

PRESIDENT OF INDIA VISITS MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE, MOKA

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu visited the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI), Moka, Mauritius today (March 12, 2024). President Murmu paid floral tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi located on the campus of the Institute, which was established in 1970 as a joint initiative of the Governments of India and Mauritius. MGI is a leading institution promoting and propagating Indian arts, culture and languages in Mauritius. Addressing an



enthusiastic gathering at the Institute, the President said that the remarkable strides made by Indian diaspora in Mauritius is a matter of

pride not only for us in India, but an example worth emulating for Indians around the world. She added that our decades-long development partnership is a shining example of India's commitment to contribute towards the developmental journey of Mauritius, and to enhance the quality of life for common people in Mauritius.

The President encouraged the Mahatma Gandhi Institute to provide more avenues for the Mauritian youth to engage with India - not only culturally and

linguistically, but also by providing them with educational and business opportunities.

The President announced the extension of eligibility of Overseas Indian Citizenship for Indian-origin Mauritians of the 7th generation, which will allow more young Mauritians to reconnect with the land of their ancestors.

During her visit to MGI, President Murmu also viewed some of the rare archival records preserved at the Institute, which document the arrival of the first Indian indentured laborers in the country.

Odisha CM Hikes Remuneration, Meeting Allowances Of Panchayati Raj Representatives

Bhubaneswar (KCN):

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has increased the gratuity and meeting allowances of Panchayati Raj representatives of the state.

It is worth noting that the Panchayati Raj representatives met 5T and Nabin Odisha chairman Mr. Karthik Pandian during his various district visits and made requests and proposals regarding this hike.

According to the decision, the district council presidents will get a monthly remuneration of 30,000 rupees instead of 9,380 rupees. Their daily allowance DA+Sitting fee



from Rs 300 to Rs 600. Similarly, Panchayat Samiti chairpersons were getting Rs.3,530. Now they will get Rs 15,000. Panchayat Samiti vice-presidents used to get a remuneration of Rs 2,350. Now they will get Rs 7,500. Panchayat Samiti members used to get Rs 2,350. Now they will get Rs 7,500. Earlier, Rs 79.88 crore was spent on remuneration and allowances of Panchayati Raj representatives. According to the increased amount, now 242.56 crores will be spent. The state government will bear an additional cost of Rs. 162.68 crore for this.

Apart from this, in case of death during the tenure of the Panchayati Raj representatives, a sum of Rs. 2 lakh will be provided as ex gratia. Along with this, Rs 2 lakh will be provided in case of complete disability (Irrecoverable Loss of both eyes, hands and feet). Similarly, in case of partial disability (irreparable loss of one eye, one hand or one leg) assistance of Rs. 1 lakh will be provided.

Odisha CM Announces Addl 10 Days Of Annual Casual Leave For Women Govt Employees

Bhubaneswar (KCN):

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today announced various schemes for the welfare of Puri Srimandir servitors (sevayats). The schemes include an increase in the amount of various allowances health insurance and coaching arrangements for the entrance examinations of the students from servitors' families. All these welfare schemes are being implemented by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Karthik Pandian has visited Puri many times to review the Shree Mandira Parikrama project and various developmental works.

On this occasion, the sevayats apprised him about

their various problems. Considering the proposals,

the Chief Minister announced various schemes for the welfare of the sevayats. According to the

announcement, the health insurance coverage for

sevayats of Shree Jagannath Temple and their family

members has been increased from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs.

5 lakh. An additional Rs 5 lakh will be provided for

the treatment of critical illnesses.

Similarly, for students from sevayats families, a

maximum of 3 times assistance of Rs. 50,000 per

year will be provided for coaching on various

entrance exams such as NEET, JEE and Civil

Services. A total of Rs 10.85 crores has been provided

by the State Government to the SJTA for various

enhanced allowances, health insurance, coaching and

other assistance to the employees.

for women government employees, while 15 days of temporary leave is usually given to government employees. As a result, women government employees can avail 25 days of casual leave in a year. The Chief Minister has taken this decision keeping in mind the family responsibilities and various problems faced by women. It is worth noting that Odisha was the first state in the country to take radical steps like reserving 33% of government jobs for women in the 90s.

Uncertainty Looms Over BJD-BJP Alliance!



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Uncertainty looms over the much-hyped possible alliance between BJD and BJP for the ensuing general elections in 2024. However, some leaders of the union and the central & State BJP are strongly opposed to the alliance proposal. Even though the discussions are ongoing, no consensus can be reached.

The top leadership of BJP wants to increase the scope of NDA in the country. In the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, BJP is working hard to get more than 370 Lok Sabha seats and NDA more than 400 Lok Sabha seats.

Meanwhile, efforts are being made to bring back old allies of the NDA. Despite all the efforts in the eastern states like Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal, the parties outside the NDA were found more effective, so the BJP's top leadership is focusing on these states. In Bihar, Nitish Kumar has been brought back to the NDA. In Odisha, efforts are on to bring Naveen Patnaik to the NDA. Naveen was in NDA from 1998 to 2009. Since 2009, Naveen has been apart from NDA. So talks are going on to bring him back to NDA. An intense exercise is

going on in Delhi, but nothing is finalized yet, it is said.

There is a buzz in the political arena that Odisha BJP does not want to ally with Naveen Patnaik. Although all the leaders of the saffron party are not there, starting from the BJP Odisha president, Election in-charge Manmohan Samal, organizational secretary Manas Mohanty, election in-charge Vijaypal Singh Tomar and co-charge Lata Usendi went to Delhi. On Saturday, they held talks with various leaders. This evening, the central election committee also met at the BJP headquarters. However, there has been no confirmation about the said alliance.

Similarly, for students from sevayats families, a maximum of 3 times assistance of Rs. 50,000 per year will be provided for coaching on various entrance exams such as NEET, JEE and Civil Services. A total of Rs 10.85 crores has been provided by the State Government to the SJTA for various enhanced allowances, health insurance, coaching and other assistance to the employees.

PM Modi Lays Foundation, Dedicates Multiple Developmental Projects Worth Over Rs 1,06,000 Cr

New Delhi (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation and laid the foundation stone of various developmental projects worth over Rs 1,06,000 crores at Dedicated Freight Corridor's Operation Control Centre in Ahmedabad, Gujarat today. The development projects of today encompass multiple sectors including railway infrastructure, connectivity and petrochemicals. He also flagged off 10 new Vande Bharat trains.

Addressing the occasion, the Prime Minister acknowledged the lakhs of people connected to the event from more than 200 different places and said that the scale and size of today's event cannot be matched with any other event in Railways' history. He also congratulated Railways for today's event. The Prime Minister underlined that development works for the creation of Viksит Bharat are continuously expanding with the inauguration and laying

the foundation stone of multiple development projects across the country. "In the 75 days of 2024, projects worth more than Rs 11 lakh crores have been inaugurated or foundation stones laid while projects worth Rs 7 lakh crores have been unveiled in the last 10-12 days", the Prime

Minister remarked.

Noting that today's organization is a crucial step towards accomplishing the goal of Viksит Bharat, the Prime Minister said that projects worth about Rs 1 lakh crore have been inaugurated or foundation stones laid where projects worth around Rs 85,000 crores are dedicated to railways. He also touched upon laying the foundation Stone of Petrochemicals complex of Petronet LNG at Dahej worth more than Rs 20,000 crores and informed that it will help boost hydrogen production and demand for polypropylene in the country. Referring to the incremental approach of the Railway Budgets before 2014, the Prime Minister talked about the inclusion of the Railway Budget in the General

Budget that made it possible to provide railway expenditure from the General Budget. Apart from the issues of lack of punctuality, cleanliness and general amenities, the Prime Minister said that before 2014, 6 capitals of the Northeast did not have railway connectivity and there were more than 10,000 unmanned railway crossings, and only 35 percent of railway lines were electrified and railway reservations were marred by corruption and long queues.

The Prime Minister said, "Our government has displayed the willpower to bring the railways out of those hellish conditions. Now Railways development is among the top priorities of the government." The Prime

Minister listed initiatives like a six-fold budget increase from 2014 and assured the countrymen that in the next 5 years, the transformation of railways will exceed their imagination. "This 10 year's work is just a trailer. I have a long way to go", he added. He informed that not only most of the states have got Vande Bharat trains but the century of Vande Bharat Trains has already been hit. Vande Bharat Network is touching 250 districts of the country. In deference to people's wishes, routes of Vande Bharat are being extended.

Noting Railways' critical role in a nation becoming developed and economically competent, the Prime Minister said, "Transformation of

railway is the guarantee of Viksит Bharat." He threw light on the transforming landscape of railways and mentioned laying railway tracks at a fast pace, redevelopment of more than 1300 railway stations, flagging off next-generation trains like Vande Bharat, NaMo Bharat and Amrit Bharat, and unveiling of modernized railway engines and coach factories.

The Prime Minister said that under Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal Policy, construction of Cargo terminal has increased as land leasing policy has been simplified and has been made online leading to transparency. He also mentioned the establishment of Gati Shakti University. The Prime Minister continued with the modernization-related initiatives of railway and informed about the project of abolishing unmanned crossing and automatic signaling systems.

He said that the country is moving towards 100 percent electrification. Solar-powered stations and Jan Aushadhi Kendras are

coming up on stations. "The manufacturing of these railway trains, tracks and stations is creating an ecosystem of Made in India", the Prime Minister said. He informed that Made in India locomotives and coaches are being exported to countries like Sri Lanka, Mozambique, Senegal, Myanmar and Sudan. He said that demand for Made in India semi high-speed trains would lead to the emergence of many more such factories. "Rejuvenation of railway, new investments guarantees new employment opportunities", the Prime Minister remarked.

The Prime Minister criticized those who link these initiatives with elections. "For us, these development projects are not for forming a government but they are a mission of nation building". Next generation will not face the problem of the previous generations and 'this is Modi's guarantee', he said.

The Prime Minister presented Eastern and Western dedicated freight corridors as an example of development in the last 10 years. This separate track for goods trains improves speed and is important for agriculture, industry, export and business. In the last 10 years, this freight corridor, connecting the east and west coasts, has been almost completed. Today about 600 kilometers of freight corridor has been inaugurated, and the Operation Control Center has been inaugurated in Ahmedabad. Due to the efforts of the government, the speed of goods trains on this corridor has now more than doubled, he said. He further said that an industrial corridor is being developed in the entire corridor. Today, Railway Goods Shed, Gati Shakti Multimodal Cargo Terminal, Digital Control Station, Railway Workshop, Railway Loco Shed, and Railway Depot have also been inaugurated at many places.



CM Naveen Patnaik Inaugurates KIMS Rural Hospital & Kalarabank Smart Village

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday inaugurated the newly constructed KIMS Kalarabank Rural Hospital in Cuttack district and launched the Kalarabank Smart Village.

Speaking on the occasion, the CM said every individual must do something for their village and their birthplace as he lauded the efforts of the Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta who has dedicated himself to doing everything possible for his village and birthland. Every life is valuable to us. This is our mantra in the health sector, the CM said. He



said that the Odisha Government aims to provide high-quality health services to the people of Odisha with the support of institutions like KIMS. In his welcome address, Dr Samanta said, that under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Odisha has moved forward in all fields starting from education

and health. "Providing urban facilities in every village is the goal of the Chief Minister and inspired by this, we have inaugurated the KIMS Rural Hospital in Kalarabank, while the construction of KIMS Rural Hospitals in 19 locations in Odisha has begun". Similarly, in the smart village of Kalarabanka,

all kinds of urban facilities such as primary school, Kalinga English Medium School (Residential), Kalarabanka High School (Residential), +2 Higher Secondary School, Park, Public Library, ATM and locker facilities in nationalized banks, post office, police station, spiritual centre, community hall, drinking water facilities, temples,

paved roads, streetlights, etc., are available. Health insurance and Wi-Fi facilities are also provided for the villagers. Dr Samanta mentioned that while 350 individuals

have been directly employed, more than 100 have got indirect employment. Talking about the upcoming hospitals, he said each hospital will have 100 beds and

construction of each of them is estimated to cost 50 crores. These hospitals will be air-conditioned and will offer state-of-the-art healthcare services. Each of the rural hospitals will employ 150 young men and women and all of them will be functioning under the aegis of KIMS Bhubaneswar.

The programme was attended by 5T and Naveen Odisha Chairman Karthik Pandian, Cuttack Collector Vineet Bharadwaj and more than 2000 people from the Manpur Panchayat and surrounding regions participated in this event.

Nayab Singh Saini takes oath as Haryana CM with five Cabinet colleagues

New Delhi, (KCN): First-time BJP MP Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as the Haryana Chief Minister on Tuesday, along with five Cabinet colleagues.

Saini's name was unanimously decided during the party's meeting after incumbent Manohar Lal Khattar and the entire cabinet, comprising three members of Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala's JJP -- stepped down in the morning.

With a stronghold over the OBC community that comprises eight per cent in the state, Saini, who touched the feet of Khattar before and after taking the oath in Hindi, will be the Chief Minister for seven months till the state goes to the polls. The Saini caste has a sizeable population in Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar, Ambala, Hisar, and Rewari districts.

Kanwar Pal Gujjar, Mool Chand Sharma, Ranjit Singh Chautala, J.P. Dalal, and Banwarilal took oath as ministers. Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath of office to them at a ceremony in Raj



Bhawan in Chandigarh. However, former Home and Health Minister Anil Vij was conspicuously absent from the oath-taking ceremony that started 20 minutes before the scheduled time. Vij left the morning meeting as soon as Saini's name was proposed. The outgoing Cabinet comprised 14 ministers, including Khattar and three members of the JJP. In the 90-member Haryana Assembly, the BJP has 41 MLAs, while the JJP has 10. The ruling combine also enjoys the support of six of the seven independents, taking it past the halfway mark of

45 seats. As per sources, Khattar will be contesting the Lok Sabha elections. He is expected to be fielded from Karnal.

Khattar's own man Sanjay Bhatia -- also a Punjabi face who won by a margin of 6.5 lakh votes in 2019, the second-highest victory margin in the country, may replace Saini as the party's state chief. In 2019, the BJP had won all the state's 10 seats. Political observers told IANS that Saini's elevation to the top post is being seen as to consolidate the non-Jat and OBC votes. Also, it is an attempt to counter anti-incumbency against Khattar, who has been at the helm since 2014. In

Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Deogarh.

Day 5 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 16.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 17.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of North Coastal Odisha, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Deogarh, Balasore, Bhadrak.

Day 4 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 15.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 16.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Bhadrak.

Day 3 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 14.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 15.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of North Coastal Odisha, Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.



days and no large change is expected thereafter at many places over the districts of Odisha. Meanwhile, several parts of Odisha are also likely to experience rainfall activities as well.

Weather Forecast Day 3 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 14.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 15.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very

likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Bhadrak.

Day 2 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 13.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 14.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak and at one or two places over the districts of Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Kendrapara.

Day 1 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 12.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 13.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day 0 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 11.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 12.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -1 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 10.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 11.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -2 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 09.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 10.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -3 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 08.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 09.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -4 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 07.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 08.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -5 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 06.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 07.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -6 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 05.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 06.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -7 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 04.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 05.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -8 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 03.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 04.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -9 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 02.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 03.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -10 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 01.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 02.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -11 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 03.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 04.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -12 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 04.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 05.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -13 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 05.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 06.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -14 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 06.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 07.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -15 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 07.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 08.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -16 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 08.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 09.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -17 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 09.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 10.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -18 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 10.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 11.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -19 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 11.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 12.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -20 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 12.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 13.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -21 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 13.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 14.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -22 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 14.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 15.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -23 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 15.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 16.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -24 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 16.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 17.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -25 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 17.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 18.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -26 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 18.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 19.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -27 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 19.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 20.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -28 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 20.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 21.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -29 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 21.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 22.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -30 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 22.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of 23.03.2024)

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Nayagarh, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal.

Day -31 (Valid from 0830 hrs IST of 23.03.2024 to 0830 hrs IST of

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Vidya Balan, Triptii Dimri join Kartik Aaryan for 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3' shoot

Vidya Balan is quite thrilled and excited about beginning her next adventure, 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3' with Kartik Aaryan and Triptii Dimri. The actor shared a video from the upcoming film's mahurat ceremony. Directed by Anees Bazmee, Vidya Balan will reprise her role as Manjulika. After the phenomenal success of 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', Vidya Balan, Triptii Dimri and Kartik Aaryan started shooting for the sequel on March 9. Vidya shared a video to announce the same on

Monday. Alongside the video, she expressed her excitement in the caption. She wrote, "Super thrilled to kickstart this spooky yet hilarious journey of #BhoolBhulaiyaa3 with the super talented @kartikaaryan and @tripti_dimri, the visionary @aneesbazmee and the man who made this all possible #BhushanKumar! Can't wait for #Diwali2024 (sic)." Anees Bazmee is directing the project. The film is touted to be bigger than ever with OG



Manjulika aka Vidya Balan returning to the 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa' franchise after garnering critical appreciation for her performance in the 2007 film, starring Akshay Kumar.

leaving no stone unturned to ensure that 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3' raises the bar for the audience as well. The film will see Vidya Balan return as Manjulika after the first film. Vidya was offered the part, and she was really kicked about getting into the character of Manjulika once again."

Not just Vidya, the film will see Triptii Dimri in a pivotal role. The announcement was made in February with a guessing game for fans. 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3' will reportedly release on Diwali 2024.

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

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

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

Salman Khan teams up with director AR Murugadoss for his next



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

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

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



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



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

As per Tribune.com, Mahira had earlier confirmed dating Salim while speaking with Samina Peerzada. In 2022, when Mahira was asked if she was in love, she smiled and nodded her head. "Yeah, I think I am in love. I don't know, I am so shy about it," Mahira had said. She had also confirmed that he wasn't from the industry. "Awwwww the groom is crying. Such men still exist," said another fan. "Aww super cute mashAllah. Many congratulations to the happy couple," read another comment. "She's looking absolutely gorgeous," read a comment. Mahira is normalizing

things that might look basic from a privileged background but I hope this gives hope to a woman rethinking marriage." "Aww congratulations to her. May Allah bless her with a beautiful married life with her husband," commented a fan. A person wrote, "That's just graceful. Hope they find comfort."

"Awwwww the groom is crying. Such men still exist," said another fan. "Aww super cute mashAllah. Many congratulations to the happy couple," read another comment. "She's looking absolutely gorgeous," read a comment. As per Tribune.com, Mahira had earlier

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

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

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

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

Ramakrishna Paramhansa

Rajat Kumar Bose



achieved through multiple ways.

One of the ways he adopted was from Radha Sampradaay. This cult believes that there is only one God in the Universe and that is Krishna. There is only one man in the Universe and that is Krishna. Everyone else is female. So everyone who does Sadhana under this cult, becomes a woman, a lover of Krishna. Ramakrishna Paramhansa started the Sadhana and he got so involved in it, that he started believing on a molecular level that he is a woman. He started acting like a woman, walking, talking, eating, and behaving like a woman. His devotion and his belief were so strong,



that his body started reacting similarly and he started developing breasts. This is why his chest area looks like that of a woman in his pictures.

It is said that

has female genes in them and those aren't just fully developed. But this was a live example of the fact and was shocking yet mesmerizing for those who witnessed it.

This was his level of devotion, his level of dedication towards serving the world, that he tried every way, and gave his whole self to it. He would dive straight into the ocean of spirituality and devotion without worrying about a helmet or safety gear.

Ramakrishna emphasised God-realisation as the supreme goal of all living beings. Ramakrishna taught that kamini-kanchana is an obstacle to God-realisation. Kamini-kanchan literally translates to "woman and

Kuansarapur, Jajpur,
Mob. : 9437103502

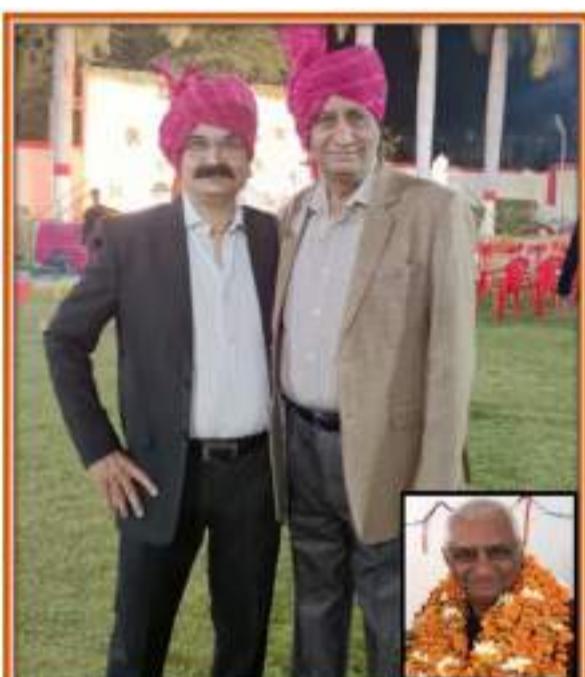
Tributes pour in for Editor-in-Chief (Urgent Times) Chandrakant D. Bhatt

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit



He was a very intelligent, bold and a professional journalist who was able to understand the complexities of the environment.

Late Chandrakant Bhatt's journalism journey began in 1985 starting with a small 4 page Urgent Times from Sagawara. Today Urgent Times a Hindi language daily newspaper and is best known for its powerful editorial commentaries and readers' opinions. Urgent Times, under the supervision of late Chandrakant Bhatt has now become one of the leading sources to acquire mass information about Rajasthan.. Bhatt's loss was irreparable for Dungarpur and Banswara and that he was an outspoken and fun loving gentleman and someone who strengthened the journalist association in Dungarpur and Banswara have lost an



difficult to fill the vacuum created by his demise. We remember him as a very active and diligent journalist who worked to bring information from remote corners of the state. His passing away will leave a void amongst the journalist fraternity of Dungarpur District. Dungarpur and Banswara have lost an experienced journalist and a great personality. He was a fearless journalist. He was an encouragement as well as an inspiration for budding journalists. His contribution to the society as a journalist was commendable. He was an institution in himself who worked wholeheartedly for almost every section of

the society without considering caste, religion and colour. The Urgent Times newspaper that he gave to the people of Rajasthan is not a one-day newspaper but an all-time newspaper. Dungarpur and Banswara have lost a gem in the field of media and their loss can never be compensated.

Chandrakant Bhatt was one of the few journalists from Dungarpur and Banswara who had a strong presence in Rajasthan. His demise is an irreparable loss for the entire Dungarpur and Banswara district. His service towards the society will always be remembered. As a journalist he always promoted social issues. He was the pioneer of Rajasthan media. He made important contributions in understanding the political and social development in Rajasthan. He will always be remembered for his sharp editorials and fascinating reports in

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DRUG ABUSE & ITS CONSEQUENCES

Dr. Samrat Kar



uninvited) which you want to dispense with but it will not just go away. One has to make concerted and determined efforts in getting rid of this disgusting guest. Unfortunately it has been a common experience that when one falls prey to these habits; one is really ensnared. A way out is a little difficult. Merely sight of these intoxicants is enough to distract us from our actual path and envelop us lock stock and barrel into it. Man falls from one abyss to another without any redemption in sight. Though redemption may be there for those who want to sincerely leave this obsession - for that to happen determined effort is needed.

How this habit is formed? It starts with just

for the sake of fun. It may be in some innocuous parties / get together that a person gets a feel of it. Or some fair weather friend may lure us into the trap by initially spending money and thenceforth becoming a continuous habit; so much so that the friend who initiated the person concerned may also take advantage of this addiction to the hilt.

Frustration in resolving the intricacies with regard to love and relationship, sudden failure or persistent losses incurred in business deals, financial stringency, not getting employment despite requisite qualifications, offspring not able to come to the expectations despite best efforts, incompatibility between the spouses, lack of proper parenting

in the formative stages.

This age group is most impressionable. In this age group the child has to make a solid foundation/base for his future life - acquiring education; pursuing some vocation or avocation and finally having a life partner for a happy married life. But as the individual has got nothing to bank on; he resorts to crimes for quelling his habit.

Withering of Family Fabric. Family is the sacred institution where husband and wife pool their personal resources and make concerted efforts that this institution runs and runs purposefully for the welfare of the whole family. While one member of the family sweats and the other one fritters away the hard-earned resources in alcohol or drug abuse then there are fissures in the family unity. There may be

constant bickering between spouses and family development as a unit is just shattered. How long this family fabric could work in unison?

Suicide is a 1 Tendencies. The sad part of the consequence of drug abuse is that it acts as a depressant - divesting the person concerned of fighting spirit. A time comes when that person loses will to live and that is the sad end of the commentary of life for that individual. Enemy of Spirituality. Those who are afflicted with the abhorrent habit of drug abuse just are seen to be repulsed from the spiritual way of life.

Psychiatrist, The
Brain Foundation,
Purighat Road,
Cuttack, Mob. :
9132433333

Indian Muslims and the CAA: Debunking Misconceptions

INSHA WARSI

Indian Muslims are protected by Constitutional Safeguards. CAA does not affect Indian Muslims. There is need to debunk misconceptions on CAA as well as sensitise on Constitutional Safeguards provided to Indian Muslims of all sects of Islam present in India. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) was passed by the Parliament of India on December 11, 2019. This legislation brought significant changes to the Citizenship Act, 1955, introducing an expedited pathway to Indian citizenship for religious minorities facing persecution in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. Specifically, the CAA extended this opportunity to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians from these countries, provided they arrived in India before the end of December 2014.

It is crucial to examine the underlying context and realities surrounding this CAA, to understand its potential impact on Muslim community. Firstly, it is important to acknowledge that countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, which are mentioned in the CAA, are predominantly Muslim nations. In these



countries, religious minorities, including Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians, often face persecution and discrimination due to their minority status. The CAA seeks to provide a pathway to Indian citizenship for these persecuted individuals, acknowledging their vulnerability and the need for protection. The objective is to provide a secure and inclusive environment for these communities within India's borders. Secondly, India is a nation with a vast Hindu population and a vibrant democracy that upholds the principles of inclusivity and secularism. Indian Muslims constitute the largest religious minority in the country and enjoy numerous rights and protections provided by the Constitution. It is important to note that the rights and freedoms enjoyed by Indian Muslims are guaranteed by the country's democratic framework, ensuring equality before the law and the right to practice their religion freely. Thirdly, it is essential to recognise that the number of individuals from these religious minority groups granted Indian citizenship under the CAA is relatively small. In fact, only 4,844 foreigners have been granted Indian citizenship in the past five years (the government told the Lok Sabha on Feb 08, 2022) through this process. Furthermore, it is important to note that no Muslims have been persecuted or forcibly expelled from the country under the guise of the NRC or CAA. Lastly, Indian Muslims should not harbour unnecessary fears or apprehensions regarding the CAA. India has a strong track record of upholding democratic values, freedom of speech, and the rights of minorities. It is essential to trust in the robust legal system and the commitment of India to safeguard the rights and interests of all its citizens. The CAA has been a subject of intense debate and concern, particularly among Indian Muslims. While concerns and apprehensions persist, it is essential for Indian Muslims to trust in India's robust legal system and its commitment to safeguard the rights and interests of all citizens. It is crucial to foster constructive dialogue, dispel unfounded fears, and maintain faith in India's democratic principles, religious freedom, and the protection of minority rights. By promoting understanding and engaging in open discussions, India can continue to strengthen its inclusive and harmonious society, ensuring the well-being of all its citizens, including Indian Muslims. While all the above arguments can be negated by hate mongers, there is no counter to the argument that India has always believed in the principle of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam' and nobody can shake this deeply entrenched cultural value.

(The author is a researcher in areas of Francophone and Journalism Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia)

Letter to Editor

Dear sir,
Political gimmick

The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) has been perceived as a 'political gimmick' strategically timed before the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Critics question the timing, suggesting that if the Union government was genuinely committed to the CAA, it could have been notified earlier. The sudden notification just before the elections raises suspicions regarding its true intent. Moreover, there is skepticism about the CAA being used as a tool to deceive the public, especially considering the complexities of granting citizenship. The assertion is clear: discrimination based on religion or caste is unacceptable, and the CAA's potential for such discrimination is troubling. The issue extends further as questions arise about the inclusivity and effectiveness of the CAA. People wonder whether the CAA portal will genuinely accommodate individuals from all religions, or if it will perpetuate biases. Additionally, there is irony in the ruling party questioning the citizenship of individuals who supported them in elections. This contradiction highlights the political dynamics at play and underscores the need for transparent and equitable citizenship policies.

Vijaykumar H K
Raichur, Karnataka

UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS CONFRS HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF CIVIL LAW ON PRESIDENT

New Delhi, (KCN): The University of Mauritius conferred Honoris Causa Degree of Doctor of Civil Law on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu today (March 12, 2024). Speaking on the occasion, the President said that universities like the University of Mauritius are not just ladders to the dreams of aspirational youth; they are sites where the future of mankind is forged. She added that she was especially honoured to receive the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Civil Law from this prestigious University. She

expressed confidence that it will inspire all young people, particularly young women, to discover their unique passion and pursue their dreams.

President Murmu spoke of her personal experience of the transformative impact of the power of education, noting that it is education that takes us from vulnerability and deprivation, to opportunities and hope. The President said that the Government of India has made it a priority to educate and empower youth to lead India into the



'knowledge economy' of tomorrow. She expressed confidence that India's forward-looking new National Education Policy will tap into India's demographic dividend to become a power house of innovation that enhances the well-being of humanity.

The President said that in this exciting journey into the future, India looks forward to partnering its special friends, like Mauritius. She was happy to note that each year, 400 Mauritians are trained in India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)

programme and about 60 Mauritian students receive scholarships to pursue higher education in India.

The President said that India sees Mauritius as a close maritime neighbour, a cherished partner in the Indian Ocean Region, and a key player in its Africa outreach.

Noting that robust people-to-people linkages have been the very foundation of the special friendship between India and Mauritius, she expressed confidence that the youth of Mauritius and India will continue to deepen this special partnership.

Upgrading of knowledge and skills of the fishers of Katihar district, Bihar



Kolkata, (KCN): Katihar district is located in the plains of Northeastern part of Bihar State and was historically a part of the Mithila region. The district has rich aquatic resources in the form of ponds and tanks, mauns (floodplain wetlands) and derelict water bodies that can provide avenues for basic livelihood options through scientific interventions. In view of this, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, organized a 7-days comprehensive training programme on Inland Fisheries Management for fish

farmers of Katihar District, Bihar from 5-11 March 2024 at Barrackpore. The aim of the training programme was to educate fish farmers about the principles and practices on fish culture and proved to be instrumental in equipping fish farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively manage inland fisheries resources. A total of 30 fish farmers took part in the training programme. In the inaugural session, Dr. B. K. Das, Director, I C A R - C I F R I addressed the participants and

encouraged them to acquire knowledge about fish farming through residential training. Dr. Das also urged farmers to utilize their underutilized water resources, including backyard ponds and derelict water bodies in a scientific manner that provides sufficient scope for improving their livelihoods. During the training, the farmers were trained on various aspects of inland fisheries management such as pond construction and management, induced breeding and hatchery management, composite fish culture including

fish disease management, brood stock management, integrated fish farming, fish feed management and ornamental fish farming including the economic evaluation of fisheries enterprises. Further, field exposure visits were conducted to East Kolkata Wetland and ornamental fish market, Kolkata, ICAR-CIFA field station, Kalyani and a visit to Halisahar fish farm, Kolkata. In the laboratory, there were practical training sessions on field water quality parameters, fish feed preparation and management including

visits to the Ornamental fish culture unit and biofloc functional unit at the CIFRI, HQ. In the valedictory session, the farmers expressed their great satisfaction with this training programme and expressed their views with admitting their upscaling of knowledge which would help immensely in utilizing resources in a scientific manner. Dr. Srikanta Samanta, HOD, FRAI, Dr. S. K. Manna, HOD, REF and Dr. R. K. Manna, HOD, RWF attended the valedictory session and shared their views with the farmers. The training programme was organized under the guidance of Dr. B. K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI and coordinated by Dr. Aparna Roy, I/C T & E Cell and Mr. Pranab Gogoi with the technical assistance of Mr. Sujit Chowdhury, Dr. Avisekh Saha, Mr. Loknath Chakraborty and Mr. Manabendra Roy. The lesson learned during the training programme intended to inspire and guide fish farmers to effectively manage their resources to achieve optimal production and productivity.



Kolkata, (KCN): On March 12, 2024, ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute undertook a Hilsa seed ranching program at Gaziapara, located on Maldia-Jharkhand border. This initiative is a part of CIFRI's continuous efforts to replenish Hilsa stocks in inland waters, addressing the decline in Hilsa populations due to overfishing and habitat degradation.

The program initiated the release of 10,000 Hilsa spawn and 350,000 fertilized Hilsa eggs into the river, aiming to boost the natural population of this economically and ecologically important species. This endeavor represented a significant step towards sustainable fisheries management, aligning with

conservation principles and local livelihood support. Hilsa, known for its unique taste and nutritional value, has seen dwindling numbers in recent years, prompting the need for interventions such as the one undertaken by CIFRI. By introducing spawn and eggs into suitable habitats, the institute aims to increase the survival rate of young Hilsa and enhance their chances of growing to maturity.

The selection of Gaziapara for the ranching program is strategic, considering its ecological characteristics favorable for Hilsa breeding and growth. This area provides an ideal environment for the hatchlings to thrive, contributing to the restoration of the natural balance and biodiversity of the riverine ecosystem.

The CIFRI's Hilsa seed ranching program is a testament to the institute's commitment to research-based interventions for the conservation of inland fisheries resources. It underscores the importance of adopting scientific approaches to fishery management, ensuring the sustainability of fish stocks while supporting the livelihoods dependent on them. This initiative not only marks a significant milestone in Hilsa conservation efforts but also sets a precedent for similar interventions across other regions facing challenges in fishery resources management.

"Not Even A Drop": Siddaramaiah On Releasing Cauvery Water To Tamil Nadu



Chamarajanagar (KCN): Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday dismissed as a lie the opposition BJP's charge that Cauvery water is being released to Tamil Nadu even though Bengaluru is reeling under an acute water crisis. Terming it a lie, Mr. Siddaramaiah said not a single drop of water will be given to Tamil Nadu.

"All that is a lie. Who will let the water flow, that too in this situation? We will not give even a drop of water to Tamil Nadu without retaining water for our consumption," the chief minister told reporters here.

He said that neither Tamil Nadu asked for it nor anyone directed Karnataka to release water to the neighbouring state and respond to the plight of the people of Bengaluru.

"Why will we give them (Tamil Nadu) water when they have not asked for it? Where do we have water to give them? There is no question of giving them water even if Tamil Nadu asks for it or the Centre or anyone else directs us to release water," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

The Leader of Opposition R Ashoka on Monday accused the Karnataka government of having released Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

He demanded that the state government immediately stop releasing water to the neighbouring state and respond to the plight of the people of Bengaluru.

New Delhi (KCN): The State Bank of India on Tuesday evening submitted data about electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India, in line with a stern order from the Supreme Court. The data will be collated and released by the poll panel - which has confirmed receipt of the data - by 5 pm Friday, as ordered.

The bank's Chairman and Managing Director, however, has not yet filed the affidavit confirming compliance with the court order. This, NDTV has been told, is ready and will be submitted Wednesday.

The Supreme Court on Monday nixed a plea by the State Bank of India - the country's largest bank

- to extend the March 6 deadline to release this data. A bench led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud came down strongly on the bank for "willful disobedience" of orders, and warned it of contempt proceedings. "While we are not inclined to exercise contempt jurisdiction at this time, we place SBI on notice that this court may be inclined to proceed against it for willful disobedience if it does not comply with directions by timelines indicated in this order," the court had said.

The bank argued it would take considerable time to collect, cross-check and release the

data, which was stored in two "silos" to maintain confidentiality of both sides. "We need a little more time to comply. We were told this is supposed to be a secret," the bank said, and asked for time till June 30.

That deadline is well past the completion of the 2024 general election.

In response, the Supreme Court pointed out that donor details were available at the SBI's Mumbai branch, and the bank just had to "open covers, collate details and give information". "We had not told you to do the matching exercise. We have asked you for a plain disclosure," the Chief Justice rapped SBI.

Last month, in a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court held the electoral bond scheme to be "unconstitutional" and said it violated citizens' right to information. The SBI had been directed to reveal data by March 6 and the poll panel to make this information public by March 13.

SBI Sends Electoral Bonds Data To Poll Panel Day After Supreme Court Rap



Cong Slams BJD BJP

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Congress party, which had conducted a sarcastic wedding ceremony of the BJP and the BJD a few days ago, on Monday organised another sarcastic 'Anna Prasanna' ritual of 10 toy children born to the BJD and BJP.

The Congress party has organized the Anna Prasanna' ritual here at Master Canteen Square to criticize its opposition parties—BJD and BJP. Dr. Kumar said 10 children born to BJD and BJP and they have been named today. The children named after are chit fund scam, mining scam, gunda (goon), mask scam, Tamilian, land grab, unemployment, selling of government jobs, electricity bill



irregularities and inflation.

More than 60 lakh families have been affected due to chit fund scam. However, due to the nexus between BJP and BJD, the victims could not get justice. Even after years of investigation, the CBI has not yet submitted the

final charge sheet, he said.

Similarly, the Central Government has not ordered a CBI probe into the mining scam in Odisha even after the recommendation of Shah Commission, Dr. Kumar said. He said the BJP had promised to provide 2

crore employment each year while the BJD had promised to give employment to 2 lakh youths every year. However, both the parties have failed to fulfil their promises. The price of essential commodities like cooking gas, petrol, diesel, cooking oil, dal, etc has

been hiked during the last 10 years, he added. Reacting to the allegations of Congress, state BJP spokesperson Biranchi Tripathy said, "The Congress party has organized such drama to show its existence in media ahead of elections. However, the people are aware about their drama and have shown them their right place." BJD has not yet reacted on the issue. Similarly, senior BJD leader Prasanna Acharya said the Congress has failed to please the people of Odisha even after remaining in power for a longer period. Now, the party has died. As the Congress doesn't have an issue, they are organizing such entertainment shows, Acharya said.



Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today launched the 'AMA BHOOMI' initiative (Assuring Mass Access through Bhubaneswar Open Space Ownership and Management), while inaugurating Ananda Bana at Shankarpur in Bhubaneswar.

This is a 5T initiative taken up by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) with an objective to create and maintain open spaces promoting

well-being, sustainability, and a resilient urban landscape in the state capital.

Ace Mandarin, Balwant Singh, VC BDA has worked tirelessly to set up this green initiative.

Minister Ashok Panda, Chief Secretary P K Jena, ACS Forest & Revenue Satyabrata Sahu, VC BDA and OMC MD Balwant Singh, Mayor Sulochana Das and others graced the occasion.

The strategic creation and maintenance of open

spaces will not only enhance the quality of life for residents but also serve as a crucial environmental intervention, fostering a more climate-resilient environment by mitigating urban heat island impacts and increasing the city's green cover and blueways.

It beckons a transformative era for Bhubaneswar, promoting well-being, sustainability, and a healthier future.

Nandakanan Welcomes Assam Guests

Bhubaneswar(KCN): PCCF Wildlife Susanta Nanda is happy as Nandakanan is executing Fourth Animal Exchange Program during this Fiscal.

Shri Nanda, who chalked a Master Plan for Nandakanan has been in connect with several other leading Zoos in the country and Exchange Program is executed with speed and care.

Nandakanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar is all set to welcome Great White pelican, Himalayan griffin vulture and Gangetic Softshell turtle from Assam under animal exchange programme.

The animals will be brought from Assam State Zoo and Botanical Garden, Guwahati, Forest Department officials said.

A team of Forest Officials and Veterinary doctors began their visit to Assam zoo to receive the animals this morning. It is expected that these



animals shall be brought to Nandakanan by March 21.

The five member team includes Dr T. Vikram, Veterinary surgeon, Arup Kumar Rout, Forester, Brajakishore Sahoo, Animal Keeper, Sapan Kumar Das (Outsourced Staff), Umesh Kumar Bhoi (Outsourced staff). As approved by Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi, Nandakanan Zoological Park will bring two Gangetic Softshell turtles, two Great White pelican, two Himalayan

griffin vulture, two Greater Adjutant stork from the Assam State Zoo and Botanical garden, Guwahati.

This will add two new species to animal collection (greater adjutant stork and Himalayan griffin vulture). Gangetic soft shell turtle is bringing to pair the existing single one, Zoo officials said.

To infuse new bloodline to the existing stock, bringing a great white pelican will be helpful, they informed.

they said.

In exchange Nandakanan will give some of its surplus animals to Assam zoo which includes two Painted stork, one Mandarin duck, two Spot billed pelican, two Blackbucks, 10 Back headed ibis. This is the fourth animal exchange programme Nandakanan is executing this financial year, for improving the animal stock as per the approved master plan, they informed.

CM Releases KALIA Money

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of elections, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday released financial assistance of Rs 1293.75 crore to the beneficiaries of Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme.

While making the payment, the Chief Minister said that every farmer's family should live with respect and become strong so that they can contribute to the development of the State. Shri Patnaik also noted that education not only strengthens a person but the whole family and the society.

This substantial financial boost is aimed at enhancing agricultural livelihoods and fostering the overall well-being of farmers throughout Odisha.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said 46 lakh beneficiaries were paid Rs 2,000 each under the scheme. The financial



assistance of Rs 933 crore was deposited in the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

Additionally, a sum exceeding Rs. 360 crores was disbursed to 18 lakh eligible landless agricultural households, providing one-time additional financial support of Rs. 2,000 to those who have already received all three installments of their livelihood cash support under the scheme (i.e. Rs. 12,500 in total). In total, Rs. 1293.75 crore was released on this day to more than 64 lakh KALIA beneficiaries.

Highlighting the scheme's uniqueness, Patnaik emphasized its

role in providing timely financial aid to farmers during the agricultural cycle, thereby serving as an initial investment for cultivation purposes.

CM Shri Patnaik also inaugurated the KALIA Centers in all the 30 districts to provide agriculture related technical advice to the farmers. Patnaik had earlier announced the extension of the KALIA programme for three more years while the state government will spend Rs 6030 crore for this.

Furthermore, the provision of KALIA Scholarships for the children of beneficiaries signifies the government's

commitment to holistic socio-economic development.

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in

Odisha

CM Opens Ananda Bana



Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today launched the 'AMA BHOOMI' initiative (Assuring Mass Access through Bhubaneswar Open Space Ownership and Management), while inaugurating Ananda Bana at Shankarpur in Bhubaneswar.

This is a 5T initiative taken up by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) with an objective to create and maintain open spaces promoting

well-being, sustainability, and a resilient urban landscape in the state capital.

Ace Mandarin, Balwant Singh, VC BDA has worked tirelessly to set up this green initiative.

Minister Ashok Panda, Chief Secretary P K Jena, ACS Forest & Revenue Satyabrata Sahu, VC BDA and OMC MD Balwant Singh, Mayor Sulochana Das and others graced the occasion.

The strategic creation and maintenance of open

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Baghra Road, Baripada

For details

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

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

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



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

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

ahead will be documented in various forms, including podcasts, interviews, shorts, and culminating in a documentary for OTT platforms like Netflix and theatrical screenings in PVR cinemas.

Reflecting on the occasion, Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman of Startup Odisha, remarked, "The Bharat SaaS Yatra marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards fostering a thriving startup ecosystem in Odisha. We are proud to be the first destination for the Yatra, which will undoubtedly ignite the aspirations of countless

entrepreneurs across the nation."

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

Workshop on causes and Diagnosis of Bleeding



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

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

FURO Sports Shoes welcomes Shahid Kapoor as its Brand Ambassador

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

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

BOB Financial crosses the 1 Million Credit Cards mark

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

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

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

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

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

TSJU calls for ban on advertisements to politically aligned media outlets

Hyderabad, March 12

(KCN): The Telangana State Journalists Union (TSJU) convened its State executive meeting at the State office located at RTC Chowrasta, here on

as State Secretary, and Papani Nagaraju as Treasurer. During the meeting, the executive resolved to establish the Indira Gandhi Mutually Aided Co-operative Housing Society as an



Tuesday. In a session chaired by Naragouni Purushotham, vice-presidents of the National Union of Journalists India (NUJI) unanimously elected the State executive. Esteemed journalist Murhu Chandramohan was elected State President, with Tokala Anil Kumar assuming the role of General Secretary, Kommala Vasu Kumar. TSJU also voiced its

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

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

for constructing strong walls. Ambuja Cool Walls is a unique wall solution that keeps the house cool during summer and retains inside temperature to make the house warmer in winter. Ambuja Cements is among the first Indian cement companies to offer this unique block and mortar solution to individual house builders.

Ambuja Cool Walls is an innovative solution to the problem faced by traditional construction with non-sustainable products. The challenge poised by traditional construction today are efflorescence on walls, termite attack, water absorption and highly prone to earthquakes. Ambuja Cool Walls along with unique jointing mortar makes the wall stronger and eliminates the problem faced by traditional construction practices. This helps the consumers in cost saving on electricity due to thermal insulation, low frequency of repeat painting because of no efflorescence, lesser repeat maintenance and lower construction cost. Additional benefits include noise reduction, high fire resistance etc.

Ambuja Cool Walls is a sustainable product as it consumes large volume of fly ash in its manufacturing. The walls does not require curing during construction and thus saves 5000 liters of water for a 1000-square feet house. Mr. Neeraj Akhoury, CEO India Holcim and MD & CEO of Ambuja Cements Ltd., said, "Ambuja Cements has always pursued innovation to provide customers with eco-friendly solutions for a better and a greener future. It's our endeavor to provide world class solutions to customers in India. Ambuja Cool Walls is a testimony to our commitment to provide sustainable, high strength and durable solutions to our customers".

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

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

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

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

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

demand for the government to refrain from issuing advertisements to media organizations aligned with political parties. The State executive committee pledged to actively

advocate for this cause. Furthermore, the group commended the developmental efforts of the recently formed People's Government, led by Chief Minister Eamul Revanth Reddy. In a move to support local newspapers lacking advertising support from the previous administration, plans were made to provide a panel for their benefit.

Also it enables speedy construction and reduces project completion time by ~ 30%.

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school's research wing, Inspiron, in a pursuit to move them away from this exposure while enhancing their knowledge on India's art, history, and culture. From over 14 lakh online entries, 200 games were chosen for the physical edition of ToyCathon. Untold stories was the only winner from Odisha among the top 7 felicitated games.

Under the 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' initiated by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi, ToyCathon is conceived to challenge India's innovative minds to conceptualize novel Toy and Games based on Bharatiya civilization, history, culture, mythology and ethos.



Southee admits uncertainty over captaincy future

New Delhi: Shortly after New Zealand suffered an astounding three-wicket defeat to Australia at Christchurch that sealed the series 2-0 in the visitors' favour, skipper Tim Southee fronted up to the press with a tone of practicality. In a series where his own form was below-par, Southee is aware that his captaincy and perhaps, his spot as a player also may not be a lock-in anymore. New Zealand's next red-ball assignment is only in September this year and that one-off game against Afghanistan will be the start of a phase which will also include tours of Sri Lanka and India for the Black Caps. The 35-year-old, who completed 100 Tests with the Christchurch game, only managed four wickets across the series - shocking numbers for

the veteran who was outbowled even by debutant Ben Sears in the second Test. Matt Henry (17 wickets) topped the charts from both sides in the series but he found little support from Southee whose spells were patchy at best. The opening day of the Wellington Test was a case in point when he wasn't able to hit the right lengths despite winning the toss under good bowling conditions. "We'll see," Southee said. "Obviously you go to Asia, the make-up of the side changes slightly with spin becoming the main threat in that part of the world. But we'll see when we get there. We'll deal with this tonight and look to move forward to what's to come." Southee's captaincy came under the scanner at Christchurch during

the run chase when he delayed the introduction of Glenn Phillips in the morning session after giving his pacers lengthy spells. The part-time off spinner had caused problems for the Aussies in the opening game and although conditions here dictated pace over spin, the consensus was that Southee could have mixed and matched a bit, especially with Marsh and Carey getting through the initial burst from the quicks. As it turned out, Phillips almost created a chance at the stroke of lunch and generally looked probing in his stint. Southee, though, chose to disagree with the criticism. "Hindsight is a wonderful thing," Southee said. "But I think the amount of times we went past the bat in that first session, we felt that seam was

the option. We created a few chances through that first session. I think we felt that seam was the right move."

New Zealand's fielding throughout the series has been a let-down, not just in the Tests but also in the white-ball leg earlier. The hosts were well below



the usually high standards that they set on the field. At Christchurch, there were some major blips too, like the dropped catch of Mitchell Marsh when the batter was just on 28. Rachin Ravindra at backward point shelled a straightforward chance, giving Marsh a

lifeline that he would go on to exploit. The very next ball, though, Travis Head fell to a similar short at backward point, giving some respite for the Black Caps. Citing that as a defence, Southee defended his team's fielding and catching in the game.

"Guys don't mean to drop catches," Southee said. "Everyone works hard on the fielding. Obviously that one went down early in the day. But if we take that then we don't get the wicket the next ball and who's to say Head doesn't go on and have an innings like Marsh. You look back on a number of things. But the guys work hard on their fielding." The defeat at Christchurch added to the narrative of New Zealand's inability to beat Australia when it comes to the high-profile games. ODI World Cup final in 2015 and the T20 World Cup final in 2021 stand out in the list. The Black Caps have had the odd bilateral success over their Trans-Tasman neighbours but in totality, the domination from Australia has been mammoth, as is justified

by the stats, more so in Tests. New Zealand haven't won a Test against Australia since 2011 and at home, it dates back to 1993. While theories are rife about a possible mental block for New Zealand against Australia, Southee chose to sit on the fence. "I'm not too sure," Southee said. "They're a tough side to beat, not only in Australia, but when they travel as well. "I think when you play the best you've got to be at your best for those periods, that little bit longer. We had moments through both Test matches where we could have been a little bit better at times and then things could have been slightly different. But it was just another great Test and there's been plenty of those over the last few years."

Tense win guarantees Zalmi top-two finish

New Delhi: Peshawar Zalmi ended their league stage campaign with a tense two-run victory over Karachi Kings, a result that assures them a top-two finish and two shots at making the PSL 2024 final. On a soft and a surprisingly sluggish surface at the National Stadium, Babar Azam's half-century and a late blitz from Rovman Powell pushed Zalmi to a score of 147 which the Kings couldn't overcome thereby ending their own disappointing campaign with six defeats and a fifth-place finish.

Zalmi skipper Babar made the decision to set a target at the toss and was on hand to ensure his team maximised the powerplay - with the hard, new ball making for easier batting. Fifty-four runs came in the PowerPlay despite Shoaib Malik sending down two overs in this phase for just nine runs. It wasn't all smooth



sailing as Babar needed the DRS twice to reverse LBW decisions given against him while his opening partner Saim Ayub overcame a slow start -- he was 5 off 11 after four overs -- to smash a hat-trick of boundaries off Anwar Ali. Once Ayub was dismissed two balls into the post-powerplay period by Zahid Mahmood, run scoring against the slower bowlers proved to be

extremely challenging. Only 21 runs and two boundaries arrived between overs 6 and 10 with 19-year-old left-arm spinner Minhas bowling his first two overs for just five runs. Mohammad Haris fell in his attempt to break the shackles while Minhas accounted for Haseebullah Khan. Babar ended a quiet period by slamming Zahid Mahmood for a six and a four before a run-out ended his innings (51 off 46) in the 14th over. The

spin trio of Malik, Mahmood and Arafat had combined figures of 12-0-65-2.

It needed a cameo from Powell to edge Zalmi close to the 150-mark. The West Indian struck three fours in his 18-ball 30, two of which came in the final over bowled by Hasan Ali to prop Zalmi up.

In their reply, the Kings openers, Tim Seifert and James Vince, went through the powerplay unseparated but managed 10 runs fewer than what Zalmi did. And as the ball got softer and the spinners exercised control, run making got difficult and that meant the hosts were always behind the eight-ball. Irfan Khan walked out to bat in the 11th over with the Kings making painfully slow progress at 68/3. He improvised and hit a boundary in each of the next four overs to bring the equation down to 50 from 30.

Dev went down 1-4 to USA's Omari Jones, the 2021 World Championship silver medallist, in a closely-contested light middleweight quarterfinal late on Monday.

A win in the last eight stage would have fetched the 2023 World Championships bronze medallist an Olympic quota. None of the nine boxers competing here were able to add to India's tally of four quotas in boxing.



After two qualification events -- the Asian Games and the first World Olympic Boxing Qualifier -- not one Indian male pugilist has been able to book a place for the Olympics. All four quotas in boxing have come in the women's section with two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg), Parveen Hooda (57kg), and Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) securing their passage to Paris.

Indian boxers will get a final chance to book their ticket to Paris during the second World Olympic Boxing Qualifier, scheduled to be held in Bangkok from May 23 to June 3. Between 45 and 51 boxers will qualify from the Bangkok meet.

India had nine boxers competing in the Tokyo Olympics with Borgohain winning the only medal - a bronze.

On Monday night, Dev was slow off the blocks, as Jones relied on his speed to land several blows in the opening minutes to take command at the start. However, Dev was able to make a late impression, starting with a combination of a left hook and jab. Trailing on all five cards after the opening three minutes, the 23-year-old

Shabnam dwarfs Deepti special to keep Giants alive

New Delhi: Deepti Sharma hit her third half-century on the trot, coming up with 88 not out off 60 deliveries. But her knock went in vain as UP Warriorz fell short, losing by 8 runs against Gujarat Giants. Beth Mooney's 74 not out off 52, thanks to some late hitting from the captain, powered Giants to 152/8. The Warriorz slipped to 35/5 in the chase, with Shabnam Shakil bagging three. An unbroken 109-run stand between Deepti and Poonam Khemnar ensued but the Warriorz couldn't get to the finish line as they ended the league stage with 6 points and now will pray for other results and mathematics to come into play.

Crunchy cover drives, well-timed lofts, leg-glances, and even a one-

handed shot over the bowler's head - Laura Wolvaardt put on a batting exhibition in the powerplay, taking on both spin and pace, to power the Giants off to a quick-fire start. When the powerplay ended, Mooney was on 10 off 11, happy to watch from the non-striker's end as Wolvaardt struck 8 fours and a six in the first six overs to help her side to 53/0.

It was a fine fightback with the ball from the Warriorz after the powerplay as they picked up wickets at regular intervals to dent Giants' progress in the middle overs. The slide started with Wolvaardt getting stumped off Sophie Ecclestone's bowling, followed by Dayalan Hemalatha who was caught behind off



Chamari Athapaththu. It became 73/3 in the 11th over as Deepti accounted for Phoebe Litchfield. Mooney, who had meandered to 23 off 25, finally got going as she struck a six and a four off Ecclestone. Ash Gardner also got into the act, scooping a four off Athapaththu and pulling Rajeshwari Gayakwad for a six but the left-arm spinner had the last laugh. The Giants slipped to 105/5 in 15 overs when Deepti had Bharati Fulmali caught behind off a bottom edge. Kathryn Bryce struck a couple of boundaries but with only 118 on the board after 17 overs, the Giants really needed to get a move on - especially their captain who wasn't at her fluent best and was also not getting much strike in the death overs. To add to Giants' misery, Bryce was

dismissed by Ecclestone in the 18th over for a run-a-ball 11 and the England spinner also bagged the wicket of Tanuja Kanwar after Mooney was dropped in the same over. Only two runs came off the 18th before Mooney cut loose, hitting two successive fours off

the bowlers. Ecclestone, who had figures of 3-17 after her third, finished with 3-38. To go past Royal Challengers Bangalore's net run rate, the Warriorz needed to win the game in 13.2 overs or less - which, needless to say, required a strong start. Alyssa

Healy's first-ball four off Shakil promised some fireworks but things fell apart for UPW soon after. Healy's attempted loft off Shakil ended up with the bat turning and one hand coming off as she handed a catch to mid-off. Athapaththu also fell in the same over, miscuing a loft to see Gardner take a good catch running back from cover. Kiran Navgire's flat hit ended up as a low catch to mid-off, giving Bryce a wicket off her second ball as UPW slipped to 4/3. It became 16/4 in the fourth over when Gardner had Grace Harris caught off a pull. Deepti struck a couple of boundaries off Bryce but only 30 came in the powerplay for the Warriorz, leaving them with an uphill task. Shakil, who bowled her four overs at one go,