

candidate or political party, a case will be filed against that individual. The Chief Electoral Officer said that the media should ensure balanced and unbiased reporting so that citizens receive accurate and truthful news, avoiding any kind of misinformation. He said that to increase voters' trust, the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) will be used again this time. When the voter casts his vote, the VVPAT screen will display the voter's vote for 7 seconds. This gives the voter the confidence that the vote he has cast has gone to the intended candidate.

Six-time BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab joins BJP

BHUBANESWAR, (KCN): Six-time MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, who recently resigned from the primary membership of Biju Janata Dal (BJD), joined Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday. Besides, former BJD MP Siddhant Mohapatra and noted litterateur Damayanti Besra also joined the BJP at party headquarters in Delhi. Bhartruhari joined the saffron party formally at the party headquarters in New Delhi today. He had quit the ruling party in Odisha on March 22. At that time, speculation was rife that Mahatab would join the BJP. The son of Odisha's former Chief Minister Harekrushna Mahtab,

Bhartruhari has been representing the prestigious Cuttack Parliamentary seat since 1998. He had also been BJD's floor leader in Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019. He emerged victorious as a Parliamentarian for successive six times in 1998, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019. Bhartruhari bagged the prestigious Outstanding Parliamentarian Award in 2017. He was also conferred with Sansad Ratna awards in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Also Read | Change that Odisha needs will start from Kendrapara: Bajjant Jay Panda Bhartruhari is currently the chairperson of the Parliament Standing Committee on Labour,



Textiles and Skill Development. He is also the deputy chairperson of the Committee of Parliament on Official Language, and a member of the Public Accounts Committee. "My decision to snap my umbilical cord with BJD

may be harsh but it has given me immense relief. This is because I had been living with a kind of pain. When it became unbearable, I took the decision," Bhartruhari had earlier said. Bhartruhari has been critical of the functioning

of the BJD and the Odisha government in multiple editorials of his newspaper. Notably, Bhartruhari's resignation from BJD came a day after the Special Court for MP/MLAs framed charges against him in connection

with the alleged assault on a police officer. After joining the BJP, Mahtab said, "Sometimes, taking a decision in life becomes inevitable. As per my experience of 28 years, three things such as nationalism, ekatmata

and purvoday can only be achieved through the BJP. Going by the last 10 years of experience, I thought it wise to join the BJP. I am thankful to the BJP's top leadership. The enthusiasm of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the confidence of Home Minister Amit Shah and the inspiration of the party's national president will help me to move ahead. I am going to start a new innings along with a new team and I hope I will get the support of all."

purpose." She also added that a change is going to take place in Odisha and in fact, the winds of change are blowing in Odisha. "I will reach out to women who have been deprived of development," she added. Siddhant Mohapatra thanked the BJP and said, "It was in 2009 when I went to Gujarat and Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister there. I noticed certain things there. He was thinking of the people and I was inspired by him. I want to see the transformation that the Prime Minister has been bringing about in the country in Odisha too. I will be working for the betterment of the people of Odisha."

CUO organises a special lecture on "Econometric Modelling-Bridging theory and data analysis."



KORAPUT,(KCN):The Department of Economics at the Central University of Odisha hosted a special lecture titled "Econometric Modelling: Bridging Theory and Data Analysis" on 27 March 2024 at the Department of Economics in Sunabeda. The esteemed speaker for the event was Prof. Pabitra Kumar Mishra, Head of the Department of Economic Studies at the Central University of Punjab. The lecture commenced with warm wishes from

the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, and the Registrar (I/c), Prof. N C Panda. Dr. Minati Sahoo, Head of the Department of Economics, welcomed attendees and introduced the distinguished guest and the topic of discussion. Prof. Pabitra Kumar Mishra delved into the crucial role of econometrics in bridging the gap between theory and reality, emphasizing the disparity between laboratory-based

theories and real-world scenarios. He underscored the significance of this field in translating theoretical frameworks into practical applications, advocating for a reevaluation of economic history. Drawing distinctions between positive and normative economics, he elucidated the evolving landscape of econometrics and its implications for solving contemporary societal challenges. Furthermore, Prof. Mishra elucidated on the

distinctions between econometrics, statistics, and mathematics, highlighting the transformative potential of econometric modelling in addressing real-world issues. He encouraged students to enhance their skills in utilizing various software tools to predict future trends and propose solutions to present and forthcoming challenges. The session fostered an engaging exchange of ideas between the resource person and the participants, comprising faculty members, students, and research scholars from diverse departments. Dr. Biswajit Bhoi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics, conveyed the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all involved. Ms. Manisha Gupta, a Ph.D. Scholars in the Department of Economics adeptly compeered the entire session, ensuring its smooth conduct.

Police foil robbery bid in Khordha, five arrested with bombs



BHUBANESWAR,(KCN): The Commissionerate Police foiled a major robbery bid in the Jatani area in Khordha district on Wednesday night. Five robbers were arrested and five bombs, three bikes, sharp-edged weapons and iron rods were seized, police said on Thursday.

As per reports, some jewellers and businessmen were on the target of the gang of robbers. Armed with bombs, the gang was planning for a robbery at a desolate place near the Benapanjari water tank last night. After getting information about the gang, police in plain

clothes walked to the place and managed to overpower the gang. As per police, the accused have several cases relating to bombing, loot and robberies pending against them in different parts of the state and in Bhubaneswar. Speaking to the media,

DCP Prateek Singh said, "Jatani Police got information about a gang that has been involved in cases of robbery and loot. All are hardened criminals. Cash vans and commercial vehicles were on their target." Police went to the place with proper planning and arrested them, said the DCP.

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SS Rajamouli Brews Candid Conversation With Prashanth Neel, Prabhas, and Prithviraj Sukumaran

Ahead of the release of 'Salaar Part 1: CeaseFire', starring Prabhas and directed by Prashanth Neel, ace director SS Rajamouli interviews Prabhas, director Prashanth Neel and Prithviraj Sukumaran. Following the massive response to the teaser, trailer and the songs the film is doing magic in the advance booking which was opened recently. In a recent surprise, the makers Hombale Films made a special announcement revealing an exciting announcement of the interview ahead of the film's release on Tuesday, December 19th.

Sharing the teaser of the interview, makers wrote, "The special interview with @ssrajamouli garu and the dynamic trio of #Salaar will be released this Tuesday, December 19th. Stay tuned for the full interview. #Prabhas #PrashanthNeel @PrithviOfficial #SalaarCeaseFire #SalaarCeaseFireOnDec22"



The anticipation of the audiences for the excitement is sure to be raised as watching the trio SS Rajamouli - Prashanth Neel and Prabhas together is one of a kind experience. Hombale Films, Salaar: Part 1: Ceasefire will star Prabhas along with Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruti Haasan, and Jagapathi Babu. Made under the direction of Prashanth Neel, the film is produced by Vijay Kiragandur. The film will be released in theatres on December 22, 2023.

The Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire also marks the

biggest collaboration of the two powerhouses of Indian cinema, the KGF director Prashanth Neel and 'Baahubali' star Prabhas, who are coming together for the first time to create this mega action-packed cinematic spectacle. Prabhas plays the titular character of Salaar in the film, along with an ensemble cast of Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruti Haasan, and Jagapathi Babu. The movie has been produced by Vijay Kiragandur under Hombale Films. Few months ago, makers unveiled the teaser of the film. The teaser delivers

glimpses of the thrilling action from the extensive universe created by Neel. Well-studded with massive scale and ensemble cast, the makers have treated the viewers to some eye-catching glimpses in the violent teaser. In the less than 2-minute teaser, veteran actor Tinnu Anand can be seen in a fearless avatar surrounded by several armed men who point their guns at him and are ready to fire and it further goes on to introduce Prabhas, as if hinting that he is the king of the jungle.

Fans Flock To Meet Shah Rukh Khan In MASSIVE Numbers At 'Dunki' Event In Dubai

As Shah Rukh Khan's much-awaited Dunki is all set for its in this week, the superstar has kick-started its promotional journey in full force. Leaving the audience excited, SRK is leaving no stone unturned by

spreading his charm across the world. Kickstarting the promotional journey from Dubai, SRK received a grand welcome from the people on the Dunki Day 1 promotion with a

grand setup for his entry at the Global Village. SRK recently visited VOX Cinemas Dubai and it took no time for the audience to go insane on his entry. Dubai gave a grand welcome to SRK

as he visited Deira City Centre for the VOX cinemas event. Hooting and cheering of the people filled the auditorium while SRK spread his charm as always.

Disha Patani Misses Sushant Singh Rajput As 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story' Clocks 7 Years, Says 'Couldn't Say Goodbye'

Actor Disha Patani remembered late actor Sushant Singh Rajput on the occasion of their film 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story' 7th anniversary. Taking to Instagram, Disha shared a clip from the movie featuring herself and Sushant. Sharing the video, she wrote, "Grateful for this beautiful journey and my first film in Hindi cinema Love whole heartedly and cherish the ones who make you happy safe and heard life's too short for regrets! We couldn't say goodbye but i hope you're

happy and at peace" As soon as she shared the video, fans and industry friends chimed in the comment section. Actor Anil Kapoor wrote, "Phenomenal scene .. both of you are so good ..." One of the users wrote, "One of the finest scenes from this movie" Another commented, "Miss u SSR." Helmed by Neeraj Pandey, 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story' biopic is on one of the most celebrated cricketers in our country, Mahendra Singh Dhoni. The film



was released in 2016 and saw the late Sushant Singh Rajput essaying the role of Dhoni. It also starred Kiara Advani. Disha, with her girl-next-door appeal and million-dollar smile, instantly became the talk of the town. Her chemistry with Sushant was widely appreciated. The biopic turned out to be one of the biggest hits of Sushant's career, who went on to receive several nominations in the Best Actor category at that year's awards ceremonies for his performance in the film.

Leo Advance Booking: Vijay's Action-Thriller To Become Highest Tamil Opener In UK

The overseas market for films from South cinema have opened up in a big way post blockbuster releases like 'KGF', 'Pushpa', 'Jailer' among others. Movie buffs who are in abroad have their eyes set on Thalapaty's Vijay's upcoming Tamil film 'Leo: Bloody Sweet'. The film is expected to get a grand opening in the UK as indicated by the advance booking of the movie tickets.

'Leo' has already beaten the record set by Mani Ratnam's 'Ponniyin Selvan I' in advance booking. The film marks Vijay and filmmaker

Lokesh Kanagaraj's reunion after the 2021 blockbuster 'Master'. Taran Adarsh shared a report on advance booking of the film in the UK and posted on X, "VIJAY: 'LEO' SETTING NEW BENCHMARKS... #ThalapathyVijay's #Leo is SHATTERING RECORDS #Overseas. Distributed in #UK and #Europe by #AhimsaEntertainment, with 19 days left, the film has already taken the *#Tamil* Day 1 #BO crown in #UK from the previously held #PS1. #Leo is targeting to



surpass the current single-day earnings for an INDIAN film in #UK, a record presently held by #Pathaan."

The Lokesh Kanagaraj directorial has begun on an excellent start and has already crossed USD 100K in the US for the

Kho Gaye Hum Kahan: Aditya Roy Kapur, Suhana Khan, Shanaya Kapoor Exude Uber Cool Vibes At Screening

Ahead of the highly-anticipated release of Zoya Akhtar-directorial 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan', the makers organized a special screening in Mumbai. Aditya Roy Kapur, Suhana Khan, Shanaya Kapoor, amid others turned up for the glittery event. Ananya Panday, Siddhant Chaturvedi, and Adarsh Gourav-starrer 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' is slated for a December 26 release.

Helmed by debutant director Arjun Varain Singh, 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' is a 'coming-of-digital-age' story about three friends in their mid-20s navigating life in



the world of social media. Adarsh Gourav shared, "I am incredibly grateful to producers and filmmakers like Zoya Akhtar, who believe in actors like me who have carved their own paths. Zoya is a dynamic director with an impeccable eye for talent, and I feel privileged to be a part of her much-awaited project, 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan'. I find myself lucky to be working and collaborating with such great minds and the fact that they recognise my work and have given me roles like the one in Kho Gaye". In the movie, the captivating narrative revolves around the lives of Imaad (Siddhant Chaturvedi), Ahana (Ananya Panday), and Neil (Adarsh Gourav). This relatable tale follows the intertwined journeys of these three best friends as they navigate the challenges of aspirations, relationships, and emotions, offering a glimpse into their shared experiences and personal growth against the bustling cityscape of Mumbai. 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' chronicles the lives of Imaad (Siddhant Chaturvedi), Ahana (Ananya Panday) and Neil (Adarsh Gourav), through the very relatable journey of three best friends together navigating aspirations, relationships and emotions. Bringing their infectious energy from reel to real, the young and dynamic cast helped turn a wall on the bustling street in Mumbai into a vibrant mural capturing their friendship and inviting the crowds to join their journey as they kick off the promotions for the film. 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' is set to arrive on December 26 on Netflix.

Do we still need film society movement?

Vivek Shukla



introducing new audiences to different audiovisual works through an organized and prepared program of screenings.

V.K. Cherian has done a yeoman service in documenting perhaps the first comprehensive account of the seven-decade-long journey of the Film Society Movement in India and how it helped Indian cinema come into its own as a global entity now. Till the 1950s, 80% of the films screened in India were from abroad and the country was not on the map of the global film world. Today, the country is dominated by Indian films and has a place in all International film festivals, competing against Hollywood with its Bollywood films. The massive transformation is credited to Indian film policies, new film institutions and the Film Society movement. But do such policies and movements have a future in the digital era? Celluloid to Digital: India's Film Society Movement delves into this question in the OTT age. When and how did the film society movement begin in India? What was it all about? V.K. Cherian answers all these



Arguably, it is not very often you would find a book on the world of films that has an introduction by Adoor Gopalakrishnan and a note by Shyam Bengal. That both are genius film makers is an understatement. They have inspired generations of film buffs and film makers. It goes to the credit of formidable author and journalist V.K. Cherian to get the thoughts of Adoor Gopalakrishnan and Shyam Bengal for his recently published book – ‘Celluloid to Digital: India's Film Society Movement’.

Let's first know that what is film society is all about ? Well, a film society is a membership-based club where people can watch screenings of films which would otherwise not be shown in mainstream cinemas. In Spain, Ireland and Italy, they are known as "cineclubs", and in Germany they are known as "film clubs". They usually have an educational aim,

questions in great detail.

The world of cinema and theatre is very close to the heart of V.K. Cherian even though he is a career journalist who had worked with many important publications in the past. He had a tryst with theatre when he was in his college in Kerala. Of course, that has helped him in bringing out such a fabulous book on our film society movement. Honestly, not many books have been written on this subject.

V.K. Cherian writes the first official film society in India, the Bombay Film Society was started in 1940, to expose budding Indian documentary film makers to the best of world documentary especially the works of Grierson, Wright, Jennings and others so

that they could be engaged to make effective war effort films for the Raj.

However, it was the Calcutta Film Society (CFS), established by Satyajit Ray and friends on Oct 5, 1947, which actually precipitated a movement of urban English educated youngsters of India, looking for an “Indian idiom” in films. The movement received a huge boost after the unprecedented national and International recognition which “Pather Panchali” directed by the film society pioneer Ray bagged.

If Satyajit Ray was the pioneer of Film society movement in India, Mrinal Sen and Ritwik Ghatak have also played key role in giving impetus to the

movement. The hub of the movement Kolkata produced film makers like Buddhadev Das Gupta, Goutam Ghose, Sandip Ray, Aparna Sen and Dibyendu Chakraborty etc. KA Abbas was also a film society veteran and his Film Forum in Bombay saw the emergence of Shyam Benegal, Govind Nihalani, AK Kaul, Basu Bhattacharya, Basu Chatterjee and Khalid Mohammed and even Shoojit Sircar. In Bangalore the lineup is impressive with Patabhirama Reddy, Girish Karnad, BV Karantha, Prema Karanth, Kavitha Lankesh and Girish Kasaravalli. In Maharashtra, Jabbar Patel and Vijaya Mehta and even Vijay Tendulkar stand out from the movement. In Kerala,

the movement was led by Adoor Gopalakrishnan. G Aravindan, TV Chandran, PA Becker, KG George, John Abraham were also inspired by the FSM.

V.K. Cherian writes, “Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru spotted the potential of the Film Society Movement as early as in 1950s, by organizing the first international film festival of Asia in India in 1952.”

Till the 1970s, film societies were the only window to world cinema for thousands across India. But with modern technology — VHS tapes, CDs, Blue Rays and now the ubiquitous pen drives and internet — many classics are now available to the public for free. As Adoor Gopalakrishnan writes in the book's foreward,

“Film society lost the unique position of being the one and only window to world cinema.”

Film Societies has focused its activities on the promotion of good cinema, worked to acquire feature and short films to feed its member units for screenings, and associate it with both national and international organisations undertaking similar work.

However, as the world has changed with the passage of time, Film Societies are no longer the exclusive window on best of films, but they are still the connoisseurs and professionals place, especially for the budding ones.

V.K. Cherian also writes about the Delhi Film Society (DFS). “DFS was the most privileged of the film societies across India. The membership and the leadership were the who's who of the nation's capital in the 1960s and 1970s. Diplomatic missions vied with each other to patronise the DFS by offering their films and bringing in film makers from their respective countries to meet Delhi's film buffs.”

It may be recall that the Film Club of India International Centre is one of the oldest

functioning film societies in Delhi. Open to all members of the IIC, the focus of the Film Club is to screen films of merit and excellence that are not normally available in the commercial circuit, experimental works and art house cinema. Four to six films are screened every month and festivals and retrospectives organised focusing on the work of well-known directors, actors, genre or country. Retrospectives organised have included the works of directors such as Ingmar Bergman (Sweden), Akira Kurosawa, Yasujiro Ozu, and Takeshi Kitano (Japan), Fritz Lang, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Werner Herzog and Wim Wenders (Germany), Jean Renoir, Francois Truffaut and Jean Luc Godard (France), Vittorio de Sica, Pier Paolo Pasolini (Italy). In this highly readable book, V.K. Cherian deals with series of pertinent questions like : Do film societies have a future in the Digital Era? The debate on Box Office Versus Meaningful Films? If you love cinema from your heart, this book published by ATLANTIC publishers is for you and your ilk.

The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor

Pride of a Teacher

Manas Ranjan Mahapatra



assignment from the University came first, he was an alumni too of the College of Vocational Studies. I used to accompany him as we were to go back home together. Prof Jolly did not know that I am a visiting faculty in IIMC and a few centres of excellence. Urvashi Butalia was once sharing with him the job of teaching editing. One day he surprised me by offering to teach editing. So, I started teaching Book Editing. We used to reach the college everyday by 6 pm. It was an evening course in Self Financing Mode. There were two 50 minutes periods. Our students were mostly professionals or those preparing for competitive examinations. One of them, Sakul Kundra had already completed his M Phil and was doing Ph.D in History at JNU. He was our best student and got Gold Medal in his batch. He used to send me Teachers' Day gift for many years even after the college stopped the course. Now he is a Professor.

Besides Sakul I fondly remember two girls. One was working with Sage Publications and the other with Macmillan. If I correctly recollect, Swati was with Sage. She used to come everyday at 7.30 pm and was with at least two questions which was to be instantly replied by me. And, the other girl working with Macmillan wanted notes from me for her preparation for the examination. 'But I have never prepared notes in my entire career.. I told the girl. She was upbeat. She thought that I am probably hiding. One day she reached my office with her parents with a packet of sweet. 'If you have come on a courtesy call, I accept this sweet packet and will gladly share with Sumit and other colleagues here as it is from my student. And if you want any favour, I am afraid, I may have to regret accepting your gift. Please don't misunderstand me.. I said. Then he divulged his intention. His doubt

was, since I have two post graduate degrees with two decades of experience in the field, I must have prepared notes and may not be willing to share. 'Believe me, my daughter will use it only for her examination..,' he assured 'I am a teacher, I never disbelieve my students', I said. Then I asked, 'You want your daughter to be an editor or a clerk. If you want her to be an editor, I will do that labour. And, if you want her to be a clerk, I can recommend her some help series books for preparation.' 'And examination... be sure she will get over 90 percent marks. I know her standard,' I concluded. We had a nice time in gossip. He never came back to me. His daughter got 97 percent in her examination. And, two years ago I met the CEO of Sage Publications in a Panel Discussion. He informed me that my other student Swati

now heads the Editorial Division of a noted Publishing House at Singapore. Teachers' Day is not a day for students to remember their teachers, it can be the other way round. I feel honoured that Sakul Kundra is now is a Professor in Fiji University and Swati heads the Editorial Division of an international publishing house. This is a great honour for me as a teacher. I dedicate my success as a teacher to them who taught me in school, college or post graduate classes. They have indeed opened the sky for me to fly.

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

Doorway Effect

Dr. Samrat Kar



The 'doorway effect', or 'location updating effect', claims that we tend to forget items of recent significance immediately after crossing a boundary. Definitions of doorway, the entrance (the space in a wall) through which you enter or leave a room or building; the space that a door can close. "he stuck his head in the doorway" synonyms: door, room access, threshold. He stood in the doorway, wondering if he should go in. Homeless people sleep in the doorways of the shops.

The Doorway Effect occurs because we change both the physical and mental environments, moving to a different room and thinking about different things. That hastily thought up goal, which was probably only one plate among the many we're trying to spin, gets forgotten when the context changes. Corridors and doorways are places of transit. The likelihood of meeting someone in one of these locations is higher than in other places because there's a concentration of interactions. People aren't normally scheduling a meeting in a corridor it's just the place where they met someone.

Psychologists believe that walking through a door and entering another

room creates a "mental blockage" in the brain, meaning that walking through open doors resets memory to make room for a new episode to emerge. This is generally referred to as the doorway effect.

New research from University of Notre Dame Psychology Professor Gabriel Radvansky suggests that passing through doorways is the cause of these memory lapses. "Entering or exiting through a doorway serves as an 'event boundary' in the mind, which separates episodes of activity and files them away," Radvansky explains.

The doorway effect is a known psychological event where a person's short-term memory declines when passing through a doorway moving

from one location to another when it would not if they had remained in the same place. Many studies have investigated how memory might be affected by passing through doorways. Astoundingly, these studies show doorways cause forgetting, and this effect is so consistent it has come to be known as the "doorway effect".

To help prevent the doorway effect from happening, one tip Radvansky suggests is carrying something with you into the other room to help remind you of your goal. For example, if you're walking to the garage to get a screwdriver, you might carry a screw with you.

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

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



The Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar in a group photograph with the members of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi

ICAR-CIFRI ventures Gandak for Sustainability

KOLKATA, (KCN): One of Nepal's most important rivers, the Gandak (or Narayani or Gandaki) flows into the Indian subcontinent from the left bank of the Ganges. To evaluate the ecological management of this river and the effects of human activities on it, the NMCG team from ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI), Barrackpore, performed a comprehensive survey in March 2024. The survey covered a wide range of topics, including fish distribution patterns, ecological traits, community structure changes, and diversity. A total of five sampling sites in Bihar were selected for the analysis: Anandpur Ghat in Patna District, Mahadev Ghat in Saran District, Rewa Ghat in Muzaffarpur



District, Dak Bangla Ghat and Dumaria Ghat in Gopalganj District along the Gandak River. The investigation revealed that the water of the Gandak river had a slightly alkaline nature, with a pH range of 6.94 to 7.9. Additionally, the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) level was found to be within the optimal range of 3.7 to 5.2 ppm. Consequently, the river environment was

determined to be a favorable habitat for the survival of fish. A total of 54 fish species were recorded in the Gandak River during the sampling. Fishes like *Eutropichthys vacha*, *Mystus tengara*, *Cabdio morar*, *Notopterus notopterus* etc were found as major dominant species in the Gandak. The whole length of the river was traversed by sightings of the Gangetic

Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*). Along the banks and bars of the river Gandak, agricultural activity was detected at most sample stations. To assess the present situation, a socioeconomic survey was carried out on the fishermen during the visit. Although they are making more of an effort, the fisherman on the river Gandak are seeing a significant decline in their catch. Reduced mesh size

River Chirag Paswan Confident That NDA Will Win All 40 Lok Sabha Seats In Bihar

Patna (KCN): Chirag Paswan, who is part of the NDA alliance in Bihar, is confident of his party's showing in the 5 seats that they are contesting. Pawan today accompanied his brother-in-law Arun Bharti as he filed his nomination from Jamui. The LJP (Ramvilas) is contesting on Vaishali, Hajipur, Samastipur, Khagaria and Jamui seats. Chirag Paswan, who is a sitting MP from the Jamui Lok Sabha constituency, has allotted the seat to Arun Bharti this time. Chirag himself is contesting the Hajipur seat against his uncle Pashupati Paras. During a brief interaction with media Chirag said, "There is no doubt that NDA alliance will win all 40 seats (in Bihar). Our alliance candidates are filing their nomination in Gaya, Jamui and Nawada today."

of fishing nets, illegal electrofishing, and pesticide usage to catch fish are the main causes of this drop. This has led to economic hardship and social unrest as fishermen seek employment in other industries, such as agriculture, tourist boat operation, or migration to other states. As part of their ongoing efforts, ICAR-CIFRI has launched public awareness initiatives at several sampling sites and other riverbank places. An educational presentation was given to local populations and fishermen to highlight the negative effects of destructive fishing methods, plastic use, and chemical pollution, among other programs aimed at raising awareness about the importance of fish conservation and river ecology maintenance.

BJP's Bihar chief and deputy chief minister Samrat Choudhary also exuded confidence on the Alliance victory "NDA candidates will file their nominations today. Our aim is to win all 40 seats (in Bihar)," Samrat Choudhary said. Meanwhile, leader of Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate, Jitan Ram Manjhi, filed his nomination from Gaya on Thursday. While BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Thakur, son of former Union Minister C P Thakur, will be filing his nomination from Nawada, the seat was represented by LJP (Paras) Chandan Kumar who was elected in 2019. On March 18, the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) announced seat-sharing

in Bihar for the Lok Sabha polls with the BJP set to contest 17 seats and JD-(U) 16. Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP) will contest one seat each. Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) will contest five seats. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the NDA, comprising the BJP, JD (U), and LJP, dominated the 2019 elections by winning 39 out of 40 seats. In contrast, the Mahagathbandhan, led by RJD, INC, and RLSP, managed to secure only one seat. The BJP won 17 seats with a vote share of 24.1%, JD(U) won 16 seats with a vote share of 22.3%, and LJP won 6 seats with a vote share of 8%. The INC could only secure one seat with a vote share of 7.9%.

1st Flight Of Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mk1A Conducted Successfully



Bengaluru (KCN): The first aircraft LA5033 of the Tejas Mk1A series successfully soared in the sky after taking off from the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) facility in Bengaluru today, the public sector aerospace and defence company said. According to HAL, the Tejas Mk1A aircraft did a successful sortie with a flying time of 18 minutes. The plane was piloted by Chief Test Pilot Group Captain K K Venugopal (Retired). "HAL achieved this significant production milestone with concurrent design and

development amid major supply chain challenges in the global geopolitical environment, subsequent to the contract signature in February 2021," HAL Chief Managing Director CB Ananthakrishnan said. Extending its gratitude to the Ministry of Defence, Indian Air Force, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and associated private firms for contributing to the success of this programme, HAL said the country can look forward to early induction of the Tejas Mk1A by the IAF, and more numbers through

the three lines of production established at HAL. "The Tejas Mk1A will have an advanced electronic RADAR, warfare and communication systems, additional combat capability and improved maintenance features," HAL said. The agreement was aimed at manufacturing BMI Engine Bay Door for the series production of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) - Tejas Mk1A - an indigenous 4.5 generation, all-weather and multi-role fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

Axis Bank Credit Card Users Impacted By Fraudulent Transactions: Report

Mumbai (KCN): Several customers having Axis Bank credit cards have been impacted by fraudulent overseas transactions, a senior official from the third largest private sector lender said today. Sanjeev Moghe, head of cards and payments at the city-based lender, said starting Tuesday evening, customers witnessed unauthorised transactions where they received transaction alerts on certain low-value purchases being carried out at some e-commerce sites. There has been "no data breach" at the bank's end, Mr Moghe said, asserting that the scale of such transactions is very limited and customers' data is safe and secure. Amid growing social media chatter about such unauthorised transactions going through, Mr Moghe said the bank's internal mechanisms stopped some transactions but added that many



customers have been impacted. The bank witnessed spends of about ₹ 500 crore per day by its credit card customers, Mr Moghe said, adding that when compared with it, the extent of such transactions has been "very small". Asked for more details, he said it is a small fraction of the overall

spends and added that "we are speaking about thousands and lakhs". He also hinted that such incidents happened for a day, and have stopped. Fraudsters gained access to a few card numbers and matched it with the expiry dates to carry out the unauthorised transactions, he said, explaining that as these

are international transactions, they can go through without any second factor authentication like a one time password over SMS or even the CVV number. To a query on how the data can be sourced by the fraudsters, he said the first six digits in a 16-digit number are bank-specific, and added that

the card numbers can be picked up when the card is given for payments at petrol pumps or restaurants. Asked if other banks have also experienced similar instances as their customers' credit card numbers can also get picked up in a similar way, Mr Moghe said he is not immediately aware about the same. Axis Bank is replacing the credit cards for the impacted customers, and charging back the debited amount, Mr Moghe said, adding that this is not a hit for the lender. The Reserve Bank has been informed about the incidents and the bank will have to look at strategies like audits to avoid such incidents in the future, he said. The Axis Bank scrip closed 0.50 per cent down at ₹ 1,048.30 a piece on the BSE on Thursday as against gains of 0.90 per cent on the benchmark.

Adani Ports to acquire 95% stake in Odisha's Gopalpur Port for Rs1,349 crore

Berhampur(KCN): Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) Tuesday announced the acquisition of a 95 per cent stake in Gopalpur Ports in Odisha from Shapoorji Pallonji Group and Orissa Stevedores Ltd at an equity value of Rs 1,349 crore.

In Gopalpur Ports, Shapoorji Pallonji Group (SP Group) firm SP Port Maintenance Pvt Ltd has a 56 per cent stake and Orissa Stevedores Ltd (OSL) has a 44 per cent stake. Gopalpur Port is an all-weather deep-water berthing port with a capacity of 20 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) situated in Ganjam district of Odisha.

In a regulatory filing, APSEZ said that it has entered into definitive agreements to acquire the entire 56 per cent shareholding of SP Group and a 39 per cent stake of OSL in Gopalpur Port Ltd (GPL). OSL will continue as a JV partner with a 5 per cent stake, the filing added. APSEZ said the equity consideration for a 95 per cent stake is Rs 1,349 crore, with an enterprise value of Rs 3,080 crore, subject to closing adjustments.

In addition to the

enterprise value stated above there is a contingent consideration of Rs 270 crores estimated to be payable after 5.5 years, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions as agreed with the sellers, it added. Along with deferred payments, total enterprise value is Rs 3,350 crore.

In a separate filing, SP Group informed that it has agreed to sell its stake in Gopalpur Port to APSEZ at an enterprise value of Rs 3,350 crore, as part of its deleveraging strategy with planned asset monetisation.

“Acquisition of Gopalpur Ports Limited (GPL) will drive synergy with our existing ports and strengthen APSEZ’s presence on the East Coast,” APSEZ said.

“The acquisition of Gopalpur Port will allow us to deliver more integrated and enhanced solutions to our customers,” APSEZ managing director Karan Adani said.

Adani added that its location will allow APSEZ unprecedented access to the mining hubs of Odisha and neighbouring states and allow us to expand our hinterland logistics footprint.



The port had recently signed up with Petronet LNG to set up a greenfield LNG regasification terminal. In FY24, GPL is estimated to handle about 11.3 MMT cargo (up 52 per cent Y-o-Y) and earn a revenue of Rs 520 crore (up 39 per cent Y-o-Y). The estimated EBITDA will be Rs 232 crore (YoY growth of 65 per cent).

“In our view, the Gopalpur Port is all set for strong growth and margin expansion in FY’25 with opportunities already identified for achieving higher operational efficiencies and infra debottlenecking, implying further value accretion for APSEZ shareholders,” APSEZ said.

According to the APSEZ statement, the Odisha government had awarded a 30-year

concession to GPL in 2006, with the provision of two extensions of 10 years each.

The SP Group said that the port is capable of handling 20 MTPA of cargo volume.

The sale of the Gopalpur Port is the second port divestment in the last few months from the SP Group, a diversified construction and infrastructure, real estate and energy conglomerate. It had earlier divested its Dharamtar Port in Maharashtra to JSW Infrastructure Ltd at an enterprise value of Rs 710 crore.

The group acquired the Dharamtar Port in 2015 and successfully turned around port operations, increasing capacity from less than 1 MTPA, when it took over to an expected capacity to handle 5 MTPA in FY24. “The planned divestments of Gopalpur

relatively short period of time, capitalising our core strengths in project development and construction,” a Shapoorji Pallonji Group spokesperson said.

The spokesperson further said, “These divestments are key milestones in our roadmap to reduce group debt and set the stage for growth, taking advantage of the macro trends for demand in our core businesses, both in India and overseas.

The SP Group has been looking at several ways to reduce its debt, which has

been reported to be around Rs 20,000 crore. As a deep draft, multi-cargo port, Gopalpur handles a diverse mix of dry bulk cargo, including iron ore, coal, limestone, ilmenite, and alumina. The port plays an important role in supporting the growth of mineral-based industries in its hinterland, like iron & steel, alumina and others.

APSEZ is a part of the globally diversified Adani Group. It is the largest port developer and operator in India with

seven strategically located ports and terminals on the west coast (Mundra, Tuna, Dahej, and Hazira in Gujarat, Mormugao in Goa, Dighi in Maharashtra and Vizhinjam in Kerala). It has seven ports and terminals on the East coast of India — Haldia in West Bengal, Dhamra in Odisha, Gangavaram and Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Kattupalli and Ennore in Tamil Nadu and Karaikal in Puducherry, representing 27 per cent of the country’s total port volumes.

874 year-old inscription found near Vizianagaram

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Kalinga Epigraphical Research Group (KERG) rediscovered an inscribed stone panel belonging to the ruling period of Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva near Champabati River, Vizianagaram district, Andhra Pradesh.

“This particular inscription mentions about the gifting of land and a perceptual lamp to the temple of Chodagangeswara at Dharmapura. During our survey, we found a village named ‘Dharmapuri’ still exists near Vizianagaram and remnants of an old Shiva Temple were found scattered which indicates presence of Shiva Temple at Dharmapuri



which was probably built by Chodaganga Deva and was addressed as Chodagangeswar Temple,” Deepak Nayak said.

Deepak kumar Nayak and Bikram kumar Nayak from KERG were assisted by local heritage enthusiasts D Santosh and Bijaya Kumar in the exploration.

Deepak Kumar Nayak, a heritage researcher is currently listing and documenting the Kalingan

heritage sites and archaeological remains scattered around different parts of South India. His documentation will soon be published in a book form. Sharing more details on this finding, Deepak Nayak said, “The vast region of ancient Kalinga kingdom was not confined to present day political border of Odisha. From different mythological and historic accounts it is

known that Kalinga’s southern region was spanned up to Godavari River. We are currently listing and documenting the archaeological and cultural sites having connection with Kalinga.” The sheer negligence of these archeological sites makes it an important task to list and document before they are completely lost. Decades ago, Late P a d m a s h r i Satyanarayana Rajaguru had shared details about these inscriptions in his book ‘Inscriptions of Orissa, Volume 3’. The inscription inscribed in Telugu script and Language was assigned to a date Shaka year 1072 which equals year 1150 CE.

Mining firm razes forest to make way for minerals

Joda(KCN): A mining firm has allegedly denuded a forest land of its green cover to facilitate transportation of minerals from Ingani jharan BC Dev mines under Joda mining division in Keonjhar district.

On being informed, the Forest Department conducted a probe and stopped the transportation of minerals on the patch of land under Baitarani reserve forest at Gurubeda. The construction of the road assumes significance as Baitarani reserve forest is home to a large number of elephants.

Regular plying of heavy vehicles is likely to endanger the pachyderms and disturb their peaceful existence in the forest.



Meanwhile, the Forest Department has launched a high-level probe to ascertain the irregularities and the persons involved in the fraud. Sources said the state government has imposed a penalty of Rs116 crore on Inganijharan BC Dev mines on charge of illegal mining. The Orissa High Court has directed the Inganijharan BC Dev mines to sell off the mineral and deposit the penalty amount by April

2024.

As per the direction, the Inganijharan BC Dev mines received the mineral transportation order from the Mining department to sell off the mineral deposits in its mines. Later, it chopped off trees on the forest land March 14, Thursday and constructed a road to transport the minerals. The mining firm was noticed transporting minerals on the newly constructed road following which complaints were lodged before the divisional forest officer (DFO) of Keonjhar.

On receipt of the

complaints, Keonjhar DFO HD Dhanraj directed Joda forester Trinath Jena to conduct a probe and initiate action in this regard. Jena raided the spot March 15, Friday and found the mining firm transporting minerals on the newly constructed road on the forest land. He directed the Forest officials to dig up a trench and stopped mineral transportation by the mining firm on the newly constructed road on the forest land. Jena said that acting on a tipoff, Forest officials raided the place and found the charges to be true.

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Canara Robeco Mutual Fund focuses on the manufacturing sector with its new fund

M u m b a i , enters the market at a pivotal moment when there is a rising middle class and rising working-age population in India. This fund will be suitable for established investors because of the thriving domestic demand, favourable policy reforms, robust and deleveraged corporate balance sheet and a stable political environment. India seems to be well positioned to become an attractive investment destination. This fund will seek to benefit from policy reforms like Atmanirbhar Bharat, PLI, Make in India, Single Window Clearance and import substitution," said Rajnish Narula, CEO, Canara Robeco Mutual Fund.

"India is witnessing the confluence of factors which are conducive for the manufacturing scale up. Factors such as, large and growing domestic market, favourable government policies, fiscal support for capex, deleveraged corporate balance sheets and global supply chain reorg which is allowing Indian manufacturers to participate in export value chain. Import substitution and export ecosystem is likely the outcome of these macro factors. With this fund, we are providing the investors



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with the opportunity to become a part of India's manufacturing growth story. The fund will adopt a growth strategy aiming to capitalize on manufacturing trends and opportunities, investing across relevant sectors, representing the manufacturing theme," said Shridatta Bhandwaladar, Head Equities, Canara Robeco. This fund is suitable for investors comfortable with volatility and expecting a better risk-return tradeoff, with a high-risk appetite and a long-term investment horizon of 5 years and

above, having lower near-term liquidity needs. The fund will invest minimum 80% into manufacturing & allied stocks, 0-20% in equity and equity-related Instruments of companies other than engaged in manufacturing theme, 0-20% in debt and debt market instruments and 0-10% in units issued by REITs and InvITs. The minimum investment in the fund is Rs. 5,000 and in multiples of Re. 1 thereafter. The fund managers for this fund are Pranav Gokhale, Sr. Fund Manager and Shridatta Bhandwaladar, Head Equities, Canara Robeco AMC.

Mahagram offers door to door banking services through Kirana stores

Bhubaneswar: Mahagram is a social enterprise focusing on Financial Inclusion that has enabled banking from the mom-and-pop store around the corner through fintech solutions. The company's mission is to enable rural women to save money at the local Kirana (or grocery) stores, instead of traveling miles to the nearest bank branch. Recently, Mahagram has tied up with a public sector bank – the Bank of Maharashtra to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha. The

fintech would provide financial technology and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion. As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail themselves of basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores. Mahagram aims to increase the ratio and habit of household savings in rural India. "At Mahagram, we are indulged in offering basic banking services like

deposit and withdrawing transactions to consumers but it is now high time for rural people to save money. We are focusing on Financial Inclusion the flagship project of Modi government, by helping lot of beneficiaries to open bank accounts under the 'Jan Dhan Yojana'. We are also emphasizing on rural women because they are the ones who run households. Our vision for 2022 is to offer women the service of recurring deposit." says Mr. Ram Shriram, CEO, Mahagram.

Bhubaneswar: Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group announced that its business Godrej Appliances plans to strengthen its presence and expand its network of exclusive brand outlets further, inaugurating its first store in Chandol, Kendrapara district in the state of Odisha, India. This will be the brand's 26th exclusive outlet in Odisha under Bhubaneswar branch. To strengthen the supply chain and creating a next-level experience for customers in Kendrapara, Godrej Appliances has launched its exclusive brand outlet- called Godrej

Inspire Hub spread over 1200 sqft, strategically located on the Chandol main road, in collaboration with its channel partner Jagannath Electronics. Convenience and comfort are primacies for consumers today. This is evident from the gradual increase in demand for premium products, even in tier II and tier III cities. Moreover, with the pandemic in the backdrop, appliances have emerged as a necessity in every Indian home. EBOs solidify Godrej Appliances' already extensive network across the country, fulfill the premium product

requirement of its customers and most importantly give them a much wider display to choose from thus enhancing their purchase experience. The brand currently has 120+ exclusive outlets across the country and aims to have 140+ EBOs by this financial year. Speaking on the occasion of the launch, Sanjeev Jain, National Sales Head - Godrej Appliances said, "We have always endeavored to be as close to our customers as possible. We believe our Exclusive Brand Outlets will give even greater value to our loyal customers. With our exclusive showroom, we

have the opportunity to showcase our entire range of best-in-class appliances at a single location. Odisha is an important market for us and we look forward to delighting our customers with the best shopping experience." Adding further, Sanjay Kumar Behera, Owner of Jagannath Electronics said, "We are extremely delighted to have partnered with Godrej Appliances, which is a highly respected and trusted brand. We are sure that our outlet will prove to be a great destination for the discerning customers of Chandol through its unique offerings from Godrej Appliances." The exclusive brand

outlet will display the entire range of Godrej appliances including refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, dishwashers, air coolers, deep freezers, microwave ovens, thermoelectric technology-powered Godrej Qube and UV-C technology-based Godrej Viroshield. To top it, there are inaugural assured gifts on purchase of select models for customers. Consumers will also be able to avail one-year free extended warranty on select models and one year of product insurance, exclusively, at every Godrej Appliances' exclusive brand outlet. The brand also provides priority after-sales service to every Godrej exclusive store customer.

Amazon.in launches 'Back to School' store

Bhubaneswar: With the opening of schools and resuming of offline classes, Amazon.in announced the launch of 'Back to school' store – a one stop destination to simplify the shopping needs of children. The specially curated store offers deals on a wide range of products across study essentials like stationery, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, PCs, headsets & speakers, printers, Amazon devices, home furnishing among others

to help parents, teachers and students with school supplies and to create an effective learning and productive environment. The offers and deals will be available till 12th June 2022. Here are some popular products customers can choose from the 'Back to school' store on Amazon.in. All offers & deals are from participating sellers. HONOR MagicBook X 15, Intel Core i3 Anti-Glare Thin and Light Laptop – It has stylish

appearance with premium aluminum metal body with 16.9MM thickness, 5.3 MM narrow bezels and the weight of the laptop is only 1.56kg, which allows you to carry it easily, making it very convenient for school, travel, and work. It is available for starting INR 37,990 on Amazon.in. Lenovo Tab M10 FHD Plus Tablet, Platinum Grey - Make way for the stylish 8.1 mm Tab M10 FHD Plus.

Annual General Meeting of Vitesco Technologies

Regensburg: Vitesco Technologies, a leading international developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge drive systems for sustainable mobility, held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) today. The AGM was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. In separate votes, the shareholders formally approved the actions of all the Executive Board members during their term of office in the 2021 financial year. The actions of all members of the Supervisory Board in office in 2021 were also approved for their respective terms. "We are delighted to have received this vote of confidence from the Annual General Meeting.

We regard this outcome as a clear mandate to continue the successful collaboration and positioning of Vitesco Technologies as a supplier of sustainable drive solutions with a clear goal," said CEO Andreas Wolf. All current members of the Supervisory Board representing the shareholders who were up for election were re-elected to office. The members of the Supervisory Board who represent the employees will be elected separately. A complete list of all Supervisory Board members and the results of the voting at the AGM are available on the Vitesco Technologies website under 'Annual General Meeting'.

Raj Petro Specialities strengthens its leadership team with Prasad Vaze's appointment

Bhubaneswar : Mr. Prasad Vaze has been appointed as the Senior Director – Lubricants Business at Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd., a Brenntag Group company. He will lead the comprehensive lubricants Business Units, including Speciality, Industrial and Automotive lubricant businesses. Mr. Prasad Vaze is a result-oriented business leader with more than 25 years of extensive experience in customer-centric roles. Mr. Vaze has served in numerous senior leadership roles, including leading retail operations, profit centre management, developing business strategy and channel

development & management. Commenting on the appointment of a new member in the leadership team, Mr. Mehul Nanavati, Managing Director, Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd. stated, "We are thrilled to have a seasoned industry leader join our team. With Prasad onboard, we are confident that he will accelerate the growth momentum. His unique domain expertise will further help strengthen Raj Petro's market position and expand footprint across markets." Ms. Archana Gharate - Head HR said, "We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Prasad Vaze, our newest member to the LT team. He will be

taking on the important hat of managing Raj Petro's Lubricants Business, and we wish him all the best for his journey! With his knowledge and extensive experience, we are confident that Prasad will assist Raj Petro in reaching new heights." On his appointment Mr. Prasad Vaze said, "I am very thrilled to take on this new role. My vision is to create a world class experience for our consumers and channel partners. Our aim is to leverage Kyros, Onwo and Zoomol brands, explore humongous potential that India and international markets offer and grow the Lubricant business profitability."

OSL Group founder bags 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping Shipping & Logistics scenario in Eastern India



The OSL Group founder received the honour at a glittering event organized by the TIMES Group at the Central Hall, Mayfair Convention here in the state capital city. Notably, the TIMES Group organizes such a glorious event in a bid to celebrate and honour outstanding business

Bhubaneswar (KCN) : On the august occasion of the 4th Edition of prestigious Times Business Awards Odisha 2023, Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) founder Sri Mahimananda

(Mahima) Mishra was conferred with the coveted 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping the shipping and logistics scenario in eastern India.

houses and business leaders who have made significant contributions to their respective fields and communities as decided by a renowned research agency.

Bhubaneswar: L V Prasad Eye Institute's MithuTulsiChanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar organized a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk on 8th May 2022. This walk is part of the 'Whitathon' event organized by LV Prasad Eye Institute across its campuses in Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam and

Vijayawada. Celebrity actor, Mr Sabyasachi Mishra, will be flagging off the walk. Whitathon is L V Prasad Eye Institute's annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma – a Life and Vision-threatening Eye Cancer in Children. One of the most common

symptoms of Retinoblastoma is White Reflex (white glow) in a child's eye. Through this walk, LVPEI aims to raise awareness among the public that if they spot a 'White Reflex' in a child's eye, it could be a sign of eye cancer that needs immediate medical intervention. Hence, the event is named 'Whitathon'. Dr Devjyoti Tripathy,

Ocular Oncologist, MithuTulsiChanrai Campus, Bhubaneswar, L V Prasad Eye Institute said, "Our aim is to raise awareness about early detection and treatment of retinoblastoma eye cancer in children. No child should die of eye cancer because of lack of awareness and treatment. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Sabyasachi Mishra for

joining us for the Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk and spreading awareness about Retinoblastoma. We also acknowledge the support received from Aroh – Giving Hope, an NGO working for children with Cancer and their families." Dr Tripathy further added that it is time to make detailed eye check-ups a part of mandatory paediatric examinations.

Maphaka's first day at school

NewDelhi:Joe Root and Jemimah Rodrigues know a challenge Kwena Maphaka never will. It's captured in a question: have you done your homework? It would have been asked of Root until he sprouted stubble on the chin that, despite him being in his 34th year, he doesn't quite have. It will be asked of Rodrigues, who is 10 years Root's junior, for a long time. Looking younger than you are has few drawbacks. One is that you need to prove you're old enough to be served in a pub. Another is that, whenever you step onto a cricket ground, some wise guy or girl in the opposition will ask whether you've done your homework. The inference is that you're a kid who should be busy

with your schoolbooks and not playing with adults. Maphaka, who has made a fairytale entry to the IPL as a hastily arranged replacement for the hamstrung Dilshan Madushanka in Mumbai Indians' squad, doesn't have that problem. For one thing, he is blessed with a face that makes his age, in the eyes of his beholders, a slippery perception. He could be 12, 22 or 32. For another thing, yes, he will have done his homework. Maphaka is 17 and in his senior year of high school. A 10-week interruption, far from home, won't help his efforts to try and graduate with good grades. So his school books have followed him to Mumbai. How might that work?

"It's not unusual for us to have students competing in different spaces and needing to go overseas," Eugene Stolk, the deputy headmaster and academic head at St Stithians College in Johannesburg, Maphaka's school, told Cricbuzz. "We manage our students online with some of our old Covid protocols, which we've done really well. The boys have access to all their teachers in the digital classroom space." In March last year, for instance, another St Stithians boy, Ben Wallis - then South Africa's under-17 football captain - kept up with his schoolwork in this fashion during a trial with English Premier League club Fulham in London. "Kwena's got four hours of maths lined up in the



next week or so with his maths teacher here," Stolk said. "We will manage some of his commitments with the IEB [Independent Examinations Board] to make sure he does the tests that he can do remotely, and he can submit those digitally.

When he gets back, we'll have second tests of equivalent status and stature set up so he can achieve what he would have done if he hadn't gone away." Stolk was confident Maphaka would cope, not least because he has done so before. The

men's under-19 World Cup was played in South Africa from January 19 to February 11, or on 24 of the 64 days - more than a third - that comprised the year's first term. Maphaka, who was named player of the tournament for taking 21 wickets at

9.71, was back at school the day after the final. "He knew what he had missed and he made plans to talk to people to catch up," Stolk said. "He's such a keen student, so it wasn't onerous on the people he was keen to work with. Kwena just gets on with things. I think that kind of mentality is why he's such a good sportsman, because he's always thinking about what's coming next. He's got a lot of natural ability, obviously, but I think he's a smart lad who thinks hard about how he can get the best bang for his buck. Academically, he does the same thing." It helps that Maphaka's school will be closed for holidays for 37 of the 66 days that will make up the IPL, and that the seniors will only write

tests on nine other days. For more than half the tournament Maphaka wouldn't have been in the classroom anyway. Stolk also had an eye on the bigger picture: "This [the IPL] is going to open so many doors for him. We're just managing expectations on our side. So while he may have been aiming for a distinction in a specific subject, now we're asking what's a fair level of achievement for him." Maphaka had to manage his expectations himself on Wednesday. He took the field in Hyderabad as Mumbai's youngest foreign debutant and the third-youngest in the IPL overall at 17 years and 354 days, and left with the most expensive figures in the franchise's history.

CA contracts 2024-25: Four new additions but Stoinis left out



NewDelhi:Cricket Australia have handed out central contracts to four new players for the 2024-25 season but have left out veteran allrounder Marcus Stoinis from their 23-man list. Xavier Bartlett, who has played just three games for Australia (all in 2024), is joined by Nathan Ellis, Matt Short and Aaron Hardie. While Bartlett makes the cut for the first time, the other three players have effectively retained their spots. Even though they were not handed a contract at the start, they earned upgrades

throughout the season having played games for Australia in ODIs and T20Is. Considering the fact that the contract is effective post the T20 World Cup this year, David Warner doesn't make the cut as he intends to bring the curtains down on his international career after the showpiece event. Stoinis, who had lost his spot in the ODI side during the World Cup last year, is in frame to play the T20 World Cup this year but has still not been handed a contract. Ashton Agar, Marcus Harris and Michael

Neser are the other players left out from last year's list. Matt Renshaw, who was picked in the squads recently as the back-up batter after Warner's Test retirement, has not made the cut as well apart from T20 specialist Tim David. However, Jhye Richardson has managed to retain his spot despite not turning out for Australia since June 2022 as a result of a frustrating spell on the sidelines with injuries. CA contracted players 2024-25:Sean Abbott, Xavier Bartlett, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Lance Morris, Todd Murphy, Jhye Richardson, Matt Short, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa

The biggest thing we've seen in Riyan is maturity: Sangakkara

NewDelhi:It's the sixth successive season of the Indian Premier League where Rajasthan Royals have put their faith in Riyan Parag, an investment they made when he was merely a 17-year-old. For five years after becoming the youngest half-centurion in the tournament, they threw him in the deep end hoping to reap rewards but struggled to get the desired result. Despite that, in the 2022 IPL mega auction, they tussled it out till Rs 4.6 Crore to bag his services again. In the 54 games of his first five seasons, Parag was mostly thrust into the role of a finisher, and averaged merely 16.22 at a strike rate of 123.97. Only Washington Sundar boasted of a worse strike rate in positions 6,7 and 8 (among batters who have played at least 20 innings since Parag's debut).

Rajasthan Royals have been waiting for long to see the rewards of their consistent support to Parag come good. And inspiration isn't too far away. Kumar Sangakkara, the Royals' Director of Cricket, is hoping that the recent rise to the Indian team of his fellow young IPL teammates Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel could spur Parag on as well. "He's seen the huge jumps that Jaiswal and Jurel have made, and he's got a hunger there now and an example to follow into the international side," Sangakkara said on Wednesday, a day ahead of Royals' game against Delhi Capitals in Jaipur. "We have players who have a variety of ambitions, IPL being one of them. I think he has understood that how he



performs here, leads up to it. Maturing, understanding his game more, taking on more responsibility is non-negotiable for him." It's not without reason that Royals have backed the young Assam all-rounder. In the last couple of seasons, he has enjoyed a terrific run in domestic cricket, which includes top-scoring in the recently concluded Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy - all

at a strike rate of 182.79. A lot has changed in Parag since the last season, Sangakkara admits. The most important aspect, he believes, is the maturity. "The biggest thing we've seen in Riyan is maturity," he says. "Irrespective of the support we offer players and whatever coaches you have, self-awareness of what your game is, what is good for you, what your lifestyle

should look like in terms of on-field, off-field, focus on performance - all of that has changed in Riyan." But before passing a judgement on Parag's underwhelming performances in IPL, Sangakkara adds a word of caution. "He's still a very, very young cricketer. We shouldn't forget that, he's also been hugely in the focus over the years as one of the faces of the franchise of the younger brigade." Parag has ticked off the 2024 season with an impactful innings against Lucknow Super Giants in Royals' opening encounter of the season, in Jaipur. He did enjoy his share of luck with Mohsin Khan dropping a sitter at short fine when he was batting on 29, but he cashed in on it well, scoring 13 runs off the next six deliveries.

Injured Rajitha ruled out of second Test against Bangladesh

NewDelhi:Sri Lanka received a blow ahead of the second Test against Bangladesh as pace bowler Kasun Rajitha is ruled out of the series concluding match, scheduled at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium from March 30. Asitha Fernando joined the squad as a replacement for Rajitha while the latter returned home to start rehabilitation work. "Kasun Rajitha will not be available for the second Test match as the player has suffered an injury to his left upper back area," SLC said in a statement on Wednesday. Rajitha, who grabbed eight wickets in the opening Test against Bangladesh at Sylhet, played a key role behind their win by picking a five-



fer in the second innings to help them earn a massive 328-run win. The right-arm medium fast bowler sustained the injury while playing the first Test and played the game by managing his injury. Both the teams reached Chattogram ahead of the second game and will start their preparation from Thursday for the second Test which is part of the ICC Test Championship. Shakib Al Hasan, who made himself available for this contest, will be joining

the team as well before they begin their preparation. The ace all-rounder featured for Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club against Gazi Group Cricketers in the ongoing Dhaka Premier League, the country's traditional list A tournament, at BKSP on Wednesday (March 27). Shakib scored a 65-ball 53 and later picked two for 14 run to help his side win the game by 39 runs and in the process prepare for the important encounter against the islanders.

NewDelhi:Some of the blockbuster Indian films in recent years have shared a common element: the prominent presence of large machine guns. Protagonists armed with ammunition belt-supported firearms have imposed themselves on movie screens with their firepower. However, such action sequences are typically centred around a single major star doing all the damage. In the IPL a similar spectacle unfolded in 2013 when Chris Gayle unleashed a ballistic performance, pulverising the Pune Warriors bowlers across every corner of the Chinnaswamy stadium. Gayle's remarkable 175 not out off 66 deliveries propelled RCB to a formidable total of 263/5. That remained the highest total in the IPL for close to 11 years before SRH scaled the peak. This

time, however, it wasn't a one-man show, or even a one-team show for that matter. The distinction between the powerplay and the death overs became hazy amidst the batting onslaught. It seemed as though the powerplay never truly concluded, or that the death overs commenced right from the start of the match. It was built up as a contest between pace supremo Jasprit Bumrah and the world's best T20 batter Heinrich Klaasen. But what the game produced was beyond that. After relentless attacking from both teams the climax of this onslaught was an astounding 523 runs scored in the match, the highest ever in men's T20 cricket and the first instance of a 500-plus aggregate in IPL history. Bumrah bowled ten deliveries to Klaasen and



despite being hit for a six and two fours by the keeper-batter and conceding 22 runs, he finished with 0-36 from his four overs - the second most economical figures from either team. But before it came to Bumrah vs Klaasen, which only started in the 15th over, the leather run for the bowlers had already been initiated by the top order. David Warner has been

the primary figure on SRH's list of fastest fifties, having jointly struck their quickest (off 20 balls) alongside Moises Henriques. Until Wednesday (March 27), Warner had notched seven out of the ten fastest fifties for SRH. However, even before the halfway mark of the first innings in Match 8 of IPL 2024, two batters had already overtaken the former SRH opener.

Travis Head kick-started the innings with a blazing fifty off only 18 balls, and this was just the opening act. SRH raced past the 100-run mark in seven overs as Head relentlessly attacked the MI bowlers. The onslaught continued with Abhishek Sharma, the 23-year-old left-hander, who was matching Head shot for shot. Despite Head's dismissal, MI's hopes of tightening the game faded as Abhishek swiftly surpassed him to claim the title of the fastest half-centurion for SRH, achieving the feat in a mere 16 deliveries. A staggering 148 runs were amassed in the first 10 overs, setting yet another IPL record. Abhishek eventually fell for 63, his runs coming at a massive strike rate of 273.91, marginally quicker than Head's 258.33 for his 62.