

BJD releases list of candidates for 15 Lok Sabha, 72 Assembly seats

Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi Sworn In As Judicial Member Of Lokpal

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) President and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday announced the first list of candidates for 72 Assembly and 15 parliamentary constituencies in the state for the simultaneous elections scheduled from May 13. Patnaik himself will contest from the Hinjili Assembly segment in Ganjam district. The party has fielded has fielded Arup Patnaik in the Puri Lok Sabha seat, Sharmistha Sethi in the Jajpur Lok Sabha seat, Rajashree Mallick in Jagatsinghpur, Abinash Samal in Dhenkanal, Achyutananda Samant in Kandhamal and Sanrput Mishra in Cuttack. Pranab Prakash Das will contest from Sambalpur Lok Sabha constituency replacing Nalini Kanta Pradhan. The Sambalpur parliamentary constituency will witness an intense fight as the



Bharatiya Janata Party has already announced the name of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for the seat. Similarly, veteran hockey player and former Indian hockey team captain Dilip Tirkey will contest the elections from Sundargarh Lok Sabha constituency against former Union minister and senior BJP leader Jual Oram. The BJD has fielded Anshuman Mohanty from Kendrapara Lok Sabha constituency replacing popular Odia cine star Anubhav

Mohanty. Anshuman will face BJP's national vice-president and former MP Baijayant Panda in the elections. In a surprise move, the BJD has announced Manmath Routray, son of veteran Congress leader Sura Routray, as candidate from high profile Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha constituency. Manmath's name was announced just hours after he formally joined the party on Wednesday. He will contest against former bureaucrat and sitting MP Aparajita Sarangi.

Meanwhile, Pradeep Kumar Majhi, who joined BJD after quitting Congress in 2021, has replaced Ramesh Chandra Majhi as the party's candidate for the Nabarangpur Lok Sabha constituency. Pradeep who contested on Congress ticket from the same constituency in 2019 had lost to Ramesh. Similarly, BJD has replaced Pramila Bisoyi with Ranjita Sahoo for the Aska Lok Sabha constituency this time. The party has fielded Sudam Marndi for Mayurbhanj Lok Sabha

seat, replacing Debashis Marndi. The BJD also announced the Lambodar Nial for Kalahandi Lok Sabha constituency replacing Puspendra Singhdeo who had lost to Basanta Kumar Panda in 2019 general elections. The party on the other hand retained Kausalaya Hikaka for Koraput parliamentary constituency who had lost to Saptagiri Shankar Ulaka of Congress in the 2019 elections. The party has also announced the list of candidates for 72 assembly constituencies for the upcoming elections. It had retained many previous candidates barring a few new faces. The party has fielded Sujata Sahu for Jajpur as Pranab Prakash Das has been announced to contest from Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat. Similarly, Kalikesh Singh Deo has replaced father Ananga Udaya Singh Deo from Bolangir Assembly seat this time.



New Delhi(KCN): Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi was sworn in as a judicial member of Lokpal. The oath was administered by Justice A. M. Khanwilkar, Chairperson, Lokpal of India. Also, Pankaj Kumar and Ajay Tirkey took oath as members of Lokpal. The oath ceremony was organised today at the Lokpal of India office in New Delhi. The new appointments took place as two existing Judicial Members namely Justice P. K. Mohanty and Justice Abhilasha Kumari and three Members namely Shri D. K. Jain, Smt. Archana Ramasundaram and Shri

Mahender Singh have completed their tenure in Lokpal on 26th March 2024. Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, before joining as Judicial Member, Lokpal of India, was serving as the Chairperson of the 22nd Law Commission of India. Before that, he was Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court. Pankaj Kumar is a 1986 batch IAS officer from the Gujarat cadre. Before joining as a Member of Lokpal of India, he was serving as Chief Secretary of Gujarat. Ajay Tirkey is a 1987 batch IAS officer from Madhya Pradesh cadre. Before joining as a

Member of Lokpal of India, he was serving as Secretary of the Department of Land Resources, Government of India. Praveen Kumar Srivastava, Central Vigilance Commissioner and other senior officials of CBI and ED also attended the ceremony.

EC issues show-cause notices to Dilip Ghosh, Supriya Shrinete for remarks targeting women

New Delhi(KCN): The Election Commission Wednesday issued show-cause notices to BJP leader Dilip Ghosh and Congress leader Supriya Shrinete for their offensive remarks against West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Kangana Ranaut respectively. Ranaut has been fielded by the BJP from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi Lok Sabha seat for the parliamentary elections. Their remarks were "undignified and in bad taste", the Election Commission (EC) said. The poll panel said that prima facie, the two remarks were violative of the Model Code of Conduct and its advisory to political parties to maintain dignity during electioneering. The two have been asked to respond to the show-cause notices by March 29 evening.

Veteran Congress MLA Sura Routray's son joins BJD



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Six-time Congress MLA Suresh Routray's son Manmath Routray joined the ruling BJD in Odisha Wednesday. Manmath, a former commercial pilot, went to the BJD headquarters, Sankha Bhawan, with his supporters in a procession. He was inducted into the party by its MPs Manas Mangaraj and Sasmit Patra. "I will work for the ideology of my father and also Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Both

leaders have one agenda in life and that is development. I will work for the development of Odisha," he said. Suresh Routray had Tuesday said that he wanted his son to contest elections as a Congress candidate. "I accept Manmath's decision of joining the BJD as he is mature enough to make decisions on his political career," said Routray, the MLA of Jatani. Stating that he would not contest the ensuing polls

due to his age, the 80-year-old leader said he would, however, cast his vote in favour of the Congress candidate and not to his son, who is likely to be fielded by the BJD. Manmath said he has his father's "blessings". "My father wanted me to join the Congress, but I decided to start my political journey under Naveen Patnaik's leadership," he said. Speculations are rife that BJD may field Manmath as its candidate either for the Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha seat or in the Jatani assembly segment. Manmath resigned as a pilot of Air India and returned to the state in January. He was accorded a grand welcome by his father and his supporters.

EOW Arrests Absconding Woman Fraudster For Cheating Rs 2 Cr In Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Bhubaneswar has arrested an absconding woman fraudster from Kalyan in East Mumbai concerning a Rs 2 crore fraud case in Odisha. The accused, Rammi Bhuyan alias Rammi Pusti (39), wife of Bimalananda Bhuyan is a resident of Ward No.43 at Adarsh Nagar in Chhatisgarh's Durg. The arrested accused was produced before the Hon'ble Court of JMFC 4th, Kalyan, and brought to Bhubaneswar on the strength of transit remand. She will be produced before the Hon'ble P.O, Designated

Court under OPID Act, Cuttack today i.e. on 27.03.2024. EOW PS Case No.10 dt.17.12.2020 U/s 406/420/467/468/471/120-B IPC has been registered on the allegation of one Bikash Podar of Sambalpur against Bimalananda Bhuyan and his wife R a m m i Bhuyan for cheating 53 investors of Rs.1.2 Cr. on the pretext of supplying LED monitors for advertisements through their LLP Company "Quick Click AD Media". They were



luring the general public to invest with them to get lucrative profits from the advertisements. The two accused partners of LLP Company "Quick Click Ad Media", during the period 2017-18, induced the general public to invest through two of their schemes to purchase LED monitors to be placed in prominent places for advertisements by different agencies. The public was attracted by promising potential shares from the profits

from advertising of different sales agencies in the LED monitors. In this manner, they were able to collect public deposits that run in crores and finally, without purchasing any LED monitors they misappropriated the collected amounts and absconded. 'Quick Click Ad Media' is a Limited Liability Partnership Company registered with ROC, Chhatisgarh in the year 2017. The Company has its Head Office at Shyamnagar, Raipur, Chhatisgarh and the branch offices at Jagdalpur, Chhatisgarh and Jaydev Vihar in Bhubaneswar.

SAD to contest Lok Sabha polls on principles against Delhi parties: Sukhbir Badal

Chandigarh, (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), March 27: After a clear no to Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) by the BJP to have any alliance during on going Lok Sabha elections, SAD President Sukhbir Singh Badal has started to accuse all Delhi based parties including BJP, its old ally, for taking Punjab back by decades and alleged that BJP, Cong and AAP do not have any agenda for Punjab, however it has still a soft corner towards BJP, which indicates that SAD may have an alliance with it after elections. It is pertinent that BJP Punjab president Sunil Jakhar on Tuesday announced that the saffron party will be going all alone in the Lok Sabha elections in the

state and thus gave a jolting break to the alliance with Shiromani Akali Dal. Notably, SAD had withdrawn its ties with the BJP in September 2020 over the now repealed farm laws which saw widespread protests across the country. Political circles were speculating an alliance between BJP and SAD parties anew. But now, SAD president on Wednesday appealed to Punjabis to support its own regional party which was taking on all Delhi based parties by contesting the forthcoming parliamentary elections on principles to safeguard the interests of Punjab. The SAD president, who toured the Mansa and Budhlada assembly

constituencies on Wednesday at the head of the Punjab Bachao Yatra, was accompanied by Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal. SAD in its press release claims that hundreds of women came up to both the SAD president and Mrs Harsimrat Badal to complain how their names had been deleted from various social welfare schemes besides blessing them for the manner in which they had conducted development in the Bathinda parliamentary constituency during the ten-year tenure of the SAD led government in the State. All the speakers including Prem Arora in Mansa and Dr Nishan Singh Budhladha harked back to the development done during the erstwhile



SAD government and appealed to the people to bring back a pro- Punjab and pro-Punjabi party back in power in the State. Asserting that the SAD was the only regional party in the fray, Mr Sukhbir Singh Badal said, "We are arraigned against the Bhartiya Janata Party,

Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) who have no agenda for Punjab. Only the SAD can protect your rights." Keeping mum over the BJP ruled ten years, he highlighted how both the Congress and AAP governments had taken Punjab back by decades besides asserting that

both Punjab and Bathinda parliamentary constituency had suffered during the last seven years. "Look around you, all development including the AIIMS institute, thermal plant, refinery central university, airport or road infrastructure – all of it came about during the SAD government

tenure. Both the Congress and AAP have nothing to show by way of any achievement". He also highlighted the spirited manner in which Mrs Harsimrat Badal had protected the interests of her constituents and brought in major projects into the constituency. Speaking during the Yatra, Mrs Badal said, "The SAD is determined to take the voice of Punjabis to Delhi. This is the only way to resolve all our issues". She asserted the SAD alone was capable of taking up the issues of Punjab and ensuring justice was done to Punjabis. Asserting that Delhi based parties were not loyal towards Punjabis, Mrs Badal said chief minister Bhagwant Mann and his ministerial

colleagues were busy playing a game of one-upmanship to please their boss Arvind Kejriwal by indulging in drama exercises in Delhi. "Punjabis meanwhile are in the grip of a drug menace and are even dying due to large scale prevalence of hooch, but nothing has been done to resolve these issues". The Bathinda MP also highlighted how earlier the Congress party had befooled Punjabis. "You were promised a complete loan waiver and 'Ghar Ghar Naukri'. However, nothing of this sort happened. Instead, Congressmen resorted to looting Punjab and bankrupted corporations like the PRTC by indulging in corruption by giving orders for fabricating bus bodies outside the State".

A MOTHER'S LOVE

Anupama Bhuyan

A Mother's love is something that no one can explain, It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain, It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may For nothing can destroy it or take that love away.. It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking, And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking... It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns, and it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems.... It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation, And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation.... A many splendoured miracle man cannot understand And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.

“Sai Bithi”, 7D/1354, Sector-9, CDA, Cuttack



Summer Love

Dr. Bichitra Nanda Acharya

Our First Summer Together
Summer keeps its promises this year
You and me the first summer together
When cubes of coloured emotions so free
Summer forgot to come with a stormy spree...
Summer warmth was sucked by verdurous breeze
Life became a wonderland with summer bliss.
For Neruda a kiss is sweet
When empty spaces are filled with a caress
Someone I begin to miss
the lind of the soul is no longer shut.
Love strips me bare again and again
Humidity spreads though summer as there is no rain
Life stifled us, yet we never sweated
Love is warm summer as we for each other waited.

The Bivab, Acharya Colony,
Baliguda, Kandhmal, Mob. : 9437242317



An Early Morning Prayer

Jasaswini Pattanaik

I come before you, O Lord.
As the sun rises may your hope rise up in me.
As the birds sing may your love flow out of me.
As the light floods into this new day,
May your joy shine through me.
I come before you, O Lord
And drink in this moment of peace,
That I may carry something of your hope, love and joy
Today in my heart.

Chairperson, Nalanda Public School, Cuttack
E-mail : nalandapublicschoolcda.nps@gmail.com



Quotation of the Day



BOOK REVIEW

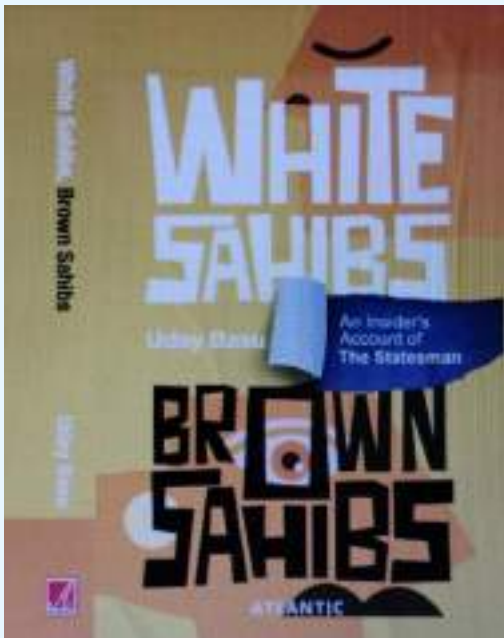
White Sahibs, Brown Sahibs: An Insider's Account of The Statesman By Uday Basu

Saikat Kumar Basu

The book was cerimoniously launched at Kolkata International Book on January 18, 2024. The book chronicles the brand of investigative journalism pioneered by The Statesman under British and Indian editors since its founding in 1875. It unfolds how the paper's founding Editor, Robert Knight, exposed, among many wrongdoings, the oppression of Bengal farmers by barbaric British indigo planters and a railway scam of monumental proportions during the

British Raj. The book shows how Rabindranath Tagore used the paper's columns to renounce his knighthood after the infamous Jallianwala Bagh massacre and ventilate his differences with Mahatma Gandhi on the latter's political creed of nonviolence.

There is a scintillating account of how the poet WB Yeats enjoyed Tagore's poem, Gitanjali, that won him the Nobel Prize for literature. Yeats expressed his delight and admiration while writing its introduction. Sister Nivedita, Lord Curzon, Satyajit Ray, Utpal Dutt, François Mitterrand, Dr BC Roy and many other prominent personalities figure in the book as the paper became intertwined with Bengal's socio-cultural-economic-political fabric Many untold stories of the paper with authentic documents about which avid readers all over the country are keen to know are presented in a highly readable



style. The reasons for the paper's decline are well documented. This excellent volume and reader's collective item have drawn upon from the intense personal experiences of the author himself; as the newspaper's journalist of 40 years' standing to show how exclusive reports can be produced.

Possibly the slow decay of a stalwart publication house reveals very harsh realities about the state of modern journalism in India. From that perspective, 'White Sahibs, Brown Sahibs: An Insider's Account of The Statesman', truly reflects the brand of investigative journalism pioneered by The Statesman under British colonial rule and then under the Indian editors since the establishment of The Statesman in 1875. This esteemed newspaper was the legendary pioneer in breaking spectacular revealing stories, including the Bengal famine of 1943.

The Statesman through its classic and erudite publication history attracted a vast section Indian readers in both urban and rural areas due to their professionally impartial and highest quality report establishing the hallmark or golden standard of journalism across India since inception of the publication in 1875. In its golden days, it set a precedent for very honest, fair and objective journalism unparallel to any other competing national or regional newspaper operating in contemporary India. However, over the decades, The Statesman has lost its glorious standard and the quality of the reporting deteriorated significantly.

The book depicts how The Statesman reflected the zeitgeist of Bengal and India from the British Raj to the present time. It relies on primary data, authentic documents and real accounts and anecdotes of those important stakeholders of this newspaper in any capacity to voice an unknown, yet untold story to the public at large. As the fourth pillar of democracy continues to encounter doubts about their neutrality and ability to bring truth to the public; this timely production directs the readers in asking the right questions about the standards and ethics of the basis as well as foundation of professional journalism in India post independence. This precious collector's item from the famous Atlantis publisher is being sold for Rs. 468 online for the paperback edition by Amazon; and is a must read.

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The Author is a Canada based indian Agro Scientists

A Nationalist Jawan

Prof.MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA

I met Param Shivam by accident at Srinagar while holding a workshop for children.

I was doing a creative writing and illustration workshop for children. Eminent children's illustrator Hakim Ghulam Ahmed and author Ghulam Nabi Atash were the resource persons. Suddenly a gentleman entered and sat quite.

I asked him, 'Sir, are you a parent of any of these children participating in this workshop?'

- No, he replied.

- Then ? I asked.

Then he introduced himself, 'I am Param Shivam. CRPF Commandant here.'

I was a bit afraid. Has anything gone wrong...

But he was smiling. I requested him to speak to the participating children and teachers.

He spoke so well that I was amazed.

That was the beginning of our interaction. We built friendship for years. He was a good poet and thinker. His friend Munna Singh and he established a library for CRPF Jawans.

So enthusiastic he was that he held a dinner meeting with poetry at his residence for the poets from North East attending the Book Fair. I eventually chaired that session.

We were facing some resentment from the local publishers in the book fair. One day he organised visit of the entire CRPF troupe to the book fair and bought books worth some Lakhs.

'Look, these people were once shooting at you and they are now buying books.' I told the erring publisher friends.

Param Shivam was of Tamil origin but was settled at Jabalpur in

MP. He was educated in MP and later in various parts of the country including JNU.

Later he was posted in Motihari in Bihar. He discovered that the house allotted to him for his residence was the house where the legendary author George Orwell was born and brought up. He persuaded his department to get it the status of a national monument and was successful in his noble non political mission. People with non religious set of free minds like Param Shivam are very rare these days. I don't find a Param Shivam in the crowd of power hungry people these days...

The unending Time

My friendship with Mohan Jena was through Mangala Prasad Mohanty. Mangala was in JNU way back in 1990 when I joined NBT as its Odia Language Editor. One day he came with Mohan to my Katwaria Sarai residence. Then I understand that Mahan Jena is a friend of my classmate Kailash Mishra, President, Ravenshaw College who was from DSO. Mohan was also from DSO.

Mohan has come to my place a number of times and he, Mangala and I had our dinner and drinks. He was a people's leader. But, I fail to understand why he joined BJD and later BJP. He was MP twice, but was unfit in today's political equation. Yesterday Mohan Jena left us forever for his heavenly abode. Tributes.

I am reminded of a story I read a year ago. A 60 year old

gentleman was suffering from deep depression and his wife booked an appointment with a counsellor.

The wife said... "He is in severe depression, please see to it..." The Counselor began his counseling by asking some personal things while the gentleman's wife sat outside.

The gentleman spoke, and it went this way; "I am too much worried. Infact, I am overwhelmed by worries - family issues, job pressure, friends, children's education, and job tension, mortgage loan, car loan, etc. I have lost interest in everything that I use to like. The world thinks of me as a cannon, they think I have everything, but I don't have as much stuff as even cartridge. I am very depressed..."

Then the learned Counselor asked him, "which secondary school did you attend." The gentleman told him the name of the school.

The counselor said, I want to advise that you go to that school. When you get to the school, locate your 'Class register' if it is still there, look up the names of your peers and try to get information about their current well being.

Write down all the information you get about them and meet me after a month..! The gentleman went to his former school, found the register, and copied every name in it.

There were 120 names in all. He tried day and night throughout one month, but was barely able to collect information on about 75-80 of his

classmates. Surprise results!! 20 of them were dead.

7 were widows/ widowers, 13 were divorced. 10 turned out to be drug addicts.

5 came out so poor that nobody could even connect with them.

6 turned out to be so rich that he couldn't believe it.

Some were cancerous, some were paralyzed, some were diabetic, asthmatic, heart disease patients.

A couple of them were in bed with injuries to the arm/leg or spinal cord.

The children of some has turned out to be insane, vagabonds, etc.

One was in jail. One person after two divorces was seeking for a third marriage. The counselor asked:- "Now tell me how is your depression?"

The gentleman understood that he had no disease, he was not starving, his mind was perfect, he was not unlucky. He was lucky that his wife and children were very good and healthy. He was also healthy, he could afford three meals daily. His challenges paled in significance to that of others.

That gentleman realized that, there's really a lot of sorrow in the world, and that he was very happy and lucky.

Our trip is Very Short. A woman climbed up the bus and sat down beside a man, hitting him with her numerous bags.

When the man remained silent, the woman asked him why he did not complain when she hit him with her bags?

The man replied with a Smile:

"There is no need to be

upset about something so insignificant, as our journey together is so short, because I'm getting off at the next stop".

Each of us must understand that our time in this world is so short, that darkening it with useless arguments, jealousy, not forgiving o t h e r s , discontentment and bad attitudes are a ridiculous waste of time and energy.

Did someone break your heart? Stay calm. *The trip is too short* Did someone betray you, intimidate, cheat or humiliate you? Relax - Don't be Stressed

The trip is too short Did someone insult you without reason? Stay calm. Ignore it.

The trip is too short Did someone make a comment that you didn't like? Stay calm. Ignore.

Forgive, keep them in your prayers & love them still for no reason.

The trip is too short Whatever the problems some bring to us, it is a problem only if we think of it, remember that *our journey together is too short*

No one knows the length of our trip. No one has seen tomorrow. Nobody knows when it will arrive at its stop. Our trip together is too short.

Visiting Professor of Development Communication
Former Director, I & PR and Culture, North Eastern Council
Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India
Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India

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Please Contact- 8338870595

‘Madgaon Express’ box office Day 5: Kunal Kemmu's film mints Rs 11.15 crore

Kunal Kemmu's directorial debut, 'Madgaon Express', earned Rs 11.15 crore at the box office. The film stars Divyendru, Pratik Gandhi, and Avinash Tiwari in lead roles.

Kunal Kemmu's 'Madgaon Express' witnessed an extended weekend, thanks to Holi, and raked in Rs 11.15 crore at the box office. After earning Rs 2.6 crore on Day 4, the film earned Rs 1.50 crore on Day 5 (its first Tuesday). The film saw an overall occupancy of 12.75 per cent in the Hindi belt.



The film clashed with Randeep Hooda's 'Swatantra Veer Savarkar' at the box office. Kunal, who recently

turned director with 'Madgaon Express', expressed his gratitude to the crew and fans for loving the film.

He shared a few

behind-the-scenes (BTS) photos of himself with his film's cast and crew, and wrote, "From day 1 of shoot to the day I said

the last pack up on the sets of Madgaon Express. Each day has been so special in so many ways. And I couldn't have done it without my amazing team of actors and technicians (sic)."

"To the many colours of friendship that the film showcases and the many colours of my own personality that I got to explore through this film. I wish you all a very happy Holi and thank you so much for all the love that you have shown to our film. May this festival of

colours bring you all your happiness and good luck," he added.

Directed by Kunal Kemmu and backed by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar's Excel Entertainment, the film follows the journey of three childhood friends who embark on a trip to Goa that goes completely off-track. It released on March 22, 2024, promising viewers a heartfelt journey. The film also stars Nora Fatehi, Upendra Limaye, and Chhaya Kadam in key roles.

Mission Raniganj On OTT: Akshay Kumar's Film Streams On Netflix



Pooja Entertainment's 'Mission Raniganj' has indeed come along with an immensely intriguing and captivating tale of courage and resilience on the big screens. While the film left an indelible mark on the minds of the audience, it emerged as one of the most cherished and reviewed films of 2023.

After paving a successful journey on the big screens, now the film has arrived on the OTT grounds and is now exclusively available on Netflix. The time has come when the audience can finally get to watch the story of a valiant mission led by courageous Late Jaswant Singh Gill to rescue coal miners in 1989 as 'Mission Raniganj' starring Akshay Kumar is now available only on Netflix.

The film has ruled the hearts of the audience and now it's all set to create the same magic on the OTT screens. In fact, it also emerged as the first choice of the audience on National Cinema Day.

'Mission Raniganj' has indeed touched the hearts of millions with its gripping narrative.

Produced by Vashu Bhagnani, Jackky Bhagnani, Deepshikha Deshmukh, and Ajay Kapoor, the film, directed by Tinu Suresh Desai and music by Jjust Music, promises to bring to life the coal mine accident that shook not only the nation but also the world. The relentless dedication of the rescue team, led by Jaswant Singh Gill, offering audiences an unforgettable cinematic experience, screening in cinemas now. The film is now streaming on Netflix.

Prerna Arora's Hero Heeroinee To Feature A BIG STAR?



The anticipation for the upcoming movie 'Hero Heeroinee' is escalating, fueled by intriguing posters that features actress Divyah Khosla Kumar. Speculations abound regarding the male lead. Rumors suggest an extended special appearance by a South Indian superstar,

Leaked: Ranbir Kapoor's Animal Full HD Movie Leaked Online On Tamilrockers, Telegram

Ranbir Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna's 'Animal' was released in theatres on Friday. The much-awaited action drama, also starring Anil Kapoor and Bobby Deol in lead roles, opened to mostly positive reviews, with critics and audience showering love on the star cast.

The first day first show



is over and fans and critics have already declared Animal 'a blockbuster hit' film. As

celebrated for versatile roles with societal messages, might share the screen with Divyah Khosla Kumar, the enigmatic Nagarjuna brings his charismatic presence, adding an extra layer of intrigue. Seasoned actor Sudeep and emerging talent Rishabh Kashyap also

fans are enthralled to witness this second Bollywood film by Sandeep Reddy Vanga

contribute to the mystery surrounding "Hero Heeroinee."

The mention of Vikram, whether it's the seasoned Chiyaan Vikram or a new face, adds grandeur and mystery. As the casting decisions unfold, the question of whether the lead actor will be from the Tamil or Kannada industry remains unanswered. Stay tuned as the veil of mystery surrounding the male lead in "Hero Heeroinee" is gradually lifted, promising a cinematic journey that not only captivates but also carries profound messages for the youth.

Rani Mukerji To Alaya F: Actresses Who Aced Their Roles As A Journalist

Bollywood has produced a large number of films featuring feisty and strong journalist characters who left an indelible mark on the minds of the audience. However, in recent times, playing a journalist on screen is getting more popular with B-town actresses. Here are the actresses who have aced the roles of journalists -

Alaya F – U-Turn

Ever since she has started her career as an actor, Alaya F has been unanimously praised for her choice of films and characters and taking the road less travelled; the latest one which has been hugely appreciated by the audience, industry and critics alike is Radhika Bakshi, her character in 'U-Turn'. While Alaya took on the challenge of essaying the demanding role of a journalist with great finesse at such a



young age, she has delivered a remarkable performance by carrying the film on her shoulders. She shines in intense scenes and commands a good screen presence. After the success of 'Freddy' and now 'U-Turn', she is considered

as one of the most sought after and bankable GenX actors of Bollywood!

Yami Gautam Dhar – Lost

While 'Lost' featuring Yami Gautam Dhar was praised for being an intriguing and thrilling



ride, the prolific performer Yami Gautam Dhar was equally appreciated for taking on the role of a spunky crime reporter who investigates the missing of a college student. The versatile actress also met a few senior crime

journalists during the making of the film.

Kareena Kapoor Khan – Satyagraha

Kareena Kapoor Khan played Yasmin, an aggressive and passionate journalist in the multi-starrer film, Satyagraha, directed by

Prakash Jha. While Kareena is known for playing glamorous roles mostly in her career, her performance as the obstinate and headstrong Yasmin demonstrated her acting prowess in this film.

Rani Mukerji – No One Killed Jessica

One of her best performances till date, Rani Mukerji as feisty television journalist Meera, takes up the case of Jessica Lal murder. Rani's character was inspired from the different TV news reporters covering the case. Meera takes up the cause as Sabrina loses all faith in her ability to ever bring her sister's case to justice. Rani was highly praised for her performance as a staunch journalist and got much critical acclaim.

HUNDRED YEARS AND ON – RSS THE FORTRESS OF NATIONALISM



Ever since the BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Modi’s ideological alma mater began to receive a magnified attention in the media. It was not because the RSS failed to grab media glare previously, but it used to maintain an ideal distance from it. I have known from the facts that the organization illustrated on different occasions that it believes in dialogues with its ideological adversaries to rectify the confusion that has been there in the air on its views and it was hesitant to depend on the media to publicize its agenda. This approach of the Sangh seems to have gained it more meaningful popularity in India and abroad. What made me take a closer view of the RSS was an incident. Besides being curious about the

speech delivered by the RSS Chief in his annual address, during the Dussehra days every year, his unexpected visit to a mosque in Delhi had compelled me to study it intensely. Interestingly, one reason that his visit captured columns in dailies was due to its being an unprecedented event and a rarity by all means. The second reason was that the head of the BJP’s ideological mentor visited the mosque when the country was witnessing multiple probes and raids and arrests of PFI activists in various parts of India. And the third reason I think, must have needled the media the most was the statement of Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, the Chief of All India Imam Organization, which is the largest Imam organization in the world. Mohan Bhagwat is “rashtrapita” (father of the nation), said the senior cleric. To which, Bhagwat intervened and said that there is only one father of the nation and also said everyone is “Bharat Ki Santan” (child of the nation). The momentum, the churn his visit and its ideological ramification triggered was immense. Now,

being at the brim of a century, the RSS is all set to celebrate its feat. Passing through a century of its activities of man making and nation building, the RSS seems to have gained the rare reputation of an organization that has achieved this grand milestone of a century. Politically, it is the Indian National Congress that has crossed a century. But hitting the rough edges of time, it seriously diminished in values and structure. Significantly moving from what it calls being just a cultural organization to an organizational genius of a colossal entity which gave birth to multiple organizations including the ruling BJP; the RSS deserves to be studied extensively to gain clarity on its ideological moorings. There have been malicious campaigns against its intentions and daring attempts depicted it as a campaigner of hatred. It is really irresponsible to treat any ideology a source of contempt and hatred and chaos until we get into the reality of facts that were intriguingly framed into comically-proportioned narratives.

Though Dr K B Hedgevar was the founder of RSS, its expansion to this unimaginable magnitude became possible with its second Chief M.S. Golwalkar began to hold the reins. Popularly known as Guruji, Golwalkar is well known for his saintly persona and his book “Bunch of Thoughts” has been considered as its holy text. The RSS has been known for its hard Hindutva stance with patriotic flavor holding its ideological essence attracting millions. It has been under attack on various issues, from the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi to the destruction of Babri Masjid to a lot many issues have been attached to the RSS by its opponents, giving it the status of a culprit. Of course it received a clean chit from the judiciary on Gandhi’s assassination. But flipping the pages of historic accounts on the struggle that an independent India had to go through to acceding Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian union, I found serious reasons to disbelieve the narratives that are framed to vilify the RSS. Guru Golwalkar, according to some

historical inscriptions, was instrumental in convincing Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir to join the Indian union. And Guru Golwalkar was reported to have got this assignment from the then Home Minister Sardar Vallabhai Patel. Golwalkar received the affirmative response from the Maharaja and the region subsequently chose to join India. The whole mess of allegations on the RSS seems to be fading with our understanding of the organization over its ideological interventions for the welfare of India. A genuine surprise would brush off the mirage of such a vilification campaign. Interestingly in practice, the RSS seems to have made considerable attempts to help successive governments when it found the country was faced with grave threats. The appalling onslaught by India’s aggressive neighbor China was forewarned by the RSS in its Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha in 1959. Cautioning the government, the highest decision making body of the Sangh said, “.....the country should essentially rely on its own

strength, if it has to meet any kind of external and internal challenges.” The RSS goes on admonishing the government on its stand on Tibet as well. It tells, “The Government in its anxiety to befriend China became totally unmindful of her expansionist designs and even admitted China’s claim on Tibet.” Bringing the internal security threat alert to the government, the resolution by the APBS concludes, “.... alongside invasion on our borders, subversive activities of the Chinese spies and the Communists and other fifth column elements within the country are going on unchecked.” The horror of Sandeshkhali began to cripple the fortunes of a large number of innocent people in West Bengal. But the Sangh foretold how precarious the state security was as extremist elements were blessed by their masters in politics. Islamic radicalization and the intensity of its horror destabilized Tagore’s Bengal. The APBS 2017 expressed grave concern over the influx of Jihadi elements in the state and it warned the state government for its

theatrics of being a sympathizer to the disruptive forces, encouraging them by providing an ecosystem for radicalization. The RSS has a clear vision on the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 as well. An apex body meeting of the RSS appealed to the citizens of the country to know the real purpose of the act, which it said was a prime mover to deliver justice to those minorities who got displaced and persecuted under Islamic rule in the neighboring countries. Its assurance decreed the genuineness of the act which, it promised, would not target any Indian citizen. Having gone through the resolutions passed by the annual high level meetings of the RSS, one thing was clear, that there is an underlying ideological acceptance between the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the RSS. While the RSS aspires for Bharatiya resurgence through structural spiritual evolution, the government under Modi seems to materialize this on multiple fronts. His revamping missions of spiritual centers to his

Panch Pran call from the ramparts of the Red Fort, all that is executed by the government is in tune with what the RSS strives for fulfillment. This ideological concomitance is reflected in Modi’s Make in India initiative which was an ideal hand-in-glove material of the Sangh’s Swadeshi movement. Modi’s “Vocal for Local” has gone beyond the dry sloganeering of “Swadeshi” as he brought this ideological dictum in true spirit and practice. Though the RSS is sidelined and criticized for its Hindutva stance on nationalism, an ideal study of the Sangh would reveal certain hard facts about why it survived for a century. Ruling the country for a decade, the Sangh has reasons to plan for a hat-trick, which even the BJP and its leader Narendra Modi understandably accept, would be hard to happen without the RSS cadres toil.

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Night Nourishing

Shahnaz Husain



There’s a reason it’s called ‘beauty sleep’—some of the most powerful skincare products work their magic best when you’re catching up on shut-eye. Nourishing your skin with the right ingredients during bedtime is as crucial as taking care of your skin during the daytime. From hydrating and repairing to restoring and rejuvenating the skin, night creams are the perfect solution for healthy and glowing skin. Night nourishing is important for normal to dry skin, especially during summer. People with dry skin are prone to early aging and nourishing helps to delay the formation of early lines and wrinkles, keeping the skin smooth and youthful. Nourish the skin at night, before bedtime, with a night cream. A night cream is basically a nourishing cream and is useful for

normal to dry skins. Those who are prone to pimples, or have oily skin, should not use night creams. Night nourishing also preserves the elasticity of the skin and improves its ability to retain moisture. It tones the skin and improves blood circulation to the skin surface. A night cream is to be used at night, before bedtime, after cleansing the skin thoroughly. The night time routine is important, as all the pollutants and make-up should be removed from the skin. The skin should be nourished and clean. When we sleep, all the repair and restoration work of the body can go on efficiently. Proper cleansing and nourishing help to remove dead cells and speed up the skin’s regeneration of new skin cells. Nighttime pampering of the skin also helps us to give special care to particular areas, like the area around the eyes, the neck and hands. These are areas which are the earliest to show signs of age. Massaging the nourishing cream into the skin also helps to tone the muscles and improve blood



circulation. First, cleanse the skin thoroughly to get rid of the pollutants and impurities that have deposited on the skin during the day. After cleansing, apply the night cream on the face. Taking a little water, massage the cream on the skin, using circular motions, with outward and slightly upward strokes. Massage for 3 to 4 minutes and then remove all cream with moist cotton wool. Remember that when you massage, use gentle strokes, without pulling or stretching the skin. Massage the delicate skin around the eyes, with the ring finger only. Using the lightest touch, stroke outwards over the brows, continuing underneath the eyes and over the eyelids. Use

movements in one direction only and not back and forth. Apply the night cream on the neck too and massage with strokes starting from the chin and going downwards. Use both hands to massage the neck, one hand following the other. 1---Apple Night Cream ---Take 2 Apples, 5 Tablespoons of Rosewater and 1 tablespoon of Olive Oil Peel the apples and cut them after removing the seeds and blend them with olive oil .Put the mixture into a boiler and heat it on low flame until hot and then allow it to cool . Once it gets cool then pour the rosewater in mixture and stir well .Store in a tight jar and put in the refrigerator . Use the cream in a week

time for best results 2---Aloe Vera Night Cream --- Take 4 tbsp aloe vera gel, 2 drops lavender essential oil and 3 tsp rose water. Mix the aloe vera gel with the lavender essential oil in a glass Jar. Add rose water to obtain a thick paste. Keep it in a watertight Jar in a refrigerator. Use at night on face and neck uniformly Aloe vera gel effectively heals acne, pimples, redness, boils and scars. Lavender essential oil checks inflammation and banishes blackheads and whiteheads. Rose water balances pH of the skin, removes excess sebum and oil to leave behind clear, smooth and sparkling skin.

3---Cocoa Butter Creame Take 2tsp cocoa butter, 3 tsp rose water, 1 tsp honey and 1 tsp almond oil Mix cocoa butter and almond oil in a vessel, heat it on low flame and then allow it to cool naturally. Now add honey and rose water and stir it well and then store in an air-tight jar and refrigerate it. You can use this cream in 7 days for best results 4---Green Tea Night Cream --Take 1 green tea bag, Few drops of hot water, 1 tablespoon of beeswax, 1 tablespoon coconut oil and 2-3 drops of almond oil Combine a tablespoon of beeswax with few drops of almond oil and mix properly in a bowl Dip the Green Tea bag in a little hot water and add it to the earlier prepared mixture Thereafter, add a tablespoon of coconut oil to the mixture . Store it in an air-tight container Apply it daily on face and Neck before sleeping

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

Letter to Editor

Dear sir, Regulate Reused Cooking Oils

In commercial settings like restaurants, it’s common practice not to discard oil after a single use. Unfortunately, with deep frying, failure to regularly change the oil can lead to the generation of trans fats through repeated reheating, potentially causing inflammation in the body as per health experts. Unhealthy oils can adversely affect mainly heightening the risk of cardiovascular diseases and type 2 diabetes. Repeated heating of oil also leads to the accumulation of visible and invisible granules, altering the oil’s composition and introducing neo-formed compounds (NFCs) over time. This process diminishes the oil’s nutritional quality. FSSAI lacks regulations or definitions for reused cooking oils, often leading food safety officials to rely on visual cues such as color or appearance. Therefore it’s imperative for FSSAI to frame regulations for reused cooking oils.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K Raichur, Karnataka

Kejriwal can’t be CM

As far as Arvind Kejriwal is concerned, he will have to stay out of politics for a long time. Aam Aadmi Party leaders may claim that Kejriwal will remain the Chief Minister, but now it will be almost impossible for Arvind Kejriwal to remain on the post of Chief Minister. Delhi state holds a special position. Here the Lieutenant Governor has unlimited powers. The Lieutenant Governor comes under the Central Home Department. In such a situation, if Arvind Kejriwal does not resign, it is certain that he will be dismissed in the future. The arrest of Arvind Kejriwal will have an impact on the election campaign of Delhi and Punjab. Aam Aadmi Party is definitely playing the victim card but it has to be repeatedly criticized by the public. Will have to give clarification in front. That means the entire opposition is currently on the defensive on the issue of corruption. In fact, Arvind Kejriwal has committed a huge strategic and legal mistake by not responding to ED’s nine summonses. He has to bear the brunt of this at the time of Lok Sabha elections. If he had gone to the ED office for questioning in November itself, he would have been arrested today. One does not have to see this day. Even if ED had arrested him in November, he could have got bail after four-five months like it happened in the case of Sanjay Raut. Obviously the leaders of Aam Aadmi Party made serious mistakes in the case of Arvind Kejriwal. Govind Rao Rotti Vijayapura

Central University of Odisha Celebrates Holi with Traditional Fervor

Koraput, (KCN): The Central University of Odisha (CUO), nestled in the serene campus of Koraput, embraced the vibrant hues of Holi with traditional grandeur, echoing the essence of classical Indian culture. Organized by the Office of the Proctor, CUO, the festivities unfolded in a jubilant atmosphere.

Shri Sisir Patra, Executive Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, accompanied by Mrs. Madhusmita Padhi, Madam ED, as the Special Guest. The inaugural dais featured esteemed personalities including Prof. Sudhakar Singh, Retired Professor from BHU, Prof. N C Panda, Registrar, and Dr. Bharat Kumar Panda,



Proctor, CUO. Presiding over the ceremony was Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of CUO. In his welcoming remarks, Prof. N C Panda elucidated the symbolic victory of good over evil inherent in the spirit of Holi, fostering unity and jubilation within society. Shri Sisir Patra expounded on the

significance of Holika Dahan, praising CUO's efforts in orchestrating the celebration. Mrs. Parida conveyed warm wishes to the CUO community through hymns, while Prof Sudhakar Singh elaborated on the diverse styles of Holi celebrations across Varanasi, Brajadham, and Shantini Ketan,

emphasizing the common thread of joy. Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi delved into the philosophical underpinnings of Dola Purnima and Holi, highlighting the profound joy derived from various relationships. Drawing from Indian mythology, he evoked the transcendental love of Radha and Krishna, akin

to the devotional fervor of Meera, which mirrors the ethos of tribal societies in Koraput. Prof. Bharat Kumar Panda, Proctor, CUO, extended formal gratitude in his vote of thanks. A mesmerizing cultural program, curated by students under the guidance of Dr. Rudrani Mohanty, Head of Odia Department, showcased the rich heritage of Odisha. The ceremonial exchange of colors between juniors and seniors, followed by the traditional 'Matka Phoro' game, infused the gathering with boundless enthusiasm. Participants relished a delectable spread of Mattha Chhanch, sweets, and fruits, forging unforgettable memories of camaraderie and joy.

ECoR ACHIEVED 250 MILLION TON FREIGHT LOADING BEFORE SIX DAYS OF 2023-24 FY:

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): East Coast Railway has surpassed all records of Indian Railways in Freight Loading in the Financial Year 2023-24. From 1st April, 2023 to 25th March, 2024, ECoR loaded 250 million tons of freight, shattering the earlier record of highest Freight Loading of 2022-23 fiscal. ECoR has also become the 1st Zone to cross the Milestone of 200 Million Tonne of loading for 5th times in a row. The three divisions of the ECoR have contributed greatly to the stupendous feat achieved by it. East Coast Railway was the Second Railway Zone after undivided South Eastern Railway to load 200 MT in the financial year 2019-20. Today, it has become the first zone to cross 250 MT of freight.



During the financial year 2023-24, East Coast Railway has loaded 149.50 MT of Coal, 12.9 MT of Raw Materials to Steel Plants, 20.15 MT of Steel & Slag, 37.4 MT of Iron Ore, 1.21 MT of Cement, 3.16 MT of Food Grains, 6.4 MT of Fertilizers, 3.0 MT of

Mineral Oil, 23.27 MT of freight in Containers and other goods. This is 6% more than the corresponding period of last year. Khurda Road Division of ECoR has contributed 156.17 million ton followed by Waltair Division and 19.20 million ton by

Sambalpur Division. All the three Divisions have performed better than previous year and surpassed their last year loading figure. The coalfields of MCL at Talcher, five ports in ECoR jurisdiction, i.e. Paradeep, Dhamara, Vizag, Gangavaram & Gopalpur; iron ore mines

in Bailadila in Chhattisgarh, Major Steel & Aluminium Companies, iron ore mines in Keonjhar District are the major contributors in this achievements. This remarkable loading has been achieved despite various challenges by remarkable performance of ECoR with proper planning and coordination with Govt Sectors and Industries. ECoR under the leadership of its General Manager Shri Manoj Sharma achieved the remarkable feat. The General Manager has been instrumental by motivating its workforce right from the day one. Right thinking with positive Attitude and continuous hard work has been the hallmark of this zone.

National Seminar Explores 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Economic and Management Challenges at CUO



Koraput, (KCN): The Central University of Odisha commenced a two-day National Seminar on "Viksit Bharat @2047: Economic and Management Challenges" on 27 March 2024. The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, in the esteemed presence of Prof. Bidhu Bhusan Mishra, Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University, Prof. N C Panda, Registrar of CUO, along with renowned

academic and industry experts including Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Retd Executive Director (Corporate Services) of MECON Ltd, Ranchi, Prof. Pabitra Kumar Mishra from Central University of Punjab, Prof. Irala Lokananda Reddy from University of Hyderabad, and Dr. Manoranjan Biswas, Executive Director (IR and Safety) of MECON, Jagdalpur. Organized by a proficient team led by Dr. Padma Charan Mishra, Head of Department & Convener, Dr. Prasant

Kumar Behera, Organizing Secretary, and Dr. Subash Chandra Pattnaik, Coordinator, DBM. The Seminar aims to delve into crucial aspects of India's economic and managerial landscape. Professor Tripathi highlighted the essential role of peace and prosperity in shaping a developed India, stressing the significance of indigenous business management principles over Western ideologies. He exemplified this notion with the resilience of

tribal communities, who, despite economic hardships, lead lives marked by contentment and peace, urging students to explore the underlying factors contributing to their serenity. Prof. Bidhu Bhusan Mishra, in his address as the Chief Speaker, provided insights into India's current economic state, emphasizing democratic development and the necessity for sustainable growth goals over mere GDP figures. Prof. N C Panda, Registrar, commended the Seminar's thematic

focus on Indian aspirations, foreseeing a unique approach to development in Viksit Bharat by 2047. The Seminar features sessions on diverse topics such as economic opportunities, inclusive development, technology, marketing, finance, sustainability, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Additionally, two technical sessions for paper presentations, six sessions by distinguished speakers, and a panel discussion on sub-themes of the Seminar are scheduled. Dr. Prasant Kumar Behera gave the welcome address, while Dr. Padma Charan Mishra provided an overview of the Department and Dr. Subash Chandra Pattnaik expressed gratitude in the vote of thanks. Ms. Pritinanda Sahoo hosted the programme. Dr. Sitanath Raiguru, Mr. Nitin Kumar Hota, and Mr. Srinivas Rao K played pivotal roles in organizing the event as members of the organizing team.

KISS students Celebrate Holi in a unique way



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): The festival of colours, Holi was celebrated with traditional fervour on the campus of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) on Monday. The colourful evening was celebrated by 40,000 students in the presence of several actors, actresses, singers and directors from Bollywood. They also

performed cultural programmes and entertained the students. The Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Editor of Kadambini Itirani Samanta were present at the event. Star attractions at the event were Bollywood stars Bidusmita, Hara Rath, Bhakta Prahlada Charan Patnaik, Debu Brahma,

Jiban Panda, Priyabrata Panda; singer Antara Chakraborty, Shailabala, Mitrabhanu Mohanty, Shricharan Mohanty, Arun Mantri, Sarat Nayak, Aishwarya Mishra and Akanksha Kavi. Olympian Anuradha Biswal, Himanshu Sekhar Khatua, Director, SRFTI, and cine critic Dilip Hali, among others, were also present.

Director Sericulture J&K takes stock of the ongoing developmental works of the Department in South Kashmir of District Anantnag



Srinagar (Aasif Malik): Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat (IAS), Director Sericulture J&K, today conducted a surprise visit to various offices, mulberry nurseries/farms and inspected ongoing developmental projects in South Kashmir of District Anantnag including Silk Worm Seed Building at the Seed Station Achabal and Rampora Mulberry Nursery of Kuthar Zone to take stock of the ongoing developmental projects and the preparations for ensuing silk worm rearing. The Director Sericulture J&K while inspecting and ascertaining the status of the ongoing developmental works vis-à-vis Chawki Rearing Centers in Brisnoo, rearing sheds in Binglebal, Chitargul, Anantnag and District Offices of the department, expressed his satisfaction over the quality and pace of ongoing developmental works. During the visit he also interacted with many Silk worm rearers of the area and inspected their Rearing sheds. While

interacting with the National Awardee namely Smt. Rashida she said that by leveraging benefits of various schemes and facilities provided by the Department she fetch dignified livelihood and look-after their families well. The other Silk worm Rearers also shared their experience with the Director, Sericulture J&K and among them one Shri Noor Hassan Khan a Silk worm Rearer in Binglebal, Chitargul, Anantnag also apprised him that he also earns a substantial income by having a deep and a long association with Sericulture Department through Silk worm Rearing and by establishing a Silk worm Farm. During the occasion the Director, Sericulture J&K said that in Rampora Nursery of District Anantnag about 30000 Plants are being propagated annually which serves as a potential and important leaf reserve for the Silk worm Rearers in the area. Speaking on the occasion the Director Sericulture J&K said that in Binglebal, Chitargul,

Anantnag around 150 to 300 mulberry plants have already been provided to each farmer and silkworm rearer in the area. Besides, he also urged the people of tribal areas to come forward and avail the various benefits and incentives being provided by the department for establishing their own Mulberry Farms and Blocks under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP). He said that for any queries in this regard the interested people of tribal areas can contact nearest Sericulture Assistant, District Sericulture Officer, Divisional Offices or the Directorate of Sericulture J&K for which the contact numbers have already been shared through Print, Electronic and Social Media platforms. The Director exhorted upon the officers and the field functionaries of the department to work in a coordinated manner with silkworm rearers and youth to assist them in adopting sericulture practices on modern lines.

Common language critically important for socio-cultural-economic efficiency of Bharatvarsha

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Language is critical tool that facilitate to build understanding, to promote growth oriented healthy interactions as well as promote socio-cultural-economic - political efficiency of any nation. Languages also play important roles in promoting unity in diversity in multilingual, multi-cultural diverse nations like Bharatvarsha. Since the introduction of English language in official work practices as well as in judiciary a few centuries ago Bharatvarsha has undergone irreversible social-cultural-economic-political metamorphosis.

So, present policies needs developed recognising present realities and potential emerging socio-cultural-economic systems efficiency guided realities. Languages are dynamic and evolving over time. A day long seminar - discussion titled " Bharatvarsha: One Nation, Many Languages" was organised by Institute of Social and Cultural Studies Kolkata in collaboration with Sri Aurobindo Bhavan Kolkata, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) Kolkata of Ministry of Culture and

with support of Bharatiya Bhasa Samiti of Ministry of Education Government of India. The day long seminar deliberated on evolution of languages over thousands of years in Bharatvarsha and its usage. Shri Arindam Mukherjee Director of Institute of Social and Cultural Studies highlighted the need to strengthen national, regional as well as local languages for inclusive growth of all languages without losing socio-economic efficiency. Shri Biswajit Ganguly IAS (Retired) Secretary of Sri Aurobindo Bhavan spoke on vision & thoughts of Sri Aurobindo on use of

mother tongue (language) in education of children as well as shared Sri Aurobindo's own experience on language usages. Shri Swarup Prasad Ghosh Director of MAKAIAS, spoke on role of English language in building bridges of communication in diverse multi-cultural, multilingual Bharatvarsha. Shri Ghosh mentioned Bharatvarsha has one of the largest English speaking community in the world. Ghosh mentioned English plays important role in building bridges of goodwill through communication transcending Hindi and non-Hindi speaking North-South divide of



Bharatvarsha. Ghosh mentioned English play important role in areas of communication across all states and all sections of the society.

With the evolution of Information Technology, multilingual communication both verbal & written communication are fast evolving. Translation from one language to several other Indian languages has become easier. Artificial Intelligence is going to play important role in areas of verbal & written languages translation management in upcoming time.

Bhashini, the National Language Technology

Mission (NLTm), was launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2022 to provide language technology solutions as digital public goods through the Bhashini platform.

Bhashini stands for Bhasha Interface for India, the National Language Translation Mission (NLTm).

Bhashini App - the tool, developed by the government, aims to facilitate real-time translation, fostering communication across diverse linguistic communities within the country.

Bhasha Sangam app - the mobile application was launched by Ministry of

Education Government of India and MyGov India with an objective to teach basic conversational skills in Indian languages other than mother tongue.

Government of India is making serious efforts to facilitate healthy growth of all languages despite multiple challenges.

New National Education Policy 2020 encourages facilitation of education from pre-kindergarten to Higher Education levels in mother tongue/ language.

However, one of the major critical challenges for youths studying in mother tongue is employability after completion of education in other states. Youths needs to learn multiple languages to empower themselves with communication efficiency.

While speaking on the topic former Governor of West Bengal and former Chief Justice, Shri Shyamal Kumar Sen mentioned English language plays important role in facilitating understanding of various historic judgements pronounced over several centuries both in Indian courts as well as by courts

in other nations. Sen opined English should continue to be language in both in Higher and Lower judiciary. Sen mentioned the Courts across the country have reasonable legal frame work to allow litigants to have access to copies of judgements in their mother tongue or language of preference through official translation systems of the Courts.

Shri Chittatosh Mookerjee former Chief Justice of Calcutta and Bombay High Court opined while efforts should be made to promote all languages and education should be available to all in mother tongue, due care needs to be taken on economic and efficiency issues related challenges. Justice Chittatosh Mookerjee suggested Higher Judiciary involving High Courts and Supreme Court should continue to use English as official language of communication to have efficiency in judiciary and judgements delivery systems.

Former Justice Sambuddha Chakraborty highlighted usage of local languages in various levels of lower judiciary historically.

Rural Games Meet commences at NTPC Ramagundam

Peddapalli, March 27 (KCN): "Students of Peddapalli region with the cooperation of NTPC management should excel in all fields, especially in sports and become famous to make the country proud," said Additional Collector of Peddapalli district Shyam Prasad Lal. Inaugurating the Rural Games Meet at NTPC, Ramagundam on Tuesday, Shyam Prasad Lal thanked NTPC Management for its continuous support in developing schools of the region. Speaking on the occasion, Executive Director of NTPC (Ramagundam and



Telangana) Kedar Ranjan Pandu expressed his happiness on the occasion of starting sports like volleyball, Khokho, kabaddi, running race, short put, discus throw for 20 ZPHS school students under the auspices of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR-CD) NTPC. "If

students show enthusiasm and interest in sports, success in all fields is possible," he added and sought the support of the district administration. "NTPC has been spending crores of rupees on providing education, medical basic facilities, vocational training, drains, Roads and

water sanitation through various programs for the development of the region through CSR-CD," Kedar Ranjan Pandu added. The Meet had the participation of 800 students from 20 schools. GM (O&M) Sanjib Kumar Saha, President DMS Dr Chinmayee Das, GM (TS) Arpan Dasgupta, GM (Opn) K C Singa Roy, GM (FM) Goutam Kumar Haldar, CMO Dr. Itwari Ram Lahri, DGM (HR) Samuel Prashanth, NTPC SC/ST association and senior officials of NTPC were present at the Meet.

Former BJD MLA Purna Chandra Sethy joins BJP

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Former BJD MLA Purna Chandra Sethy, who resigned from the primary membership of the party, joined the BJP in Odisha.

Sethy, a two-time BJD MLA from the Khallikote Assembly seat, resigned from both the primary membership of BJD and the state council last Monday. After resigning from the BJD, Sethy joined the BJP in the presence of the party's state President Manmohan Samal and



other senior party leaders.

Sethy was elected to the state Assembly on a BJD ticket for the Khallikote Assembly seat twice, in 2009 and 2014. However, he was denied a party ticket in the 2019

Assembly elections but was assured that his candidature would be considered in the 2024 Assembly elections.

Sethy sent his resignation letter to party President Naveen Patnaik. Soon after joining the BJP, the former BJD MLA heavily criticised the BJD government in the state, alleging that a shadow government is being run by non-Odias. Sethy stated that he joined the BJP because it is the only alternative capable of bringing all-

round development to the state. He further emphasized that the people of the state have placed their faith in the Modi government and the guarantees provided by Modi, which will be reflected in the upcoming elections in the state. Recently, senior BJD leader and six-time Lok Sabha MP from Cuttack, Bhartruhari Mahtab, also resigned from the primary membership of the party, expressing strong displeasure over the party's affairs in the state.

BJP leader Kharabela Swain announces to contest Balasore LS seat as independent candidate

Balasore (KCN): BJP leader MA Kharabela Swain Monday announced that he will fight the Lok Sabha elections from the Balasore seat in Odisha as an independent candidate.

He made the announcement a day after the BJP re-nominated its incumbent MP in the seat Pratap Sarangi, a former union minister.

"I will contest from the Balasore Lok Sabha seat in the upcoming election as an independent candidate. I will campaign in the name of PM Narendra Modi. Let the people decide who is the real BJP," Swain told a press conference. He said he wouldn't quit



the BJP, but the party can take action against him.

"I will join the BJP after winning the elections," he added, exuding confidence.

Swain, a former MP, alleged that a "group of conspirators" within the BJP were responsible

for the denial of ticket to him.

He represented the Balasore seat from 1998 to 2009. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, he contested from Kandhamal but was defeated by BJP's Achyutananda Samanta.

Meanwhile, BJP's Kalahandi MP Basant Kumar Panda, who was also dropped, said he was a party worker and would continue to remain so.

"I welcome the decision of the party. Change is natural and we should respect it. I have performed the duties assigned to me by the party," he said.

Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari and Mayurbhanj MP Bisheswar Tudu, who too were denied tickets by the BJP, refused to comment. Tudu is a Union minister.

The BJP Sunday announced candidates for 18 of the 21 Lok Sabha seats in Odisha, dropping four sitting MPs.



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United We Play comes to Bhubaneswar; trials to be held on 30th March

Bhubaneswar: Leading tyre maker Apollo Tyres today announced that it is going to bring its flagship grassroots football programme, United We Play (UWP) to the city of Bhubaneswar. The trials at the city will be held on 30th March at ODM Global School and ODM Public School.

The United We Play programme is a grassroots training and talent development initiative going across 16 cities and key countries in Asia Pacific Middle East and Africa (APMEA), supported by Manchester United to encourage young football talent from across the country by giving them a platform to showcase their skills with the objective of

motivating aspiring footballers to continue playing and introducing them to global training methodologies.

The fourth edition, which was kickstarted in the presence of former Manchester United and French footballer Louis Saha in Kolkata earlier, promises to be much bigger and better with a year-round programme, reaching out to 16 cities pan-India and over 25,000 young footballers across the country.

Over the last couple of months, the programme has already connected over 600 coaches across the country with Manchester United Soccer Schools, where they have received exclusive training and access to the Manchester United curriculum and

certificates. MUSS is also in the midst of conducting 4 digital masterclasses with over 2000+ players already engaged through this.

To know more and register for the United We Play programme, players can head to - <https://www.apollotyres.com/en-in/stories/campaigns/sports/united-we-play-2024/>

The initial phase of the fourth edition of United We Play will be run by domestic coaches, before young footballers get a chance to impress coaches from the Manchester United Soccer School (MUSS). The best performers from across locations, will participate in the grand finale of the competition, and winners will get a trip to Manchester, with several experiential activities at Old

Trafford and Carrington at Manchester United including a matchday experience, training with the academy team, interaction with the legends and much more. Louis Saha, while officially kickstarting the activities for the fourth season of United We Play programme, had earlier said during the launch at Kolkata, "I am honoured to have been invited by Apollo Tyres to help launch the fourth season of United We Play. This is a huge opportunity for any up-and-coming footballer, and I would like to thank Apollo Tyres for creating this fantastic opportunity to inspire and develop the next generation of youth footballers. Participants will not only learn to play the Manchester United way, but also pick up

valuable life skills, such as teamwork, discipline and determination, which will go on to help them in the future."

The first three seasons were a massive success and received an overwhelming response with over 16,000 players from the country participating in the programme comprising on-ground trials, masterclasses and workshops. The last season saw 7 young footballers, which included 4 from India, who got a lifetime opportunity to visit Old Trafford to participate in exciting activities like a match-day experience, training session with Manchester United Soccer School coaches, and a chance to interact with the Club's Legends.

ICAR-CIFRI initiative on Sustainability for River Koshi

Kolkata, (KCN): The Koshi river is considered to be one of the primary tributaries of the Ganga river. In March 2024, the NMCG team from ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI), Barrackpore conducted a thorough survey to assess the ecological management of this river and the impact of anthropogenic activities on it. The researchers conducted an investigation of several aspects of fish diversity, distribution patterns, ecological characteristics, and changes in community structure during the survey. A total of five sampling sites in Bihar were selected for the analysis: Naugachhia in



Bhagalpur District, Khagaria in Khagaria District, Baluaha Ghat in Saharsa District, Basbitti and Dubiyahi in Supaul District along the Koshi river. The investigation revealed that the water of the Koshi river had a slightly alkaline nature, with a pH range of 7.4 to 8.5. Additionally, the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) level was found to be within the optimal range of 8.1 to 9.2 ppm.

Consequently, the river environment was determined to be a favorable habitat for the survival of fish. A total of 44 fish species were recorded in the Koshi River during the sampling. Catfishes like Eutropichthys vacha, Ailia coila, Sperata seenghala, Mystus cavasius etc were found as major dominant species in the Koshi. The Gangetic Dolphin (Platanista gangetica) was sighted across the

whole river course throughout the expedition. The majority of sampling points revealed the presence of extensive agricultural operations along the banks and bars of the river Koshi. During the visit, a socio-economic survey was conducted on the fishers in order to analyze the current status. The fishermen of River Koshi are facing a substantial fall in their catch, despite their increasing efforts. This decline can be mostly ascribed to factors such as the reduced mesh size of fishing nets, illicit electrofishing, and the use of pesticides to capture fish. As a result, fishers are relocating to different states in search of new sources of income, mostly as

agricultural workers, which are causing economic difficulties and social upheaval. ICAR-CIFRI has conducted public awareness campaigns in various sample sites and other locations along the river bank as part of their continuous activities. To raise awareness among local populations and fishermen regarding the significance of fish conservation and maintaining the river ecology, various programmes were implemented, like the delivery of an informative presentation focussing on the adverse consequences associated with destructive fishing methods, the use of plastics, and chemical pollution.

Apeejay Education and AWS announce new accelerator program

Bhubaneswar : Apeejay Education, an academic institution in India established for more than 50 years, and Amazon Web Services (AWS), an Amazon.com company, today announced the launch of the National Education Policy Accelerator Program (NEPAP), an initiative to

enable academic institutions in India to align with the technology requirements documented in the Government's National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020). This is the first program in India to support the technology transformation of education institutions as

per the NEP 2020. The NEP 2020 aims to strengthen India's education sector that directly contributes to the country's growth and development, demonstrating the need to integrate technology in education to improve learning and teaching at all levels. The accelerator

program will address two key tenets of the NEP 2020 – on the extensive use of technology in teaching, learning, education planning, and management; and in the creation of open, interoperable, evolvable, public digital infrastructure in the education sector to

support multiple platforms and point solutions. The accelerator program will guide academic institutions on multiple aspects of the NEP 2020. It will support academic institutions by conducting digital innovation workshops to focus on identifying and prioritizing

unique challenges of the academic institutions, and co-building solutions or proof-of-concepts (POCs) using technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). AWS will drive these workshops based on the Amazon Working Backwards innovation

methodology, which uses design thinking to identify and define a customer-focused problem or opportunity and develop prototypes. Through the accelerator program, AWS and Apeejay Education will support academic institutions with AWS credits, capacity building workshops, and

access to dedicated resources, to build and implement the POCs. Apeejay Education will bring expertise on the use cases of digital solutions in the education sector, and support with testing the solutions to extend the reach to other institutions across India.

Burlington English empowers Educators in Rourkela, Odisha with '21st Century Educator's Engagement Programme'; aims to skill 50,000 educators countrywide

Rourkela (KCN): Providing a unique opportunity for educators and school principals in Rourkela, Burlington English organised, '21st Century Educator's Engagement Programme' to empower them with leadership skills and elevate English language teaching-learning levels as aligned with the recommendations of the National Curriculum Frameworks (NCFs) and National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The 15-city programme is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of educators and aims to

train 50,000 educators nationwide over a year. This one-day leg of the programme, held at The Central Park, Rourkela, Odisha, covered crucial topics like Linguistic Confidence, Language Development Insights, and Tech Integration for Skills. Ms. Salony Priya, Master Trainer, Burlington, and Founder of Ummeed, conducted an insightful session for the educators, providing them with valuable tools and techniques to foster a dynamic learning environment.

Amit Baveja, Managing Director, Burlington English, expressed his



enthusiasm for the programme, stating, "The '21st Century Educator's Engagement Programme'

reaffirms Burlington English's commitment to fostering educational excellence. As the

programme advances nationwide, Burlington English remains dedicated to empowering over

50,000 educators and contributing to the enhancement of the education system. We

believe that investing in the professional development of educators across the country is crucial to delivering quality education that prepares students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century." Ms. Salony Priya also shared her thoughts on the importance of the programme, saying, "It is essential for educators to adapt to the changing educational landscape and equip themselves with the tools needed to nurture the holistic skill development of students. These engagements

make educators alive to the national and global issues, with a long-term perspective. It's indeed the need of the hour and am glad to curate it with Burlington English. The session was so well received and found relevant by the participating educators, and the insights along with the strategies suggested are carried from workshop to school for effective changes."

Empowering educators in Rourkela is just the beginning. Burlington English is committed to making a lasting impact nationwide, with the '21st Century Educator's Engagement Programme.'

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All-round CSK thump Gujarat Titans

Chennai :Chennai Super Kings were clinical with both bat and ball as they completely outplayed Gujarat Titans to register their second win on the trot in IPL 2024. Packed with powerful performances right through with the bat, their bowlers mirrored the collective effort to ensure that Gujarat were never allowed to squeeze their way back in the game, and condemned them to a 63-run loss. CSK found someone to keep them going right through the innings. Through the powerplay this role was taken up by Rachin Ravindra who blitzed his way to 47 in a 62-run opening stand with Ruturaj Gaikwad. Ravindra first went after Umesh Yadav's missed

lengths hitting him for a six and a four off consecutive deliveries. In the following over, he meted out similar treatment to Azmatullah Omarzai. When Yadav opted for slightly shorter lengths next time around, he was still not spared as Ravindra picked up another six and a four. The boundary flow didn't stop as Omarzai erred similarly next up to be put away promptly. Ravindra's blitzkrieg came to an unfortunate end when he was out stumped after the ball deflected off his body and close to the wicket keeper Wriddhiman Saha. Ajinkya Rahane next up could not keep up with the tone set by Ravindra as he was out stumped

after a run-a-ball 12. But Gaikwad had found his groove by now and kept the momentum up with a flurry of boundaries. He raced away to 46 but just as he was looking good for more, Spencer Johnson found an edge from a delivery angled across. But by now, the next of CSK's hitters - and the one who had maximum impact - was ready.

Shivam Dube played his role to a tee as he hit the first two balls he faced - against the favourable match-up of Sai Kishore's left-arm spin - for sixes. It set him up beautifully for the rest of the innings as he kept upping the ante. Rashid Khan was tonked for a six as well before Johnson was hit for a



four and a pulled six as the short ball ploy went for a toss. He brought up his fifty off just 22 balls and looked set for a bigger finish heading into the last couple of overs. Rashid Khan got the

better of Dube with a googly early in the 19th over raising Gujarat's hopes of applying the brakes. However, debutant Sameer Rizvi had other ideas. He hit his first ball in IPL for a six as

he slog-swept Rashid and followed it up with a lofted six over long off making sure that it turned into a 15-run over. But Mohit Sharma's final over went for only eight with Rizvi holing out to long on even

as CSK finished with a total over 200, which eventually proved to be more than enough. Gujarat were dependent on getting a good start in the powerplay to pose a challenge in the chase. Both Shubman Gill and Wriddhiman Saha made their intentions clear with Gill even lofting his first ball for a six but neither was able to make it continue for long. Deepak Chahar had Gill lbw with a skidding delivery while Saha holed out to the deep giving Chahar his second wicket. At 34/2, Gujarat were already put on the backfoot. With the tone set, none of Gujarat's middle-order batters could do enough to reverse the pressure back. It didn't help that CSK held onto sharp chances. Veterans

MS Dhoni and Ajinkya Rahane each held onto sharp chances while Rachin Ravindra dropped one but held onto three more ensuring that the collective control was never let up right till the end.

Chennai play their first 'away' game of the season as they travel to Vizag, the temporary 'home' for Delhi Capitals this season. On the same day - Sunday, March 31 - Gujarat Titans will go back home to take on Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Brief Scores: Chennai Super Kings 206/6 in 20 overs (Shivam Dube 51, Rachin Ravindra 46, Ruturaj Gaikwad 46) beat Gujarat Titans 143/8 in 20 overs (Sai Sudharsan 37; Tushar Deshpande 2-21) by 63 runs

NZC and Sony Pictures Networks sign seven-year India broadcast deal



New Delhi: Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) has inked a seven-year deal with New Zealand Cricket (NZC) to broadcast all international games in the country for the Indian audience. Currently, international cricket in New Zealand is broadcast in India through Amazon Prime, whose deal ends this summer. The Indian men's team are due to tour New Zealand in 2026-27 and 2030-31, thereby making this a lucrative acquisition for Sony Pictures. The deal, effective from 1st May 2024 to 30th April 2031, will be also be streamed on SPNI's streaming platform Sony LIV. Dwelling on the development, NZC Chief Executive Scott Weenink expressed his happiness at linking up with SPN. "Sony Pictures Networks

India is an aspirational, innovative and forward-focussed business that prides itself on being efficient and sustainable in a rapidly changing world", said Mr Weenink.

"It puts its consumers first and seeks to be the very best it can be - values NZC relates to very strongly."

Echoing Weenink's sentiments was NZC's GM Commercial Chris Smith who stressed on the need for tapping on the high-potential Indian markets

"It's fair to say this is a significant commercial agreement," said Mr Smith.

"Sony has a large presence in the Indian market on both linear and digital platforms and we're looking forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership. It's been a great experience

working with the SPNI team while finalising these arrangements.".

New Zealand teams and cricket in the country has had a reasonable following in India over the years. While the streaming right have undergone musical chairs with Amazon currently at the helm of it, SPNI's Chief Revenue Officer - Distribution and International Business and Head of Sports Business, Rajesh Kaul, sounded delighted at the seven-year deal that has been inked with NZC.

"Our constant endeavour has been to add marquee properties to our sports portfolio, making us a global multi-sporting arena for audiences in India," said Mr Kaul.

"We're looking forward to showcasing some terrific cricket through our seven-year partnership, including three crucial bilateral series against England, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, in 2024-25, as well two bilateral series featuring the Indian men's team in 2026-27 and 2030-31, respectively."

SPNI's digital rights in India will be shared with Amazon Prime for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons.

Nortje a conspicuous absentee from CSA's contract list

New Delhi: Quinton de Kock, Dean Elgar, Sisanda Magala, Wayne Parnell and Keegan Petersen were not on the list of contracted men's players CSA announced on Tuesday. Fair enough, in every instance. But the case of Anrich Nortje, who also wasn't named, raises questions.

De Kock, an all-format star until December 2021, now plays only T20Is. Test specialist Elgar has retired. Magala and Parnell each featured in only seven of South Africa's 33 white-ball matches last year, and Petersen in just two of their four Tests.

Nortje, also an all-format performer, appeared in only nine of those 37 games. But that was due to a lumbar stress fracture that kept him out of action from September 10 last year to March 7 this year.

At 30, he is in the prime of his career and among the fastest and most effective bowlers in the game. From his Test and ODI debuts in October and March 2019 only Kagiso Rabada has taken more wickets for South Africa in those formats, and none of Nortje's current teammates have a better

T20I economy rate.

Nortje returned to action in three matches for Eastern Province in the ongoing CSA T20 Challenge, the last two of them five days apart. He bowled all four of his overs in each game and kept a tidy enough economy rate of 6.83, and joined Delhi Capitals following the birth of his and his wife Micaela Nortje's first child last Tuesday.

If Nortje is fit enough for most of what will be a gruelling IPL campaign - he missed Delhi's first match on Saturday to be with his newly enlarged family - why isn't he fit enough to be recontracted by CSA? Because, it seems, he wants to carefully manage the rest of his career.

Cricbuzz understands Nortje has told CSA he wants to concentrate on T20 cricket - franchise and international - for most of this year before extending himself to ODIs by the end of 2024. That's understandable for someone who missed the 2019 IPL and has been ruled out of the last two World Cups by injuries. Test cricket? We may have seen the last of Nortje in whites. But, importantly, he has not



retired from the international arena.

So the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and the United States in June remains on his radar. The tournament is likely to be De Kock's swansong in a South Africa shirt. That's if he cracks the selectorial nod. De Kock scored a 44-ball 100 in a T20I against West Indies in Centurion in March last year, but in 24 subsequent innings in the format - for South Africa, Lucknow Super Giants, Melbourne Renegades and Durban's Super Giants - he has passed 50 only twice, and been dismissed for three ducks and six other single-figure scores. He knows he has work to do.

to make the T20 World Cup squad.

Kyle Verreynne and David Bedingham could consider themselves unlucky not to be contracted. Verreynne scored consistently in the SA20 and the domestic first-class competition, and Bedingham's 110 in Hamilton was among the few positives of South Africa's Test series in New Zealand in February. Nandre Burger and Tony de Zorzi are the new faces among the 18 - down from last year's 20 - who have landed contracts. There was good news for Andile Phehlukwayo, who is back in the centrally paid ranks despite playing for South Africa only six times in 2023.

There wasn't as

much to report from the women's list, which increased by one to 16 players. Ayanda Hlubi and Eliz-Mari Marx have signed up and the only notable absence is that of Shabnim Ismail, who has retired.

CSA contracted
players for 2024/25:

Men: Tembani
Bavuma, Nandre Burger,
Gerald Coetzee, Tony de
Zorzi, Bjorn Fortuin,
Reeza Hendricks, Marco
Jansen, Heinrich
Klaasen, Keshav
Maharaj, Aiden
Markram, David Miller,
Lungi Ngidi, Andile
Phehlukwayo, Kagiso
Rabada, Ryan Rickelton,
Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan
Stubbs, Rassie van der
Dussen.

The women's contracted squad increased from 15 to 16 with Dolphins fast bowler Ayanda Hlubi and Titans all-rounder Eliz-Mari Marx earning their maiden contracts.

Women: Anneke Bosch, Tazmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Lara Goodall, Ayanda Hlubi, Sinalo Jafta, Marizanne Kapp, Ayabonga Khaka, Masabata Klaas, Sune Luus, Eliz-Mari Marx, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukhune, Chloe Tryon, Delmi Tucker, Laura Wolvaardt.

India can still progress to 3rd round of World Cup Qualifiers: Stimac after Afghanistan loss

New Delhi: Indian football team head coach Igor Stimac believes his team can still advance to the third round of the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers, despite an embarrassing defeat to lower-ranked Afghanistan here on Tuesday. Afghanistan, ranked 158th in the world, stunned 117th-ranked India 2-1, handing the home team one of its most humiliating defeats in recent years despite talisman Sunil Chhetri's 94th international goal.

in his 150th match. "Of course, I think we can qualify (for the third round of World Cup Qualifiers) and I told you before as well we are going to be a different team after a long camp. You can see that half of our players are not able to bring that intensity and I cannot change that in five days, I am sorry." Stimac said after the match. "I repeat myself again and again and again. I hope you remember all these players were the same players in June-

July and Afghanistan is not a different team than Kuwait and Lebanon teams that we had beaten and dominated." In his landmark game, Chhetri did what was expected of him, scoring from the penalty spot in the 37th minute after Haroon Amiri handled the ball inside the box in India's home leg of the second round of the joint qualifiers for the World Cup and the 2027 AFC Asian Cup. However, the Afghans responded in the second half with goals



from Rahmat Akbari (71') and Sharif Mukhammad (88'), leaving the packed house at the Indira

Gandhi Athletic Stadium devastated by yet another defeat. Stimac apologised for the defeat, citing his

team's subpar performance. "The difference is only in the intensity," he explained. He stated

that if he had had more time to prepare, the outcome would have been different. Stimac disagreed with the claim that his team was tactically outplayed on Tuesday, but he did say that India should not have conceded the penalty due to a stupid mistake. He stated that the Afghan attack was one-dimensional, with long balls into the penalty area, and that the Indian defence was "ineffective in checking this predictable approach. "We did many things

correct today but something that was very poor was that after being in control for most of the game, there were some points in the game when we give something away. As a team, we are frozen for 5-6 minutes, which is inexplicable. "It's not only about trying to qualify for the third round, it's also about what we are going to do there, when we get there. We have to do well in June otherwise we will stay where we were in the last eight years, qualifying against Myanmar and Guam."