

Arvind Kejriwal Arrested By Enforcement Directorate In Liquor Policy Case

New Delhi(KCN): In a seismic development in the national capital's politics just weeks ahead of the Lok Sabha election, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in the alleged liquor policy scam. Mr Kejriwal has become the first sitting chief minister to be arrested in the history of Independent India and his party has said he will continue to hold the post.

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K

Kavitha allegedly conspired with Mr Kejriwal, and AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh while framing the now-scraped liquor policy case, the ED has said. The alleged conspiracy involved making a policy that would benefit a liquor lobby from southern India, which the ED had called the "South Lobby". In return, the "South Lobby" would give ₹ 100 crore to the AAP, according to the ED.

Mr Kejriwal's name had appeared in the statements of some



accused and witnesses. The ED has mentioned this in its remand note and chargesheets. Vijay Nair, one of the accused in the liquor policy case, frequently visited Mr Kejriwal's office, and would spend most of his time there, the probe agency

said. unsuccessful, he got Mr Mahendru and Mr Kejriwal talk in a video call, in which Mr Kejriwal said Mr Nair was his "child" who he trusts.

Raghav Magunta, the first accused in the "South Lobby" and now a witness, had said his father, who is a YSR Congress Party MP, met Mr Kejriwal to know more about the liquor policy. Mr Sisodia's former secretary C Arvind in a statement in December 2022 had said that in March the previous year he got a draft group of ministers report from Mr Sisodia.



Rajyasabha MP Neeraj Dangi pays a courtesy visit to Hon'ble Governor of Telangana Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan at Raj Bhawan, Hyderabad

Nanda On Action Mode

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Known as a Tough IFS Officer, Susanta Nanda, PCCF Wildlife is not in a mood to tolerate poaching in Odisha Forests.

Following two forest officials sustained bullet injuries after poachers opened fire on them during patrolling inside Kuldihā Sanctuary, the Wildlife Organization in Department of Forest & Environment headed by Shri Nanda has swung into action and so far arrested 9 poachers from Kuldihā.

During a joint combing operation conducted by police, STF and forest personnel last night, another six poachers along with arms were arrested, informed Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Wildlife Susanta Nanda today.

"Six more poachers apprehended with five guns & traps used for poaching with animal trophies from the



periphery of Kuldihā Sanctuary. The drive continues. Salutations to Police, Forest & STF staff involved in the joint operation," Shri Nanda wrote on social media site X. Speaking to media persons, ACF, Balasore Wildlife Division, Diganta Sovan Chand informed that they have busted a country-made gun manufacturing unit and the person who was operating it was arrested. The man was selling country-made guns and also giving the arms for rent to the poachers. "We are identifying all such persons who are dealing with arms in

Kuldihā and arresting them," the ACF said. Yesterday, one person was arrested from the buffer area of Kuldihā Sanctuary by forest staff. Prior to that, on March 19 at about 2 AM, staff of the Kuldihā forest range under the Balasore division came across two poachers inside the Kuldihā sanctuary. Seeing the forest officials, the poachers have opened fire on them, in which two forest personnel were injured. However, the forest staff were able to nab the two poachers.

In the past four days, nine poachers along with arms were arrested from the Kuldihā area. Chief Wildlife Warden, Shri Nanda had earlier appealed to the poachers to surrender arms otherwise face legal action.

The Forest Department has decided to continue the anti-poaching drive till the entire area was not made poacher-free.

Election Commission Orders Transfer Of Dhenkanal Collector, SPs Of Deogarh, Cuttack Rural

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of the General Elections, the Election Commission of India (ECI) today issued transfer orders for three officials of Odisha. As per a release issued by the ECI, the commission has ordered for transfer of Dhenkanal Collector Manoranjan Mallick, Deogarh SP Ram Prasad Sahu and Cuttack Rural SP Mihir Kumar Panda. The decision was taken after the commission convened a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar along with Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu. The State Government has been instructed by the ECI to promptly transfer the officers from their current roles with immediate effect and submit a compliance report to the commission.

School Headmaster Arrested For Taking Rs 40K Bribe In Koraput

Koraput(KCN): Odisha Vigilance has arrested Drona Kumar Tandi, Head Master of Trishakti High School at Makaraguda in Kalahandi district on Thursday. According to the vigilance, construction work was going on for the new building of the High School. After completion of the work, the headmaster demanded a Rs 40,000 bribe from the contractor to clear his running bill. The Headmaster had asked him to deposit the bribe amount in his bank account. After depositing the amount, the contractor handed over the counterfoil of deposit slip to Head Master Tandi. Based on a complaint filed by the contractor, Vigilance reached on the spot. Seeing the Vigilance team, Tandi swallowed the deposit slip. But a received text message, regarding a cash deposition of Rs. 40,000/-, was found in his mobile phone.

Veteran Leader And Ex Minister Damodar Rout Declared Braindead



Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Former Odisha Minister and Veteran leader Dr. Damodar Rout (81) is declared to be Braindead. He is admitted to Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) hospital and is critical, said his son and MLA Sambit Routray on Thursday.

"My father's heart started functioning after CPR was given at the private hospital but his brain is not functioning. His condition is very critical," Sambit

Said. Sambit also added, that his father – a senior BJD leader suffered a cardiac arrest on March 18. The family initially took him to the Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar around 3 pm and later shifted to the private hospital KIMS. Sambit

of 15 to 20 minutes in shifting his father to a private hospital caused extensive damage due to lack of oxygen supply. Refuting the allegations, Capital Hospital Director Laxmidhar Sahu said, "Dr Rout was provided with the required treatment but his records also showed that he had stage 5 kidney issues. Then he was referred to another hospital as we do not have specialised doctors for kidney-related issues in our hospital. Dr Rout was not in a condition to be treated with CPR. We have done our best for his treatment."

CM Naveen Patnaik made a post on X, "I am concerned to know about the illness of senior party leader and former minister Mr. Damodar Rout. Wishing him good health and a long life."

'BJD-BJP Alliance' Picture Still Hazy! Here's What Amit Shah Said On Karthik Pandian's Views



achieved by this time, BJD will do everything towards this in the greater interests of the people of Odisha and the State," said BJD Senior Vice President Debi Prasad Mishra after the meeting at Naveen Niwas. Since then, exactly 15 days have passed. Meanwhile, the dates of elections have been announced and the

announcement of candidates at the national level has also started. But, Odisha's political scenario still remained blurry. Will the alliance happen? Such a question has been put in front of the people of Odisha by the two parties. The candidates of the two parties have stopped their organizational activities

and the workers and activists of the two parties are in a dilemma.

If there is a coalition, which seat will go to who is a now big question. The top leadership of the two parties are saying different things every day. On Tuesday, BJD leader and 5T Chairman Kartik Pandian took part in a media discussion at the national level and gave

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.

On Wednesday, Senior BJD leader and Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, echoed Pandian's views on the same platform and said, "BJD does not need the BJP to form a government in Odisha and BJP may not need the BJD to form a government at the Centre".

"Alliance is not necessary for political gains at all times. Many times, parties support each other on fundamental issues. In the last 5 years, many parties have supported each other in Parliament based on fundamental issues. Like, Article 370, GST,

Electoral Bonds etc. have received many such supports," said Shah.

Shah said, "Congress did not oppose on the issue of Electoral Bonds. Support based on fundamental issues is a good sign for democracy. There is a need for support based on fundamental issues for the benefit of the country." It is pertinent to mention here that, earlier Pandian had said: "If both (PM Modi and CM Naveen) come together for a great cause, it doesn't mean that there is any political equation".

According to political analysts, both parties are creating a new political equation and deliberately delaying the alliance to take advantage of the situation.

CUO organizes special lecture on "In Search of a Moral Hero: Case from Odisha"

Koraput, (KCN): A thought-provoking special lecture titled "In Search of a Moral Hero: Case from Odisha" took center stage on March 20th, 2024, at the Central University of Odisha. Hosted by the Department of Economics at the Central University of Odisha, the event featured esteemed speaker Prof. Patitapaban Das, Professor of Philosophy and Director of IQAC at Ravenshaw University, Cuttack. The program commenced with a warm welcome by Dr. Minati Sahoo, Head of the Department of Economics, who

introduced the topic. Honorable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, extended his best wishes for the event, setting a tone of anticipation. Prof. N C Panda, Registrar (I/c) & Dean of the School of Languages at the Central University of Odisha, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, he commended the interdisciplinary nature of the lecture, emphasizing its significance beyond the realms of economics. He applauded the department for fostering dialogue on philosophical

aspects of life, drawing from both Indian and Western perspectives. During his insightful discourse, Prof.



Patitapaban Das underscored the contemporary societal obsession with wealth, highlighting its adverse personal and societal impacts. He delved into the concept of Purusarthas in Indian tradition, drawing from

epics like the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. Through the lens of Odisha's unsung hero, Santhakabi Bhimabhoi, he elucidated the psychological processes involved in identifying moral exemplars in life. The session witnessed a vibrant exchange of ideas between the speaker and the audience, comprising faculty members, students, and research scholars from various departments.

Wall Magazine "The Thinking Tree," inaugurated by the resource person and Prof. N. C. Panda. Ms. Priyanshi Upadhyaya, a postgraduate student, led the inauguration, while Ms. Binita Jani delivered the vote of thanks. The event was impeccably coordinated by Ms. Krutideepa Mohanty, a second-year postgraduate student in the Department of Economics, CUO. Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer, ensured the dissemination of event highlights to wider audiences.

National Seminar on Contemporary Research Methods in Social Sciences Commences at Central University of Odisha



Koraput, (KCN): The Department of Economics at the Central University of Odisha kicked off a two-day national seminar on "Contemporary Research Methods in Social Sciences." The event, graced by esteemed dignitaries, aims to foster discussions on diverse facets of social science research in today's context. The inaugural ceremony witnessed Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi extending his best wishes for the success of the

program and delivering the inaugural address remotely. Among the distinguished guests were Prof. N C Panda, Registrar, along with Prof. Prashant Kumar Panda from Pondicherry University and Prof. Minaketan Behera from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Dr. Minati Sahoo, Head of the Department of Economics, commenced the session with a warm welcome, elucidating the seminar's objective to provide a platform for dialogue on contemporary social science research

methodologies. Prof. Tripathi lauded the Department of Economics for orchestrating the seminar, emphasizing the pivotal role of research quality and advancement within the university, while also stressing the significance of incorporating India's traditional economic perspectives.

The ceremony witnessed the release of a book of abstracts featuring 31 presentations scheduled for the seminar. Prof. N. C. Panda highlighted the paramount importance of research endeavors and

commended the released book of abstracts. Prof. Prashant Kumar Panda and Prof. Behera, in their respective addresses, expounded upon the emerging frontiers in social science research, offering insights from both economic and interdisciplinary perspectives. They underscored the necessity of periodic review and discourse on research within the university framework.

Concluding the ceremony, Mr. Biswajit Bhoi, Assistant Professor of the Economics Department, extended the vote of thanks. The event saw participation from faculty members, research scholars from various departments, and officials of the Central University of Odisha, marking a promising beginning for enriching academic discourse in the field of social sciences.

International Day of Forests at Jindal Stainless



Kalinganagar, (Sapan Kar) :- Jindal Stainless Limited commemorated the International Day of Forests today with a series of impactful activities aimed at promoting environmental consciousness and biodiversity preservation in its Jajpur plant. A sapling distribution programme was organised, where saplings of fruit-bearing varieties including mango, jamun, bel, guava and lemon were distributed among the local community members. This initiative

aims to not only enhance green cover but also provide sustainable resources to the community. Further bolstering their commitment to

environmental stewardship, the company organised a plantation drive within the plant premises, engaging employees in raising awareness about the

importance of afforestation. Senior leadership from the plant actively participated in the event, urging everyone to contribute to the noble cause by planting a tree today.

Author Sudipta Mishra Has Been Awarded "Sahitya Shiromani" By Grand Queen



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Sudipta Mishra was awarded in a major

event organised by the team of GrandQueens Club at Suraj Palace, Bhubaneswar. She was felicitated as one of the torchbearers with other

women achievers in their respective fields. GrandQueens Club is Founded by Dr Saurabh Sureka and Rupa Sureka to uplift women achievers across the world. They have selected 98 awardees from more than 600 nominees. Odisha State President is Munmun Singh. The initiatives by the GrandQueens Club every year create incredible strides on the path of women's empowerment.

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Movie Review: Kho Gaye Hum Kahan Is Compelling Coming-Of-Age Story In Digital Age



"We are so obsessed staring at the screen these days that we didn't realize life has gone past us," laments Ananya Panday's Ahaana in a poignant moment in Arjun V Singh's "Kho Gaye Hum Kahan." The hustle of living from one post to another, constant life updates, and the thirst for validation from the many faceless followers on social media are perhaps the story of our lives. Debutante Director Arjun V Singh takes us into the world of three best friends. Imaad (Siddhant Chaturvedi) is a stand-up comic with a happy-go-lucky attitude towards every situation, including his dating life. If not on stage, he is busy swiping left and right on Tinder, the dating app. Ahaana (Ananya Panday) is Imaad's flatmate, a whiz who is in a long-term relationship with her boyfriend, whom she

hopes to marry. Then there is Neil (Adarsh Gourav), a gym trainer who aspires to have his studio someday. Like any regular 25-year-old, they are following their passion, working hard, and partying harder. Introspection of life happens over several bottles of beer; they keep no secrets from each other, or do they? Even though their parents don't understand their mindset—Imaad's rich father asks him to start working in the family's business, while Neil fails to understand the penny-pinching mindset of his working-class parents, who tell him that he does not know the difference between need and want. Ahaana, a brilliant professional with fancy degrees and medals to her credit, is a pushover who gets walked over by her boss as well as her boyfriend.

But we live in a world where FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) is a thing. Keeping it private, keeping it real are passé. If it is not on social media, then it may as well not exist. We have given the rite of passage into our lives to strangers and people we are unlikely to meet since a thumbs up or down from them is what can make or break us. Take Ahaana; her heartbreak after getting dumped by her boyfriend is further amplified when she realizes his new girlfriend has over a million followers. The unsure Ahaana creates a fake account to stalk her boyfriend and starts putting out happy

and sexy touched-up pictures of herself on Instagram to prove her life continues to rock. Imaad, on the other hand, who flits from one fling to another, meets an older and wiser woman (Kalki Koechelin), but being commitment-phobic, continues to see other women. Neil, who is dating his client LaLa (Anya Singh), an influencer, cannot understand her obsession with filtered images and wanting to be constantly seen. One day, when he gets a celebrity client who puts out a post with him, seeing his followers climbing up, Neil finds this as a shortcut to success. After all, the many followers on social media are directly proportional to your success. The three sucked into the abyss of the unfathomable digital world see not only their

'Amar Singh Chamkila' not a work of fiction, it's true, authentic: Imtiaz Ali

Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali, speaking exclusively to IndiaToday.in, revealed that his upcoming film, 'Amar Singh Chamkila' is not a work of fiction. The film, which features Diljit Dosanjh and Parineeti Chopra, is a biopic on the life of legendary Punjabi singer, Amar Singh Chamkila. He also opened up about the reason behind doing this biographical drama. In his interview, Imtiaz explained that he stayed authentic and true to the story and how much of the film is based on the fiction. He said, "As far as I know, it's completely authentic and true. I have not taken any shortcuts. I have not made any scenes out of my imagination. I have tried to be very authentic for my own sake because I feel that I always make films by imagination, but how would this film be different from the others for me? Also, as a filmmaker, when you go out looking for the truth, you end up knowing more dramatic things."

The 'Jab We Met' director also revealed that he never thought of making a biopic. Explaining further, he



(share)." Sara Ali Khan, who was missing brother Ibrahim big time, shared a picture collage comprising photos of Saif and Amrita. No caption needed. In another Instagram story, the actress wrote, "That's a wrap," adding, "Missing brother Jaan."

Sara Ali Khan has a super busy schedule ahead. She will next be seen in Ae Watan Mere Watan. Her line-up of films also includes Metro... In Dino and Murder Mubarak. Her last project was Zara Hatke Zara Bachke. Sara Ali Khan also had a cameo appearance in



Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani song Heart Throb. She has featured in films such as Kedarnath (her debut movie), Simmba, Love Aaj Kal. She also featured in the Coolie No 1 remake. Sara was also seen in Atrangi Re.

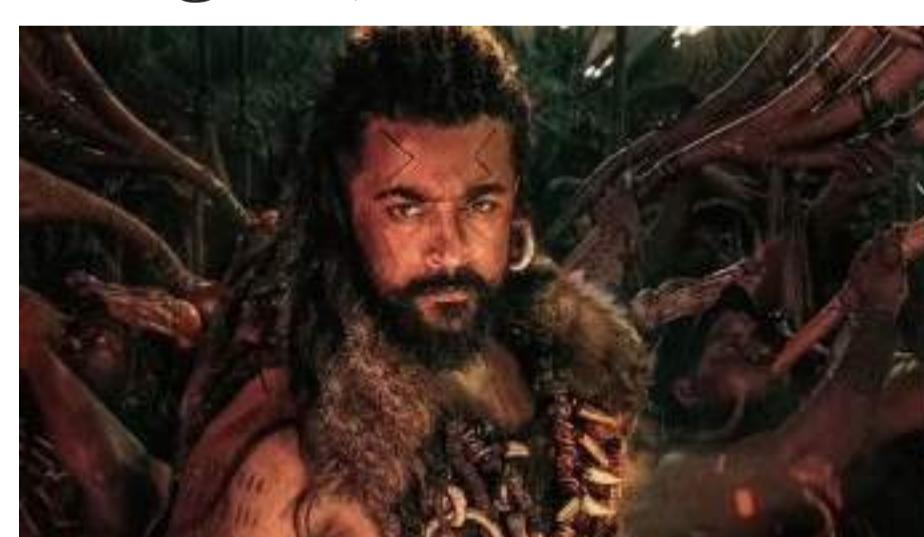
said, "I have never made a biopic before. But I would often hear about Amar Singh Chamkila through my friends, especially from my production head Rajesh Sharma. He would always say that I should make a film on the singer. In fact, he was the first person who told me about Chamkila."

He continued, "Then, I started listening to his music and found many things interesting about him. Finally, six years back, around the release of 'Love Aaj Kal 2', a gentleman called Harpreet, had the rights to the film Chamkila, which was very difficult to get. For some reason, he felt that he should approach me to direct this film."

"I did ask him 'why did you come to me to make this film?'. I am not even from Punjab, and he said 'Aap ki film mein Punjab bahut his khoobsurat se dekha ya jata hain' (In your films, Punjab is portrayed beautifully). It took five years because I did not have much knowledge about Chamkila. Then, Covid happened, and I was visiting Punjab with Chamkila at back of my mind. I started listening to the stories of the singer and it got interesting. I had my own view and story to tell through Chamkila and that's when I decided to make the film," he added.

Amar Singh Chamkila, with his raw and unabashed lyrics, challenged societal norms and became a voice for the marginalised. His music transcended geographical boundaries and resonated with audiences across generations. His songs, often addressing taboo subjects with unfiltered honesty, remain relevant even today. By immortalising Chamkila's legacy on celluloid, Imtiaz Ali aims to introduce his artistry to a wider audience and pay homage to his contribution to Punjabi music. 'Amar Singh Chamkila' will premiere on Netflix on April 12.

Suriya Gets Injured On Sets Of Kanguva, Film Shoot Halted



Actor Suriya has been busy with the shooting of his upcoming film 'Kanguva', a Tamil period-drama. The film is directed by Siruthai Siva and the shooting has been taking place at a film city in Chennai. According to TOI report, a grand set has been erected by the makers for the shoot of film. The latest report stated that a rope camera lost

control during the shooting of 'Kanguva' and it fell on Suriya, thus leaving him injured. The report further mentioned that the actor suffered injuries on his shoulder after which the shoot was halt. Fortunately, it was a minor mishap and no major injury was caused to Suriya. According to another report, the actor has

been advised by the doctor for a two-week bed rest. Meanwhile, Suriya was expected to wrap up the film for his portions in 'Kanguva' this month and the entire filming was slated to be over by next month. However, with the latest development, there may be a slight delay in production.

'Kanguva' was announced in August 2022 with the tentative title 'Suriya 42' as it became Suriya's 42nd film in a leading role. The shooting of the film has taken place in Goa, Kerala, Kodaikanal, and Rajahmundry. The official title 'Kanguva' was announced in April 2023.

'Kanguva' stars Suriya in six roles, leading an ensemble cast that includes Disha Patani and Bobby Deol, alongside Natarajan Subramanian, Jagapathi Babu, Yogi Babu, Redin Kingsley, Kovai Sarala, Anandaraj, Ravi Raghavendra, K. S. Ravikumar, and B. S. Avinash. The film will mark the Tamil debut of Disha and Bobby. It is scheduled to be released theatrically in early 2024 in standard, 3D and IMAX formats. The official release date of the film is yet to be announced.

Has BJP deployed RSS to counter farmers' agitation?

JAG MOHAN THAKEN



Enraged with the reportedly anti-farmer statement of RSS second-in-command, the farmers' union have become so furious that they have even rebuked the RSS by stating – 'the betrayer of freedom struggle, RSS has no right to question the patriotism of farmers.'

Vijoo Krishnan General Secretary and Dr Ashok Dhawale President of All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS), on March 18, referred that in the recently concluded Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) at Nagpur, Dattatreya Hosabale, its General Secretary, has denigrated the ongoing farmers' protests in Punjab and Haryana by terming them as anti-national. Citing media reports, wherein Hosabale, the second-in-command of the RSS, in his official General Secretary's report, reportedly placed that "disruptive forces" are behind the farm protests.

Criticizing RSS over its

AIKS alleges that Hosabale also added that there are well orchestrated plans to spread "separatist terrorism" in Punjab under the guise of the farmers' movement. "This canard spread by the betrayers of the freedom struggle is out of vengeance against the incessant SKM-led united movement of farmers which has forced the Narendra Modi-led BJP Government to withdraw the pro-corporate Farm Acts."

Farmer unions unearthing the RSS history Roots Unearthing the history of RSS, AIKS, a major body of farmers, divulges that various official inquiry commission reports have identified the nefarious role of the RSS in inciting communal riots. "This very reason led to its ban in 1948 after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination and in 1992 after the demolition of the Babri Masjid. The role played by the Sangh Parivar functionaries in the 1984 anti-Sikh pogrom as well as in the 2002 Gujarat genocide are well documented. AIKS calls upon all patriotic forces to isolate and expose fascist elements led by the RSS who are spreading canards against the farmers' movement."

AIKS has got outraged to note that the RSS has used the term "disruptive forces" to characterise the patriotic farmers of Punjab and Haryana who are fighting against the corporatisation of agriculture. AIKS alleges that the reality is that it is Hindutva terrorism that is acting as



the most disruptive internal threat to the unity and diversity of the country. Hindutva fascist politics is closely aligned with international finance capital and big business which is threatening Indian farmers. AIKS reminds that RSS should not forget its history of collusion with the imperialist forces and with imperialist agencies like the CIA. CIA Agent J A Curran, who enjoyed unusual access to the top brass of RSS from 1949 to 1951, in his book had identified RSS as a tool that would help the imperialist block led by the USA to contain the militant peasant and workers' movement in independent India. By demonising the farmers' movement against corporatisation, RSS is showing its support for imperialist forces in their project to devour Indian

agriculture.

Haryana SKM has also sharply reacted to the RSS stand and criticised this stating the statement as highly disparaging and outrageous remarks by the RSS in Nagpur branding the farmers struggle of Punjab and Haryana of causing disruption.

SKM leader, Dr. Inderjeet Singh sharing a statement stated that the General Secretary of Rashtriya Pratinidhi Sabha of RSS has in his narrative accused that terrorism and separatism were raising their 'ugly head' under the garb of farmers movement in Punjab.

"While taking a very strong view of RSS insinuations in its bid to tarnish the image of the farmers struggle the SKM has recalled the treacherous role of RSS during freedom struggle as a result of that there

Waiver for farmers despite 1,00,474 farmers committed suicide (2014-2022), Rapid Privatisation of Electricity, Protecting the Ajay Mishra Teni, Union (MoS) Home Affairs- the Killer of Farmers at Lakhimpur Kheri, as alleged by farmers.

In its letter of Resolution issued at Ramlila Ground Mahapanchayat, on March 14, SKM has called a country wide mass protest against BJP under its slogan "EXPOSE, PROTEST, PUNISH BJP / BJP KA POLE KHOLO, VIRODH KARO, SAJAA DO" and Observe 23rd and March 24 as 'Save Democracy Day' in all villages to Protest BJP giving Kheri seat to the alleged killer of Lakhimpur Kheri farmers, Ajay Mishra Teni Union (MoS) Home and expose the Corporate-Criminal-Corrupt nexus under BJP.

Why the RSS in fray to attack on farmers? It is pertinent to remind that the farmers are on agitational path for not implementing the agreement with SKM dated 9.12.2021 regarding MSP@C2+50% with guaranteed procurement to all crops, Comprehensive Loan Doesn't it indicate that

BJP has deployed its commanding RSS wing to counter the farmers' attack on the party? Political analysts deduce that as BJP, being a political party, fears that attacking the farmers directly at this crucial junction, when the Lok Sabha election clouds are hovering over the country, may further enrage the farmer community and it can harm its vote share. However, how many votes the BJP will fetch, can't be predicted at this time, because farmers remain farmers till they are in Delhi, as and when they come to their villages they convert into the village groups and vote as per their village politics forgetting what they have undertaken in Delhi. That is why, the farmer unions are keeping the iron hot through their regular agitational programs. How much they will succeed in retaining the farmers as farmers till they press the EVM button, which can oust the BJP from reigning the country. Let us see which way the wind blows.

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Tips to play safe Holi

Shahnaz Husain



The most awaited summer festival is upon us!

Holi is here and the excitement is at an all-time high because of all the fun that comes along with it. Holi holds a special place in everyone's heart.

The sacred festival brings an opportunity to connect, rejoice and rejuvenate. Down the ages, people have been delighted to splash colours on their near and dear ones to celebrate the occasion with gaiety and fun. The use of colours during Holi is not just for fun. The traditional Holi colours were extracted from plants like turmeric, neem and Palash and therefore had several positive health benefits. To make sure that Holi 2024 is the happiest for you, here are a few tips. Young babies have very delicate skin and immature immune systems. It is best not to put any colours on babies younger than six



months because of their delicate skin. A red sandalwood tika should be enough to symbolically celebrate the festival. We often do not pay attention to the protection of our eyes while playing Holi. Avoid wearing contact lenses. The harsh chemicals can cause an infection by smearing your lens. Wear sunglasses/goggles to avoid any sort of optical injuries from any misfired water balloons and to prevent colours from coming in contact with the eyes. Avoid touching your eyes while playing Holi. Do not rub your eyes! Rubbing can aggravate the problems further. Dress yourself and your kids in full-sleeved clothes to create one more barrier between your skin and the colours. Moisturizing skin with a natural oil-based moisturizer before heading out to play with colours is very important for a smooth, supple and healthy skin. This creates a barrier between your skin and the colours. It also helps the colours to be taken off easily upon washing. Remember to apply sunscreen on hair before

playing Holi. Oil your hair or wear a bandana/scarf/cap to cover your hair.

Hair Cream containing sunscreen is also available in the market. Take very little, spread on both palms and massage light into the hair, or smooth palms over the hair. Or, apply pure coconut oil/mustard oil and massage it lightly into the hair. Oil will make sure your hair doesn't get too dry and the colour also does not go deep into your hair, causing breakage and dryness. This also provides protection against

colours. You'll need to protect your nails too! Paint your nails with two coats of good quality nail paint to prevent your nails from getting stained.

This helps to protect the nails from absorbing Holi colours. The real problem is the removal of colours after playing Holi. Rinse the face with plenty of plain water and then use a cleansing cream, or lotion. Apply and massage it on the face. Then wipe off with moist cotton wool. Remember to cleanse the area around the eyes too, using a light touch.

A cleansing gel helps to dissolve the colours and facilitates their removal.

To make your own cleanser, take half a cup of cold milk and add one teaspoon of any vegetable oil, like "til," olive or sunflower oil.

Mix well. Dip cotton wool into this mixture and use it to cleanse the skin.

Use ubtan, a pack made with gram flour, curd and turmeric to remove the colour from your skin gently. This pack will not only help to reduce the colour of your skin, but it will also nourish it in the process and keep the damage

away. Sesame seed (til) oil can be used to remove colours from the body, massaging it on the skin. This not only helps to remove the colours, but gives added protection to the skin. Sesame seed (til) oil actually helps to counteract sun-damage. While bathing, scrub the body gently with a loofah or wash cloth. Immediately after your bath, apply a moisturizer on the face and body, while the skin is still damp. This helps to seal in moisture.

If there is itching, add two tablespoons vinegar to a mug of water and use it as a last rinse. This helps to reduce itching. However, if the itching continues, and there is rash and redness, there may be an allergic reaction to the colour. Consult a doctor as soon as possible.

While washing the hair, first rinse with plenty of plain water to wash away the dry colours and tiny particles of mica. Then apply a mild herbal shampoo, working it into the hair with the fingers.

Massage the scalp gently and rinse thoroughly with water again. Beer can be used as a last rinse. It will soften and condition the hair.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the Herbal Queen of India

No one can deny importance of being physically fit in enhancing personality and self-confidence across all spheres of life: Manjari Jaruhar

Rajdhani College organizes Annual Sports Day-2024



New Delhi (KCN): The Annual Sports Day-2024 organized by the Sports Committee, was held on 20th March 2024 at the Rajdhani College Sports Complex. The event commenced with the declaration of its opening by Principal Prof. Rajesh Giri after unfurling the national flag and releasing balloons. He extended a warm welcome to the chief guests, Manjari Jaruhar, former IPS and presently working as an advisor to TCS, and Prof Sarita Tyagi, Head, Department of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, University of Delhi and all present. Amongst present was Professor Tankeshwar Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Haryana

Central University, also graced the occasion as a special guest. In his address Prof Tankeshwar Kumar highlighted the importance of sports activities in life and significance of health. He appreciated the efforts of all. Principal specially thanked Prof Nawal Kishore, Dr. Richa Malhotra and all members of Sports Committee for organizing the sports Day. Prof Rajesh Giri emphasized the college's commitment to both academic and sports fields, highlighting the importance of physical activities in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Prof Giri praised the college's sprawling

ground and the variety of activities it offers, providing a platform for students to instill positive energy and keep fit. He focused on the significance of youth engagement in sports, noting that such experiences are remembered for a lifetime, and commended Rajdhani College for its vibrant energy in both academic and co-curricular pursuits. The event was graced by the presence of distinguished guests, including Manjari Jaruhar, who expressed her delight at witnessing the day's events. She conveyed her gratitude to everyone involved and emphasized the importance of being

physically fit in enhancing personality and self-confidence across all spheres of life. Manjari stressed that physical fitness contributes to the overall development of individuals and plays a vital role in the nation's progress. Professor Sarita Tyagi, Head of the Department of Physical Education & Sports Sciences, shared her sentiments of being privileged to be part of the event. She highlighted the significance of sports in fostering all-round development and positively impacting lives. Prof. Tyagi described sports as not only a passion but also a profession, emphasizing the career opportunities

Successful breeding of hilsa using cryopreserved milt

Kolkata (KCN): ICAR-CIFRI successfully bred hilsa using cryopreserved milt collected from the wild. There is a difficulty in getting both male and female at a time from the wild, so cryopreservation of milt and genebank development of this species is needed. The institute is working for the past 10 years to establish the lifecycle of hilsa in captive conditions in collaboration with other ICAR fisheries



Mixing of cryopreserved milt with egg collected from natural brood
Hatching (46 h old) obtained from fertilization of egg collected from natural brood and cryopreserved milt

institutes. This time, in another collaboration with ICAR - NBGR, a methodology for cryopreservation of hilsa milt has been developed and suitably utilized to produce the offspring. The technology is first of its kind for hilsa breeding. Hilsa, *Tenualoa ilisha*, is

considered as the most important commercial fish of the Indo - Pacific region and it is the state fish of West Bengal. It is well known for the dietary supplementation of ?-3 and ?-6 fatty acids as well as its unique taste and flavour. The reported work gives a hope that captive rearing of hilsa and associated induced breeding will be feasible in near future through conservation aquaculture initiatives to overcome the issue of low availability of hilsa.

Professor Nawal Kishore thanked the dignitaries for gracing the occasion. As achievers they are an inspiration for all of us. He said that no one loses but one is a winner and other is potential winner.

Since the pre sports day, a series of sports competitions took place, including Badminton, Race, Table Tennis (TT), and Shot Put, tug of war, Musical chair adding to the spirit of healthy competition and camaraderie.

All esteemed faculty members, administrative staff, and all graced the occasion with their presence, further enhancing the event's significance and grandeur. All participated enthusiastically. The event reached its culmination with a grand Prize Distribution Ceremony, where the honorees were recognized for their outstanding achievements. This was followed by a heartfelt Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Richa, Faculty, Physical Education.

Dr. Ritu Malik compared the programme.

"Will Remain A Sevak Till Last Breath Of My Life": Jyotiraditya Scindia



development from his side.

"The Scindia family has always thought of standing with the people of the entire division in times of distress. I was a sevak, I am a sevak and will remain a sevak till the last breath of my life," he added.

"It is not only my responsibility but my duty to carry out development and progress of the region on the basis of a family spirit. Just as my mother and my father had taken a pledge to serve the public, similarly I had also taken a pledge to serve 20-22 years ago and will fulfil it till the last moment of my life," he added. Scindia is contesting in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections from Guna parliamentary seat. The election will be held here in the third phase on May 7 along with seven other parliamentary seats in the state.

Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh): Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has said that his resolution is towards the people of Guna, Shivpuri and Ashoknagar and he has tried to serve people for the last 20 years. The Union Minister made the remark while speaking to reporters in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior district on Thursday. "Every political party takes their decisions. My resolution is toward the people of Guna, Shivpuri and Ashoknagar. I have tried

Kerala Has Been Overborrowing In Recent Years, Centre Tells Supreme Court



New Delhi (KCN): The Kerala government has been overborrowing in recent years which indicates its financial situation, the Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court which was hearing the state's suit raising the issue of ceiling on net borrowing.

The Kerala government maintained that its finances are "sustainable enough" to bear the overborrowings in the previous years. "What I am going to in fact persuade your lordships and demonstrate to your lordships is that whatever we are doing, even if we do the extra borrowing, it is within the limit," he said.

Additional Solicitor General N Venkataraman, appearing for the Centre, claimed before the bench that lots of wrong things have been said by the state. Referring to statistics, the law officer said Kerala has been overborrowing in recent years.

He said while deciding the question of interim relief, the court should keep in mind the financial parameters of the state. The arguments in the matter would continue on Friday.

On March 13, the Centre had told the top court that it was ready to allow the Kerala government to borrow ? 5,000 crore, subject to certain conditions, to

deal with the financial issues facing the state as a "very special and exceptional measure". However, the Kerala government had said ? 5,000 crore "does not take us anywhere" and the absolute minimum requirement stood at ? 10,000 crore.

In an original suit filed under Article 131 of the Constitution, the Kerala government has said the Constitution bestows fiscal autonomy upon states to regulate their finances under various articles, and the borrowing limits or the extent of such borrowings are regulated by state legislation.

Article 131 of the Constitution deals with the original jurisdiction of the top court in any dispute between the Centre and states. The suit said the ability to determine the borrowing of the state in order to balance the budget and make up for the fiscal deficit is exclusively within the domain of the states.

"If the state is not able to borrow to the extent required based on the budget of the state, the state would not be able to complete its state plans for the particular financial year," it said.

Freezing Congress Accounts Violation of Model Code: Sachin Pilot



Raipur (KCN): Freezing Congress's bank accounts at the time of elections is a violation of the model code of conduct and unconstitutional, and the poll panel should prevent such a move to save democracy, party leader Sachin Pilot said on Thursday.

Talking to reporters at the Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur, he said bank accounts of the BJP, and not the Congress, should be frozen as the ruling party has received "huge money" through

electoral bonds "scam". At a press conference in New Delhi, senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi alleged a systematic effort is underway by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to cripple the party financially as the opposition outfit stepped up its demand for access to its bank accounts to ensure a level playing field in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls. Mr Pilot, the Congress in-charge for Chhattisgarh, arrived here on a two-day

visit to the state in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. "It is well known how the Centre is treating the main opposition Congress. The acts of sealing Congress' bank accounts, seizing cash from them and deliberately not giving a level playing field to the Congress are all violations of the model code of conduct, morality and the Constitution," he said.

"I request the Election Commission of India to immediately take steps and prevent such acts. On a question on electoral bonds, Mr Pilot said, "The

Supreme Court has declared electoral bonds as unconstitutional. A scam worth thousands of crores of rupees has happened through it. Rahul ji (Congress MP Rahul Gandhi) has said it had become an extortion mechanism. For the first time in the world, such a kind of scam was witnessed wherein government institutions like CBI, ED, IT were used."

Mr Pilot said Congress candidates for the remaining five Lok Sabha seats in Chhattisgarh will be declared soon. A fortnight ago, the opposition party named six candidates, including former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel (Rajnandgaon), in Chhattisgarh, which has 11 Lok Sabha seats. Chhattisgarh will vote in three phases on April 19, April 26 and May 7.

"I (Kerala) am saying I

Farmers lose interest in cultivation

Jajpur(KCN): Due to various reasons farmers in Odisha are slowly losing interest in cultivation as a means of livelihood. The total number of farmers who have registered their names for the Rabi season in 17 districts of the state has decreased considerably in comparison to last year. This year 57,804 farmers have registered their names by March 16 while the figure stood at 1,41,461 on the same date last year, sources stated here Wednesday. The neglect of the district administrations in paddy procurement, lack of irrigation facilities, diseases and pest

attacks and other allied problems have pushed the farmers to the edge. As a result they are losing interest in agriculture and cultivation. The state registrar of cooperative societies (RCS) has expressed concern over this declining trend. He has instructed the assistant registrar to conduct a review and find out the reasons as to why the number of registered farmers has decreased substantially. Recently, farmers in Korei block of this district alleged that the paddy crops failed to grow into rice panicle as an unknown pest devoured the roots of the



saplings. Despite urging the administration to look into the matter, there was no help, angry farmers alleged. They added that no one came to their help. This year

14,341 farmers have registered their names in Balasore district, 23,922 in Bargarh, 2,638 in Bolangir, 1,634 in Boudh, 1,205 in Cuttack, 1,370 in Jajpur, 521 in Jharsuguda, 8,027 in Kalahandi, 148 in Khurda, 2,928 in Koraput, 140 in Mayurbhanj, 384 in Nabarangpur, 2,979 in Nuapada, 7,575 in Puri,

substantial decline in farmer registrations. More than half of the farmers have stayed away. In the industrially rich Jajpur district, the Irrigation department has said that 66,613 hectares out of 1,45,450 hectares of farmlands get water. However, farmers alleged that the figures provided are not correct. They stated that more than half of the identified farmlands do not get water through irrigation. Sources in the Jajpur district administration said that the Irrigation department provides water for only 10,000 hectares during the Rabi season by drawing water from Brahmani and Kharasota rivers. They claimed that the rest of the farmlands are get water through lift irrigation, bore wells, WHS and other sources. Also the delay in paddy procurement in the last Kharif season and other irregularities has allegedly turned away the farmers from cultivation. Jajpur district experienced 38 per cent less rainfall in June, 37 per cent in July and 20 per cent in August last year. This affected the growth of crops. A delay of one-and-a-half months in paddy procurement also added to their woes, prompting farmers to look for other means of livelihood.

Brooms script success story for Karlaghati women

Sundargarh(KCN): In the heart of this district, nestled among the lush greenery of Karlaghati, a tale of resilience and triumph is being written by a group of tribal women. Against the backdrop of troubled times and the dwindling of traditional livelihoods, these women have found a sustainable alternative for success, thus becoming beacons of hope for their community. Karlaghati, a remote village under the Kukuridih gram panchayat in Subdega block, has long grappled with the uncertainties associated with agriculture. As farming lost its appeal and the availability of minor forest products declined, the need for innovative livelihoods became urgent. Twenty women from the Karlaghati Vana Surakhyam Samiti (VSS) then embarked on a journey to rebuild their economic fortunes. They took to the broom business and it proved very profitable.

In a tale of transformation, these enterprising women have not only sustained their



families but have also enhanced economic growth, generating lakhs of rupees through their entrepreneurial endeavours. Central to their success has been the support extended by the Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project-II (OFSDP-II), particularly its revolving fund, which has empowered over 1,400 women across 31 VSSs in the region. Under the mentorship of Digambar Upadhyay, team leader and Manoranjan Mallick, development officer of partner NGO, 'SEWAK', women of Karlaghati navigated successfully the complexities of business planning and market consolidation. Armed

with determination and resilience, they ventured into the market and within a short period, their brooms gained traction, fetching them revenues of Rs 2.20 lakhs in just a year. What sets these women apart is their vision beyond borders. By leveraging their ancestral craft and reaching out to traders from other states, they have elevated their profession into a thriving enterprise. With each phase of growth, they've repaid loans and reinvested in their business driven by the unwavering support of Karlaghati VSS, Sundargarh Forest division, Ujalpur Forest Management department and 'SEWAK'. Sushma

Soreng, secretary of the 'Maria Mahila Self Help Group', embodies the collective ambition of these women. She envisions a future where their business transcends state borders and becomes a symbol of empowerment and economic independence for tribal women everywhere. In the heart of Karlaghati, amidst the rustling leaves and the whispers of resilience, a new narrative unfolds – one of empowerment, ingenuity and the indomitable spirit of tribal women forging their own destinies. The brooms they weave not only sweep away dirt but also usher in a new era of opportunity and prosperity for their community

'Customer' kills grocery shop owner in Bhadrak

Bhadrak(KCN): A grocery shop owner died after being assaulted by an irate customer here Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Bijay Panda who ran a grocery shop at Patharadi Chowk under Town Police limits here. As he did every day, Bijay opened his shop Wednesday morning at around 10.00 am. Soon, a customer identified as Kamesh, came to the shop to buy certain items,

the total bill for which was Rs 180. However, Kamesh only paid Rs 140. This infuriated Bijay, who demanded that the remaining Rs 40 be paid immediately. A heated argument broke out

between the two during which Kamesh allegedly landed a couple of blows on Bijay and then pushed him. As Bijay fell, his head thudded against the hard floor and he lost consciousness. Locals immediately rushed Bijay to the district headquarters hospital here where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. The accused Kamesh meanwhile fled the scene and till the time of writing this copy, he is absconding.

Senior police officials visited the spot and initiated a probe. An FIR has been lodged and efforts are on to trace Kamesh and arrest him, police said. A relative of the deceased informed that the accused is a resident of Ward No 2 and is a renowned anti-social. "We have come to know that the accused had abused my uncle (Bijay) and hit him. We want exemplary punishment against the accused," said the relative.

Sundargarh Collector holds meeting with party leaders

Rourkela(KCN): District Collector Gavali Parag Harshad chaired an all-party meeting in Sundargarh Wednesday in presence of other senior administrative officials. The meeting was conducted regarding the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the district and the proper implementation of the model code of conduct (MCC). The Collector informed representatives of the various political parties about the number of booths, the number of voters, and the respective returning officers for the Lok Sabha and Assembly seats. Besides, they were informed about the preparations being done by the administration to conduct polls peacefully. The topmost officer of the district stressed on the importance of maintaining the model code of conduct in the district and informed the representatives about the rules of the polls. He also emphasised holding free, fair and peaceful elections in the district. Those present in the meeting were Talsara MLA, Bhabani Shankar Bhoi, BJP district secretary Bheshaj Ratha, member of the party's state legal cell Prabhat Kumar Nanda, district president of Congress Ajit Prasad and Parsuram Saraf, Radha Mohan Patel from AAP and BJD vice-president Jaynarayan Tripathy.



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Vitesco Technologies aims to achieve 100% carbon neutral production by 2030

Pune : Vitesco Technologies a leading international manufacturer of modern drive technologies and electrification solutions recently celebrated the second anniversary of its Pune facility. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Braun, Senior Vice President of Operations at Vitesco Technologies, visited the facility to commemorate the occasion. The facility is spread across 20 acres and contains more than 17580 m² of manufacturing space, including over 900 employees.

The Pune plant, like all Vitesco Technologies facilities, serves its grid demand entirely through renewable energy sources. Furthermore, the site generates sustainable electricity. All new photovoltaic systems have been built in the

Talegaon facility, generating 03 GWh of electricity from solar energy. The installed capacity is currently 2.6 MW, with the company aiming to increase it to 3.6MW by the end of the year. The facility is also strongly driving automation, digitization, and Industry 4.0, with over 25 cobots and robots installed on the production lines and shopfloor. During his tour of the facility, Dr. Hans-Jürgen Braun, Head of Operations at Vitesco Technologies said: "We have a clear vision of the key characteristics of the plant of the future, which are sustainable, smart, and predictive. And our plant in Pune already embodies these qualities with highly automated production lines, state-of-the-art Industry 4.0 solutions and a strong

focus on sustainability. But what is most important for me is the highly motivated team, because I genuinely believe that people, not only technology, will shape the plant of the future. I am very impressed with India's business competency and the employees' enthusiasm to support us on this journey.

Dr. Braun further highlighted that "The carbon footprint must be dramatically decreased to combat climate change, which is one of the major issues of our time. We must take on responsibility for our environment. As a result, the plant of the future must be climate-neutral in operation. That is why I am proud that the plant in Pune has truly established itself as a driver of sustainability.

Spice Money nearly doubles its nanopreneur (Adhikari) network hitting 1 million milestone

New Delhi: Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech that is revolutionising the way Bharat banks, achieved the significant milestone of 1 million Adhikaris (nanopreneurs) in FY22, growing by nearly double over the last financial year. Spice Money's strategy, to provide the first-of-its-kind zero investment model, continues to yield results and growth in Adhikaris. This network is spread across rural India covering more than 95% rural pincodes, 700+ districts serving a base of over 100 million consumers, through the Spice Money app and web portal.

In FY23 Spice Money aims to expand into other digital and financial services. The company will consolidate its ATM, banking and payments

business, while scaling its enterprise Cash Management Services (CMS) business. The company, additionally, will be introducing a financial products & services marketplace which will offer solutions such as insurance, credit etc. Considering the crucial role agriculture plays in the rural economy, Spice Money will also venture into digital solutions for the industry. With the country emerging from the pandemic, Spice Money's phygital super app will further help rural communities get essential services like basic banking, payment services, financial services, travel services and entrepreneur solutions along with healthcare and e-commerce at their doorstep, assisted by Spice Money's 1 million Adhikaris.

We continue to remain bullish about rapid adoption of digital services in rural India, as we aim to foray into new business segments in FY23. Spice Money's phygital super app will further help rural communities get essential services like basic banking, payment services, financial services, travel services and entrepreneur solutions along with healthcare and e-commerce at their doorstep, assisted by Spice Money's 1 million Adhikaris.

Sterlite Power wins orders worth INR 1600 crores

New Delhi: Sterlite Power, a leading power transmission developer and solutions provider, has secured multiple orders worth ~INR 1600 crores across its Solutions business in the domestic and international markets.

The company has secured orders from customers like Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL), Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), and West Bengal State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (WBSETCL) in the MSI (Master System Integrator) segment. The orders are for the installation and supply of high-performance conductors and re conductor ing solutions for transmission projects. In the Products segment, Sterlite Power has acquired strategic maiden orders of EHV cables for state transmission utilities in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka and orders for overhead lines from large and reputed international

customers in North America and CIS regions.

Commenting on the order wins, Mr. Manish Agarwal, CEO – India Transmission Business, Sterlite Power, said, "We are happy to win these new orders across our Solutions business which significantly adds to our robust orderbook. Our integrated model provides us with a strategic advantage in delivering complex projects successfully while also diversifying our revenue base."

As part of its Solutions business unit, the company manufactures and sells a diversified portfolio of products, covering high performance conductors, OPGW and EHV power cables, to international customers, including central and state electricity transmission companies, transmission developers and transmission engineering, procurement, and construction ("EPC")

contractors. Further, its MSI sub-unit is a provider of specialty contracting services, delivering bespoke solutions for the upgrade, uprate and fiberization of brownfield transmission infrastructure projects.

In addition, the company also offers underground EHV turnkey services including cable laying and substation development.

Under its infrastructure business segment, where the company bids to develop transmission projects, it has recently won inter-state transmission system projects in J&K as well as north-east India which will play a pivotal role in connecting clean and green power to the national grid.

The Kishtwar transmission project is based in Jammu & Kashmir and comprises a 400/132kV GIS substation at Kishtwar and 400 kV Kishenpur - Dulhastli LILO (Line in Line out) transmission line.

New Guinness World Record for Largest Human Waving National Flag Established by O.P. Jindal Global University & the Flag Foundation of India



Sonipat, (KCN): In a record-breaking event, O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) in collaboration with the Flag Foundation of India (FFI), created the largest human waving national flag surpassing all previous Guinness World Records. The event saw the certified participation of 7368 students and staff of JGU which was endorsed by the Officials of the Guinness World Records organization. It was a momentous occasion as all participants enthusiastically gathered in the colours of the Indian flag to mark this unique occasion which included students from all schools and institutes of JGU, staff, faculty, and other officials.

The Adjudicator for the Guinness World Records Mr. Rishi Nath, who was present on the campus to certify the event said, "I am delighted to announce that O.P. Jindal Global University in collaboration with the Flag Foundation of India has successfully created the largest human waving flag record with 7368 enthusiastic participants. JGU & FFI is now the record holder for this activity, and I am pleased to endorse their effort that this new record will be a part of the Official Guinness Book of World Records."

The landmark event was organized by JGU in

collaboration with the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's leading private university. With more than 11,000 students and 1100+ faculty members across all Schools and Institutes, JGU has been a benchmark in transformational higher education which brings international standards of learning and knowledge creation for our students. Establishing the Guinness World Record for the largest human waving national flag is a notable event. It is indeed an occasion that befits our 15th anniversary and marks our commitment to excellence and innovation. The recognition by the Guinness World Records reinforces our commitment to building a robust India through education. The Flag Foundation of India was set up as a registered society, a non-profit body

15th anniversary of India's leading private university. With more than 11,000 students and 1100+ faculty members across all Schools and Institutes, JGU has been a testament to strengthen pride in our identity as Indians and our commitment to uphold the values enshrined in the Tricolour which represent the values of Democracy, Inclusivity, Respect and Tolerance across all races, region, or religion."

Maj. General (Retd) Ashim Kohli, Secretary General, Flag Foundation of India said, "By choosing the path of

striving to uphold the dignity of the Tiranga, this project aims at regenerating that sense of pride and removing those layers of hesitation which keep us from living a life of a true nationalist. The 'Flag Foundation of India' is an attempt to rekindle that spirit of nationalism. We have also installed more than 80 monumental flags across the length and breadth of the nation.

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 \$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 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.

Under its infrastructure business segment, where the company bids to develop transmission projects, it has recently won inter-state transmission system projects in J&K as well as north-east India which will play a pivotal role in connecting clean and green power to the national grid.

The WHEC's goals and strategic scope remain, and the new timeframe represents an opportunity to deepen and expand common efforts of knowledge production,

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, 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 expressed how Amrita is

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

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,



Miami Open 2024: Andy Murray, Naomi Osaka breeze into second round

New Delhi: In a gripping encounter at the Miami Open, Andy Murray showcased resilience and skill to overcome Matteo Berrettini in a three-set thriller, marking a significant moment in his season.

The match concluded with scores of 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in favour of Murray. This win propelled Murray into the second round of the tournament, a stage he has been striving to surpass after early exits in his initial four tournaments of the season, including the Australian Open.

The match began with

Berrettini, returning from an injury hiatus since the U.S. Open, taking the lead with a strong performance in the first set. However, as the match progressed into the second set, the dynamics shifted dramatically. Berrettini faced a physical setback, showing signs of distress that led to medical intervention right on the court. Despite this, Murray capitalised on the situation, adjusting his strategy and leveling the match by winning the second set.

Murray's experience and strategic play came to

the forefront in the deciding set. He broke Berrettini early, setting a tone for the remainder of the match. Although Berrettini showed commendable spirit, holding his serve, he couldn't break Murray's defense.

Murray, a two-time Miami Open champion, clinched the match with a decisive backhand winner, celebrating with a spirited fist pump. This victory not only marked his progress to the next round but also underscored his status as one of the three active players with over 30

wins at the Miami Open, joining the ranks of tennis greats Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

Naomi Osaka gracefully



overcame Elisabetta Cocciaretto with scores of 6-3, 6-4, securing her spot in the tournament's second round.

form. However, Osaka, showcased the prowess and finesse that once crowned her with four Grand Slam titles. She broke Cocciaretto's serve early in the match, setting a tone of dominance that persisted throughout. Osaka's performance was a blend of strategic brilliance and athletic excellence, allowing no break opportunities to Cocciaretto in the first set and requiring just one break in the second to claim her victory. The match concluded on a high note with Osaka delivering an ace, a fitting

end to a display of her returning form.

Looking ahead, Osaka is set to face Elina Svitolina, the Ukrainian 15th seed, in what promises to be an intriguing encounter between two mothers making their comebacks. Svitolina, less than a year after her own return from maternity leave, presents a formidable challenge. Osaka expressed admiration for Svitolina's impressive run to the Wimbledon semi-finals last year, highlighting the respect and anticipation surrounding their upcoming match.

Pat Cummins wants to see Sunrisers Hyderabad make aggressive start to IPL 2024



they have a good mix of youth and experience in their squad.

"I mean, the plans are you know, I work really closely with the guys that I don't know too well. Get to know them. Get to know what they need from me out in the middle. And then, you know, work with coaches and what they want to see out of me as well as a player."

"So, a bit of planning to go and then just wanna get off to a really good start. T20s are hard. Kolkata's a good team, but I think just wanna see a really aggressive, start to the season."

"I think we've got a great mix. We've got a couple more experienced guys like Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umran Malik, these kind of guys I've only seen a little bit of but super excited, so I think fans should be pretty pumped for the season ahead," said Cummins.

Just want to get off to a

really good start: Cummins said that he is looking to work closely with some of the guys he doesn't know that well in the side and get to know what they would want from their skipper during the tournament.

The rest are packed away. So yeah, maybe next time I'll be wearing sleeves, but orange looks great. Uniforms. Awesome," said Cummins.

SRH will face KKR in their opening match at the Eden Gardens on March 23.

Cummins said that he wants his side to get off to the best possible start and felt

Hundred Draft: Hetmyer, Powell go big; no takers for Harmanpreet, Babar, Warner



New Delhi, (KCN): Nicholas Pooran was the first signing in The Hundred 2024 draft, with four other West Indians being signed in the first round, each at the highest price of GBP 125,000. Northern Superchargers opted for Pooran while London Spirit picked Andre Russell and Shimron Hetmyer. Rovman Powell and Kieron Pollard were the other two players from the Caribbean picked in the top bracket, joining Trent Rockets and Southern Brave respectively.

Several top players, both England and overseas, weren't picked in the draft. Jason Roy found no takers, same with Mark Wood, while David Warner and Tim David were the big names from Australia to miss out. India's star players like Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma were also not picked and Deandra Dottin and Suzie Bates missed out as well.

Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan were also among several high-profile players not picked by any teams while teammate Naseem Shah was picked at the highest price bracket by Birmingham Phoenix. Welsh Fire roped in Tom Kohler-Cadmore in the top bracket and the team also signed Shaheen Afridi for GBP 100,000. Imad Wasim was the other Pakistan player to be picked in the draft, going to Trent Rockets for GBP 100,000.

Smriti Mandhana (Brave) and Richa Ghosh (Phoenix) were the two Indian players to be drafted while Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu was picked by the Oval Invincibles. Amy Jones was the first pick in the women's draft, going to Phoenix while Meg Lanning is set to make her first appearance in The Hundred after becoming Spirit's first pick.

On the IPL 2024 rule book: Two bouncers, two referrals, no stop clock

New Delhi: The 2024

season of the IPL will maintain the current domestic cricket playing condition of granting bowlers two bouncers per over, marking a major departure from previous seasons when only one short ball used to be permitted.

Earlier this year, the BCCI introduced the second bouncer rule in the playing conditions of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT), an inter-state national T20 championship in the BCCI domestic calendar. The Board has now decided to persist with this rule for the IPL as well.

For context, in T20 Internationals, the International Cricket Council (ICC) allows only one short ball, whereas two bouncers are permitted in the Test and

One Day International (ODI) competitions.

"It's an excellent move," remarked Laxmipathy Balaji, a former India pacer and a former bowling coach of the Chennai Super Kings, speaking to Cricbuzz. "It will be a good addition to the armoury of fast bowlers and will provide bowlers, captains, and coaching staff with something to strategize and work for a particular batsman. It will also make the contest between bat and ball much more balanced."

Balaji stressed that the second bouncer could become more crucial during the latter stages of a match. "Bowlers often resort to yorkers in the death overs. Now they have one more option. With world-class fast bowlers participating in

the IPL, it will be exciting to witness the contests," added Balaji.

In another notable playing condition, the BCCI will continue with the rule of checking for a catch while a referral is made for stumping. Typically, stumping calls are reviewed by the on-field umpire's referral. This playing condition differs from ICC regulations, but BCCI officials believe that not checking for a catch before stumping would be unfair on the fielding side. "There could be a situation that while checking for stumping it may appear that bat had touched the ball. As per the ICC rule, the third umpire cannot give the batsman out. That would be unfair. Hence the BCCI has opted to persist with the old rule," a board official explained.

PCB in touch with Langer, Kirsten among others for Pakistan head coach role

New Delhi: After Shane

Watson turned down the offer, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is in contact with several foreign coaches, including Justin Langer and Gary Kirsten, to work with the national team as head coach on a long-term contract.

According to the "Jang"

newspaper, the PCB has

contacted high-profile

names such as Langer, Kirsten, Mike Hesson, Matthew Hayden, Eoin Morgan and Phil Simmons. The PCB Chairman, Mohsin Naqvi

said he wanted a foreign

coaching and support staff

to work with the Pakistan

team because of the upcoming ICC events including the T20 World Cup and the Champions Trophy. Zaka Ashraf, the former PCB chairman, had sidelined foreign coaches, Mickey Arthur, Grant Bradburn and Andrew Puttick after the World Cup in India, opting to turn towards domestic former players as coaches.

"It's a sweet problem, but we'll work it out. It's nice to have so much talent in our squad."

The first-time coach at the IPL also reckoned that the pitches at the Ekana Stadium would be better for batting than they had been in the previous season when only three of the seven games there saw scores in excess of 170.

"If we have team success, everyone will be rewarded. That'll be the message for all the players, including Bishi [Ravi Bishnoi] and KL, and there's a few others who will be vying for T20 World Cup spots.

That's all part of the game we play. The more they concentrate on playing well for Lucknow the more their chances of being selected will increase. And therefore, from

results in the World Cup. They played a few games here. There were some high-scoring games. I think South Africa vs Australia was a very high-scoring game, right?

"We've trained here now. We had a practice game last night under lights, and we've had two very good training sessions on the middle wickets, and the pitches were excellent - very, very good... they recognised that we needed to improve the pitches from last year, so we're all very hopeful that we see excellent pitches. From what I've seen so far, though, we have nothing to worry about."

Langer hopeful KL Rahul will be 'ready to go' for LSG's season opener



Lucknow: Lucknow Super Giants head coach Justin Langer is hopeful that captain KL Rahul will be available for the team's IPL 2024 opener against Rajasthan Royals this Sunday (March 24). Rahul missed the final four Tests of the recently-concluded Test series against England with a recurrence of a quadriceps injury and travelled to London to meet a specialist.

"KL was supposed to be here this afternoon to play in the practice game tonight, but unfortunately, he's had a hold-up on the aeroplane," Langer said on Wednesday (March 20). "He'll be at the ground later on tonight, so he'll

probably arrive just after the start of the day's play. "He'll be around for the first time to be with the boys and to be with the team. Everyone's looking forward to seeing him. We know he has worked very hard to tick off all his return-to-play protocols. He's worked very hard. He's been practising, he's been hitting lots of balls. He's hopefully ready to go. It's going to be nice to have the captain with us."

Rahul, an Orange Cap

winner in 2020, faces an interesting season with a potential spot in the T20 World Cup squad waiting at the end of it. While a position at the top of the batting order in India's

T20I team may be out of his reach with the likes of Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad currently ahead in the pecking order, Rahul could make a case for himself as a middle-order keeper-bat, a role he played with great aplomb in his breakthrough 2016 IPL season with Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Such a move would not leave LSG short-changed with trade acquisition and Rahul's Karnataka teammate Devdutt Padikkal capable of slotting in as an opener.

Langer kept LSG's batting order plans close to his chest but said that Rahul's World Cup prospects would increase if the team went on to have great season. "My view - and I've said this for probably 25 years - is that if the team does well, then everyone gets rewarded. And therefore, from