneficial for people who want to lose weight and maintain their blood pressure levels. It comes in numerous varieties that are grown in temperate climates in various parts of the world. Tomatoes, the beauty guru, are grown in numerous colors such as yellow, green, orange, black, brown, pink, white, brown, and purple, but are available mostly in their distinctive red color.

Tomatoes, a staple in every kitchen, are a huge reservoir of beauty-enhancing

properties. Everyone knows the health benefits of a juicy, sweet tomato but on the other hand, it also protects skin from ultraviolet (UV) rays, thereby delaying skin ageing and protecting against skin cancer. Not only do tomatoes taste great but has immense cosmetic benefits which can also help you get flawless, radiant and attractive skin. The ordinary tomato is a treasure trove of beauty ingredients which can treat rashes, sunburn, dull skin, acne and large pores.

Tomato is particularly beneficial for the health of the skin, as it also helps to restore the pH balance of the skin, which can get disrupted by harsh soaps and make-up cosmetics. Tomato also contains lycopene, which is a

Shahnaz Husain

powerful antioxidant and therefore, has anti-ageing benefits when applied on the skin. Tomato pulp or tomato juice also helps to reduce oiliness and lightens skin colour over a period of time.

Tomato is most beneficial for preventing acne, as it closes the pores and keeps it free from clogged oil. Preventing clogged pores is a way of preventing blackheads, which is the primary acne lesion.

They contain lycopene which is antioxidant and works as sunscreen from within and also helps in fighting cellular damage and reddening of skin. Daily intake of 25 milligrams of lycopene reduces the number of free radicals in the body and also helps to retain the

moisture in body during summers. You don't need to spend your hard-earned money on expensive cosmetic treatments if you can use this common ingredient from your kitchen to enhance your beauty.

Tomato pulp can be applied on skin with acne and gradually helps to control and acne condition. Mix tomato juice with baking powder (bicarbonate of soda) into a paste. Apply on oily and blackhead-prone areas of the face. Wash off after 5 minutes. It helps to prevent blackheads.

Mix one teaspoon each tomato and cucumber juice and apply it on the face to control oiliness of the skin. Over a

period of time it will also help to remove tan and lighten skin colour.

For normal to oily and combination skin, mix 3 teaspoons oats with a little egg white and 2 teaspoons tomato juice into a paste. It should be of a consistency that does not drip. Apply on the face, avoiding the lips and area around eyes. Wash it off after 20 to 30 minutes, or when it dries.

You can also mix tomato juice with the pulp of avocado for normal to oily skin. While tomato reduces oiliness and has an astringent effect, a avocado moisturizes the skin without making it oily. For sunburnt skin, mix tomato juice

with powdered milk into a paste and apply on the face. It will help to remove tan.

Take some tomato and grind it. Rub the pulp onto your scalp and hair gently. Or, you can directly use the tomato juice on to your hair also. Leave it on for 15 to 30 minutes and wash it off. Regular application improves hair texture and repairs the damage caused by sun and dust.

For dry skin, mix tomato juice with almond oil and apply on the face to remove tan and lighten skin colour. Olive oil can also be combined with tomato juice to lighten skin colour.

Take 1 teaspoon tomato juice mix few drops of aloe vera gel. Apply the mixture on the under eye area carefully. Let it dry for 15 minutes and then rinse it off. Apply this once daily for quick results. Tomato pulp possesses skin bleaching properties that will lighten the darkened skin under the eyes. Aloe vera contains antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds that will rejuvenate the skin and also reduce the signs of aging. Tomato juice or pulp can also be added to fruits to make a fruit mask. Mashed banana, ripe papaya and grated apple can be used with tomato juice for a nourishing and cleansing pack for all skin types.

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

SHATABDI NRITYAYAN ORGANISES ODISSI DANCE WORKSHOP



Kolkata, (KCN): Recently a five days Summer Workshop on Odissi Dance was conducted at the Nagerbazar Branch (Kolkata) of Shatabdi Nrityayan following the style of Late Guru Shri Deba Prasad Das under the guidance of doordarshan Graded artist, Sri Manoj Kumar Pradhan of Bhubaneswar. Manoj is one amongst the loving disciples of Central Sangeet Natak Akademi

Awardee Guru Shri Durga Charan Ranbir. In this summer workshop, the participants were taught different Odissi dance choreographies of Guru Sri Durga Charan Ranbir on Mangalacharan, Abhinaya and Pallavi following the endangered Odissi style of Guru Shri Deba Prasad Das. The scorching and unbeatable heat of Kolkata couldn't stop the dance lovers from

taking part in this workshop. Around 60 students from different age groups ranging from 6 years to 50 years actively participated. During the 6th day the students gave beautiful presentations on the respective dance pieces learnt in the 5 days workshop followed by their felicitation with Certificates by Guru Sri Manoj Kumar Pradhan, odissi dancer and teacher Smt. Shatabdi Mallik and eminent yoga instructor Smt. Mamata Mallik.

Indo-Mediterranean Initiative launched at the ICC India Forum 2024 in Rome



Kolkata (PARTHA R O Y) : India Mediterranean Initiative (IMI) was launched on 16th of June 2024 in Rome, Italy. The Initiative will study, support and promote India-Italy partnership, especially in context of the India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor (IMEC), launched at the G20 in New Delhi in September 2023. A two-days India Forum 2024 organized by the Chief

Representative for Italy of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Vas Shenoy in Rome. Shri Ameya Prabhu ICC President mentioned that Italy-India relationship is important for global peace, security and progress and to conduct trade and business trust is an essential commodity. Prabhu further added that the first edition of India Forum 2024, has touched upon all key

areas – politics, trade and business. ICC delegation of 30 companies attended India Forum.

Indo-Italian Chamber for Commerce and Industry Secretary General Claudio Maffioletti attended the forum. The business forum was organized by ICC with cooperation of UnionCamere, Italy's national federation of Chambers of Commerce at its headquarters in Piazza Sallustio, Rome.

New Delhi (KCN): Persistent heat wave drove the national capital's peak power demand today afternoon to 8,647 MW, the highest ever for the city, discom officials said. The previous highest peak power demand in the national capital was 8,302 megawatts (MW) on May 29 this year. Delhi's peak power demand reached 8,000 MW for the first time on May 22, 2024, they said. The extreme heatwave has pushed the city's power demand northwards, soaring to 8,647 MW at 3:22 pm on Tuesday, according to the State Load Dispatch Centre, Delhi. Since May 22, Delhi's peak power demand has

crossed 8,000 MW eight times so far, discom officials said. According to them, the cooling load due to the increased use of air conditioners and other cooling appliances amid the relentless heat wave has led to a record rise in power demand in the national capital. "It is estimated that air conditioning can contribute to 30-50 per cent of domestic and commercial power consumption," said a discom official. Hot surface winds continued to sweep the city on Tuesday as Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 44 degrees Celsius, over five notches above the normal, the IMD said.

The national capital also recorded its highest minimum temperature of this season at 33.8 degree Celsius. Delhi Power Minister Atishi, in a post on 'X', said, "The power consumption in Delhi has once again broken all the records. While the hours-long power cuts are still common in cities of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, Delhi today met the peak demand of 8,647 MW without any blackout." Before the peak power demand records of 2024, Delhi's previous high reached 7,695 MW on June 29, 2022. Last year, Delhi's peak power demand was 7,438 MW. The all-time high peak demand of 8,647 MW on Tuesday was more than

Frozen shrimp major item of exports USA, China, EU, South East Asia, Japan and Middle East are Major Importers

India's Seafood Exports Flying Highest to USD 8.09 Billion in FY 2022-23

Kolkata, (KCN): India shipped 17,35,286 MT of seafood worth Rs 63,969.14 crore (USD 8.09 billion) during 2022-23, despite heavy odds, which is all time high exports in volume and value (both USD and Rupee) terms, stated The Marine Products Export Development Authority.

Frozen shrimp remained the major export item in terms of quantity, value both while USA and China turned out to be the major importers of India's seafood.

During the FY 2022-23, the export improved in quantity terms by 26.73%, in rupee terms by 11.08%, in USD terms by 4.31%. In 2021-22, India had exported 13,69,264 MT of seafood worth Rs 57,586.48 crore (USD 7,759.58 million).

Shri D V Swamy, Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), said India managed to do all time high exports worth US\$ 8.09 billion with a volume of 17,35,286 MT of seafood, despite the several challenges in its major export markets like the USA.

Frozen shrimp, which earned Rs 43,135.58 crore (USD 5481.63 million), retained its position as the most significant item in the basket of seafood exports, accounting for a share of 40.98% in quantity and 67.72% of the total dollar earnings.

Shrimp exports during the period increased by 1.01 % in Rupee value.

The overall export of frozen shrimps during 2022-23 was pegged at 7,11,099 MT. USA, the largest market, imported (2,75,662 MT) of frozen shrimp, followed by China (1,45,743 MT), European Union (95,377 MT), South East Asia (65,466 MT), Japan (40,975 MT), and the Middle East (31,647 MT).

The export of black tiger (BT) shrimp increased by 74.06%, 68.64% and 55.41% in quantity, Rupee value and USD terms respectively in 2022-23. BT shrimp exported to the tune of 31,213 MT worth Rs 2,564.71 Cr (USD 321.23 million). Japan turned out to be the major market for Black Tiger shrimp with a share of 25.38% in terms of USD value, followed by the European Union (25.12%) and the USA (14.90%).

The Vannamei shrimp exports declined in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22 by 8.11% from USD 5234.36 million to USD 4809.99 million.

Frozen Fish, the second largest exported item,

fetched Rs. 5,503.18 Cr. (USD 687.05 million) accounting for 21.24% in quantity and 8.49% in USD earnings. This year the export of Frozen fish has increased by 62.65%, 58.51% and 45.73% in Quantity, Rupee and USD value terms respectively.

Under Other items, the third largest export basket worth USD 658.84 million, Surimi fetched Rs. 2,013.66 crore (USD 253.89 million), fr. Octopus fetched Rs. 725.71 crore (USD 91.74 million), Surimi Analogue products fetched Rs. 558.51 crore (USD 70.35 million), canned products fetched Rs. 326.48 crore (USD 41.56 million), fr. lobster fetched Rs. 215.15 crore (USD 27 million), along with other products.

Frozen Squid, the fourth largest export item,

fetched Rs 3593.75 crore (USD 454.61 million), accounting for 4.83 per cent share in quantity and 5.62 per cent in dollar earnings.

The export of frozen fish increased by 28.07% in Rupee value and 18.58 % in dollar value.

Export of Dried Items,

pegged at 2,52,918 MT,

showed a tremendous

growth of 243.27% in

quantity and 167.70 % in

dollar terms, and earned

Rs 3,080.92 crore

(384.05 USD millions).

Under this basket, Dried

fish and shrimp meal

together contributed

USD 307.96 million and

dried fish maws fetched

USD 24.88 million.

Export of frozen Cuttlefish, pegged at

45,919 MT, showed a

growth of 14.09 % in

rupee value and 5.50 %

in USD value, and earned

Rs 2353.34 crore

(295.49 USD millions).

Export of chilled items,

which is considered as a

promising sector, also

increased by 20.73 % in

USD terms and 12.63 %

in Quantity terms.

Export of live Items,

pegged at 7,824 MT, showed a growth of 24.53% in Rupee, 15.61% in USD value. Growth is observed in the unit values of frozen squid (7.13%), frozen cuttlefish (13.33%), chilled items (7.19%) and live items (3.90%).

As for overseas markets, the USA continued to be the major importer of Indian seafood in value terms with an import worth USD 2,632.08 million, accounting for a share of 32.52 % in terms of USD value. Exports to the US declined by 21.94% in USD terms due to sluggish demand. Frozen shrimp continued to be the principal item exported to the US with a share of 92.70% in USD terms. Exports of black tiger shrimp to the US increased by 4.06% in quantity terms and 0.26% in Rupee terms.

China emerged as the second largest seafood export destination from India in terms of Quantity and USD both with an import of 4,05,547 MT worth USD 1,508.43 million, accounting for 23.37% share in quantity and 18.64% in dollar value.

Frozen shrimp, the major item of exports to China, had a share of 35.94% in quantity and 60.92% in USD value terms with a growth of 9.99 %. Frozen shrimp continued to be the major item of exports to Japan with a share of 71.35% and growth of 5.26% in USD value.

Exports to the Middle East by Quantity were 77,677 MT worth US\$ 330.68 million. This market showed a growth of 32.95% in quantity, 17.33% in Rupee and 9.09% in dollar terms.

4 Adani Ports Feature In World Bank's 'Container Port Performance Index'

Ahmedabad (KCN): Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) on Wednesday said four of its ports have been featured in the prestigious 'Container Port Performance (CPP) Index 2023', developed by the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence.

While Mundra port was ranked 27th, Kattupalli came in at number 57th, Hazira at 68th, and Krishnapatnam at 71th in the Top 100 list.

"It reaffirms our position as a key player in the global container port industry. This accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team as well as our ongoing commitment to deliver exceptional service to our customers," said Ashwani Gupta, CEO and Whole Time Director

of APSEZ.

The global index is a highly-regarded benchmark that assesses the performance of ports on parameters such as productivity, efficiency and reliability. It serves as a reference point for key stakeholders, including national governments, port authorities, development agencies, supra-national organisations and private operators, of trade, logistics and supply chain services. Nine ports from India made it to the top 100 list, including four from the Adani portfolio, underscoring the APSEZ's commitment to operational efficiency and world-class service standards.

Last week, Adani Ports was recognised by CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project) for its exceptional efforts in tackling climate change and implementing best Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices across its supply chain through a robust engagement programme. The global non-profit organisation assigned APSEZ a leadership band "A-" in both climate change and supplier engagement.

Amid Heat Wave, Delhi's Peak Power Demand Reaches All-Time High Of 8,647 MW



16 per cent higher than that in the 2023 summer. Discom officials said the fact that Delhi's power distribution network has been able to sustain the prolonged high power demand shows its robustness.

A BSES spokesperson said the company's discoms BRPL and BYPL successfully met the peak power demand in their areas on Tuesday. Around 2,100 MW of green power is playing an important role in meeting the summer demand, he said.

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL), which supplies electricity to North Delhi areas, met the peak demand of 2,446 MW without any glitches, said a spokesperson of the company.

The company has made adequate arrangements via long-term and short-term measures and will ensure seamless electricity supply amid the ongoing severe heatwave in Delhi, she said.

"The TPDDL team is working round the clock to ensure uninterrupted power supply in its area of operation of North and Northwest Delhi," the spokesperson said. Except for last year when Delhi's power demand peaked in August, it usually peaks during the end of June and early July, discom officials said. The discoms had in their

initial estimation of peak power demand for this year's summer expected it to cross 8,000 MW and reach up to 8,200 MW. The BSES discoms are geared to ensure reliable power supply to meet the demand of around 50 lakh consumers in South, West, East and Central Delhi, said a company spokesperson.

These arrangements include long-term purchase agreements and banking arrangements with other states, and deployment of the latest technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning for predicting power demand accurately which is critical for ensuring reliable power supply, he added.

DHARITRI 2024- Celebrating Mother Earth

Odias showcase Odia culture by celebrating Mother Earth event in Frankfurt,Germany!



Frankfurt (KCN) : The growing Odia diaspora in Frankfurt, Germany organized and celebrated Mother Earth Event - 'Dharitri 2024' on 16th June, 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM, thereby showcasing Odia culture at its finest. It was celebrated in a large event hall with its multiple stalls capturing the essence of Odisha in a nutshell.

Utkal Samaj Rhein-Main e.V. (USRM), having been established in April 2023 especially for Odias living in the greater Frankfurt Region, the members have quickly cultivated a vision to establish a strong sense of community. The USRM community celebrates Mother Earth which holds a special place in the hearts of Odia folks. With the increased importance of Earth and maintaining a sustainable eco-system amongst today's society, this event wanted to highlight how Odia culture historically placed major importance on Earth and living sustainably,

thus having this as the theme of the event. This event was all about spreading awareness of Odisha's rich cultural heritage, art, our sustainable living and cuisine to the other Indian and local diaspora in Frankfurt.

The event was attended by esteemed guests like the Consulate General of Indian Consulate Frankfurt, Mr. B. S. Mubarak who is always eager and takes special interest in sustainable development and to support such events depicting the beauty of Indian culture. Several local people numbering up to 750-800+ came to the event and got to learn the various aspects of Odia culture. They saw and learned about the increasing importance of Mother Earth in all areas of the event and thoroughly enjoyed it. Amongst many stalls, one of the most favored stalls was showing Odisha's

cultural artifacts like Chandoi, Patachitra and silver filigree works etc. These artifacts showed the artistic power and unique heritage of Odia folks. Guests were explained the history behind the artifact and how it evolved to the current stage. USRM intends to be a valuable medium to bring Odia artists directly in touch with potential buyers interested in the craft in future. Various folk dances, classical and semi-classical dance forms were also showcased by other Indian communities of Frankfurt. The highlight of the event was showcasing the world famous Odissi dance performed by a German, trained Odissi dancer, Ms. GudrunMärtins who not only astonished everyone with her talent but also gave a strong message that culture has no boundaries. Other event highlights were

showcasing folk dance of Odisha like Sambalpuri folk dance which made everyone groove to the peppy Sambalpuri beats. Having Odissi and folk dancers in the community helped to signal the expertise to the viewers and potential students to learn these dance forms. Some other cultural performances which were included in the event but not limited to, was the Dharitri Fashion Show which depicted the environment theme and presented a unique



concept of participants present "Panchatatva." The

nature (Fire, Water, Air, Space and Earth) giving a strong message of saving Mother Nature. Lastly, everything is incomplete without the due appreciation of Mother Earth which was a central theme of the event. In our daily lives, Odia people live such an eco-friendly lifestyle by using bamboo toothbrushes, etc. So many of our Odia traditions revolve around Mother Earth like the Raja festival which coincidentally happens at this time as well. Odias truly treasure and respect mother Earth with various celebrations making this event a perfect appreciation. The event took place without the usage of plastics or chemicals hazardous to the environment. All in all, it was a great occasion for the USRM community to celebrate the festival and share a bit of the wonderful Odia culture within the local population in Frankfurt, Germany as reported by Bibhu Ashish Mohanty, President and Amit Kumar Rawal, Vice-President from Utkal Samaj Rhein-Main e.V.



Left-Out Eligible Odisha Farmers To Be Included In PM-KISAN Yojana Within 15 Days: CM Mohan Majhi

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi today Bargarh and joined the event of release of the 17th Installment to 9.26 crore beneficiary farmers under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) through Direct Benefit Transfer amounting to more than Rs 20,000 crores.

About 31.62 lakh farmers of Odisha received Rs 632.48 crore today under PM-KISAN Yojana as Rs 2000 was credited to the bank account of each beneficiary. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the programme from Varanasi.

After reaching Bargarh, the Chief Minister held a 'road show' in with thousands of people thronging the venue. He paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. He shook hands with people all along the way. People welcomed the Chief Minister with great enthusiasm holding placards. There was great enthusiasm among the people for the new CM.

The Chief Minister thanked the people of Bargarh for their tremendous enthusiasm and support and promised to visit the district again very soon. Addressing the program, Chief Minister Majhi highly praised the Prime Minister and



said, "PM Modi is a true friend of farmers. All the support to the farmers is going directly to the bank account through DBT. This scheme has paved the way for the development of the farmers."

CM Majhi also congratulated the 31.62-lakh beneficiary farmers of Odisha who received Rs. 2000 each in their bank account in the 17th installment of the PM-KISAN. He further said that the PM-KISAN Yojana is a progressive scheme introduced by the central government to integrate farmers into the mainstream. The scheme was implemented by the Modi government in February 2019 to accelerate the process of farmer development and poverty reduction. The Chief Minister said that on the first day of

our government in Odisha, my cabinet decided to increase the minimum support price to Rs 3100 for the collection of paddy from farmers.

"As promised by the previous government, the bonus of Rs. 100 was not given. Instead, there was Katni-Chhatna," Majhi said adding, "My government is the people's government. All our promises to common people will be fulfilled. Empowerment and welfare of farmers in our state are the main objectives of the state government. Our government is planning to implement the development plans and programs made by the central government for many more farmers in the coming days."

He said, "I want no eligible farmer to miss out on the benefits under this scheme. Within the next 15 days,



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BB Medicare opens advanced Bio Compostable Bags Manufacturing Unit at Tangi



Bhubaneswar : BB Medicare thrilled to announce the inauguration of cutting-edge Bio Compostable Bags Manufacturing Unit, set to revolutionize the sustainable packaging industry. The grand opening ceremony took place on June 17, 2024, The new facility located in Haladibasanta, Tangi, Cuttack.

This milestone marks a significant step forward in our commitment to environmental sustainability and

innovation. New manufacturing unit will produce high-quality bio compostable bags, designed to reduce plastic waste and its harmful impact on the environment. These bags are made from natural, renewable resources and are fully compostable, providing an eco-friendly alternative to traditional plastic bags.

The event was graced by Professor Pravat Kumar Roul, Vice Chancellor of Odisha University of

Agriculture and Technology, as the Chief Guest. Attendees had the opportunity to tour the facility and witness the advanced production processes. The manufacturing unit includes advanced Technology, utilizing the latest in eco-friendly manufacturing technology to produce durable and sustainable bio compostable bags such as grocery bags, garbage bags, pharmacy bags, shopping bags and carry bags. This unit expected to significantly reduce plastic waste,

supporting global efforts to combat environmental pollution. The facility will create numerous job opportunities, contributing to local economic growth. Its adherence to the highest standards of quality and compliance, ensuring our products meet international environmental regulations.

BB Medicare Pvt Ltd is dedicated to driving positive environmental change through innovation and responsible

manufacturing practices. The launch of this manufacturing unit aligns with our vision to create a greener, more sustainable future for all.

BB Medicare Pvt Ltd is a leading company in the sustainable packaging industry, committed to developing eco-friendly solutions that help protect the environment. Our mission is to innovate and produce high-quality, sustainable products that contribute to a healthier planet.

Nexus Select Malls unveils Purple Weekend across portfolio

Bhubaneswar : As the summer holidays draw near and individuals prepare to embark on a shopping expedition in preparation for their forthcoming sojourns, Nexus Select Malls unveils its latest initiative, "Purple Weekend," a weekend event featuring special offers, unforgettable entertainment, and an unparalleled shopping experience. The endeavor centered around "Savings & Excitement," is scheduled to kick start on April 19th, 2024 throughout all portfolio malls and will mark the beginning of a recurring monthly tradition wherein Nexus



Nexus Esplanade will curate a unique weekend to present an ample selection of enticing discounts, deals and curated offers from a

diverse array of categories including fashion, food and beverage, electronics, movies, and hypermarket products

with the intention of accommodating each customer. Don't miss out on the inaugural Purple Weekend event! Mark your calendar, gather

friends and family and head to Nexus Esplanade between April 19th to April 21st. As part of the Purple Weekend initiative

Capri Global Capital Ltd announces Stock Split and 1:1 bonus

Mumbai (KCN): Board of directors of Capri Global Capital Ltd (CGCL), a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse segments like MSME, Affordable Housing, Construction Finance segments among others has approved stock split and 1:1 bonus issue. The company board also approved issuance of Non-Convertible Debentures through Public issue/private placement for an amount up to Rs. 500 crore in tranches.

The Board of directors at its meeting held on January 27 has approved sub-division of one equity share of the face value of Rs. 2 each fully paid-up into two equity shares of the face value of Re. 1 each fully paid-up. Company board also approved 1:1 bonus issue i.e. one new fully paid-up bonus equity share of face value of Re. 1 each for every one fully paid-up equity share of face value of Re. 1. Company has fixed the record date as Tuesday, March 5, 2024, for the stock split and bonus, subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the Company scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

For the Q3FY24

company has reported net profit of Rs. 68 crore, rise of 81.7% Y-o-Y from the net profit of Rs. 37.4 crore reported in Q3FY23. Asset under management of the company rise 54.4% to Rs. 13,362.1 crore as on Q3FY24, rise of 54.4% Y-o-Y from Rs. 8,654.5 crore in Q3FY23.

In the insurance business foray, company is planning to leverage technology to revolutionize the way insurance products and services are delivered to customers. The Company is planning to use data analytics, artificial intelligence, and blockchain to deliver insurance solutions. This will enable CGCL to automate claims processing and customer support services, thereby reducing the cost of operations while improving customer satisfaction. Hence, the key goal of the Insurtech platform will be to create an ecosystem of insurers who can offer coverage in a more affordable, customer-friendly way.



Company has inducted Mr. L V Prabhakar, Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, and Ms. Nupur Mukherjee as additional independent directors on its Board of Directors subject to shareholder approval. Capri Global is a diversified Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) with a presence across diverse and high growth segments like MSME, Affordable Housing, Construction Finance segments, and Car Loan distribution. Company also forayed into Gold Loans in Aug 22. Company is promoted by first generation entrepreneur, Mr. Rajesh Sharma and listed on BSE and NSE. With 917 branches in 14 states & UTs across North and West India and over 10,150 employees, company has reported AUM of Rs. 124 billion in Q2FY24. Promoter Group holds 69.89% stake in the company as on 31st Dec 2023. Going forward company is targeting AUM of Rs. 300 billion and earning target of mid-tear ROE over medium term with a strong focus on the business segments including Gold Loan, Affordable Housing and MSME loans.

On 16th January 2024, company received a composite Corporate Agency license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in December 2023 to distribute life, general, and health

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Barbados data watch: More runs and better returns for pace

New Delhi: A pattern seems to have emerged to bowling tactics on the Caribbean pitches, with the odd exception to the Kensington Oval, where pitches have become progressively slower in recent times. After 11 seasons of the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), the brains trust of the league's franchises has inferred from a bit of data crunching that the spinners bowling faster have a better chance of success than those that bowl slow.

"In general what they have found out from the CPL data is that the faster you bowl spin on those tracks the more purchase you get," says a member of the coaching staff of the Barbados Royals. The Indian team management is likely to include both finger

spinners - Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel - in the side and both bowl at a fast pace anyway. That should help the Indian team whether or not they bring in wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav into the mix for a pacer. Jadeja and Axar should be handy for the opposition on the Caribbean pitches, where the Indian team will play the remaining matches of the World Cup. Over the last two days, the two have been super busy at the nets here at the Oval.

However, data for the Oval here in Bridgetown where India will play their game against Afghanistan on Thursday, is at odds with the numbers of other pitches of the West Indies. According to Cricket 21, an analytics firm that supplies data to the Indian Premier League (IPL) as well as

to CPL franchises, spinners here would be definitely frugal but it would be the pacers that would be more effective in terms of taking wickets. Of the 61 wickets that have fallen here in this World Cup, 40 have gone to the fast bowlers.

Largely, the Barbados track has been a sporting pitch with an average batting first score of 172 for 7 in T20s since 2023. While the average first-innings score here, overall, has been 161 for 7, the average first-innings winning total has been 172 for 6. Since 2021, this has gone up to 189 for 6 despite a little dip last year, where the average winning total came down by nine runs. The previous game here in this T20 World Cup saw Australia score 201 batting first against

England. India, with a formidable batting line-up, would not mind those numbers but what can please the Indian team is that the right-arm pacers have taken 27 out of the 61 wickets here in the World Cup, with leg-spinners being the most successful among the spinners. That

should sound music to the ears of Jasprit Bumrah although it is a different matter that the India spearhead can be effective in any bowling conditions. Adding to the better conditions is also the fact that the toss has not had a major impact on the outcome of the game, although most teams tend to bowl first here. Those numbers should please India as they are a stronger side than their opposition, Afghanistan. The conventional wisdom would suggest that when pitches live up to the batting conditions, the favourites tend to win. Anything can happen in

a T20 game for sure, but in a match of 180 batting track, a better batting side should win than on a surface that struggles to produce 120 runs. Suryakumar Yadav, who sweated it out on practice pitches here over the last two days, seemed to be relieved to be coming to the West Indies after a grueling time in the US leg of the World Cup. "We know the conditions here, how they react, how they act. So we are very happy," the India batsman said. "I was happy playing there as well. It's not that we weren't happy playing there. But we were playing for the first time. The conditions were different and a little challenging as well. But we have played here [before].

"Last time, also when

we were here for ODI, it was a similar kind of wicket. I don't think there has been a lot of cricket played here in the last 10 days. The practice wickets were good. So we're expecting that the game wicket will also be as good."

As for giant killers Afghanistan, who upset New Zealand in the World Cup here, the India batter said the team had plans. "We do obviously have plans against Afghanistan, but we are completely focused on our strong points really well. We're working on that. And I mean, we do think about the opposition, but at the same time, at the end of the day, you should know what your strong points are and back it," Suryakumar noted.



Williamson turns down NZ central contract

New Delhi: Kane Williamson stunned New Zealand cricket on Wednesday (June 19) by revealing that he won't be accepting a new central contract for the 2024-25 season. Williamson has reaffirmed his commitment to New Zealand cricket despite this decision but has also relinquished captaincy. The 33-year-old admitted that he is pursuing an opportunity to play in an overseas league during the New Zealand summer and hence won't be available for the national side during that period. Apart from that time frame, he has said that he will be always available to play for New Zealand. "Helping push the team forward across the

formats is something I'm very passionate about and something I want to keep contributing towards," Williamson said. "However, pursuing an overseas opportunity during the New Zealand summer means I'm unable to accept a central contract offer."

"Playing for New Zealand is something I treasure, and my desire to give back to the team remains undiminished. My life outside cricket has changed however - spending more time with my family and enjoying experiences with them at home or abroad is something that's even more important to me."

Even though New Zealand prefer picking players who

are centrally contracted, they are willing to make an exception for Williamson, says CEO Scott Weenink. "This is a good way to help keep Kane in the international game so that he continues to play a major role for the BLACKCAPS, both now and in the years to come," said Weenink. "We have very little

international cricket in New Zealand through January and outside that period he's still available for the BLACKCAPS. NZC has a strong preference to select centrally contracted players for the BLACKCAPS, however we're happy to make an exception for our greatest ever batter - especially as he

remains so committed to the team."

Under Williamson, New Zealand suffered a first-round exit in the ongoing T20 World Cup which ended a great run in ICC white-ball tournaments in recent years. Post the debacle, fast bowler Trent Boult had already announced that it was his last T20 World Cup.

New Zealand will also have to name a new limited-overs skipper now following Williamson's decision.

He had already relinquished Test captaincy in 2022 and was leading the team only in limited-overs cricket.

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