

Neither BJD Needs Alliance To Form Govt In Odisha, Nor Does BJP At Centre: Kartik Pandian

Bhubaneswar/New Delhi(KCN): "There is no need for a BJD-BJP alliance to win elections as Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik does not need BJP to win elections in Odisha, nor does Prime Minister Narendra Modi need BJD to form a government at the centre," said 5T Chairman Kartik Pandian.

In an interview with a news channel, Pandian said that both Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are very popular. "Undoubtedly, Naveen Patnaik is going to be the Chief Minister of Odisha for the sixth time and Narendra Modi is going to be the Prime Minister again," he said.

Speaking at the CNN News18, Rising Bharat Summit 2024 in Delhi, 5T & Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian said that one of the key reasons for Hon'ble CM Naveen Patnaik's success is that he doesn't think of politics as politics but as a public service. The Hon'ble CM is keeping politics away from public service and has dedicated his life to people's cause. Undoubtedly, he is a great soul," Pandian said.

The two leaders, CM Naveen and PM Modi, are thinking beyond politics for the development of the state and the country. Therefore, there is no electoral value in it, he said.

Pandian said, "Many



times, political parties conspire to win elections or to influence the electoral equation. But both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik do not need alliance to win elections."

"It means that neither BJD needs BJP to form government in Odisha nor

does BJP needs BJD to form government at the Centre," said the 5T Chairman. Current reports state that Narendra Modi will become the Prime Minister once again. Some things are above politics. Kartik Pandian said that in such a situation, the possibility of

an alliance is only a matter of two politicians. "If both come together for a great cause, it doesn't mean that there is any politics equation," he said and added that there are no electoral gains in this, either for BJP or BJD. "The Chief Minister wins three-fourths of the votes in every election due to his popularity. BJD won 95 per cent of the seats in the recently concluded panchayat elections. There is a close friendship between the two personalities. They have gone beyond politics and are concerned for the development of the nation. This is an example of a good relationship between the two leaders. Everything will be known, when it happens," Pandian said.

IMD issues Orange Warning for thunderstorm, lightning and hail alert for several Odisha districts

Bhubaneswar,(KCN):

Several parts of Odisha experienced light to moderate rainfall and thunderstorm activities in the past 24 hours. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday issued an 'orange warning' for thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 50-60 kmph and hail in some parts of Odisha in the next 24 hours.

As per IMD, the anti-cyclonic circulation lies over Westcentral and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha coast in lower tropospheric levels. Under its influence, scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall with isolated thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds is very likely over Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha during March 19-21 with possibility of hailstorm and squall (speed reaching 50-60 kmph) on March 19, 2024.

Orange Warning: Thunderstorm with lightning, and gusty surface wind speed reaching 50-60 kmph is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Gajapati, Ganjam, Khordha, Nayagarh, Puri, Heavy rainfall (7cm to 11cm) at one or two places likely over districts of Khordha, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack and Nayagarh.

Melanistic Leopard With Twin Cubs Sighted In Dense Forests Of Odisha



Bhubaneswar(KCN): In the forests of Central Odisha, a female melanistic leopard with twin cubs, one of which is normal and the other is melanistic, has been spotted.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) (Wildlife) Susanta Nanda shared this news on Monday in a post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

According to Nanda, these majestic animals have been captured on camera traps in the dense forests of Central Odisha.

Citizenship Amendment Act: SC declines to pass interim order staying implementation

New Delhi,(KCN): The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to pass any interim order staying the implementation of the rules notified by the Union Home Ministry under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Emphasising that the Union government must be given a reasonable time to respond to the interlocutory applications challenging the introduction of 2024 Citizenship Amendment Rules, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud,

posted the matter for further hearing on April 9.

The Bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, refused to pass any direction subjecting grant of citizenship under the impugned law to the outcome of the petitions challenging the validity of CAA.

Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, pleaded that the impugned law does not take away but grants citizenship and hence, no prejudice must

be caused to the petitioners on implementation of the CAA. Referring to the multiple applications filed seeking stay on implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Rules. "The problem is if somebody gets citizenship, it will be irreversible to reverse it and these petitions (challenging CAA) will get infructuous," Sibal argued. He reiterated that the top court in 2019 did not pass any stay order on implementation of the

time may be allowed for filing of reply.

On the other hand, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing on behalf of the petitioners, strongly pressed for a stay on implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Rules.

In its application, Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) stated the rules notified under CAA are manifestly arbitrary and created an unfair advantage in favour of a class of persons on the ground solely of their religious identity, which is impermissible under Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution.

Two youths die as bike falls off bridge in Odisha's Gajapati

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): As many as two youths were killed after their bike hit the wall of a bridge and fell off it in the R Udayagiri area of Gajapati district on Tuesday. The accident took place near Dumba Park under R Udayagiri

block. The deceased were identified as Mantu Pal and Tukuna Singh of Chheligada village. As per reports, Mantu and Tukuna were friends. They worked outside the state and recently came back to the village. They

were returning on the bike to their village. While negotiating a turn on the road, the biker lost control of the vehicle which later hit the protective wall of the bridge. The two along with the bike crashed down from the bridge.

One of them died on the spot while the other was critically injured.

Local people rescued the injured and rushed him to the Chandragiri Community Health Centre (CHC) where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Police visited the

hospital and seized the bodies for post-mortem. An investigation into the matter was launched. As per local residents, the bike fell from a 15-ft height and the place where the accident took place is a mishap-prone spot.

Sukhbir Badal demands resignation of all 5 AAP ministers contesting Lok Sabha elections

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN):

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal Monday demanded resignation of all the five Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ministers, who had been earmarked to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, from their ministries immediately in the interest of public welfare as State cannot afford paralysis in governance due to absence of the ministers from their offices for 2.5 months. Seeing a phenomenal reception in both Bhuch Mandi and Bathinda Urban

assembly constituencies as part of the party's Punjab Bachao Yatra, the SAD president, said, "The State cannot afford paralysis in governance due to the absence of these ministers from their offices for the next two and a half months. Also, as key ministries including Agriculture, Health and Transport are involved the ministers – Dr Balbir Singh, Gurmeet Singh Khurdi, Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer, Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal and Lalit Singh Bhullar should resign from their posts immediately". Speaking about the AAP's decision to field



five ministers, Badal said, "AAP knows that it has lost political ground in the State after betraying each and every section of society. Now it has fallen back on fielding ministers in a desperate gambit to intimidate voters to secure their votes".

Asking Punjabis not to be daunted by such tactics, Mr Badal said "people should ask these ministers what they have done to better the lot of the common man in the last two years". He said all the ministers had failed in their duty citing

how the agriculture minister had failed to ensure compensation for damaged crops to farmers. He said similarly the health minister was party to destruction of the rural health infrastructure by removing doctors and

staff from the centres. Speaking about the Punjab Bachao Yatra, Mr Badal thanked Punjabis for turning it into a storm. "This storm is sweeping across Punjab and will result in uprooting AAP from Punjab. The SAD is on its way to sweeping the State by winning all 13 Lok Sabha seats". He also detailed how both the Congress and AAP had destroyed Punjab and its economy during the last seven years. "The Congress did not undertake a single infrastructure project during its five-year tenure. The current AAP government has bankrupted the State by

taking on a debt of Rs one lakh crore, much of which has been spent on spreading the wings of the party in other States". Stating that the SAD represented the aspirations of Punjabis and had always worked to fulfil them, Mr Badal said that the former chief minister Parkash Singh Badal held Sangat Darshan programmes at your doorsteps to ensure your grievances were resolved on the spot. Bibi Harsimrat Kaur has done yeoman service in the area and brought the prestigious AIIMS institute to Bathinda besides a Central

University in the area. "You have witnessed how Bathinda and the entire parliamentary constituency was transformed into a model constituency during SAD tenure with world class roads, bridges and other infrastructure coming up in the constituency. It is a shame that all development work has been stopped during the last seven years. Let us now unite to bring back to era of development by voting out AAP first in the Lok Sabha and then in the assembly elections", the SAD president added.

Women Power's Essence, Excellence and Ebullience Supreme

World Odisha Society Hosts Third Shakti Utsava

New Delhi, (KCN): The essence, excellence and ebullience of Women's power are supreme, opined eminent personalities. Attending Third Shakti Utsava hosted by World Odisha Society (WOS) to commemorate International Women's Day Honourable speakers highlighted on the speciality of Women's fraternity in the society. Organised in hybrid mode, the Festival was attended by members of WOS, leading Non-Resident Odias and representatives of Odia Samaj's from different States of India and many countries of the World. While the main Function was held at Ghaziabad in National Capital Region, hundreds of Global Odias joined in the online celebration through digital networking.

Addressing the Meeting as distinguished Guest, Convenor of WOS's

Editor of Sambad Tanaya Patnaik lauded the role of World Odisha Society to unite Odia Diaspora worldwide under one platform. Observing that the current century belongs to Women, Smt Patnaik gave a clarion call to provide all possible patronisation for the emancipation of women community in the Society. Welcoming the gathering Chairman of WOS Kishore Dwivedi mentioned that since the women are capable of excelling from earth to space, they epitomise fulsome and ultimate energy. Expressing her grave concern over the shabby treatment meted to women branding them as consumable commodities WOS's Founder Dr Arundhati Debi appealed to one and all for treating them with dignity and decency. Convenor of WOS's

Women's Empowerment Committee Subhasmita Mishra emphasised on the protection of Women's Constitutional and legal rights in true letter and spirit. Presenting her address President of WOS's Women's wing Dr Sunanda Mishra Panda underlined that the

superiority of womenhood have been amply proved ages after ages.

Renowned Social activist and General Secretary of WOS's Women's wing Dr Chidatmika Khatua was conferred First Maha Nari Samman for her outstanding contributions in the

allround wellbeing of Women's race all over the world. Accepting the honour Dr Khatua expressed her gratitude to WOS for the coveted title and declared that her mission of empowering women will be more focussed and fierceful in

the future. Talented young fashion designer Priyanka Jena, reputed Chartered Accountant Sudhir Dash and Senior Bureaucrat Dr Debendra Majhi were felicitated by WOS for their meritorious services. WOS's New

Delhi and NCR Branch's Chief Co-Ordinator Umakant Jena proposed vote of thanks. Celebrated Instant Poet Kulamani Biswal and famous poetess Laxmipriya Das enthralled the audiences with their poetry recitals. The noted story teller Dr Madhusmita Mishra left the listeners spellbound by reading out her small story, entitled 'Anindita' in an amazing manner. The special attraction of the Mega Event was scintillating singing session by Sudhir Dash, Sudha Kalra, Shobha Narang and Monika Choudhury.

Ace Anchor Banojini Nayak from USA conducted the entire programme in a smooth and seamless manner. Nandan Dwivedi handled the digital control room ably.

Others who participated in the deliberation include Alpana Patnaik, Ajay Kumar Das, Dr Debendra Majhi and Reeta Patra. Prominent personalities present include Dr Nalini Pati, Siba Ranjan Biswal, Akshay Mohanty, Yashodhara Mishra, Dilip Mohanty, Pushpanjali Barik, Pravati Panigrahi, Shribani Mohanty, Lili Jenamani, Manoranjan Mohanty, Prabodh Samantara, Dr Sarojini Pani, Dr Sagar Ranjan Tripathy, Subas Sahoo, Sanjay Rai, Rajni Kant Mishra, Jnana Prakash Jena, Professor Srinibas Pathi, Surender Singh Dogra, Nivedita Giri, Sanatan Mahakud, Barada Prasanna Das, Dr Jyotirmayee Tripathy, Alok Panda, Biraja Mohapatra, Acharya Abhimanyu and Lalit Kumar Pradhan.



KIMS Doctor Saves Life Mid-Air on Air India Flight



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In a remarkable display of quick thinking and medical expertise, Dr. Ashok Kumar Badamali, senior consultant in Cardiac Anesthesia at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Bhubaneswar, saved the life of a fellow passenger aboard Air India Express flight I5 764 enroute from New Delhi to Pune.

The incident, which unfolded in the early hours of the morning, began when the cabin crew, led by Mr. Saurav, made an urgent

announcement requesting the assistance of any onboard paramedics or nursing personnel due to a medical emergency. A middle-aged woman was found unresponsive

in her seat, prompting immediate action. Dr. Badamali, who was traveling to Pune for research activities, promptly responded to the call for help. The patient was moved to the floor of the aircraft to facilitate resuscitation efforts. Upon examination, Dr. Badamali found the patient to be unresponsive, and exhibiting agonal breathing, with an extremely fast carotid pulse. Utilizing his expertise in cardiac emergencies, he performed a carotid

massage that proved to be life-saving. Under Dr. Badamali's careful management, the patient was placed in the recovery position and remained stable until the flight successfully landed at Pune International Airport. The pilot of the flight, Mr. Rahul, along with crew members Mr. Saurav and Miss Puja, expressed their gratitude to Dr. Badamali for his timely and decisive action. Dr Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT, KISS, and KIMS also thanked Dr. Badamali for his service.

CISF Unit BGTPP Bongaigaon Clinches best nationwide Fire Unit Trophy



Bhilai, (KCN): The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Unit of NTPC Bongaigaon has been awarded the prestigious Best Fire Unit trophy among 114 units on a pan-India basis. The recognition was presented to Shri M.S. Kandari, Assistant

Commandant Fire, by Smt. Nena Singh, DG CISF, during the 55th CISF Raising Day 2024 at RTC Bhilai. This accolade acknowledges the exceptional dedication and proficiency demonstrated by CISF Unit of NTPC Bongaigaon in ensuring

fire safety and security measures. The unit's unwavering commitment to excellence reflects its relentless efforts in upholding the highest standards of professionalism and efficiency. The recognition not only honors the unit personnel but also highlights the

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Youth Killed In Lightning Strike In Nuapada Village



Nuapada (KCN): A youth was killed in a lightning strike on Tuesday in Jhanjimunda village under Nuapada police station. The deceased has been identified as Hemsingh Majhi, 33, of Jhanjimunda village.

According to information,

Hemsingh Majhi had his brick kiln near a pond in Limapada, Jhanjimunda. Due to bad weather, he was taking tarpaulin with him to protect the brick kiln from the rain. Suddenly the lightning struck him causing his death, on the spot. After finding his dead body

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'Vedaa' teaser out: John Abraham, Sharvari Wagh promise riveting action-thriller



The teaser of the much-awaited action-packed film, 'Vedaa' is finally out. It gives a glimpse into the intense showdown between John Abraham and Abhishek Banerjee. Other than the two, Sharvari Wagh shines while promising an electrifying cinematic experience.

'Vedaa' directed by Nikkhil Advani, is scheduled to release in theatres on July 12. In this adrenaline-fueled thriller, John Abraham takes on the role of the steadfast protagonist, pitted against Abhishek Banerjee's compelling portrayal of an enigmatic antagonist.

The video gives a view of the epic clash between John and Abhishek. However, the main highlight of the

teaser remains Sharvari, who stuns all with her action-packed performances. Along with John by her side, Sharvari is sure to

impress viewers with her new avatar while leaving the viewers on the edge of their seats. Going by the teaser, 'Vedaa'

has skyrocketed, leaving fans eagerly awaiting its release. Other than the names mentioned above, Tamannah Bhatia will also be seen playing a

special role in the forthcoming film.

John shared the teaser on Instagram and wrote, "Jhagadna nahi aata mujhe, sirf jung ladni aati hai! (I don't know how to fight, I only know war) #VedaaTeaserOutNowReleasing in cinemas on 12th July (sic)." The film promises to deliver an immersive cinematic experience, blending heart-pounding action with gripping storytelling. As excitement mounts, fans are excited to witness the spectacular experience on the big screen. Directed by Nikkhil Advani, 'Vedaa' will hit the theatres on July 12.

Salman Khan teaches democracy to Indians (and Pakistanis) in Tiger 3. Let that sink in



The flat in question is located in the Tulsiani Golf View project in the Sushant Golf City area of Lucknow.

The buyer alleges that Gauri Khan's promotion of the project influenced his decision to buy the flat. She's considered among one of the best interior designers in Bollywood and has decorated the houses of many celebrities like Sidharth Malhotra, Farah Khan, Ranbir Kapoor and Jacqueline Fernandez, among others.

This FIR against Gauri comes at a time when her husband Shah Rukh has been basking in the success of his recent blockbuster 'Pathaan'. Helmed by Siddharth Anand, the action-packed movie breached the Rs 500 crore net in Hindi within a month of its release and has crossed the Rs 1000 crore worldwide.

What if someone told you that the latest Salman Khan actioner can give you a ready reckoner on why democracy is better than dictatorship? Maneesh Sharma's Tiger 3 is not just the popcorn-and-patriotism entertainer you always expected it to be, the latest Bhai film also expounds the idea that democracy needs to be protected against people who declare themselves to be the sole custodians of the country, making you hopeful for the future of Indian movies. For many decades now, star-driven action films in India have been all about seeking revenge. It could be for the death of the hero's beloved, or any other woman; it could be some childhood trauma that has scarred him for life and he is now looking for comeuppance; or, it could be all about seeking retribution for one's country. The last one has been frequently revisited in our films and has appealed to the masses. The idea of patriotism, however, has changed a fair bit in our movies and in 2023, this was particularly evident. The year started with Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan where a Pakistani agent, played by Deepika Padukone, had the crowd cheering for her when she joined forces with SRK's Indian agent to save humanity. A few months later, in Jawan, Shah Rukh gave a rousing monologue where he spoke directly to his fans about the importance of voting for the right candidate. The film did not shy away from taking shots at the corrupt troika of bureaucracy, politics and business. And the year ended with Salman Khan in Tiger 3 where his main mission was to save Pakistan from the evils of dictatorship.

Tiger 3 is an Indian film with an Indian hero at the center of its story but strangely enough, India has no stake in the story of this film. The many times when Tiger is asked as to why he cares about what's happening in Pakistan, he comes up with a rather flimsy excuse, a reason he repeats many times in the film. It makes you wonder why Maneesh and Salman zeroed in on this subject for the third Tiger installment. In the film, the protagonist asks his crew, who are stand-ins for the audience, a question that immediately tells you about the central idea of this film. 'Democracy or dictatorship?' asks Tiger and his crew responds in unison, 'democracy.'

It is a rather strong statement when one of the most successful movie producing studios in the country decides to make a film where a choice as simple as this, at least for Indians who have been living in a democracy for over 75 years, needs to be reminded to the audience. The makers actually had to spell out why the need to have fair elections is essential and why democracy is better than having a dictator, the villain of this story, who might pretend to have good intentions. They underline that complete control in the hands of one person can't be good for the health of a nation.

SRK's wife Gauri Khan in legal trouble as FIR registered against her over property issue



registered at the Sushant Golf City police station in Lucknow.

The managing director of Tulsiani Construction and Development Limited, Anil Kumar Tulsiani, the director, Mahesh Tulsiani, and the brand ambassador, Gauri Khan, have all been named in the FIR.

They have been accused of not delivering a flat to a buyer even after receiving payment of approximately Rs 86 lakhs.

Kirat Jaswant Shah, a resident of Mumbai, has filed the complaint, claiming that he had paid the entire amount for the flat, but had not been handed over possession.

Sara Ali Khan In Delhi To Shoot For 'Murder Mubarak', To Share Screen With Karisma Kapoor



Actress Sara Ali Khan is currently in Delhi for the shoot of her film 'Murder Mubarak'. Taking to Instagram, Sara dropped a video from the sets. In the video, she is seen giving a close-up of the sunset. We can also see a woman holding the film's clapperboard.

"All my favourite things... Delhi-Heart of India," she simply captioned the post. Homi Adajania is directing the film. Sara will be seen sharing screen space with Karisma Kapoor in the film.

A few days ago, Karisma shared the clapperboard from the movie set on her Instagram feed. The film is directed by 'Cocktail' fame Homi Adajania. She has not divulged much details

about the movie. Besides 'Murder Mubarak', fans will see Karisma in the upcoming drama series Brown, directed by Abhinay Deo.

Backed by Zee Studios, the noir show is based on the book the City of Death by Abheek Barua. Brown revolves around Rita Brown, an alcoholic cop, who forms an

unlikely alliance with a widower with survivor's guilt to solve the murder of a young girl. Brown also features Helen, Soni Razdan, Surya Sharma, and K Raina, among others. Speaking of Sara's other projects, she will be seen in director Laxman Utekar's next untitled romantic

drama film alongside actor Vicky Kaushal.

Kashmir rubbing shoulders with Goa



believed that well being Kashmiri population will move to Goa sea beaches for their holidays.

Now, Kashmir is coming closer to Goa known for its beautiful beaches. Many would not believe their eyes and ears. But it is a reality, though unbelievable at the first instance. Thousands of people from Kashmir valley visiting Goa also underlines that the two states are coming closer.

Both are equally popular. These two are among the states which are the best tourist destinations not only in India but also in the world. Goans have been going to Kashmir to spend holidays for a long time, but until a few years ago such a thing was unthinkable for Kashmiris. However, the situation changed rapidly and people of the valley are going to Goa in large numbers to spend holidays. Those traveling in Delhi-Goa flight can easily see this

welcome change. If you have ever travelled to Goa from the capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport in recent times, you must have seen Kashmiris going to Goa with their families. This also confirms that the situation in Kashmir, which was once turbulent, is now different. During his recent visit to Srinagar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also said that and more. Kashmir is changing economically too.

The warmth with which the people of Kashmir welcomed him was unimaginable till a few years ago. "I am working hard to win your hearts," the Prime Minister had said at a rally held at Bakshi Maidan in Srinagar. The main reason behind Kashmiris going to Goa for holidays is the peace. Since there is no direct flight from Srinagar to Goa, Kashmiris have to go to Delhi first. From Delhi they will have to take a flight to

Goa. When there is bone-chilling cold in Kashmir, they begin journey to Goa. Kashmiris like to visit the sea-facing

peace along with development. They consider Goa as a place to relax. Secondly, Kashmiri tourists will be found

operator will benefit from the scheme. Although tourists keep coming to Goa throughout the year, the influx is more

meetings were held in Goa under G-20 summit. Goa also hosted an important event, G-20 ministers meet focused on tourism. The event symbolized the unification of international leaders and policy makers engaged in discussions on global economic matters.

Like foreign tourists, Kashmiris love the bright sunshine when their own place is cloudy and chilly. Russian tourists also visit Goa in large numbers every year. When it is summer in Goa, it is severe winter in that country, a reason enough to make a beeline. Several restaurants and stores have written names in Russian to draw their attention.

Above all is the access which is easier. The Goa government deserves a part for it. The tourism sector plays a major role in shaping the destiny of a state. The sooner the other states realize it, the better.

(The writer is a senior Editor, columnist and former MP)



city from November to January. It has an inclusive society.

Bigger crowds can be easily seen on beaches like Calangute, Baga Anjuna and Candolim. If you talk to Kashmiri tourists in Goa they would tell you two things.

First, they were tired of the long period of unrest in the valley. Now as things are getting better in their state, they are experiencing

praising Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant for one reason----efforts made by the Goa government to promote tourism and provide more facilities and safety to tourists. This is a big compliment to the Goa government.

The Chief Minister has something more up his sleeves. He has some new proposals for "quality tourists". Everyone from hotel owner to taxi

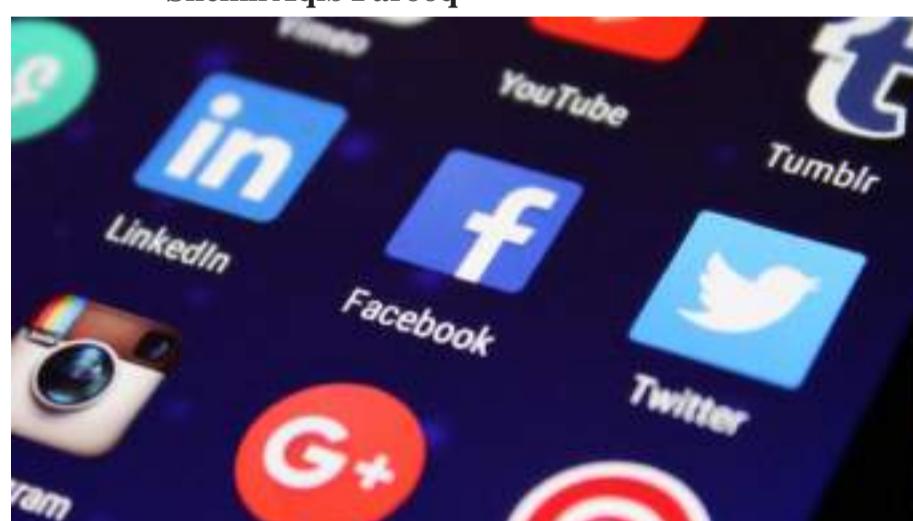
from the first week of October and it is during Christmas, New Year et al, that peak is reached. The arrival of tourists continues till the month of May. Every year about 80 lakh tourists visit Goa. Among them are a large number of foreign tourists. There is no doubt that the last year i.e. 2023 proved to be very important in the development journey of Goa. Because of that many important

There is much in store for the Indian tourism industry. It can expect a boom for two reasons. First, growing popularity of Kashmir and Goa both the tourist destinations. Second, the Pran-Pratishtha of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya which has become a great religious tourist destination not only in India but in the entire world. It is on the dotted lines. Religion attracts people all over the world.

But no one had believed a decade ago that ice-clad Kashmir in winter will become a big tourist attraction. The valley had become a terrorists hide-out. Stone -pelting and firing of gunshots had become a common every day feature. All that is past. In less than ten years everything has changed. No one also

Boosting the popularity of social media posts

Sheikh Aqib Farooq



fade into obscurity. Driven by this curiosity Wang, her colleague Yiwei Zhang and their supervisor, Associate Professor Toshihiko Yamashaki, investigated the relationship between social media content, the tags attached to content and the people who post it.

"It is well-known in our field that tags for social media posts are important," explained Wang.

"It's also known that the nature of these tags, and the relative popularity of the user in question, can impact the popularity of a post -- for example the number of views. What I wanted to do was come up with a system to recommend suitable tags for your posts that would

achieve notoriety or

improve their popularity."

This is far easier said than done. Computers are exceptional at precisely defined mathematical tasks; however, some of the social concepts explored by the researchers, such as a user's popularity, are too vague for a computer to process directly.

Wang and team had to carefully define every aspect of the problem in mathematical terms for an algorithm to be possible.

"We had 60,000 publicly

available images with tags, number of views and associated user data from photography website Flickr to experiment with," continued Wang.

"That gave us enough source data to make a system to score different user and image details, and assign numerical values to things. This meant we could perform different functions on the data."

Wang and team used this

data to rank the effective

success of a specific tag in contributing to the images view count.

Essentially, successful tags were recommended by this process that resulted in a 20-percent boost to the popularity of a post.

But what sets their approach apart from others is that it takes into account who created the post.

The system cleverly

imitates the tagging

behavior of people with

high social popularity

scores to recommend

effective tags.

"The algorithm is called the 'user-aware folk popularity rank' and it is the first of its kind to be,

as the name suggests, aware of the user in how it recommends tags," said Wang.

"We see from our results that carefully selected tags which express emotional impressions rather than just literal representations of the image content will be more effective. But all the tags the system produces are from an existing pool and it would be good to grow our system so it can generate new ideas."

Author is a stands as a multifaceted professional with a wealth of experience in skill development, civil service training, and the art of commentary. His contributions have not only empowered individuals but have also enriched the intellectual discourse in the spheres he has engaged with.

Letter to Editor

Dear Sir,
WPL on the Rise

The boost to women's cricket in India arrived in last year with the WPL auction, which saw winning bids surpassing other women's leagues and Indian leagues across sports. Before this year season, the focus was on delivering cricket of quality to engage audiences, which proved successful. This year final, where RCB secured their inaugural title, attracted over fifty thousand fans in Delhi, a remarkable turnout. WPL is believed to have achieved record viewership for any women's event globally. This success holds significant implications for Indian cricket, akin to the transformative impact of the IPL. Just as IPL propelled India into a cricket powerhouse, WPL is poised to do the same for women's cricket, creating opportunities and enhancing the sport's infrastructure and global presence. Anticipation for the future is palpable.

Vijaykumar H K
Raichur, Karnataka

Sir
Its really delightful to know that our own sandwich, the tasty, spicy and crispy Vada pav has figured on the list of top 50 best sandwiches in the world. According to Taste Atlas, a global travel and food guide Vada pav, the most popular street food and synonymous with Mumbai ranks 19th along with other popular sandwiches like Vietnam's banh mi, Turkey's tombik doner, Lebanon's shawarma, Mexico's tortas, and United states lobster roll and others .

Mumbai's own vadapav the crispy and deep-fried potato ball stuffed between two pav or white buns served with a hot red chutney with coconut, peanuts, garlic, tamarind, and chillies is said to be the creation of a vendor Ashok Vaidya, who worked near the Dadar train station in the 1960s , made this tasty affordable, and easy to prepare dish to satiate hungry commuters and the commoners. This vegetarian sandwich, the common street food for the rich and the poor has definitely made the already famous Indian culinary more popular globally.

M Pradyu
Kannur
Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.

CEO SSCL/Commissioner SMC Reviews Progress of Smart City Projects in Downtown, Srinagar



Srinagar (Aasif Malik): Dr. Owais Ahmed IAS, the CEO, S S C L / Commissioner SMC, conducted an extensive review of the ongoing smart city projects in Downtown, Srinagar. Accompanied by Senior Officers from SMC, Srinagar Smart City and Allied Departments CEO, SSCL closely examined the

personally assessed the progress achieved at various project sites during a thorough inspection. The primary objective of the visit was to evaluate the current status of the smart city projects in Downtown, ensuring that they are on track for timely completion. During the review, CEO, SSCL closely examined the

developments at each project site and engaged with officials to address any challenges or bottlenecks hindering progress.

CEO emphasized the importance of effective coordination among all stakeholders involved to ensure seamless execution and timely completion of the projects.

India Post celebrated its unique heritage on River Ganga



Kolkata (Partha Roy): Kolkata GPO is celebrating its establishment of 250 years of historical journey from 14th-19th March 2024. As a part of celebration, an unique initiative of releasing a Boat Carried Special Cover was organised on 18th March 2024 on River Ganga flowing between Kolkata on one side and Howrah on other side. A Carried Cover is a type of special philatelic cover which is carried from one destination to another destination in commemoration of

some special event. A Boat Carried Cover on "River Mail" was initiated from Howrah Railway Station Post Office (at the river side) and carried by a Harkara on a boat travelling on River Hooghly from Howrah to Dakshineswar and then to Fairlie Place Jetty. The Special Cover was cancelled at all three locations by Chief Post Master General of West Bengal Circle Shri Niraj Kumar in presence of Chief Guest-Arjuna awardee woman swimmer Padmashri

Smt. Bula Choudhury and eminent international swimmer Shri Sanjiv Chakraborty and three Post Master Generals-Shri Sanjiv Ranjan (Kolkata Region), Shri Supriyo Ghosh (Mails & BD), Smt. Shashi Shalini Kujur (South Bengal Region). Centuries ago, mails from different areas of the world used to come by ships to Khejuri port in Midnapur district, then redistributed and sent to onward journey by boats to the addressees to different parts of Bengal and some other regions of India.

ICAR CIFRI organizes artificial breeding of prized Hilsa in river Ganga under NamamiGange programme

Kolkata (KCN): The Ganga River is the abode for many significant commercially important fish species and Hilsa (Tenualosailisha) is one of them. But nowadays there have been concerns about the declining of its population in Ganga due to various factors such as over fishing, habitat degradation, pollution, changes in river flow pattern, manmade Dams and barrages. Several reports and studies have highlighted regularly about the declining trend of this

week this year and successful wild bred on board using the stripping method at Godakhali (12.3 lakh eggs) and simultaneously was held in Farakka, Murshidabad (1.6 lakh eggs and 40000 Hilsa spawn) also. To enhance the stock of Hilsa population and support the livelihood of local fishermen, the ranching was performed at the upstream of Farakka barrage with those artificially bred 13.9 lakh hilsa eggs and 40000 spawn in the river Ganga, in different suitable place at Rajmahal, Jharkhand, Baluga and Gaziapur Malda, West Bengal to protect it from strong currents and human interference.

Additional Secretary, MoC, Government of India visits NTPC Ramagundam & Telangana

Peddapalli, (KCN): Additional Secretary, MoC, Government of India Vismita Tej visited Ramagundam and Telangana on Monday. Visiting the Telangana STPP control room, Vismita Tej interacted with the Operation executives and young ETs followed by a visit to Telangana boiler. She took an aerial view of various systems from 93mtr. Later she visited RSTPS trackhopper and discussed the unloading issues with the Coal handling executives followed by her visit to 100 MW Floating Solar was pleasant and was hugely



appreciated. Addressing the gathering in an interaction meeting with Sr officials of NTPC and SCCL, Vismita Tej addressed the gathering and enlightened with the scenario of coal availability, evacuation and logistics and urged both NTPC and SCCL to collaborate more closely and create a win-win situation for both.

Director Operations, SCCL NVK Srinivas, ED-FM, NTPC Pradip Kumar Mishra, ED (R&T) Kedar Ranjan Pandu, GMs and senior officers of NTPC accompanied Vismita Tej during her visit.

COAST GUARD CONDUCTS XVIth TECHNICAL LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AT KOLKATA



Kolkata, (KCN): The XVIth Indian Coast Guard Technical and Logistics Management Conference (TLMC) was inaugurated by Director General Rakesh Pal, DGICG today at Kolkata. The three day annual conference was attended by Deputy Director General (M&M), Commander Coast Guard Region North East and senior technical and logistics officers & policymakers

of Indian Coast Guard from across the country. The TLMC is aimed at improving the effectiveness of technical and logistics support to the ICG fleet of ships and crafts and to bring together key stakeholders, Shipyards, OEM, PAC and industry leaders to deliberate on pressing issues and advancements in the Coast Guard fleet maintenance domain. Brainstorming sessions

on various topics would cover maintenance issues, challenges faced by the fleet, logistics imperatives with special attention to enhance indigenous content along the lines of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Deliberations and discussions on a comprehensive roadmap for future integration of technological advancements and logistical innovations into the operational

Kolkata student scores All India GATE Rank 43 dreams to be a Bioprocess Engineer from IIT Madras



Kolkata, (KCN): Proud to state that Aishee Chakraborty from B.Tech-Biotechnology, 4th year, Heritage Institute of Technology secured an All India Rank of 43 in GATE 2024 in the area of Biotechnology.

More than 8 lakh students applied for GATE 2024 and around 6.8 lakh students appeared for this exam. Around 1 lakh students have qualified which is 18 percent of the students appeared.

"I have given my hard work in this exam, and the rank which I have secured makes me feel proud. I thank my faculty members who have helped me a lot. I want to pursue higher studies in M.Tech- Bioprocess Engineering at IIT, Madras," said Aishee.

"Aishee had made us proud and she is always good in studies," said Prof. Srabanti Basu, Head of the Department, Biotechnology, Heritage Institute of Technology.

"Worthless": Ajit Pawar Scolded By Older Brother For Leaving Uncle Sharad



New Delhi (KCN): Ajit Pawar may be Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister, but that hasn't stopped his brother - Shrinivas Pawar - from exercising an elder sibling's privilege, a stern rebuke, ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

A video of Mr Pawar's scolding has been shared online. In it, Shrinivas Pawar distances himself from his brother and labels him "nalaik", or "worthless". He also accuses him of abandoning their uncle, Sharad Pawar, when the veteran politician needed him the most. "It is my personal opinion there can be no more worthless person than him (Ajit Pawar)," Mr Pawar told reporters.

Not insignificantly, the jabs came as he visited a temple in Maharashtra's Baramati, which is the family stronghold; Sharad Pawar is a six-time MP from this seat, including four consecutive wins between 1996 and 2004. The seat has been held by his daughter, Supriya Sule, since. In the 2024 election Ms Sule will likely face-off against Ajit Pawar's wife

Sunetra. "I followed Ajit all the time... in all situations. I supported decisions and never questioned him. Many people know me here (Baramati)... I grew up here. When Ajit and I had a discussion, I told him, 'you keep contesting Baramati as MLA and leave Lok Sabha under Pawar saheb's leadership... as we are grateful to him for various things he did for us. I didn't feel good about leaving him alone at 83.'" Pawar senior also said the 83-year-old Sharad Pawar had done a lot for the family.

"Some of our friends told me the future lies with Ajit instead of Sharad... but this thought was very painful. (I don't) want to

leave a person in their old age... a person who can benefit us. In my personal view, if someone thinks in such a way, he is an incompetent person," he declared

Shrinivas Pawar wasn't done yet. He also accused Ajit of standing on the shoulder of their uncle for political gain, and then casting him aside, and then appeared to signal a break with his brother.

"This is like removing the owner of a house after getting ownership of the land. We all know whoever got positions in politics... it was because of Sharad Pawar. Like medicines (which have an expiry date) some relationships also expire. I am 60... I can't live under pressure," he said.

Shrinivas Pawar's broadside at his brother was a stinging one, but it was unlikely that it was an unexpected one; last month the Deputy Chief Minister said, "My entire family will now be against me. They will campaign against me... but my workers are my family now."

This particular Pawar versus Pawar squabble comes as Ajit Pawar's faction faced a setback in the Supreme Court in a battle for the undivided NCP's clock symbol. It, and the NCP name, was given to Ajit Pawar by the Election Commission, but the Sharad Pawar camp has challenged that award. The court has, for now, said the Ajit Pawar camp gets the symbol, but only with

suitable disclaimers in all instances of use. The court also questioned the poll panel's recognition of the Ajit Pawar camp as the "real" NCP, just as it recognised Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Sena as the "real Shiv Sena".

In July last year, Pawar junior forced a break within the Nationalist Congress Party founded and led by Sharad Pawar; Ajit Pawar led 40+ MLAs into the waiting arms of the Bharatiya Janata Party, strengthening the BJP-Shinde Shiv Sena faction's control of the Maharashtra government.

Since then, uncle and nephew have traded barbs. In January, Ajit Pawar attacked Sharad Pawar for not stepping down as the party boss, as he had promised. "Some do not retire..." he declared.

The Pawar family split also compounded the problems of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, a mismatched (on the face of it) alliance between the Congress, the NCP and the Shiv Sena group led by ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, which went through its own civil war almost exactly one year earlier.

'Is this development?' Neglected Odisha village threatens poll boycott

CUTTACK (KCN): Development has been a mirage for the villagers of Bondal under the Tangi-Choudwar block of Cuttack district. Only 20 kilometres away from a town, Bondal village is inhabited by some 80 families. For the villagers, basic amenities are a distant dream, let alone the government schemes that seem to have made a detour to the village. With no motorable road, an ambulance can't come to the village. Shifting a patient or a woman in labour to the hospital is always a herculean task for the villagers. There are instances when serious patients were shifted on

motorcycles. About the drinking water facility, the least said the better. There is only one tube well in the village to meet the requirements of 80 families, forcing villagers to use water from a pond. The wait for a pucca house seems unending. Hema Mallick and Sanatan Mallick are two eligible beneficiaries for a pucca house but they are yet to receive them. For a house, they have requested administrative officials to the local MLA, but to no avail. In 2020, Sanatan Mallick received the work order for his house. Meanwhile, four years have passed, and nothing has progressed.



The villagers' pent-up anger may find an outlet this election as they are determined to boycott polls. "Six to seven years have passed since Cyclone Fani pulled down my house. I am still living in a dilapidated house. Is this the real picture of development?" rued Sanatan.

"In the absence of a road, neither ambulance nor fire tenders can reach our village. We experience a lot of difficulties when we have to shift a patient to hospital or when a house catches fire," said Abhisekh Mallick, a villager.

"When the election comes, leaders make a beeline with a list of promises. But after the election, they forget us. This time, we won't cast votes," said Mitu Mallick, a villager.

When contacted, Tangi-Choudwar BDO Hemanta Kumar Mohanta said, "After an enquiry, we will take appropriate steps."

SRC On Contingency Plan

Bhubaneswar (KCN): As the General Elections 2024 is going to be held in sunny May, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) ACS Satyabrata Sahu has asked all Collectors to prepare a contingency plan for smooth conduct of the twin elections.

Writing a letter to all Collectors, the SRC Shri Sahu said General Elections, 2024 has been declared by the Election Commission of India. During this period, there may be extreme heat wave conditions which challenge health and conduct of elections.

The IMD has issued seasonal outlook on temperature and rainfall for hot weather season during March to May, 2024. The maximum temperature is most likely to prevail over most of the parts of the State, ACS Shri Sahu said.

Similarly, the IMD has been issuing daily



bulletins during the Summer Season. He asked the Collectors to follow these bulletins daily for appropriate actions. They have been requested to take mitigation, preparedness and response measures. "Heat wave mitigation measures involve multi-sectoral and multi-

dimensional administrative approach such as provisioning of drinking water, temporary shelter, rescheduling of working hours, rescheduling of timing of schools/ public educational institutions and providing better medical emergency services and public

health, etc. to reduce the negative impact of extreme heat wave conditions," the SRC noted.

As it is an election year, several rallies are going to be held. So, the collectors were instructed to take proactive measures with the help of concerned line Departments.

SRC Shri Sahu directed the Collectors to follow the detailed instructions that had been communicated in February on preparedness and precautionary measures to be taken in view of the Heat wave conditions, 2024. "Your personal attention is highly required for effective heat wave management in your district. Any untoward situation shall be brought before the undersigned for immediate intervention," he wrote to the Collectors.

BJD Holds Poll Talk



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Amid speculations over its pre-poll alliance with BJP, the Governing BJD today formally started holding meetings for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the State. BJD President and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik held two different meetings with the MLAs and senior leaders of Puri and Kendrapara Lok Sabha constituencies at Naveen Niwas on Monday.

Senior BJD leaders including Arun Sahoo, Rudra Mahathy, Sanjay Das Burma, Uma Samantaray, and Satyanarayana

Pradhan attended the Puri Lok Sabha segment which was held in the morning. However, Puri MP Pinaki Misra has remained absent in the meeting, which raises many questions.

Speaking to media persons, Sahoo said the schedule for simultaneous election in Odisha was announced and Model Code of Conduct has been enforced.

The Chief Minister called a meeting and discussed the organizational situation of Puri parliamentary constituency today. The Chief Minister has asked to strengthen

the BJD in all Assembly constituencies under Puri MP seat, he said. The BJD boss has also asked to expedite the work to enhance interaction with the public. A detailed road map has been prepared to become closer to the voters, the BJD general secretary said.

In the afternoon, BJD top leadership held a meeting with the MLAs and leaders of Kendrapara parliamentary constituency. BJD leaders including Pratap Deb, Sashibhusan Behera, Dhruba Sahu, Pratap Jena, Arabinda

the existing list. Moreover, the BJP Parliamentary Board will take a final call on who will be BJP's candidate from where.



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Empowering Resilience: Parna Mehta's Journey from Career Break to AWS, Inspiring Inclusion and Transformation

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Women are the embodiment of remarkable strength, juggling responsibilities at home, and thriving in their professional endeavours. They navigate the complexities of modern life with grace, carving their own unique paths to success. Their remarkable journeys serve as evidence of their adeptness at overcoming the obstacles of contemporary life and carving out distinctive paths towards success. To commemorate International Women's Day, the 'She Is Amazon' drive by Amazon under the theme of 'Inspire Inclusion' celebrates women who demonstrate resilience by forging their own unique identities while balancing

home and personal responsibilities. One such example is Parna Mehta, born and raised in Mumbai, who embarked on her career in the IT industry after graduating as a computer engineer in 2002. For over six years, she honed her skills in various software development roles across India, the UK, and Australia, then Parna opted for a career break that spanned almost 12 years as she chose to prioritize family and dedicated herself to raising her two sons. With an arising need to be financially independent, Parna decided to re-join the workforce. Returning to the workforce after such a long hiatus presented significant challenges. Her once-advanced skills had

become outdated, and the lack of readily available flexible work options seemed insurmountable. Yet, Parna refused to be discouraged. She started working part-time, teaching coding, and designing curriculum for kids, a testament to her ability to adapt and pivot. Never one to shy away from learning, Parna actively sought opportunities to upskill. She participated in the Amazon Web Services (AWS) re/Start, a 12-weeks full-time development training program that prepares individuals for careers in the cloud and connects them to potential employers. This was a crucial step in her journey towards cloud computing. This decision not only rekindled her passion for technology but also opened doors to

the world of cloud expertise. With unwavering determination, she earned multiple AWS certifications, including the highly sought-after AWS Certified Solution Architect Associate supported by the SheBuilds program designed to create an inclusive and supportive environment for technical skills development.

Speaking about her experience, Parna shares, "The flexibility and support offered by AWS have been instrumental in my professional growth. Programs like AWS re/Start and SheBuilds played a vital role in equipping me with the necessary skills and confidence to re-enter the workforce." Parna's ambition transcended acquiring

technical expertise. She wanted to empower others, especially women who, like her, sought to re-enter the workforce. Becoming a mentor, Parna actively involved herself in AWS programs like CloudUp for Her, Tech4Her, and BeSA, guiding and supporting aspiring women re-starters. "I appreciate the opportunity to inspire and empower other

women through mentorship and share my knowledge through training." In late 2022, Parna's dedication and perseverance paid off. She landed her dream role as an Authorized Instructor at AWS. Today, she trains customers, sharing her knowledge and passion for cloud technology. This success not only marks a personal

triumph but also embodies the transformative power of Amazon's initiatives like re/Start and SheBuilds, which have been instrumental in empowering individuals like Parna to redefine their careers. Her story, a remarkable example of resilience and reinvention, was featured in the book "Cloud Career Journeys," further inspiring countless individuals.

TPSODL Bags Best Innovation Project Award for 'Press Fit Fuse'

Berhampur, March: TPSODL (TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited) received the "Best Innovation Project" in Innovation Council-2023 in Mumbai for Designing and implementing of 'Press Fit Fuse'. This Patented Safety Innovation Project, "Press Fit Fuse," was implemented at various DSS (Distribution Substations) at TPSODL to eliminate electrical accidents and ensure utmost safety. The award was received by Mr. Sushil Panigrahi, Head, Safety, TPSODL from Mr. Himal Tewari, CHRO, Chief Sustainability, and CSR, TATA Power during the Annual Award Ceremony.

Earlier, in the case of a burnt fuse, linemen replaced it by climbing up to the HG fuse structure physically. Despite safety zones created surrounding the electrical structure, accident cases



kept occurring from time to time. Also, a longer time was required while replacing a faulty fuse. To tackle this traditional fuse and method of replacing the fuse, TPSODL developed the Press Fit Fuse. It works on press-fit principles,

which can be replaced in a comparatively easier way standing from ground level without taking any risk. No ladder and additional electrical tools are required to replace the newly developed fuse. This innovation ensures

quick fuse replacement and outage restoration in a safe manner. Additionally, it is cost-effective and safe. One skilled person can replace the faulty fuse in minimal time and effort without climbing to the heights. It is noteworthy

that this Press Fit Fuse was developed along with Govt. ITI College, Berhampur, with required technical and resource support from the TPSODL Safety and Operation team. It is jointly patented by TPSODL and Govt. ITI Berhampur.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES AWAITS SINGAPORE AIRLINES CUSTOMERS

Singapore: Airlines (SIA) today unveiled its all-new flagship SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, following a S\$50 million re-design, upgrade, and expansion project. This will further enhance the on-ground customer experience at the airline's main hub, and comes as the demand for international air travel from and through Singapore takes off once again.

The Private Room, the First Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, the Business Class section of the SilverKris Lounge, and the KrisFlyer Gold Lounge can collectively accommodate around 1,150 customers within

their 6,100 square-metres, translating to 30% more seats and space. This also doubles the capacity that was available during the pandemic while the upgrading works were going on. The airline has created a sanctuary that has been thoughtfully designed to enhance the comfort and convenience of diverse groups of travellers, and meet their evolving needs in the coming years. Customers will be able to enjoy world-class products and services, as well as enticing food and beverage options, around the clock at the lounges before their flight.

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "Extensive customer engagement and research have gone into the design of the new SilverKris and KrisFlyer Gold lounges. Customers will enjoy the curated product offerings and experience the signature Singapore Airlines hospitality, all within a comfortable and restful environment, ensuring that they are refreshed and ready for their journey."

"Opening these lounges at this time signals our commitment to SIA's premium brand and growth strategy. It reinforces our position as Changi Airport's anchor airline, and reflects our confidence in Singapore's future as a pre-eminent global air hub."

Airtel Xstream Fiber unlocks its NEW All-in-One plans

Bhubaneswar: To serve the needs of premium households who want the next generational connectivity and entertainment experience, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier communications solutions provider, has once again raised the bar in the home broadband segment with the launch of three new all-in-one plans built for the evolving entertainment needs of today's connected homes. Vir Inder Nath, CEO - Homes, Bharti Airtel had this to say: "Our new plans are built for India's emerging entertainment needs. Through these bundle offers we plan to offer our discerning customers great value, convenience and unlock a multi-faceted digital experience."

Increased broadband consumption in Indian homes has given rise to the phenomena of hybrid viewing, where families are looking to consume OTT content on the TV screen along with linear TV without the hassle of managing multiple subscriptions and devices. Airtel's plans are the first of their kind in terms of catering to the evolving entertainment needs of the whole family and come with: Subscription to 17 premium OTTs to go with unlimited data. This includes Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+ Hotstar and Airtel Xstream Premium ((SonyLIV, Lionsgate, Hoichoi and 11 more OTTs). 350+ TV channels covering the best of linear TV. Airtel 4K Xstream TV Box* that allows you to enjoy OTT and linear TV content with a single device and single remote.

WHEC recognizes Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham as excellence worldwide in Gender Equality

Barcelona: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was invited to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC), which recently took place in Barcelona, Spain. UNESCO recognized Amrita as one of five universities of excellence worldwide for its performance in gender equality.

The WHEC aims to reshape ideas and practices in higher

education to ensure sustainable development for the planet and humanity, as well as to define and prepare a roadmap for a new era of higher education. As the world comes out of COVID-19, the WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

policy dialogue, exchange, and networking. Swami Amritaswarupananda Puri, President of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, participated in a round table called "Universities' Contribution to Gender Equality: A global perspective". Adding to his views, Swami Amritaswarupananda expressed how Amrita is making a difference in terms of gender equality and which policies have been put into place at the university level. Gender equality is number five in the United Nations' list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He explained how the culture of gender equality is not implemented only in terms of policies within Amrita, but also practiced in spirit.

The round table included Dr. Gloria Bonder, UNESCO Chair on Women, Science and Technology; Dr. Ricardo Vilanueva Lomeli, Rector General, University of Guadalajara; Ms. Elizabeth Shepherd, Leader of the Consultancy team, Times Higher Education; and Dr. Victoria Galan-Muros, Chief of Research and Analysis,

MGM School of Sports Signs MoU with Ravi Shastri's Coaching Beyond Cricket Academy



Bhubaneswar (KCN): Odisha is a state rich in sporting heritage across various disciplines. To enhance the sporting culture in Odisha and produce more outstanding cricketers, MGM Group has established a state-of-the-art High Performance Cricket Academy at Kapur Singh, Gurudhijhatia near Cuttack city, 30 kms from Bhubaneswar, named MGM School of Sports. It will promote the ideal objectives of high performance & quality-driven cricket culture in the state. This residential academy is a fully owned subsidiary of MGM Minerals Ltd., the flagship company of MGM Group, Odisha. With the support of the present administrative machinery namely, the Govt. of Odisha & the Odisha Cricket Association we are confident that the MGM School of Sports, will enhance the cricket ecosystem in Odisha and strive to produce outstanding cricketers. MGM School of Sports will work as a feeder organization in the model

of National Cricket Academy & other coaching centres of high reputation. With state-of-the-art infrastructure which includes residential facilities, international-standard cricket grounds, Turf, AstroTurf and Matting pitches, a six lane indoor arena, well-equipped gymnasium, swimming pool, physiotherapy & recovery centre, motivation hall, rehabilitation centre, beach volleyball court, basketball court etc. This sports academy will serve as a training hub for aspiring cricketers to undergo intensive training to achieve their goals. The MGM School of Sports has signed an MoU with Coaching Beyond, one of India's premier cricket coaching institutions, founded by Shri Ravi Shastri, Shri B Arun and Shri R. Sridhar, former Team India coaches. Coaching Beyond will be the knowledge & technical partner for this venture of MGM School of Sports to facilitate and execute high quality

coaching programs with the aim to bring the world's best practices to the heart of Odisha. In addition to these illustrious coaches, MGM School of Sports has also roped in Shri S.L. Venkatapathy Raju, former Indian test cricketer as their consultant coach for this prestigious project. To kickstart this venture, up to 50 young male cricketers will be selected through a transparent process and offered high performance training at a subsidised fee. The number of trainees will be increased in future for both male and female cricketers. In addition to this special program, the academy will also run a daily coaching program which will be open to all age groups of boys & girls.

Shri Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, CMD, MGM Minerals Ltd. expressed his confidence and believes that this collaboration will augur well for the future of Odisha cricket and go on to become one of the most coveted cricket training centres in the world.

Jindal Stainless partners with JBM Auto to roll out over 500 energy-efficient electric buses

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Pioneering eco-mobility revolution in India, Jindal Stainless, India's largest stainless steel manufacturer, is partnering with JBM Auto Ltd., the country's largest electric bus manufacturer, for fabrication of over 500 energy-efficient and lightweight stainless steel

buses. Jindal Stainless will provide JT Tubes, made up of low-carbon, chromium-manganese austenitic stainless steel to JBM Auto. The material, also denoted as N7 in Bureau of Indian Standards specification, 6911, has three times the strength of the carbon steel currently used to fabricate the buses.



Nigeria stun understrength Namibia at African Games

New Delhi: The Achimota Oval at Accra witnessed one of the greatest upsets in T20 Internationals on Monday (March 18) as 38th-ranked Nigeria snatched a last-ball win over a depleted Namibian side at the ongoing African Games. This result dealt a critical blow to Namibia's hopes of direct qualification for the 2026 T20 World Cup. Nigeria captain Sylvester Okpe sealed a famous comeback victory with a booming six over extra cover on the final ball of the 20th over, slamming a hip-high full toss from Shaun Fouche out of the ground to complete what, by ICC T20I rating, was the most extraordinary upset in the history of the format. Before the two sides met, Nigeria's T20I rating was a mere 74.00, while Namibia were nearly 119 points above them at 192.78, vying to hold onto a crucial slot in the top 12 which could see them through to the

2026 T20 World Cup come the cut-off at the end of June. The confirmation of the qualification criteria for the 2026 T20 World Cup last week set up a rankings-race that will see Namibia jockeying for position with Ireland, Zimbabwe, Scotland and the Netherlands to secure the insurance of a top 12 ranking ahead of the 2024 edition. The announcement that the ICC would again be relying on T20I rankings to allocate between two and four qualification slots for the flagship short-format tournament affords a potential lifeline to sides failing to make the Super 8 stage of the 2024 edition, lending a sudden salience to poorly-understood rankings table. In the context of that contest, Namibia will likely rue their decision to send a development squad to Ghana for the African Games, having now lost both of their first two matches - the first to a similarly understrength Zimbabwe and now to a spirited but unfancied Nigerian side. Missing the majority of their senior side, Namibia struggled to impose themselves with the bat after winning the toss. Left-arm spinner Isaac Danladi claimed two wickets for just six runs in his first three-over spell as Namibia struggled to 30-4 in the Powerplay. Young offspinner Joshua Asia kept the pressure on at the other end, his four overs returning figures of 1-14 as the Namibians were frustrated through the middle overs. Dylan Leicher's unbeaten 42 from No. 6 ensured a measure of respectability at the break, seeing Namibia to a total of 121 for 7, but with barely a run-a-ball required, Nigeria will have sensed an opportunity. The Nigerian top-order

opted for a cautious approach to the chase, allowing the asking rate to climb as they crept to 79-3 with six overs to come. It looked as though they would regret their timidity when they finally looked to hit out. However, first the set Ridwan Abdulkareem and then teenaged finisher Prosper Useni holed out off consecutive deliveries from Namibia skipper Jan-Nicol Loftie Eaton in the 15th over. Simon Shikongo then dealt a further blow in the next over, sending an arm-ball into Sesan Adedeji's leg stump as he backed away for room. At 85 for 6 after 16, with the required rate climbing toward double figures, it seemed as though Namibia were on course to dodge the bullet. Nigeria's captain had other ideas however, keeping his side in the game even as his brother

Isaac was stumped at the other end for 12 in the penultimate over. New man Mohammad Taiwo jumped across two feet clear of off stump to smear Jan Balt for a six over backward point off the final ball of the 19th to reduce the equation to 14 needed off the final over, as Namibian nerves began to fray. Both bats then found the rope off Shaun Fouche to put the Nigerians

clearly ahead for the first time in the chase, before a scrambled leg bye brought Okpe to strike with just two required to win. A bungled attempt to run out Taiwo at the non-striker's end held up proceedings, but when the ball finally came it arrived on the full around sixth stump and Okpe needed no second invitation, swinging through the line to send it out of the park over extra cover for six. The win keeps Nigeria in the hunt for a semifinal spot, while for Namibia, though they too remain in contention to progress, the implications are grave. The defeat will take approximately three points off their T20I rating, a blow that will be exacerbated come the rankings refresh on May 1st. Having begun the tournament in pole position in the rankings race, ranked 11th ahead of full members Ireland and Zimbabwe, they now

sink to 15th and face an uphill battle to undo the damage of the past three days. Should they remain outside the top 12 on the rankings table, a run to the Super 8s at the 2024 World Cup will be their only route to direct qualification for the following edition. In the context of the African games, they will need an emphatic win over Tanzania in their final group game on Wednesday to keep their semifinal hopes alive. Nigeria meanwhile, currently level with Tanzania on one win apiece, will likely need another big upset when they face group-leaders Zimbabwe in their last group game in two days' time if they are to progress in the tournament.

Brief Scores: Namibia 121-7 in 20 overs (DO Leicher 42*; I Danladi 2-10) lost to Nigeria 126-7 in 20 overs (I Danladi 28; JN Loftie-Eaton 3-20) by 3 wickets

England Women's tour of New Zealand 2024 - Series digest



New Delhi: A swashbuckling half-century from Heather Knight was instrumental in England taking a 1-0 lead in the T20I series against New Zealand. While Tammy Beaumont fell early for 15, Sophia Dunkley set herself up for a long haul at the crease after smashing six boundaries. However, she fell for 32 by the end of the eighth over, forcing England to rebuild.

Knight then joined forces with Maia Bouchier to revive the innings as the duo ended up adding 91 for the third wicket. While Bouchier couldn't accelerate as much as she would have liked, Knight was fluent in her stay at the crease as she hammered 63 before departing in the penultimate over as England finished with a strong 160 on the board. In reply, New Zealand

Brief scores: England Women 160/4 in 20 overs (Heather Knight 63, Maia Bouchier 43*; Jess Kerr 1/26) beat New Zealand Women 133/5 in 20 overs (Suzie Bates 65; Lauren Bell 2/29) by 27 runs

KL Rahul to join LSG in next two days

New Delhi: KL Rahul, undergoing rehab at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, will join his Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise in two or three days. The skipper of the Lucknow Super Giants team, who has been out of cricket since the first Test against England in January, has been cleared to take part in the IPL. "He will be very much available from the first game of the season," said a franchise source. Rahul was expected to leave for Lucknow on March 20 but in view of the pre-IPL Captains Conclave in Chennai on March 21, he may join the teammates a day later. LSG's first game is against Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur on March 24. The IPL kick-starts on March 22. As previously reported by this website, Rahul will



be using the IPL as a platform to make a comeback into Twenty20 Internationals. A career opener, Rahul will be playing in the middle order and also will be keeping wickets during the IPL. "He will be keeping wickets from the first game itself to stake his claim in the India team for the Twenty20 World Cup," a source, well conversant with the development, said. Rahul, who went to London to consult an expert for nagging quadriceps pain last month, was cleared by NCA on Monday after

he proved his fitness by playing a game.

It has come to light that Pat Cummins, a Rs 20.5 Crore buy by the SunRisers Hyderabad, will be linking up with his teammates in Hyderabad on Tuesday. The SRH team has been having a camp in Hyderabad for the last few days and Cummins, named captain of the side, has taken permission from the management to join the side a little late. Mitchell Starc, Cummins's Australia teammates, has joined Kolkata Knight Riders while in Bengaluru, Virat Kohli, who missed the five-Test home series against England this winter due to birth of his second child, has integrated himself with his Royal Challengers Bangalore teammates on Monday.

Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel awarded with central contracts by BCCI

New Delhi: India's newest batting star Sarfaraz Khan and wicket-keeper Dhruv Jurel were inducted into Group C of BCCI's central contract with an annual retainership fee of Rs 1 crore, having fulfilled the criteria of playing three Tests in a current season. Their names were ratified during BCCI Apex Council meeting which was held on Monday. Sarfaraz, a domestic heavyweight for Mumbai, scored three half-centuries in three Tests against England while Agra man Jurel, with scores of 90 and 39 not out in a tricky chase at Ranchi, won the Player of the Match in

only his second game.

The BCCI is likely to revisit the Ranji Trophy calendar for the next season and will not schedule any matches in the northern part of India during the months of December and January, when fog and bad light often play spoilsport. While the detailed domestic calendar will be announced later, the BCCI Apex Council did discuss the tentative schedule of the 2024-25, which was one of the primary items in the eight-point agenda of the Apex Council meeting on the day.

Dharamsala, most

matches are being affected by bad light and fog during peak winter months.

"No decision has been taken yet but Ranji Trophy, like earlier years could start from mid or end October after the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, which serves as an IPL auction platform. Some states are losing crucial points in do-or-die games because of inclement weather from mid-December to mid-February," a senior BCCI source told PTI.

It has been also learnt that BCCI will form a committee, which will decide whether union territory Daman & Diu

get associate membership.



Miami Open: Simona Halep set to face Paula Badosa on return from doping ban



face either Italy's Camila Giorgi or fellow Pole Magdalena Frech in the second round, claim the Miami title she would join Steffi Graf (1994, 1996) as the only women to complete the Sunshine Double twice. Florida resident Coco Gauff, who reached the Indian Wells semi-finals, will enjoy plenty of crowd support as she returns to Miami for the first time since her triumph at last year's U.S. Open. On the men's side, Carlos Alcaraz will also chase the final piece of the Sunshine Double after a successful title defence at Indian Wells where he beat reigning Miami Open champion Daniil Medvedev in a rematch of the 2023 California final.

round by Ukrainian qualifier Daria Snigur. Halep, a former Wimbledon and French Open champion, was suspended in October 2022 after testing positive for roxadustat - a banned drug that stimulates the production of red blood cells - at that year's U.S. Open. Halep vigorously denied the charges against her. The Romanian former world number one owns a 2-0 record in head-to-head meetings with Badosa, having never lost more than three games in a set. Top seed Swiatek missed the Miami Open title defence last year due to injury but returns in stellar form and fresh off a dominant 6-4 6-0 win over ninth seed Maria Sakkari in the Indian Wells final. Now Swiatek will set her sights on capturing the Indian Wells and Miami Open titles back-to-back, a feat known as the Sunshine Double given the tournaments' respective locations in California and Florida, for a second time. Should Swiatek, who will