

Key highlights of President Murmu's speech in joint sitting of Parliament

New Delhi(KCN): President Droupadi Murmu addressed the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament Thursday, her first in the third term of the Narendra Modi government and spoke on a host of issues, including Emergency and the safeguards of the Constitution, Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), EVM transparency, Northeast, women empowerment and more. She highlighted the government's initiatives and achievements in various sectors and also spoke on various burning issues before the nation. President Murmu said that the people of the country reposed faith in the Modi government for the third term and therefore it is a stamp of approval for the government's mission of service and good governance undertaken in the past 10 years.

"It is a mandate that the work of making India a developed nation continues uninterrupted and India attains its goals," she stated. She said that the resolve to Reform, Perform and Transform has made India the fastest-growing economy in the world. "In 10 years, India has risen to become the 5th largest economy from being the 11th ranked economy. From 2021 to 2024, India has grown at an average rate of 8 per cent annually. This has been made possible due to reforms and major decisions undertaken in the national interest in the last 10 years. Today, India alone is contributing 15 per cent of the global growth," the President pointed out. Reiterating the government's charge that the Emergency was the 'darkest period' of democracy, President Murmu said, "The imposition of Emergency

on 25th June, 1975 had left the entire country outraged. However, the country emerged victorious over such unconstitutional forces as the traditions of the republic lie at the core of India." She also congratulated the MPs on their fresh term in Parliament and also congratulated the Election Commission for conducting the world's largest democratic exercise. President Murmu said, "This was the largest election in the world. About 64 crore voters performed their duty with enthusiasm and zeal. Women cast their votes in huge numbers this time also. A very heartening aspect of this election emerged from Jammu and Kashmir. The Kashmir Valley broke all records of voter turnout of many decades.

"In the last four decades, we had



witnessed low voter turnout amidst shutdowns and strikes in Kashmir. But this time the Kashmir Valley has given a befitting reply to every such element within the country and outside. For the first time, the home voting facility was made available in this Lok Sabha Election," she added, highlighting the changes after Article 370 abrogation. Wishing a better future for the families who have been granted citizenship under CAA, "The Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita will come into force in the

country from the first of July. The government has started granting citizenship to refugees under the CAA. It has ensured a dignified life to many families who have suffered due to Partition." President Murmu cautioned the citizens against attempts to undermine the credibility of democracy and said, "We all remember those times when ballot papers were snatched and looted. To ensure the sanctity of the electoral process, it was decided to use EVMs. The EVM

has passed every test, from the Supreme Court to the people's court, in the last few decades." Talking about women empowerment initiatives under the Modi government, President Murmu highlighted, "During the last 10 years, majority of the four crore PM Awas houses have been allotted to women beneficiaries. At the very start of the third term of my government, approval for the construction of three crore new houses has been accorded. Most of these houses will be allotted to women beneficiaries." She also made mention of various schemes directed at women's emancipation and said that they would go a long way in empowering the women force. "Over the last 10 years, 10 crore women have been mobilised into Self Help Groups. A comprehensive campaign has been

launched to make three crore women Lakshmi Didis," she said. "The NAMO Drone Didi Scheme is contributing towards achieving this goal. Under this Scheme, women belonging to thousands of Self Help Groups are being provided with drones and also being trained as Drone Pilots," she added. Speaking about the Krishi Sakhi Initiative, she said that over 30,000 women belonging to Self Help Groups have been provided with Krishi Sakhi Certificates. Krishi Sakhis are being trained in modern agricultural practices so that they can help farmers in further modernization of Agriculture. President Murmu in her joint address also highlighted the government's efforts to build all-weather connectivity to the

Northeast and also its focus on developing the region as a hub of Made in India chips. "The government is working to make this region a strategic gateway under its Act East Policy. Connectivity of all kinds is being expanded in the Northeast. Development works are being taken up in every field including education, health, tourism and employment. A semiconductor plant is being established in Assam at a cost of Rs 27,000 crore," President Murmu said. In a message to all parties to work together, she said, "When India becomes the third largest economy, you will also be partners in this achievement. When we celebrate the hundredth anniversary of Independence in 2047 as a developed India, this generation will also get credit."

Nandankanan Mourns 'Sara'



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The authority of Nandankanan Zoological Park expressed deep grief over the passing of Sara, a cherished wild tigress and an integral part of the Nandankanan family. On February 29 this year, Sara was observed to be dull, unable to stand, and had labored breathing. After treatment with antibiotics and supportive therapy, she stood and accepted meat on March 3, 2024. She was confined to the feeding and small paddock area. Later, she developed decubital ulcers on both hip joints and was continuously treated. Despite

accepting food, she gradually became emaciated, forest officials said. On June 26, 2024, Sara was seen in lateral recumbency with feeble respiration. Despite all efforts, she breathed her last today at 4:42 AM, at the ripe old age of 18 years and one month. "As we mourn the loss of Sara, we also reflect on her vital contribution to the ex-situ conservation of tigers in India," the officials said.

Sara's journey began

when she was rescued from Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, on October 18, 2006, at just five months old, and reared at Van Vihar Zoological Park, Bhopal. She joined Nandankanan Zoological Park, in April, 2009, under an animal exchange program. Sara became a vital participant in our conservation breeding program, infusing new bloodlines by giving birth to Asha, Ankita and Subhashree on January 13, 2012, sired by the tiger Rishi. Asha was later transferred to Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, under another animal exchange program.



Pravati Parida on her X handle. The Odisha CM and his two deputies are on a three-day visit to Delhi

to draw the attention of the Central Government on various issues related to the interest of Odisha to further accelerate the development of the state. They also met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

They are slated to meet Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss various issues related to the state. Besides, CM Majhi and his deputies are also slated to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. This apart, the Odisha CM and two Dy CMs are also scheduled to meet the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, Jagat Prakash Nadda, and other senior leaders in the Upper House.

Supreme Court issues notice to NTA over OMR sheets in NEET-UG case



The bench at the outset pointed out to Basant how can a private coaching institute file an Article 32 petition in the Supreme Court and what kind of fundamental rights of the institution are affected. Counsel appearing for the NTA submitted that the OMR sheets have been uploaded on the website and given to the candidates. The bench asked him whether there was any time limit for raising the grievance of OMR sheets.

The NTA counsel said that he needed to take instructions and sought a listing of the petition along with the pending matters. "We will file a short reply by then to the query," he said.

Basant pointed out that there is no set procedure or time limit to raise the

grievance and therefore as an interim relief the candidates are seeking a grant of OMR sheets. The bench then issued notice and tagged the petition with the pending matters while asking the counsel for NTA to file a short written reply to the court's query on time limit.

June 20, the top court

sought responses from the Centre, the NTA and others on a slew of petitions, including those seeking scrapping of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) 2024 and a court-monitored probe, amid mounting outrage over alleged irregularities in conducting the all-India

medical entrance test. While hearing separate pleas on the NEET-UG 2024, the apex court had June 18 said even if there was "0.001 per cent negligence" on the part of anyone in the conduct of the examination, it should be thoroughly dealt with. It had listed all the petitions for hearing July 8. The NEET-UG is conducted by the NTA for admissions to MBBS, BDS, AYUSH and other related courses in government and private institutions across the country. The Centre and the NTA had June 13 told the top court that they had cancelled the grace marks given to 1,563 candidates who took the examination for admission to MBBS and other such courses. They will have the option to either take a retest or forgo the compensatory

IMD Issues Alert For Heavy Rainfall, Thunderstorms In Odisha Districts

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The India Meteorological Department has predicted heavy rainfall in several districts in Odisha on Thursday, given a cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal.

Odisha districts including Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati and Ganjam are likely to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall in the next four days. IMD also issued a yellow warning for heavy rainfall to Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nuapada and Barghara districts.

The cyclonic storm located over the west-central and northwest Bay of Bengal may cause heavy rainfall in the state. Many districts witnessed rainfall activities on Wednesday due to the formation of a cyclonic circulation over BoB.

As per reports, Nayagarh received 110 mm of rainfall, followed by Parlakhemundi (69.8 mm), Nabarangpur (23 mm), Bhubaneswar (21.3 mm), Malkangiri (16.8 mm), Titlagarh (15 mm), Phulbani (14 mm), and Daringbadi (13 mm).

Malkangiri and Koraput districts may receive even heavier rainfall (115 mm to 200 mm) on Thursday.



ECoR GM Inspects Therubali-Titlagarh-Sambalpur & Sambalpur-Jharsuguda Road-Sambalpur City-Jarpada Railway Section:

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a comprehensive two-day visit to the Sambalpur Railway Division, East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal conducted an extensive inspection of the Therubali-Titlagarh-Sambalpur and Sambalpur-Jharsuguda Road-Sambalpur City-Jarpada Railway Sections. During this visit, he reviewed various ongoing projects and infrastructural works in the region, at Muniguda, Kesinga, Titlagarh, Balangir, Barpali, and Sambalpur in the Therubali-Titlagarh-Sambalpur Railway Section. He also

inspected the stations at Jharsuguda Road, Rengali, Sarla and Jarpada in the Sambalpur-Jharsuguda Road-Sambalpur City-Jarpada Railway Section. During the visit, he examined several critical infrastructure projects, including the Freight Examination Facility with ROH (Routine Overhaul) at Sarla, the Crew Lobbies at Titlagarh and Sambalpur and Running Room at Sambalpur Stations. Shri Funkwal also inspected traffic facility works at various Railway Sidings associated with major industries such as M/s Vedanta Ltd. at

Brundamal and Ambodala, Bhusan Power & Steel Ltd. at Lapanga, and M/s Aditya

Aluminium Ltd. at Lapanga. He also held discussions with representatives of



these industries to needs and future address operational collaborations.

Shri Funkwal took stock of the passenger amenities available at the stations and reviewed the ongoing developmental activities and construction works across the railway sections. He actively interacted with staff and officials to gather insights and suggestions for enhancing passenger services and proposed various modifications for future improvements. In addition, an Emergency Medical Services Facility was inaugurated at Sambalpur Railway Station in the presence of GM/ECoR. The General Manager

Kashmir Sewa Sangh in Collaboration with Business Employment Bureau and Jamia Hamdard Announces Major Educational Initiatives.

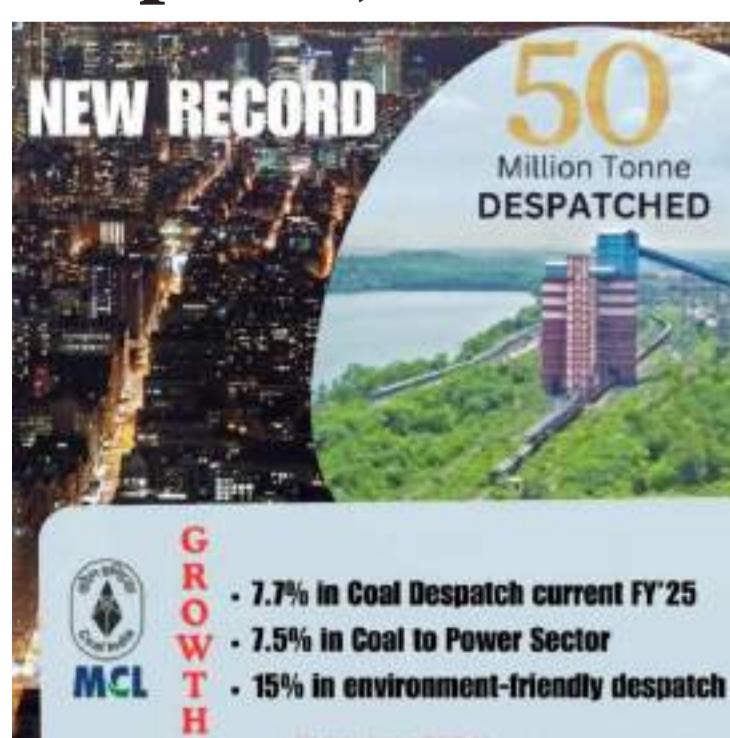


Srinagar, (Aasif Malik): in a landmark press conference, Kashmir Sewa Sangh, in collaboration with the Business Employment Bureau and Hamdard National Foundation, India, announced several significant educational initiatives aimed at empowering the youth of Kashmir. The event was led by Firdous Baba - chief, Kashmir Sewa Sangh & Mr. Showkat Mufti, Executive Secretary of the Business Employment Bureau, Jamia Hamdard. Mr. Mufti unveiled a series of programs designed to provide

comprehensive educational support to students across the region. Key highlights of the announcement include: Free Coaching for NEET and JEE: Mr. Mufti announced that free coaching will be provided to meritorious students preparing for the NEET and JEE exams. This initiative aims to support talented students in achieving their dreams of pursuing careers in medicine and engineering. Scholarships for Deserving Students: Recognizing the financial challenges faced by many students, Mr. Mufti introduced a

scholarship program for deserving school students. This initiative will ensure that financial constraints do not hinder the academic aspirations of bright young minds. Diploma and Certificate Courses in Forensic Sciences: In response to the growing demand for specialized skills, a new diploma and certificate course in forensic sciences will be offered. This program aims to equip students with the necessary knowledge and expertise to excel in this critical field. Skill Development Courses: To address the need for practical skills in the job market, various

MCL surpasses 50 MT coal despatch, sets new record



Sambalpur, (KCN): Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has set a new benchmark in operational excellence by

tonnes of coal despatch for the fiscal year 2024-25, achieving this milestone seven days ahead of the previous record.

The achievement reflects a robust 7.7% growth in overall despatch compared to the same period of last fiscal year. The milestone figure of 50 million tonnes in coal despatch was reached on Wednesday, underscoring MCL's commitment to efficiently fueling the nation's energy needs. Specifically, despatch to the power sector has increased by 7.5%, highlighting MCL's crucial role in supporting India's power generation infrastructure. Additionally, the company has achieved an



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Did you know AR Murugadoss wanted to cast Salman Khan as lead in 'Ghajini'?

Filmmaker AR Murugadoss wanted Salman Khan in his hit film 'Ghajini'. Pradeep Rawat, who played the villain in the movie, disclosed it in a recent interview.

Actor Pradeep Rawat, who played the primary antagonist in the hit film 'Ghajini', recently disclosed that the film's director, AR Murugadoss, wanted Salman Khan as its lead. Headlined by Aamir Khan, the film also starred Asin in a crucial role.

In an interview with Siddharth Kannan,

Pradeep Rawat, who played the titular character in 'Ghajini', opened up about the making of the film. He said that Murugadoss wanted to make the film in Hindi and desired to cast Salman Khan in it. However, Rawat mentioned that he did not feel Salman was the right choice.

Rawat said, "I thought in my mind 'Salman is short-tempered and Murugadoss doesn't speak in English or Hindi. He didn't even have a personality back then."

He further added that he

proposed Aamir's name

because he was 'cool-tempered' and 'behaves respectfully with everyone'.

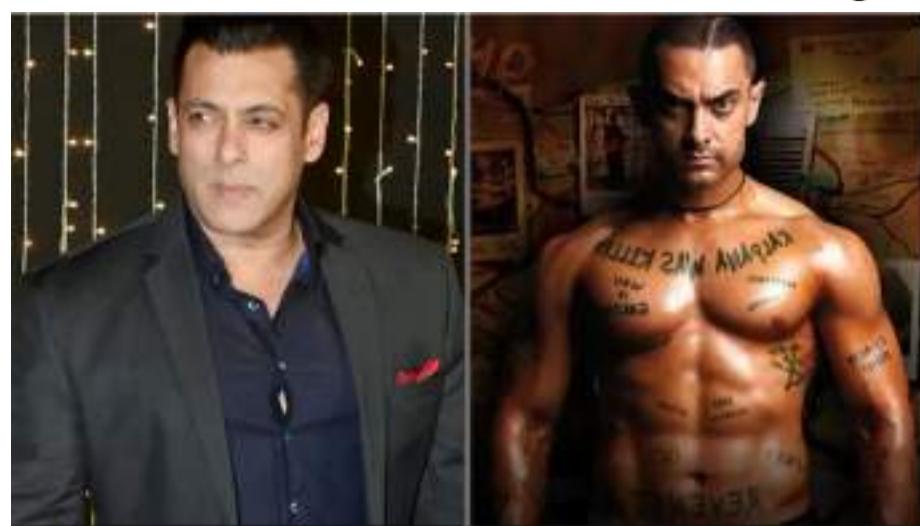
"I thought

Aamir would be the right choice for the role because he was cool-tempered and behaves respectfully towards

everyone. In the past 25 years, I have not seen Aamir shout or yell at anyone. He has never disrespected anyone or used abusive language. So I thought, naturally, Salman cannot be handled or there would be unnecessary complications", Pradeep said.

In the same interview, Pradeep also mentioned that Aamir only agreed to do the film because he couldn't say no to him. 'Ghajini' released in 2008.

Meanwhile, Salman has joined forces with Murugadoss for his next film, 'Sikandar'. It also stars Rashmika Mandanna in a key role and is slated for a release in theatres in 2025.



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, Rachi 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

Mehta looked dapper in suits. Paras Kalnawat also looked dashing with his co-actors Sana Sayyad and Baseer Ali.

Amongst the beautiful ladies, Sriti Jha made heads turn in a red evening gown. Popular

Jodi Rohit Suchanti and Aishwarya Khare also graced the red carpet in an all-black and royal blue ensemble respectively.

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.

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 Triptii Dimri's Role In Ranbir Kapoor-Bobby Deol's Starrer



Actress Triptii 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 Triptii 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 Triptii 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 Triptii 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'

every 5 minutes to ensure that she is not feeling awkward.

Triptii 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 'Bulbul' (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.

Unanimous Choice: Om Birla's Journey to Lok Sabha Speaker

- Lalit Garg -



Om Birla is elected the new Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha for the second time by voice vote. After which Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi took him to the chair. The opposition did not demand division on voice vote. The opposition's support on Om Birla's name was no less than a surprise for the Modi government. It was expected that the opposition would demand voting and then voting would take place as per the entire process. But today, while the entire process of electing Birla as the new Lok Sabha Speaker was showcasing the beauty of democratic values, it also gave rise to the possibilities that all the sessions of the 18th Lok Sabha would be full of hope, creating a new history. Om Birla, a third-time MP from Kota, has created history by becoming the Lok Sabha Speaker for the second time.

He is the third person to become the Lok

Sabha Speaker for the second consecutive time. Before him, Balram Jakhar was the Speaker for 9 years. Om Birla's election is not surprising, but what was a little surprising was the need for an election for this post. Although, in a democracy, there is no reason to feel bad about any election for any post. But the post of Lok Sabha Speaker is one in which general opinion has always been given importance. The reason is that for the smooth functioning of the House, the Speaker needs the support of both the parties. In such a situation, if both the parties select the person sitting on this post by declaring their trust in him, then the prestige of the post increases manifold.

In independent India, elections for the post of Lok Sabha Speaker were held only three times in 1952, 1967 and 1976. In the year 1952, Congress member G.V. Mavalankar was elected as the Lok Sabha Speaker. There was no consensus between the government and the opposition parties regarding the selection of the Lok Sabha Speaker, due to which the need for an election arose. This was the first show of strength

between the government and the opposition after the formation of the NDA government for the third consecutive time under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi at the centre. Therefore, the strategists of BJP were engaged in a mission to ensure a big victory for their candidate Om Birla with the support of a maximum number of MPs. In the meeting of India Alliance held the previous night, the leaders said that India Alliance does not have the numbers. Therefore, the process of electing Birla as the Speaker by voice vote without voting was allowed to happen uninterrupted and an atmosphere of happiness is seen on the parliamentary floor. Prime Minister Modi said that it is the good fortune of the House that you are occupying this seat for the second time. In this important period of Amritkaal, you have got a huge responsibility to occupy this post for the second time, we all believe that you will guide all of us for the coming 5 years. Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, while congratulating, reiterated the point of protecting the constitution. Akhilesh Yadav, the leader of the third largest party in the House, said that the post



on which you are sitting, has a very glorious tradition attached to it. Therefore, everything will move forward without discrimination. Impartiality is the great responsibility of this great post. You are sitting like the Chief Justice of democracy. The highest forum of every nation is the parliament of that nation, which is run by the representatives elected by the people of the entire nation, decides the rules and regulations of the nation, becomes their voice and works in their interest. It protects the wider interests of the nation.

India's

democracy is not only strong but also unique and inspiring, its highest forum is the Lok Sabha. Birla started a healthy tradition by conducting the proceedings of the 17th Lok Sabha sessions in a planned and smooth manner, his experience and capabilities have been ready to give a new vision to the House.

obstruction. This proves costly for the poor and the country in every respect. If our representatives do not think and behave honestly, then the common people of this nation will stop differentiating between right and wrong, moral and immoral. Certainly, on the strength of balance, impartiality, decency and skill, Birla will give a new height to the proceedings of the new Lok Sabha and will give wings to new hopes. In this, cooperation of the ruling and opposition parties is required, only then the decency and civility of the Lok Sabha will climb to new heights. The future of the country is written on the face of the Parliament, if there is a display of indecency there, then the problems get complicated instead of getting solved. Using abusive language on small matters, uproar, taunting, ruckus and walkout are such incidents which reduce the prestige of a

representative institution like the Parliament. The kind of expertise Birla has shown in the past in explaining this to the elected representatives and training them is commendable. The Parliament represents crores of people and becomes their voice. It is the sacred duty of the Lok Sabha of our nation to maintain its sanctity and health and all the representatives take an oath in the presence of God and soul to fulfil this duty with loyalty and honesty. It is not necessary to elect only an MP with long parliamentary experience for the post of Lok Sabha Speaker. It has to be seen whether the person sitting on this post has the ability to take all the parties along or not and whether he has the courage to do proper justice to all the parties or not. When the values and moral standards in the House become weak and only raising personal status becomes important, then that House definitely becomes weak. Even in the Amritkaal of freedom, we should raise our conduct and capability to a certain level. Leaders and heroes are not things to be produced in a factory, the Lok Sabha itself does the work of molding their capability and character. The qualities of giving

importance not only to the words of the Constitution but also to its spirit also develop here. It is also taught to make good use of the freedom of speech. The new Lok Sabha should be like a training laboratory. The new Lok Sabha should give birth to such an environment within itself, which itself comes forward and creates new things, takes the reins of responsibility and starts the work of reform, health and development. Lok Sabha is trying to ask itself a small question rather than big ideals: who should it say goodbye to in welcoming the new Lok Sabha? Say goodbye to those events of the past due to which the dreams and resolutions of the Lok Sabha remained incomplete and its dignity kept getting tarnished. The beginning is good, let's see what happens next? This much is certain that this time better understanding and maturity will be expected from all parties.

Writer, Journalist, Columnist

E-253, Saraswati Kunj Apartment 25 IP Extensions, Patparganj, Delhi-92

Email: lalitgarg11@gmail.com Phone: 22727486, 9811051133

Addressing Harassment by Private Schools



Private schools are often perceived as bastions of academic excellence and institutional integrity. However, behind this veneer, there exist various forms of harassment that parents and children may encounter. While much attention is rightfully placed on student welfare, it is essential to recognize and address the challenges parents face within these educational institutions. Before discussing various approaches and laws and regulations, let's briefly discuss the different kinds of harassment parents might experience in private schools.

1. Financial Harassment: One of the most prevalent forms of harassment faced by parents in private schools is financial in nature. Tuition fees, additional charges for extracurricular activities, and miscellaneous expenses can place a significant burden on parents. Moreover, some private schools may resort to unethical practices such as arbitrary fee hikes or hidden charges, causing financial stress and uncertainty for parents.

2. Discrimination and Exclusion: In some private schools, discrimination based on socioeconomic

status, ethnicity, or religion can manifest in subtle yet impactful ways. Parents who do not belong to the dominant social or economic group may face exclusion or differential treatment, both overtly and covertly. This exclusion can extend to their children, impacting their educational experience and sense of belonging within the school community.

3. Bullying and Intimidation: Parents who advocate for their children or express concerns about the school's policies or practices may face bullying and intimidation from school administrators or other parents. This form of harassment can take various forms, including verbal abuse, threats of legal action, or social ostracization. Such tactics aim to silence dissent and maintain the status quo, often at the expense of parental rights and well-being.

4. Lack of Transparency and Communication: Another common source of harassment for parents in private schools is the lack of transparency and communication from school authorities. Important decisions regarding curriculum changes, disciplinary actions, or financial matters may be made without adequate consultation or notification to parents. This lack of transparency can erode trust between parents and the school administration, leading to frustration and resentment.

5. Emotional

Manipulation and Gaslighting: In some cases, parents may experience emotional manipulation or gaslighting from school officials when raising concerns or seeking redress for issues affecting their children. School administrators may downplay or dismiss legitimate grievances, making parents doubt their own perceptions or feelings. This form of harassment can have long-lasting psychological effects, undermining parents' confidence in advocating for their children's well-being.

6. Legal and Regulatory Challenges: Navigating the legal and regulatory landscape surrounding private schools can be daunting for parents, particularly when disputes arise. Some private schools may exploit legal loopholes or employ aggressive legal tactics to intimidate parents into compliance or silence. This can create a power imbalance that favours the school's interests over those of the parents and students.

While private schools offer unique educational opportunities, they are not immune to issues of harassment and misconduct. It is essential to recognize and address the various forms of harassment the parents and children may face. Addressing the exploitations made by private schools requires a multifaceted approach aimed at promoting accountability, transparency, and equity within the educational

Bruhaspati Samal

system. Here are several strategies that can help mitigate and potentially eliminate these exploitations:

1. Regulatory Oversight and Enforcement: The Government and relevant regulatory bodies should establish and enforce clear regulations governing private schools. These regulations should encompass aspects such as tuition fees, financial transparency, non-discriminatory practices, and grievance redress mechanisms. Regular inspections and audits can ensure compliance and hold schools accountable for any exploitative practices.

Illustrating the case of Odisha, we can say the State Govt. has several laws and regulations aimed at protecting children and parents from exploitation by private schools. These laws primarily focus on ensuring educational quality, preventing discrimination, regulating fees, and establishing mechanisms for grievance redressal. The Odisha Education Act, 1969 provides a framework for the regulation and administration of education in Odisha, including private schools. It outlines provisions related to the recognition, affiliation, and management of educational institutions, as well as mechanisms for addressing grievances and disputes. The Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCP) Act, 2008 establishes the Odisha State Commission for

Protection of Child Rights, which is responsible for ensuring the protection and promotion of children's rights in the state. The commission investigates complaints related to violations of children's rights, including those occurring in private schools, and takes appropriate action to address them. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 mandates that all private schools in India, including those in Odisha, adhere to certain norms and standards to ensure quality education for all children. It prohibits discrimination, mandates the reservation of seats for disadvantaged groups, and outlines guidelines for infrastructure, teacher qualifications, and curriculum. The Odisha Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2010 provides further guidance on the implementation of the RTE Act in Odisha, covering aspects such as the identification and enrollment of out-of-school children, the appointment of special educators for children with disabilities, and the monitoring of compliance with RTE norms. The Odisha Right to Education Rules, 2010 formulated in accordance with the RTE Act, specify detailed provisions regarding the admission process, infrastructure requirements, teacher-student ratios, and other aspects of school management in Odisha. They also include provisions for monitoring and enforcement to ensure compliance with the RTE Act. The Odisha Fee Regulatory Act (Private

Schools), 2016 / The Odisha Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) Amendment Act, 2016 aims to regulate the fees charged by private schools in Odisha to prevent arbitrary fee hikes and exploitation of parents. It establishes a Fee Regulatory Committee (FRC) responsible for determining and regulating the fees charged by private schools, taking into account factors such as infrastructure, facilities, and quality of education.

2. Transparency and Disclosure: The private schools should be required to provide transparent and detailed information regarding their fee structures, financial policies, and decision-making processes. Transparency can incentivize schools to adhere to these standards and provide assurance to parents regarding the quality and integrity of the institution.

3. Parental

Representation and Participation: Establishing mechanisms for meaningful parental representation and participation in school governance can help counteract exploitative practices. Parent-teacher associations or advisory boards can provide a platform for parents to voice concerns, advocate for their children's interests, and hold the school administration accountable.

4. Legal Protections and Support: The Government should ensure that parents have access to legal assistance and recourse mechanisms to address grievances against private schools. This may involve strengthening consumer protection laws, establishing ombudsman offices dedicated to education-related issues, or providing funding for legal aid services.

5. Ethical Guidelines and Professional Standards: Professional associations and accreditation bodies within the education sector should develop and enforce ethical guidelines and standards for private schools. This includes standards related to financial management, student welfare, diversity and inclusion, and professional conduct. Accreditation processes can incentivize schools to adhere to these standards and provide assurance to parents regarding the quality and integrity of the institution.

6. Community Engagement and Advocacy: Building coalitions and networks of

parents, educators, activists, and community members can amplify advocacy efforts aimed at combating exploitative practices in private schools. By raising awareness, sharing information, and mobilizing collective action, communities can pressure schools and policymakers to enact meaningful reforms.

7. Education and Empowerment: Empowering parents with knowledge about their rights, responsibilities, and available resources is crucial in combating exploitative practices. Providing workshops, training sessions, and informational materials on topics such as education law, financial literacy, and advocacy skills can equip parents to effectively navigate the complexities of the private school system and advocate for their children's rights. By implementing these strategies in a coordinated manner, stakeholders can work towards creating a more equitable, accountable and child-centered private education sector, where the interests and well-being of students and parents are prioritized over profit-driven motives.

General Secretary
Confederation of
Central Govt.
Employees and
Workers
Odisha State
Coordination
Committee,
Bhubaneswar
eMail:
bsamalbbsr@gmail.com
Mobile: 9437022669

ICCR organised International Performing Art Workshop on Ramayana in Kolkata

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) organised International Performing Art workshop on Ramayana in Kolkata as ICCR is celebrating 2024 as the "Year of Connecting the World through Ramayana-2024". This is a flagship initiative of ICCR. Artists from three nations Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam alongwith Indian Artist from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Sikkim & West Bengal participated in workshop. Seventeen international artists- 5 artists from Vietnam, 5 artists from Myanmar, 7 artists from Sri Lanka participated in the workshop alongwith 28 artists from Bharat. ICCR is organising International Ramayana Cultural Festival in India annually since 2015. It is extending invitations to nations with Ramayana traditions to showcase their interpretations of Ramayana on a unified

platform. The workshop lead to a unique production of Ramayana involving & synchronisation of different narratives as well as music from different participating nations & different states of India. The workshop lead by talented & erudite Dance scholars Dr. Anwesha Mahanta (Choreographer) from Assam Dr. Khangembam Khoni (Choreographer) from Manipur. Entire production was under supervision of Artistic Director Shri N Munish Singh from Manipur. ICCR Alumini Dr. Amali Perera of Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka contributed in choreography and enriched the production. The workshop was inaugurated on 23rd June 2024 by Deputy Director General of ICCR Smt. Anju Ranjan



IFS.

The workshop lead to theatre production of "Ramayana" which was inaugurated by Governor of Sikkim Shri Lakshman Acharya on 25th June 2024 at ICCR in Kolkata. The Southern Khmer Cultural and Artistic Troupe at Tra Vinh University of Vietnam presented Khmer version of the Ramayana, known as Ream Kér, featuring variety of characters, including fairies, humans, animals and notable

figures like the ogre (Krong Reap) symbolizing villainy and the monkey (Hanuman) representing justice. Sri Lanka's Sri Palee Dancers, Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo, presented life of Sita including Sita Haran under guidance of Dr. Amali Perera. Sri Palee Dancers enthralled the audience through their performance. Myanmar's Golden Myanmar Cultural

Troupe played key role of Ram, Sita and Lakshman. Aji Lhamu Group from Arunachal Pradesh, Khongjom Parva Team from Manipur, Sattriya Team from Assam and artists from Sikkim also participated in the workshop and final production. The production was applauded by the audience with standing ovation. Smt. Anju Ranjan in her address mentioned culture of 41 nations are influenced by Ramayana

in some form. 10 different nations are participating in the workshop which is being organised in three phases. Ramayana productions resulting out of workshop will be staged in other countries under ICCR initiative. Smt. Anju Ranjan mentioned a conference on Ramayana will be organised in October as a part of conclusion of the International Performing Art initiative.

Governor of Sikkim Shri Lakshman Acharya in his address deeply appreciated and praised ICCR for its unique initiative to reconnect the nations and different cultures through Ramayana. Shri Acharya mentioned Ramayana connects most of the nations of South East Asia, Eastern Europe, Caribbean countries to Bharat. Shri Acharya mentioned Ramayana represent culture, lifestyle, human values

ICCR (Delhi HQ), Shri Ramesh Chand Programme Director Zonal East ICCR Kolkata, Shri Faheem Ahmed Programme Assistant ICCR Delhi HQ, Ms. Ishita Agarwal Media Consultant ICCR Delhi HQ and others.

Acclaimed Kathak dancer Ms. Tanni Chowdhury anchored the program.

The International Performing Art Workshop is not only rejuvenating historical connect between modern Bharat and its rich cultural heritage for thousands of years but also connecting and rejuvenating historical connections between Bharat and other nations. Also, it is helping to discover little known narratives of Ramayana in various cultures and bring it to world stage creating unity in diversity.

Madhya Pradesh Government launched intra state air service to boost tourism activities

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): Madhya Pradesh is rapidly becoming a top destination for travellers seeking a unique and enriching experience. The "Heart of Incredible India" caters to a variety of interests, making it a one-stop shop for adventure, history, culture, and spiritual exploration. An official of the Madhya Pradesh government said in Kolkata that tourist arrivals tripled in 2023 compared to 2022 (112.1 million compared to 34.1 million), highlighting the soaring popularity of

destinations of M.P. The state offers authentic experiences for those seeking religious and spiritual connection. The recent launch of the "PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva" is a step ahead in this context to improve connectivity for both domestic and international visitors. He said that this initiative, combined with the state's longstanding tradition of hospitality - "Atithi Devo Bhava", makes Madhya Pradesh an even more attractive destination. Under the air service, eight cities of

the state - Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Rewa, Ujjain, Gwalior, Singrauli and Khajuraho will be connected through air service. Travellers can book tickets and get information about the offers, schedules and fare details at www.flyola.in. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav inaugurated "PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva" to provide an easy mode of transport and enhance connectivity with tourist destinations. Dr. Yadav flagged off the first flight from Bhopal; this flight will go from Bhopal to

Jabalpur via Rewa and land at Singrauli. Meanwhile, Dr. Mohan Yadav also inaugurated the ticket-booking counter at the Airport and handed over the boarding passes and souvenirs to passengers. The air service started with two 6-seat aircraft. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture, Tourism, Religious Trusts and Endowments, Shri Dharmendra Singh Lodhi said the launch of the first Intra State air service in the country marks an important and

unforgettable day. The service is starting to connect 8 cities of Madhya Pradesh to make Madhya Pradesh a safe and accessible tourism destination. The first flight started from Ujjain on the 16th June. "PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva" operated in the state on a Public Public Partnership (PPP) basis through Jetserve Aviation Private Limited (Flyola). Flyola air taxis connect key destinations within Madhya Pradesh, significantly reducing travel times and providing an exceptional travel experience.

Speaker should not be objecting to this. "Don't give me any advice on what I should or should not object to. Take your seat," the Speaker said, addressing Mr Hooda. Reacting to the development, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra wondered whether one cannot say 'Jai Samvidhan' in Parliament.

"The anti-Constitution sentiment that emerged during the elections has now taken a new form, which seeks to weaken our Constitution," Ms Gandhi said. "Will the Constitution, on the basis of which Parliament functions, on which every member takes oath, which gives protection of life and livelihood, be opposed to suppress the voice of the opposition?" the Congress general secretary asked.

Demand For 3 More Deputy Chief Ministers In Karnataka, Siddaramaiah Reacts



Bengaluru (KCN): With the demand to have three more Deputy Chief Ministers resurfacing in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah today said the decision of the Congress high command is final.

Some of the ministers have been pitching for Deputy Chief Minister posts to be given to leaders from Veerashaiva-Lingayat, SC/ST and minority communities.

Currently, DK Shivakumar from the Vokkaliga community is only the Deputy Chief Minister in the Siddaramaiah cabinet. "Whatever the high command decides is final," Siddaramaiah told reporters in response to

a question. A section within the Congress is said to be of the opinion that statement by the Ministers seeking three more Deputy CMs, was part of a plan by Siddaramaiah's camp to keep Shivakumar in check, amid talks he might seek the Chief Minister post after two-and-a-half years of this government's tenure, and to counter his influence both in the government and party. Co-Operation Minister KN Rajanna, Housing Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan, Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi and a few others - all considered close to Siddaramaiah -- earlier this week once again

raised the pitch for three more Deputy Chief Ministers.

The Congress had decided that Mr Shivakumar will be "the only" Deputy CM amid stiff competition between him and Siddaramaiah for the Chief Minister's post after the Assembly election results in May last year.

It was also said to be a "commitment" made by the Congress leadership to Mr Shivakumar while convincing him to give up his claim for the CM post and to take up the role of Deputy Chief Minister. Seemingly expressing his displeasure over the ministers' demand, Mr Shivakumar, also state Congress chief, on Tuesday said the party would respond appropriately.

"You people (media) put in news if someone says something. Why should I say no to people who are happy (by appearing in news)... Let anyone make any demand, the party will respond to them appropriately.

Agartala (KCN): As part of a goodwill gesture, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, like in previous years, sent mango, hilsa fish, sweets to Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Thursday as a gift.

Officials of the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission (AHC) in Agartala received the Bangladesh Prime Minister's gifts at the Agartala-Akhaura Integrated Check Post (ICP), adjoining Agartala city.

An official of Mumbai: In an accidental meeting on the first day of Maha Rastra Assembly's monsoon session, arch-rivals Uddhav Thackeray and Devendra Fadnavis were in the air, and a video that has now gone viral shows the two former Chief Ministers

exchanging some words; the mood is cold at best. While what they spoke about is not known, the body language suggests that it was little more than small talk.

Mr Thackeray was asked about the conversation when he interacted with the media later. "From here on, we will do all our secret meetings in the lift," he joked. "When Devendraji and I

were in the lift, people must have thought of the song, 'na na karte pyar tumhi se kar baithe' (a classic from the 1965 film *Jab Jab Phool Khile* that roughly translates to 'I fell in love with you despite denials').

"There is nothing like that. It was an unexpected meeting," the Shiv Sena (UBT) chief added.

Shinde gave the incident a different spin. "Two years ago, they (Uddhav Thackeray and his team) took a different lift and went to the Congress. We took one that carried us to the people," he said. Another light-hearted interaction, pictures of which have emerged, was between BJP minister Chandrakant Patil and Mr Thackeray. When the BJP leader

gave a bar of chocolate to Mr Thackeray, he replied, "Tomorrow you will give chocolate to the people of Maharashtra." The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader was clearly referring to the state budget that is likely to offer sops to woo voters ahead of the election. This is the last Assembly session before the Maharashtra election due later this year.

Bangladesh PM Sends Mangoes, Hilsa Fish, Sweets To Tripura Chief Minister As Gift



Bangladesh AHC said that Tripura Chief Minister is now in Delhi and after his return to Agartala, they would hand over the gifts to him. The gifts include 400 kg

highly tasty Hariavanga (Haribhanga), the most famous mango of Dinajpur and Rangpur region of Bangladesh, 50 kg delicious hilsa fish and 50 kg rasgulla (sweets).

Tripura Chief Minister on June 23 sent 500 kg pineapples as a "gift" to Bangladesh Prime Minister through the Agartala-Akhaura ICP. Tripura Horticulture

Department Assistant Director Dipak Baidya said that as a part of the goodwill gesture, Tripura Chief Minister sent the state's queen variety pineapples -- considered the most delicious, to the Bangladesh PM.

Tripura annually produces 1.28 lakh tonnes of two major varieties -- Kew and Queen -- of pineapples in 8,800 hectares of mountainous orchards across the state and for many years, exporting the pineapples and lemons to many countries and many Indian states as well.

Uddhav Thackeray's "Secret Meeting" Quip On Lift Encounter With D Fadnavis

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Housing woes plague Berhampur

Berhampur(KCN): Lack of affordable housing has hit the denizens hard in Silk City, the principal business hub in Ganjam district. There is a wide gap between housing demand and supply in the city which has sparked resentment among the residents. Berhampur has seen a rise in population over the years. 2021 census is yet to be conducted but private sources estimate the population in Berhampur to be around five lakh. People from rural areas throng the city due to the

presence of major educational institutions. The overcrowding in Berhampur has become a pressing concern, leading to a chronic problem of housing shortage for urban dwellers. The government has yet to take any step in this regard. Sources from Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) said holding tax is being collected from 80,000 households. Tenants belonging to various categories are having a harrowing time as house owners are charging rents at their whims. The

ruling BJP had assured to work for poor and middle-class people during poll campaign. Therefore residents hope that the new state government will give priority to resolving the housing problems. Berhampur Regional Improvement Trust (BRIT) was formed during the Congress government in 1980 with an aim to plan and facilitate the orderly growth of the urban and suburban areas in the city. Later, the BRIT was upgraded into the Berhampur

Development Authority (BeDA), July 26, 1993. The BRIT under the state Housing and Urban Development Department decided to resolve the housing issues affecting the denizens due to the influx of more and more people from rural areas. As per the plan, it constructed two housing complexes at Gajapati Nagar and Nilakantha Nagar in the city. Beneficiaries belonging to economically weaker sections of society (EWS), MIG (Middle Income Group) and HIG (Higher Income Group)

were decided through a lottery conducted for the purpose. However, the BRIT handed over houses at the Nilakantheswar complex in half-built conditions to the beneficiaries. Later, the beneficiaries completed the construction of the houses on their own and took possession. Soon, the plan for the construction of housing complexes was stopped in the Silk City as the Janata Dal government led by Biju Patnaik in 1990 dissolved the BRIT and formed the BeDA in its place in 1993.

The BeDA soon took steps for the construction of a housing complex at Vivek Vihar near Ambapua in the city. The proposal received an overwhelming response from the denizens as people were eager to get a roof over their heads. People applied to get a house and deposited advance money for it. The proposed housing complex soon ran into controversy as applicants failed to get a house even after years together. They staged several agitations but without any success as the controversy surrounding

the Vivek Vihar Housing Complex is yet to abate. Meanwhile, 35 years have passed since the formation of BeDA but it has completely closed its eyes towards the construction of new houses for the denizens. BJD leaders Kailash Rana, Sarat Ranjan Patnaik have chaired BeDA for brief periods while the government officials remained as the chairpersons for majority of time. Currently, the District Collector is the chairman of BeDA while the BeMC Commissioner is its vice-chairman. The BeDA is receiving

crores in grants for the implementation of various developmental schemes and projects in the city but it has completely closed its eyes towards the construction of a new housing complex for the denizens. Meanwhile, the political equation in Berhampur has changed after two decades. The BJP candidates have been elected as the Lok Sabha MP and Berhampur MLA. Therefore, people are demanding their intervention to resolve the housing problem in the city.

Jajpur sees no let-up in laterite loot



Jajpur(KCN): Loot of laterite stones sees no let-up in the west Barchana area of Jajpur district despite the state government taking a host of measures to check the smuggling of minor minerals. Laterite stones are rampantly plundered in the west Barchana area of the district allegedly due to connivance between some unscrupulous officials and political leaders. The unabated loot in the Darpangad revenue circle is allegedly due to the go-slow approach of the tehsildar and police personnel of Barchana and Bairi. This has emboldened the illegal miners as they continue to extract and smuggle the laterite stones with impunity. Recently the quarries were filled with water following rainfall. However, illegal miners started extracting stones after draining water from

the quarries with motor pumps. Locals alleged that the wrongdoing could never have taken place without the tacit support of the administrative officials who are hand in glove with the illegal miners. Several agitations, demonstrations, sit-ins and hunger strikes have been staged in the past in protest against the mineral loot. The affected villagers have even filed cases in the Orissa High Court praying for the prevention of the loot which not only affects the environment but also the life and livelihood of villagers. The state government has even established an office of the Deputy Director, Minor Minerals to check the illegal mining and smuggling. However, there seems to be no let-up in the loot as fraudsters continue to make hay putting the environment and people

at stake. This has also left the state government bleeding off precious revenue. With the change of government in the state, some new faces were learnt to prepare for the loot with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. There are over 40 illegal stone quarries at Bairi, Shalapada, Paria, Chhamia and Kaimatia panchayats in Jajpur district. The stone miners are using heavy equipment like earthmovers to extract laterite stones and smuggle those outside for a premium. Demanding a crackdown on such illegal mining and stringent action against the traders, the locals have staged several agitations but to no avail. Initially, the local administration allegedly tried to ignore such agitations but later tried to suppress those by making false promises.

RMC parks losing sheen sans maintenance

Rourkela(KCN): Most of the major parks under Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) are in dire need of maintenance. Otherwise, these public utility places will cut a sorry figure of Steel City in the days to come. Many parks of different sizes have been set up by the RMC for public use. Some of those came up on vacant lands, shady areas or the land used for dumping of garbage. During the last five to six years, these parks have come up with walking tracks, open-air gym equipment, proper lighting and rainwater harvesting system, yoga platform, tiled benches

and basic amusement facilities for children. However, lack of proper maintenance has left these places in bad shape. Take the example of two major parks — Netaji Subash Fitness Park (NSFP) and Senior Citizens' Park (SCP). The NSFP is situated just in front of the RMC office and the SCP is situated at 'C' Block of Koel Nagar, right in front of the Jhirpani PS. The NSFP was constructed by the RMC and later Rourkela Smart City contributed in making it a favourite spot for fitness enthusiasts and those in search for some quality time in the lap of nature.

"But today, the park is inching towards a slow decay," said a regular visitor there. The public toilets are in bad shape with taps missing, commodes broken and water unavailable. Stray animals, especially cows are freely roaming inside and causing problems for the visitors. The majority of the light bulbs have gone missing. "Electric wires are hanging dangerously low at the end. Only two days back two cows had a miraculous escape when they touched the naked wires," said a visitor. Complaining about cleanliness, another person said, "No one bothers to keep the



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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 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

IDEMITSU Honda Racing India's Kavin Quintal clinches 11th position in hard fought battle at the 2024 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship in China



NEW DELHI: AP250 class Race 1 of Round 2: A consistent performance throughout the race resulted in Kavin crossing the chequered line in 11th position, winning 5 points for the team. Mohsin P finished the race in 20th position.

Zhuhai International Circuit (China), 20 April 2024: Making a significant mark

in one of the toughest races of Asia, the IDEMITSU Honda Racing India team rider Kavin Quintal achieved another milestone in race 1 of round 2 of the 2024 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC) in China today.

Maintaining steadiness and displaying finesse in an intense race, Kavin Quintal competed well

and bagged another TOP 15 finish this season. Displaying his best performance in the race, young rider Kavin Quintal gave strong competition to the international riders. Starting from 15th on the grid, Kavin began advancing in the initial laps. He maintained his composure and a steady pace throughout. In the final laps, he applied his learnings well

and accelerated fast at the opportune moment, crossing the chequered line in 11th position without making any mistakes on the track. He completed the race with a total time of 19:03.094, earning five valuable points for the team. Kavin's teammate, Mohsin P, also showcased his full power on the racetrack today. Starting the race from the 23rd position, he

Nexus Esplanade will host a variety of entertaining activities to captivate the shoppers during their retail therapy. Marks and Spencer's invites customers to enjoy discounts of up to 50%, while Reliance Trends treats you to an exciting gift with purchases worth 3999 and above. Mia dazzles with flat 50% off on diamond jewelry and 10% off on gold. Helios offers up to 40% off on stylish timepieces, and Carat Lane tempts with a flat 20% off on diamond prices among many other brands offering huge discounts. Consistent with the overarching motif, Nexus Esplanade will embellish itself with a resplendent purple visual aesthetic that further complements indelible shopping experience.

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 Re. 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.

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

BOB Financial and HPCL launch co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card

Mumbai: BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) – a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), have announced the launch of HPCL BoB Co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card.

The card is designed to reward customers for spends at HPCL fuel pumps as well as the HP Pay app. It also offers accelerated rewards for spends on utilities, grocery and departmental stores. This card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network.

Cardholders of HPCL BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn up to 24 reward points (per INR 150 spent) for spends at HPCL fuel pumps and on the HP Pay app. In addition, cardholders will also benefit from 1% Fuel

insurance products. Company has also emerged as the Most Consistent Wealth Creator in the 28th Annual Wealth Creation Study Report (2018-2023) released by Motilal Oswal. It has outperformed the BSE Sensex in all the last 5 years, and has the highest price CAGR of 50%. It is also among the fastest wealth creators in the period. During the period of 2018-2023, company has reported robust CAGR of 26% in Net Profit and 33% in Sales.

With the excellent consistent growth in the financials, share price of the company went up by 7.6 times during 2018-2023. 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.

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

as the HP Pay app. It also offers accelerated rewards for spends on utilities, grocery and departmental stores. This card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network.

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Surcharge Waiver on fuel purchases at HPCL pumps or on HP Pay. Customers who spend INR 5,000 or more within 60 days of card issuance will get 2,000 bonus reward points.

The co-branded credit card will offer 10 reward points (per INR 150 spent) on utilities, grocery and departmental stores and 2 reward points on other categories. The card also offers attractive discount on movie ticket bookings.

Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman, Centre/Office.

Mr. Amit Garg, Chief Executive Officer of TP Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd, stated, "We are fully prepared and committed to providing uninterrupted power supply to all pandals during this auspicious festive season. We urge the public to seek proper electricity connections and adhere to all safety measures. In the event of any emergency, please reach out to our toll-free helpline number." TPSODL wishes everyone a safe, joyous, and electrifying festive season.

TPSODL issues guidelines for the Festive Season

TPSODL

**TP SOUTHERN ODISHA
DISTRIBUTION LIMITED**

(A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)

festive season.

In our pursuit of uninterrupted power supply, TPSODL has deployed dedicated teams from the Fuse Call Centre (FCC) to monitor and maintain seamless electricity provision at all pandals.

These teams will also vigilantly ensure that there is no unauthorized hooking or access to TPSODL lines, guaranteeing a festival filled with uninterrupted joy.

Unit, is tirelessly working round the clock to promptly address and resolve any complaints. In case of emergencies or concerns, we encourage to contact our toll-free helpline at 1912 or 1800 3456 797, or visit the nearest Fuse Call

Berhampur, September 2023: TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) is fully prepared to ensure a seamless and uninterrupted power supply during the forthcoming festive season. As part of our commitment to safety, TPSODL has undertaken several initiatives and released essential guidelines for temporary structures and pandals.

To ensure safety and reliability, TPSODL strongly advises obtaining temporary connections from our authorities for any temporary pandals and shops erected during the

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana. Commending the development, Chairman, SCTEVT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident Director, JSL, Mr SS



Rampant South Africa crush Afghanistan to reach maiden men's World Cup final

New Delhi: South Africa's cricket makeover has delivered them a place in the final of an ICC men's event for the first time since 1998 after they brought Afghanistan's dreamy run to a screeching halt in the first semifinal of the 2024 T20 World Cup in Trinidad. Instead, the Proteas, seemingly freed of old baggage, who won their first men's World Cup (T20, ODI) semifinal in eight attempts and lie in wait for the winners of the heavyweight bout between India and England in Guyana.

On a fresh, spicy surface, South Africa's pacers electrified the team's charge as Afghanistan were bowled out for 56 in just 11.5 overs - their lowest total in the format. Marco Jansen (3-16), Kagiso Rabada (2-14) and Anrich Nortje (2-7) took seven wickets between them while Tabraiz Shamsi added three lower-order scalps to his tally of wickets in the

tournament to bring a quick end to Afghanistan's batting misery. The chase, despite the threats from the pitch, was mostly straightforward as South Africa began their Barbados march with a nine-wicket win sealed with as many as 67 balls to spare.

In hindsight, at the toss.

Both captains revealed they wanted to bat first and unfortunately, it was Rashid Khan, who got his way. As it turned out, there was swing, seam, exaggerated bounce variance and an unrelenting pace attack for his batters to contend with.

Afghanistan's tournament

playbook has been built on their openers batting long and taking them close to a par score before their stronger bowling suit applied scoreboard pressure on the opposition. After three century stands, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran were separated in the first over



of the semifinal for the addition of just 2 runs. Jansen bowled two short deliveries at the tournament's leading run-getter before drawing a false shot with a fuller one that Gurbaz nicked to first slip and fell for a duck.

Gulbadin Naib, up at

No.3, struck two boundaries but fell in Jansen's second over to a ball that shaped into him and kept a touch low to crash into the off-stump. Aiden Markram was quick on the uptake and quickly whisked Keshav Maharaj off the attack after opening with him. In

came Kagiso Rabada, who produced a double-wicket maiden by getting two deliveries to seam in to right-handers Zadran and Mohammad Nabi and knocking down their stumps. Jansen had Afghanistan five down by getting Nangeyalia Kharote to glove a short delivery to the keeper.

South Africa had more

pace to dish out and

Nortje quickly made it

28/6 when Azmatullah

Omarzai's attempts to

counter-attack found a

fielder at sweeper cover.

Captain Rashid found

back-to-back boundaries

off Rabada but he too

was cleaned up by a pacy Nortje delivery. The tail stood little chance against Shamsi, who won three LBW appeals to take his tournament wickets tally to 11 from just four games.

There was not much left

to hunt down for South

Africa post the

PowerPlay and the

batting pair of Markram

and Hendricks needed

only 17 balls to guide

their team home. They

had uncertainties with

the bounce on the pitch

but the South African

captain hit a pair of

excellent drives on the

up. Hendricks rubber-

stamped South Africa's

attendance in Barbados

emphatically with a six

and a four off

Azmatullah Omarzai.

Brief scores:

Afghanistan 56 in 11.5

overs (Tabraiz Shamsi 3-

6, Marco Jansen 3-16,

Anrich Nortje 2-7,

Kagiso Rabada 2-14)

lost to South Africa 60/1

in 8.5 overs (Reza

Hendricks 29*, Aiden

Markram 23*; Fazalhaq

Farooqi 1-11) by 9

wickets

to chase allowed the pair of Markram and Reeza Hendricks to build steadily towards the target.

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Nitish ruled out of Zimbabwe T20Is, Dube named replacement



New Delhi: In what comes as a disappointment for Nitish Reddy, the middle-order batter has been ruled out of the five-match T20I series against Zimbabwe and will have to wait for his first taste of international cricket. While the nature of the injury was not revealed, the BCCI stated that its medical team is monitoring the 21-year old's progress. Allrounder Shivam

Gill, now has three

players from the T20

World Cup squad with the inclusion of Dube, with Yashasvi Jaiswal and Sanju Samson being the other two. Gill was

among the reserves for the T20 World Cup, along with Rinku Singh, Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan, who are all

part of the squad for the Zimbabwe series.

The five-match series

will be played on July 6,

7, 10, 13 and 14, with the

Harare Sports Club

hosting all games.

India's updated T20I

squad: Shubman Gill (c),

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj

Gaikwad, Abhishek

Sharma, Rinku Singh,

Sanju Samson (wk),

Dhruv Jurel (wk), Riyam

Parag, Washington

Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi,

Avesh Khan, Khaleel

Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar,

Tushar Deshpande,

Shivam Dube.

The Trinidad pitch came

under the scanner as

there was uneven bounce

on offer and

Shamsi, who opted to bat first, were bundled out for just 56 runs. Vaughan made an argument that there was a flight delay and Afghanistan had just one-day time between their last Super 8 match

vs Bangladesh and the semi-final clash. He mentioned that in an ideal case scenario, the India vs England semi-final should have taken place earlier and called out bias towards the Indian team.

However, the tournament was already pre-scheduled, and it was pre-decided that India would play in Guyana if they reached the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup 2024.

The pitch of the Brian

New Delhi: Former England captain Michael Vaughan has slammed the scheduling of the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup 2024. His criticism came amid Afghanistan losing to South Africa by 9 wickets in a one-sided affair in semi-final 1 of the T20 World Cup 2024. Vaughan felt that India's semi-final clash against England should have taken place earlier and pointed out that Afghanistan did not get enough practice time to get accustomed to the conditions. South Africa's dominant performance ended Afghanistan's fairytale run in the T20 World Cup 2024.

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The pitch of the Brian

New Delhi: For South Africa, Thursday was

memorable as they made

their way through to their

maiden final in an ICC

World Cup. Aiden

Markram's men

hammered Rashid

Khan's Afghanistan by 9

wickets at the Brian Lara

Stadium in Trinidad

was a paradise for the

pacers and Afghanistan

scored the lowest total in

a T20 World Cup semi-

final match. This was

also the lowest total for

Afghanistan in T20Is.

This was the first time in

the history of the T20

World Cup when a team

was bundled out below

100 runs in a semi-final

clash.

Afghanistan had scripted

history as they reached

their maiden ICC semi-

final. The Afghanistan

team, who had displayed

great grit so far in the

tournament, surrendered

meekly to the South

African bowlers. Things

spiraled down for

Afghanistan after

Rahmanullah Gurbaz