

BJP names 11 more LS candidates: Fields Mahtab from Cuttack, Sukanta from Kandhamal and Rabindra from Jajpur



New Delhi(KCN): The BJP Saturday named its candidates for 11 more Lok Sabha constituencies, fielding a number of leaders who joined it from different parties recently such as Bhartruhari Mahtab, Ravneet Singh Bittu, Sushil Kumar Rinku and Preneet Kaur. All these leaders have been fielded from the seats they represent in the outgoing Lok Sabha, while former Indian ambassador to the US Tarun Singh Sandhu will be making his poll debut

from Amritsar. Veteran parliamentarian Mahtab, who quit the BJD recently, will contest from Cuttack, Sukanta Kumar Panigrahi to contest from the Kandhamal LS seat, while Rabindra Narayan Behera will be the party's candidate from the Jajpur parliamentary seat. Hans Raj Hans, who had won from North West Delhi in 2019 on a BJP ticket, will contest from the Faridkot seat, which is reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs). Bittu will contest from Ludhiana, Kaur from Patiala, and Rinku from Jalandhar, a seat reserved for SCs. Both Bittu, the grandson of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, and Kaur, the wife of former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh, were in the Congress before joining the BJP, while Rinku was in the Aam Aadmi Party. The BJP Sunday named two candidates from West Bengal, three from Odisha and six from Punjab. It has so far announced its candidates for 411 seats.

## Odisha: BJD MP, two ex MLAs quit regional party

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** In a jolt to the ruling Biju Janata Dal, a sitting MP and two ex-MLAs Saturday resigned from the regional party ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly elections.

Cine star and sitting Kendrapara MP Anubhav Mohanty tendered his resignation from the BJD. Mohanty said he was "feeling suffocated" in the party for over four years.

Mohanty was the second sitting BJD MP after Bhartruhari Mahtab to quit the regional party ahead of the 2024 general elections. The Kendrapara MP was seen celebrating Holi with Mahtab in Cuttack.

A actor-turned-politician and former

MLA Akash Das Nayak also resigned from the BJD. In a video statement, the former Korei MLA announced his resignation from the primary membership of BJD.

"After listening to my inner voice, for self-respect and the respect of Korei residents, I have decided to quit BJD," he said.

Das Nayak said he would take the next course of action after holding discussion with the people of Korei and his supporters.

During the day, former party MLA from Bhubaneswar-North Priyadarshi Mishra also resigned from BJD and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party Saturday.

He joined the saffron party in the presence of Odisha BJP president Manmohan Samal and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi.

BJP's election in-charge for Odisha Vijaypal Singh Tomar was also present at the programme at the party office in Bhubaneswar.

The BJP leaders said that Priyadarshi's entry would further strengthen the saffron party in the state capital and neighbouring areas ahead of the twin elections.



Priyadarshi had earlier sent his resignation letter to BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in the morning. He claimed 'continuous neglect' in the party as the reason behind his decision to quit the BJD.

A former MP Dhaneswar Majhi had also resigned from the BJD Friday and joined the BJP. Majhi was a Rajya Sabha MP and was elected for five times from Kesinga and Narla assembly constituencies.

Majhi said he resigned from the BJD and joined the BJP as he has confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking the country to a new height.

Former OPCC working president and ex-MLA Chiranjibi



(RLD), accepted the honour from Murmu. Swaminathan's daughter Nitya Rao and Thakur's son Ram Nath Thakur received the award from the president.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries were present at the ceremony.

The government had announced five Bharat



Ratna awards this year, including one to Bharatiya Janata Party stalwart and former deputy prime minister LK Advani.

## Congress Got Large Amounts In Cash, Had Ample Time To Reply: Sources On Tax Charge

New Delhi: The Congress' claims of "tax terrorism" based on fresh notices from the Income Tax department have been strongly countered by sources in the government agency, who have pointed out that incriminating material had been seized and the assessment proceedings are taking place now because they would have been time-barred on March 31 this year.

The sources said the Congress knew about the proceedings and had been given enough time to reply, including during the hearings in the Delhi High Court, which had denied the party relief.

The Congress, which had earlier claimed its bank accounts had been frozen after the Income Tax authorities had imposed a penalty of ₹ 200 crore, had said on Friday that it had

received a new tax notice from the department to the tune of ₹ 1,800 crore. The fresh notice was for the assessment years 2017-18 to 2020-21 (financial years 2016-17 to 2019-20) and included penalty and interest.



Officials said income tax searches in April 2019 had revealed cash receipts by the Congress from Megha Engineering - which has emerged as the second-largest donor in the electoral bonds scheme - and others. This, they claimed, was discovered during raids on associates of Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath. The total receipts in cash between 2013-14 to April 2019 were to the extent of ₹ 626 crore, the officials claimed, and included proceedings of an alleged corruption scam.

"These cash receipts have been established and corroborated in multiple ways, including documents found during

searches, WhatsApp messages and recorded statements," an official said. Under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, money received by a political party is exempt if certain conditions are met, including not accepting amounts over more than ₹ 2,000. Since the Congress violated these conditions, it became liable to pay tax on its entire income, the officials said.

"The reason that the Congress has been able to get a stay is that the Income Tax department has produced in courts detailed, corroborated evidence that is on record.

If the Congress party thinks it is innocent, it should release the entire assessment order to the public and the truth will be revealed," said a source.

## Campaign to 'Expose, Oppose, Punish BJP' will be taken to the People: SKM

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), 30 March:** National Co-ordination committee (NCC) of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), in its extended meeting, has worked out a detailed plan for executing the "Punish BJP" call through intensive mass campaign by holding of Mahapanchayats and conventions across the country upto grassroot level.

The National Co-ordination committee of SKM held its extended meeting at Rohtak, on Saturday, endorsed its clarion call given in the 14 March Mahapanchayat at Ram Lila ground for opposing, exposing and punishing the BJP for the ruinous pro corporate policies and authoritarian drive.

Presided by an eight-member presidium comprising of Balbir Singh Rajewal, Dr. Darshan Pal, Satyawan, Dr. Ashish Mital, Inderjit Singh, Jogender Nain, K.D Singh and Chander Shekhar was attended by about a hundred farmer leaders from various states of the country.

SKM leaders while briefing the media told that state specific plans will be worked out by SKM state level chapters holding joint and coordinated conventions, rallies, yatras with Trade Unions, Agriculture labour unions, students, youth, women and NGOs etc highlighting pro people alternative policies.

Punjab SKM will have a Mahapanchayat at Chandigarh on 8 April

and Jagraon on 21 May. Meeting strongly condemned the attempts of Punjab government to weaken the market upto grassroot level. It has been decided to expand the Kisan Mazdoor unity by roping in other mass organisations and social

plan for executing the punish BJP call through intensive mass campaign through holding of Mahapanchayats and rallies across the country upto grassroot level. It has been decided to expand the Kisan Mazdoor unity by roping in other mass organisations and social

outfits into its fold and involve them into the broadest possible platform making it a mass movement against destruction of livelihood, safeguarding social fabric and defending constitutional institutions. Sharing the main decisions taken in the meeting, SKM leader and

National Vice-President of All India Kisan Sabha, Dr. Inderjeet Singh divulged to our representative that SKM has appealed all kisan organisations and platforms of workers, students, youth, women etc. to unite to protest, expose and punish BJP. Form of protest to be

decided locally. SKM leadership will visit states for Jana Mahapanchayat, Jana Jagaran Campaign at district / constituency level. He added that SKM will build widespread communication network through social media against corporate control over media.

SKM leader further informed that first leaflet- why RSS is angry with farmers has been released- More Leaflets, Posters, Video clips in Vernacular will be distributed in all constituencies.

It was also decided that SKM delegation will visit farmers fighting against forced land acquisition in Chousa, Buxar, Bihar; to hold a Mahapanchayat on 10 April. SKM to campaign on demands to



isolate and punish BJP and to build a bigger movement on its demands, calling attention of all political forces on them. It is pertinent to mention that Kisan Unions are on war path against the central government for not implementing the agreement with SKM dated 9.12.2021 regarding MSP@C2+50% with guaranteed procurement to all crops, Comprehensive Loan Waiver for farmers despite 1,00,474 farmers committed suicide (2014-2022), Rapid Privatisation of Electricity, Protecting the Ajay Mishra Teni, Union (MoS) Home Affairs- the Killer of Farmers at Lakhimpur Kheri as alleged by SKM.

## BJD Considers Offering Ticket to Biswa Das for Kakatpur Constituency



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN Bureau):** In a surprising turn of events, speculations are rife that the BJD party is contemplating offering a ticket to Biswa Das, the current state vice president of the Pradesh Congress Committee, Odisha, for

## Annual Function of Vivekananda Siskhya Kendra, Satapada held

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Annual Function of Vivekananda Siskhya Kendra, Satapada of Krushnaprasad Block held on 29th March 2024. Above 500 participants including students & parents participated along with their parents, guardians participated in the programme cheerfully. At the outset, Mr Nalini Kumar Badajena, Secretary of the institution welcomed all the dignitaries on dice and Mr. Prakash Kumar Nayak, Coordinator, ECRC, inaugurated the programme. Ms. Anjana Panda, Headmistress of the School presented annual activities and achievements of students as well as the school. Mr. Subhanarayana Satapathy, Child Protection Officer joined as Chief Guest and deliberated about child psychology, present education system, necessity of protection of rights of children at everywhere and role of stakeholders, parents, community. He was emphasized on realization



of child psychology at school and home by the parent, teacher and all the persons who are always with the children. Chief Speaker Mr. Prafulla Kumar Jena, Rtd Govt. Official and Educationist depicted from ancient education to present development and home to school atmosphere for children. He was also focused on modernization culture of education and its effect on society. Among other

Hon'ble Guests Mr. Bidyadhar Bhol, IIC, Satapada PS, ABEO Mr. S. i d h e s w a r Karan, Headmasters of different schools namely Mr. Ramakrushna Jally, Mr. Mohan Sundar Barik, Mr. Basant Kumar Jena and Secretaries of Other VSKs namely Mr. Sudhansu Bhushan Nayak, Mr. Santosh Kumar Nayak, Mr. Sudhakar Barik, Mr. Gadadhar Pradhan, Mr. Bijay Kumar

## NITA Football Academy Secures Final Round Berth in IWL-2 with Convincing Win!



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** In a decisive match at Amal Dutta Kridangan, Kolkata, on 30.03.2024, NITA Football Academy, Odisha emerged victorious against MGM Ambush Club, Chattisgarh, with a

commanding 2-0 score line. Consecutive two win and one draw, NITA football academy is positioned among the top 6 teams of the nation and propelled to the final round of India women's league -2.

Star players Debalina Sarkar and Babita Kumari showcased their prowess with a well-taken goal each, solidifying the team's position. Chairman - Er. Subrat Das, Secretary - Er Arun Parija, Chief

## Centre's negligence towards Odisha will be major election issue: BJD's Pradeep Majhi

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Senior BJD leader Pradeep Majhi Saturday claimed that the BJP-led central government neglected Odisha for the past 10 years, which is going to be a 'major issue' in the upcoming assembly and Lok Sabha polls in the state.

Majhi, the BJD nominee from the Nabarangpur Lok Sabha seat, said Odisha is a state rich in natural resources, but it "does not get proper support from the Centre like other BJP-ruled states".

"To tackle this



situation, the Odisha government has taken several measures and become a self-reliant state.

"Odisha has been neglected by the BJP government for the past 10 years and this will be a major issue in the polls," he asserted.

Majhi said that the BJD has worked for the development of all sectors, including health, education, road

infrastructure, social security and irrigation.

The state government has also undertaken projects for transformation of temples and places of worship, he said.

"Nobody thought that so much development would take place in Odisha in the past two-and-a-half years. This is the reason I believe that people are eagerly waiting to vote for the BJD again and make Naveen Patnaik the longest-serving chief minister of India," Majhi added.

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## Bigg Boss 17 Evicted Contestant Aishwarya Sharma Opens Up On Isha Malviya's Decision, Says 'I Don't Play With Hearts'



JioCinema is set to bring an exciting twist to the Bigg Boss experience with 'Bigg Buzz,' a show that brings the Bigg Boss living room to life in a new format, introduced last season. Following the successful run of its first season, the show returns with its second season. Hosted by Krushna Abhishek, 'Bigg Buzz' features a fictional family engaging with evicted and previous season's Bigg Boss contestants, offering an unfiltered look at their lives and opinions, along with exclusive insights into the world of entertainment. In a recent episode, Bigg

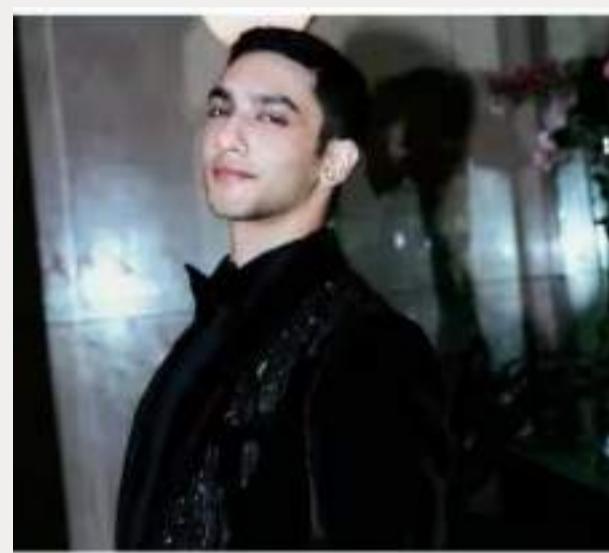
Boss 17 evictee Aishwarya Sharma Bhatt made her appearance in the show, sharing exclusives from her journey inside the Bigg Boss House. While speaking of journey in the Bigg Boss house, Aishwarya shares, "The eviction was very unfair, unlike Isha, mai bohot fair decisions leti hu. Mai dil se khelti hub logo ke dilon se nahi. Iss gharne dost toh ban jaate hai but best friends banane mushkil hai. Saab saap jaise hai. Best friend banane ke liye ghar mai koi trustworthy nai hai. I trust Neil, woh kabhi kabhi mere against jaata

hai but we are still together cause obviously we love each other. I miss him a lot. Mai dominating nai hu but mujhe nai nai pata kyu mujhe dominating ka tag mil raha hai. Mera uske liye message hoga, 'Neil, jeet ke aana, ek ek ko sabak sikhana aur mera badla leke aana.'"

While talking about Rinku Ji, Aishwarya

shares, "Rinku ji bohot smart hain. Mera aur unka bohot jhagda hota hai. Meri unse ek hi problem hai ki woh zyada vocal nahi hoti hain. Woh bas logo ko advice dene mein lagi rehti hain. Mujhe bhi unhone advice diya aur maine bhi usse implement karne ki koshish bhi ki. Ghar ki therapist jaisi hain woh. Mera unke aur Aoora ke saath bohot achha bond ho gaya hai. Ghar ke logon ko bhi Rinku ji bohot pasand hain. Mere aur Neil ke liye woh bohot supportive thi. Woh mujhe aake bolti thi, isko tujhse yeh problem hai, go and talk it out." To witness more interesting conversations between Aishwarya and Chugli Dadi, tune in to watch Bigg Buzz every Sunday, streaming exclusively on JioCinema.

## Katrina Kaif, Karan Johar Praises 'The Archies' Actor Vedang Raina



"The Archies" is making a lot of buzz. After all, not just the movie marks the debut of many Bollywood starlets but also the screening was attended by the who's who of the industry. Recently, in a dazzling and star-studded premiere for the much-anticipated movie 'The Archies,' debutant Vedang Raina has taken the spotlight by storm. He has earned accolades from none other than Bollywood

sensation Katrina Kaif and Karan Johar. Celebrities are not holding back in commending the remarkable performances of the cast and crew and Katrina Kaif and Karan Johar took a moment to express their admiration, including a special mention for Vedang Raina. In a heartfelt message, Katrina praised Vedang Raina, stating, "@vedangraina reminds

Raina not only mesmerises the audience with his on-screen presence but also lent his voice to a song in the movie adding an extra layer of depth to his already promising debut. Helmed by Zoya Akhtar, 'The Archies' also marks the debut of late Sridevi and producer Boney Kapoor's daughter Khushi Kapoor, Shweta Bachchan and Nikhil Nanda's son Agastya.

## Talvaar Turns 8: Revisiting Exceptional Performance Of Sohum Shah, Who Played Investigative Officer



As 'Talvaar' marks its 8th anniversary today, we can't help but recall on the exceptional performance of Sohum Shah, who portrayed the role of an investigative officer in this gripping crime drama. Despite his limited screen time, Shah managed to leave an indelible mark on the audience and industry alike, establishing himself as a true bona fide performer. Sohum Shah has always been an actor who seamlessly embodies his director's vision of the character on screen. With Meghna Gulzar's direction in 'Talvaar', he

had the opportunity to delve deep into the psyche of his character. In doing so, he not only met but exceeded all expectations, delivering a performance that was widely praised by critics and audiences alike. One of the key aspects of Shah's portrayal in 'Talvaar' was his ability to bring authenticity and depth to his character. As an investigative officer tasked with unraveling a complex murder case, he displayed a remarkable range of emotions and nuances, making the character feel real and relatable. His dedication to his craft was evident

in every scene, from his meticulous attention to detail to his flawless execution of even the most challenging sequences, he didn't just

play the character but became the character. The collaboration between Sohum Shah and Meghna Gulzar in 'Talvaar' also serves as a prime example of the powerful synergy that can be achieved when a talented actor joins forces with a visionary director. The film's success can be

attributed, in large part, to Shah's outstanding performance, which breathed life into the character and added depth to the narrative. It's a testament to his dedication to his craft and his ability to elevate any project he's a part of. Up next for Sohum Shah is his production venture 'CrazXy' and as he continues to take on new challenges and work with acclaimed directors, audiences can look forward to witnessing more exceptional performances from this talented artist.

## Vijay Deverakonda Expresses Gratitude For 'Kushi' Success, Says 'Love Knows No Language'



Actor Vijay Deverakonda's latest release 'Kushi' with Samantha Ruth Prabhu successfully managed to strike a chord with people. The film, which performed well at the box office, is now streaming on OTT platform Netflix. On receiving audiences' love

for his role in 'Kushi', Vijay said, "We made 'Kushi' with the belief that love knows no language and emotions have no boundaries. Seeing the overwhelming love pour in again with its OTT release is incredibly gratifying. Whether you're watching it in

Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. The film marked Vijay and Samantha's second collaboration after 'Mahanati'. Earlier talking about working in the film, Vijay told ANI, "The whole experience of shooting it will be a very fond memory for life. The relationships I've formed with Samantha and Shiva, are the two people I spent the most time with, and shared a lot of memories and highs and lows with. I will always enjoy thinking about the making of this film..."

Written and directed by Shiva Nirvana and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, 'Kushi' hit the theatres on September 1 in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, or Hindi, I hope the film brings as much 'Kushi' to your hearts as it has to ours."

Meanwhile, in the coming months, Vijay will be seen in 'VD 12'. The film is being directed by 'Jersey' fame Gowtam Tinnanuri. trip movie happen but there have been a lot of hiccups already. Whether Jee Le Zaraa is being shelved or not, has Priyanka Chopra said no to the script, etc. have grabbed headlines in the last couple of days. But fresh reports revealing the real reason for the delay have surfaced. A lot of fans have questioned Farhan Akhtar about the delay of Jee Le Zaraa which is supposed to star Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt in the lead. There have been numerous reasons that have surfaced for the delay in making of the new movie. Recently, reports surfaced talking about Priyanka Chopra opting out of Jee Le Zaraa because she did not like the script. She was supposed to come down to India during Parineeti Chopra's wedding and sign the contract which did not happen. But that's not the case, as per a report in Koimoi.com, Priyanka is very much a part of the movie. She has not opted out of the project nor has she said 'no' to the script

Jee Le Zaraa: Real reason behind Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt starrer's delay revealed and it's not date issues

Jee Le Zaraa is one of the most talked about movies starring Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. The movie was announced a couple of years ago and there has been much excitement around the same as it is. Farhan Akhtar along with Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti are making this all-female road

trip movie happen but there have been a lot of hiccups already. Whether Jee Le Zaraa is being shelved or not, has Priyanka Chopra said no to the script, etc. have grabbed headlines in the last couple of days. But fresh reports revealing the real reason for the delay have surfaced. A lot of fans have questioned Farhan Akhtar about the delay of Jee Le Zaraa which is supposed to star Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt in the lead. There have been numerous reasons that have surfaced for the delay in making of the new movie. Recently, reports surfaced talking about Priyanka Chopra opting out of Jee Le Zaraa because she did not like the script. She was supposed to come down to India during Parineeti Chopra's wedding and sign the contract which did not happen. But that's not the case, as per a report in Koimoi.com, Priyanka is very much a part of the movie. She has not opted out of the project nor has she said 'no' to the script

# Blind faith is bad

Dr. Laxman Sahoo



indecent evil is 'Dagaana', which has grown over time. In other words, bad faith like fighting, blowing, checking. It has become a matter of concern for progressive societies and governments and administrations.

Although some other bad practices are common in all communities. But there are some wrong practices in tribal culture which are very scary. They are so deeply entrenched in that blind, prejudice that millions of efforts and public awareness seem to have no effect. It is often seen that "when a new-born child has trouble breathing or has problems with stomach or other diseases, some tribals burn him with a hot iron rod (chain). Sometimes this can even lead to death."

Many states are still not able to rid themselves of the bad habits of Chen (Dagaana). Some areas have been in the news for a long time. Such an event is called Dam in some places, Dagaana in some places, Chidi Kathi in some places, Chidi Dag in some places and Chenka in

some places. There are many other names for this evil practice. It is also a source of income for uneducated oyas, gunyas, exorcists and exorcists. Those who claim healing by branding the body.

Despite all the efforts, the practice of Dagaana, which is prevalent in many urban and semi-urban areas including tribal areas, is not being stopped. Most of its victims are innocent children. They suffer from malnutrition and other diseases. In many places even adults were suffering from various diseases. Many states including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra have still not freed themselves from the clutches of Dagaana. Tribal people often torture even ten-fifteen-day-old children in superstitions. From children to adults they are chained with a hot iron rod around the navel and a hot iron

especially the tribal Shahdol section of Madhya Pradesh is in the limelight now.

Even now, such

incidents are happening here continuously. Because of this, the number of deaths there is also increasing. Even the district administration and the medical college have clashed over this issue. In February 2023, a case was reported from Katothia (Singhpur) village near Shahdol. The three-month-old baby's breathing and digestion were not functioning properly. His superstitious father burned his body fifty times with a hot iron rod. Because of this his health deteriorated instead of improving. Finally, the girl was admitted to the medical college, but could not be saved.

In this, the collector declared the cause of death as pneumonia, while the medical college declared Daganar (cheek) wound. In fact, the girl was suffering from malnutrition. It is also true that in tribal societies malnourished babies are born due to lack of proper care of pregnant mothers. The government and administration are aware of this. There are Asha workers,

NMs and Anganwadis everywhere. Districts also have a Center for Malnutrition Rehabilitation. But it seems that everything is organized only on paper. The situation on the ground is different. Due to bad practices in Shahdol department. The headline of more than two thousand children being victimized on the newspaper page attracted everyone's attention. A similar case came to light last month from Anupur district in which a video of an elderly man being hot-branded in Dand was made and widely circulated.

A similar game of superstition takes place all over Rajasthan. Here the vape inflicts stigma on innocent people. In the name of cure, the body is kept with hot rods. There were also incidents in which children who were taken to the hospital after their health deteriorated died. In spite of such incidents happening in many places, superstitions about dams continue. Incidents happening in front of the

administration and lack of hidden action by Bhopas do not break their morale. In many rural areas, due to illiteracy, superstition and poverty, children are brought to VOP instead of hospitals. Often even doctors admit that many children who are victims of such superstitions are no longer alive. But this practice continues in the name of tradition.

A similar tradition exists in the villages of Jharkhand. The tribal community there called it Chiri Dag. During Makar Sankranti in January, on the eve of the Tusu festival, the uncle's chen (branding) process begins in every village. It is especially prevalent in the Kharwans of East Singhbhum, West and Seraikela, Kolhan areas, where large gatherings take place. They bring the children, forcefully tie their hands and feet and make them sleep on the bed. Then apply mustard oil on the navel and burn it with a hot rod.

There is a belief that doing this

diseases. More or less, this evil practice of wells is prevalent in Odisha as well. Here in Odisha it is called Chen. In this, birth checks (branded) of seven to twenty one days are given. There is a superstition that if a child gets sick or if blue veins are visible. Then it is considered to be the influence of an evil spirit. It is believed that by stamping (stomping) he will escape.

Such a child will be protected from the evil eye. During the harvest festival of Makar Sankranti, everything goes on here. Sick men and women are also warned. This work is done here by special exorcists. They are called traditional doctors. But in Odisha a unique experiment has been done to get out of it. The state government launched the 'Jin Samla' scheme in partnership with UNICEF for the empowerment of tribals. The aim was to stop the practice of checking with local NGOs. When the community that practiced and

believed in Chen (branding) was told that they were doing a punishable act. There was strong opposition.

But when everyone was taken into confidence and explained that they need not give up worship, reading, rituals. Instead, take care of the children and send them to the hospital. Some people somehow agreed and children started arriving at the hospital. At the second level, work was done in collaboration with ASHA workers and ANMs. Govt to check those with public support. Awareness was given about the advantages and disadvantages of these schemes. If one does not agree, all kinds of schemes and ration cards are feared to be confiscated.

However, even bigger changes have to be made. Odisha must be chosen as a model in the whole country to stop evil practices like Che's (Dagana).

**Principal & Senior columnist, Mahanadi Vihar Women's Degree College, Cuttack-4 contact- 9040151475**

## Knowledge and Knowing

Dr. Arundhati Devi



Knowledge and knowing are two different things. Knowledge is that which we gather from outside. Knowing arises from within. Knowledge is memory that is of the mind, but knowing is existential, which is of the 'being'. Knowing is the very nature of this existence; it is the core of human existence. It arises when you are in touch with your 'being'. When you are just 'being', not doing anything at the level of your body, mind and energy, you are in touch with the knower within, and in that moment what you perceive is 'knowing'.

Knowledge is samyak darshan, perception, seeing things as they are and not as they appear to be. That's why knowing is subjective and arises in rare ones; it is opposed to knowledge, which is objective and can easily be acquired by one and all, like any other object, by means of education,

from knowledge to knowing. Knowledge and knowing are two different things. Knowledge is that which we gather from outside. Knowing arises from within. Knowledge is memory that is of the mind, but knowing is existential, which is of the 'being'. Knowing is the very nature of this existence; it is the core of human existence. It arises when you are in touch with your 'being'. When you are just 'being', not doing anything at the level of your body, mind and energy, you are in touch with the knower within, and in that moment what you perceive is 'knowing'.

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**Director & Secretary, International Indency Prevention Movement, Odisha, Cuttack, Mob. : 9937172810**

## Science Magazines are Important for Students

Vijay GarG



date information from reputable sources. Students can rely on these magazines to stay informed about the latest advancements and breakthroughs in science. This exposure to current scientific knowledge is essential for students to build a strong foundation and stay relevant in their studies.

3. Enhancing critical thinking skills: Science magazines often present scientific findings and theories, accompanied by explanations and analyses. This helps students develop their critical thinking skills by evaluating evidence, drawing conclusions, and questioning scientific claims. These skills are vital in the scientific method and can be applied across various academic disciplines.

4. Promoting scientific literacy: Science magazines play a vital role in developing scientific literacy among students. They help in improving students' ability to read, understand, and interpret scientific information.

5. Exposure to career opportunities: Science magazines often feature profiles of scientists, interviews, and articles about different scientific professions. This exposure helps students learn about various career paths in science and broaden their awareness of potential future opportunities. It can inspire and motivate them to pursue science-related careers.

6. Supplementing classroom learning: Science magazines complement the information taught in classrooms. They provide additional resources and explanations that can reinforce classroom lessons or introduce new topics. By incorporating science magazines into their studies, students can

deepen their understanding and discover new perspectives on scientific concepts.

7. Exposure to career opportunities: Science magazines often feature profiles of scientists, interviews, and articles about different scientific professions. This exposure helps students learn about various career paths in science and broaden their awareness of potential future opportunities. It can inspire and motivate them to pursue science-related careers.

Overall, science magazines are valuable tools for students to enhance their scientific knowledge, foster curiosity, develop critical thinking skills, and explore future career options. They provide a window into the ever-evolving world of science and inspire a lifelong passion for learning.

**Retired Principal Educational columnist malout, Punjab**

# KU Senate approves budget of Rs.431.20 cr with Rs.8.08 cr deficit

**Warangal, March 30 (KCN):** Kakatiya University annual budget 2024–25 financial year was unanimously approved in the 39th academic senate held on Saturday presided by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Thatikonda Ramesh. Presenting the budget, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Principal Prof. P. Amaraveni said that the Kakatiya University revenues were estimated at Rs. 431.20 crores against the expenditure of Rs.449.73 crores leaving a deficit of Rs.8.08 crores. Rs.134.94 crores were sanctioned by the State Government in the form

of Grant-in-aid, and from other resources Rs. 296.26 crores. The internal resources include Rs.32.81 crores from UGC arrears, Rs.8.00 cr from academic and tuition fee, Rs.24.28 cr from others, Rs.58.79 from Examination Branch and so on. Budget presentation figures include an expenditure of Rs. 207.44 cr towards salaries of regular employers and pensions; which accounts for more than 60%, while it is Rs. 63.44 cr for examinations and academic activities. This year University is expected to receive grants from RUSA to the extent of Rs.44.00 cr. for



research-cum-infrastructure and developmental activities. The senate also approved the annual reports for the year 2022–23. Earlier, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Thatikonda Ramesh

in his report highlighted the achievements which included securing NAAC "A+" grade, conducting the 82nd Indian History Congress, Convocation, conduct of Ph.D. admissions and

infrastructure development including K.Hub, P.V.Knowledge Centre, Dining Hall of Boys hostel, increase of Girls accommodation, 2nd floor of administrative building etc., He also informed the senate that he had enhanced the wages of daily wage employees which were pending for long and assured that the wages for the casual and lump sum employees

would be enhanced soon. The university issued competitive appointments, and paid arrears to pensioners both teaching and non-teaching and pay revision arrears to regular employees despite financial constraints. The University also implemented the GOs enhancing the remuneration of contract and part-time teachers. Former Vice-Chancellor Prof. V. Gopal Reddy responded with a suggestion to introduce skill and job-oriented courses to increase internal resources. Former Vice-

Chancellor Prof. Vidyavati sought immediate appointment of regular faculty to fill staff gap and efforts should be increased to undertake continuous and multi-disciplinary research. Registrar Prof. P. Malla Reddy highlighted the academic developments as introduction of new courses and reforms in the examination branch. Public Relations officer Dr. Prudvi Raju Vallala presented a documentary highlighting the achievements of the University. Assistant Registrar Dr. Kola Shankar and Finance Officer T. Rajiah also spoke on the occasion.

## Kangana Ranaut's Himachal Challenge - BJP Dissidents, Erstwhile Royals



**Shimla(KCN):** The influence of BJP dissidents and the erstwhile royal families in the Mandi Lok Sabha constituency can make the road tough for Bollywood actor turned-politician Kangana Ranaut who is making her electoral debut as the BJP candidate from the high-profile seat.

Maheeshwar Singh, a former BJP state president, three times MP and scion of the erstwhile royal family of Kullu, has asked the party high command to review its decision to field Kangana Ranaut while BJP dissidents who were denied a ticket in 2022 assembly polls and fought as Independents held a meeting to chalk out the strategy.

BJP leader and former minister Ram Lal Markanda has resigned from the party along with his supporters after Congress rebel Ravi Thakur who voted in favor of the BJP in Rajya Sabha elections was given a ticket for assembly bypolls from Lahaul and Spiti.

"I have left the BJP along with my supporters and would definitely contest the assembly polls," he had told PTI adding that there is a possibility of him contesting from the Congress party.

Mandi Parliament seat comprises 17 assembly seats -- three tribal

assembly constituencies of Kinnaur, Lahaul and Spiti and Bharmour in Chamba district, all four assembly segments of Kullu district - Kullu, Manali, Banjar and Anni and nine assembly constituencies of Sundernagar, Balh, Mandi, Darang, Jodhpur, Nachan, Seraj, Karsog and Sarkaghat assembly constituencies in Mandi district and Rampur in Shimla district.

Out of the 17 assembly seats, eight are reserved for Schedule Tribes and Schedule Castes. The Mandi Lok Sabha constituency has mostly remained the battlefield of erstwhile royal families and their scions have won 13 out of the 19 elections including two by-elections held for the seat.

As Kangana Ranaut launched her election campaign with a roadshow and rally on Friday, senior BJP leader Maheeshwar Singh urged the BJP high command to review its decision to field the actor who has

made "no contribution" and claimed that he had been promised the ticket. "Kangana has made no contribution to the party and the people of Mandi have become vocal and are asking for a review of the decision on social media," Maheeshwar Singh told PTI on Saturday.

"Talks are on with the BJP high command on reviewing their decision," he said, adding, "I was earlier promised the ticket".

Hiteshwar Singh, son of Maheeshwar Singh, former BJP general Secretary Ram Singh and former Anni MLA Kishori Lal - all three who contested the 2022 assembly polls as Independents after being denied a ticket by the BJP - held a meeting with other disgruntled BJP leaders in the parliamentary constituency after Kangana's candidature was announced.

Congress state chief and sitting MP from Mandi seat Pratibha Singh had earlier pulled out of the

race for the party ticket, maintaining that the ground reality is not favourable and workers are disheartened.

However, the wife of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh and mother of Himachal Pradesh PWD minister Vikramaditya Singh from the erstwhile Bushar Royal family has changed her stance after Kangana was announced as the BJP candidate and said that she "will follow the directions of the Congress high command".

"People have a sentimental attachment with former chief minister Virbhadra Singh and that is the reason why people always support our family and want somebody from this family to contest this election," she told PTI on Friday.

The silver lining for Kangana Ranaut is that BJP leader Khushal Thakur, a Kargil war hero who lost to Pratibha Singh by a margin of 7,490 votes in the by-elections held in November 2021, has backed her candidature. "I am supporting Kangana. There are over one lakh ex-servicemen in this Parliament constituency," he told the PTI on Saturday.

Kangana Ranaut, who addressed her first election meeting on

Friday, called herself a "daughter and sister" of the people of Mandi and claimed she was constantly "bullied" for hailing from Himachal Pradesh. "I have constructed a small Devi temple in my village and have built a house in Manali. I had struggled and worked hard to carve a niche for myself," Kangana Ranaut said. "It is not that my father or husband is chief minister and I have joined politics," she said in an oblique attack on Pratibha Singh and Vikramaditya Singh who had earlier compared her to Sunny Deol, another actor-politician in the BJP camp who has been criticised for his alleged absence from his Lok Sabha constituency. Those elected in the past from the seat are Raj Kumai Amrit Kaur of Kapurthala dynasty and Raja Joginder Sen Bahadur of the erstwhile princely state of Mandi (both elected once); Raja Lalit Sen of Suket represented Mandi twice, Virbhadra Singh and Pratibha Singh (three times each) and Raja Maheshwar Singh (thrice).

Former Union minister Sukh Ram (who won thrice), Ram Swaroop (twice) and Ganga Singh were the only Mandi MPs not from the erstwhile royal family.

Tirtho Society. They particularly appreciated the provision of essentials such as fish seed, lime, and fish feed. These provisions have enabled them to enhance their fish consumption frequency to four to five days a week and engage in fish selling activities once or twice a year.

Despite the challenges posed by husbands migrating in search of alternative income sources, these women harnessed the potential of fish culture to stabilize

their households' financial foundations. With an average income of 12,322 rupees and some achieving as much as 120,000 rupees, their resilience and resourcefulness shine through. Beyond economic empowerment, this initiative has profound implications for their nutritional security, ensuring a better quality of life for themselves and their families.

The transformation witnessed in the Sunderban area exemplifies the essence of women empowerment, where access to resources and support has enabled them to thrive economically and socially. Through collaborative efforts and targeted interventions, ICAR-CIFRI have paved the way for sustainable development and gender equality in the region.

## Public Centric Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line Project Progresses Swiftly

**Engine successfully rolled out on a 22 KM section from Purunapani station to Jharmunda station.**



**ENGINE Rolling Successfully Between Purunapani Stn. To Jharmunda Stn. Of Boudh District**

## Punjab Girl, 10, Dies After Eating Cake Ordered Online On Her Birthday



**New Delhi:** A 10-year-old died of suspected food poisoning after eating a cake on her birthday last week in Punjab. The girl's entire family, including her younger sister, fell ill after eating the cake, said her grandfather. He said the cake was ordered online from a bakery in Patiala. The victim, Manvi, was seen cutting the cake and celebrating with her family in a widely shared video on social media, just hours before her death. She cut the cake around

7 PM on March 24, by 10 PM the same night, the entire family fell sick, her grandfather Harban Lal said, adding that the

sisters started vomiting soon after. Manvi asked for water, expressing extreme thirst and complaining of dryness in

her mouth, he said. Afterwards, she went to sleep, he added. The family rushed her to a hospital the next morning after her health deteriorated. She was put

on oxygen and an ECG (electrocardiogram) - a recording of the heart's electrical activity - was performed Harban Lal

said. But they couldn't save her. She was declared dead soon after, he said.

The family has alleged that the chocolate cake, ordered from 'Cake Kanha', contained some poisonous substance. A first information report or FIR has been filed against the bakery owner. "The postmortem of the body has been done. A sample from the cake has also been sent for testing. We are awaiting the reports," he said.

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** The much awaited Khurda Road-Balangir Rail Line project, designed to enhance connectivity and foster development, is rapidly taking shape. With a total length of 301 kilometers, the project has achieved a significant milestone with 152.805 kilometers of rail line work already completed. Recent CRS inspection has completed 8 KM stretch from Sonepur to Purunapani. In a momentous development today, the engine was successfully rolled out on a 22 KM section from Purunapani station to Jharmunda station. With this 182.8 KM of the Khurda-Bolangir Railway line has been

# High stake battle in Sambalpur as BJD's Pranab Das takes on BJP's Dharmendra Pradhan

**Sambalpur(KCN):** The Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat in Western Odisha will witness a high-profile contest as ruling Biju Janata Dal has put up party general secretary (Organisation) Pranab Prakash Das against Union Education Minister and BJP's Odisha face Dharmendra Pradhan. Fifty-two-year-old Das is a three-time MLA from Jajpur seat in the coastal area of the state, while Pradhan, who was a Rajya Sabha MP has returned to the electoral fray after a gap of 15 years after he was nominated from the Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat.

Das who is popularly called Bobby started his election campaign by paying obeisance to Maa Samaleswari, the presiding deity of the western Region of the state Friday. "I have sought blessings of Maa Samaleswari for the wellbeing of Odisha and also Sambalpur," Das said after offering puja at the temple. Asked whether he faced an outsider tag in Sambalpur, Das said: "My late father Ashok Das and his sister had 60-year relationship with Sambalpur. My family has a strong link and my father stayed in this town for years. Today, I feel like standing in my one

home." Earlier, Sambalpur BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition Jaynarayan Mishra alleged that Das who hails from Jajpur district in the coastal region of the state is not the son of the soil while BJP candidate Dharmendra Pradhan is a local man. Replying to reporters on how he sees Pradhan as a rival, Das said: "I have been sent to Sambalpur by chief minister Naveen Patnaik who means development of the area. I have relations with the people of Sambalpur and not with the candidate of the rival party. I am here to serve the people and take developmental

works to the next level." Das is the son of late Ashok Das, a popular Janata Dal leader of the 1990s. Though Ashok Das remained an MLA for many years, he had all along worked for the party and never accepted any ministerial



power centre in the BJD, has been pitted against Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the BJP's face in Odisha. Both the contestants are equally important for their parties and therefore a high-profile election is on the card, said political analyst Sandeep Mishra.

The Sambalpur seat will go to polls in the sixth phase May 25. Prior to 2009 when there was an alliance between BJD and the BJP, Prasanna Acharya as a BJD candidate won thrice from Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat in 1998, 1999 and 2004.

different party candidates in the Lok Sabha elections.

In 2009, Congress candidate Amarnath Pradhan won the Sambalpur Lok Sabha seat by a margin of 14,874 votes while in 2014, BJD's Nagendra Pradhan won it by a margin of 30,576 votes. In 2019, BJP candidate Nitesh Ganga Deb won by a margin of 9,162 votes.



## Minor among eight held for street violence in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Commissionerate Police Friday arrested eight hoodlums, including a minor boy, who allegedly created a ruckus in the streets of Bhubaneswar two days back which left four persons injured. The incident took place under Nayapalli police station limits. The accused are all historysheeters and are in the habit of committing crimes after getting released on bail. They were booked thrice in the past by Nayapalli police, including on murder charges. Meanwhile, the minor boy has been sent to a juvenile home, said a senior cop at the Nayapalli police station.

The accused were identified as Kusha Munda alias Rundu, 28, Sudarsan Balamuchu, 19, Rocky Nayak alias Bhalu, 18, Rajkishore Digala alias Muna, 18, Suman Patra, 18, Sanjay Sahoo alias Sanju, 24 and Bibhu Nayak, 18. All of them live in Nayapalli area. DCP Bhubaneswar Prateek Singh said the complainant in the case, Kendu Khuntia, allegedly went to take a dip at the Balunkeswar pond in Gadasahi area of

Nayapalli, around 3pm, Tuesday. The accused men, who were present near the pond at that time, had an altercation with Kendu over some petty reasons. The altercation soon escalated, leading to a brawl between Kendu and the hoodlums. Kendu somehow managed to go back home, he added. Singh said on the same evening, the gang, armed with iron rods and hockey sticks, arrived at Kendu's home to seek revenge. Upon not finding him at

## Odisha: Women candidates to lock horns in Aska Lok Sabha seat



**Aska(KCN):** The ruling BJD has sprung a surprise by fielding a political greenhorn in the politically significant Aska Lok Sabha seat, which was represented by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as well as his father Biju Patnaik.

The BJD has nominated 33-year-old Ranjita Sahu, the daughter of former chairperson of Kodala Notified Area Council Hara Prasad Sahu, for the seat.

A postgraduate in Economics, Sahu is a social activist who has formed an organisation 'Kodala Youth Forum' to undertake social work in Kodala, Polasara and

Kabisurya Nagar areas. "I thank the chief minister for nominating me from the Aska Lok Sabha constituency," Ranjita Sahu said. Although it is the first time she is contesting elections, Ranjita Sahu is no stranger to politics. "I come from a political family. My father (Hara Prasad Sahu) and mother (Sunita Prabha Sahu) were elected as chairpersons of Kodala NAC," she said. BJD's Ganjam district president Ramesh Chaupatnaik said, "She is a young and educated woman. She also comes from a political family. We thank the CM for

selecting the right candidate for the Aska constituency." By fielding Ranjita, the CM has once again shown his efforts towards political empowerment of women, said Sanghamitra Dalei, Mayor of Berhampur Municipal Corporation. Ranjita Sahu will contest against BJP's Anita Priyadarshini, the daughter of former minister Rama Krishna Patnaik and Kumudini Patnaik, who was a former MP of Aska. Anita Priyadarshini had in 2019 unsuccessfully contested from the Aska seat on a BJP ticket.



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## Bajaj Allianz Life launches world's first music video 'Superstar After Retirement', created by retired senior citizens

**Pune:** Bajaj Allianz Life, one of India's leading private life insurers, launched a world's music video "Superstar After Retirement", created by retired seniors showcasing their creativity and fulfilling their life goals. Retirees including ex-bankers, entrepreneurs, ex-educator, ex-engineers and other professionals, are seen unleashing their hidden talents like singing or dancing, and attempting to live their second innings with utmost zeal and passion.

For most individuals, their dreams and desires take a backseat as they strive to ensure financial security and stability for their families.

Commenting on the

## RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

**Mumbai:** RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India.

Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing Indian market.

"Keeping with our

## H&M revels in sunset colours and embellished details for The Festive Collection



Bhubaneswar: H&M India invites you to the season of celebrations with a special collection personified by all things sparkle and shine. Featuring party-ready ensembles, the collection spotlights designs showcasing strong shoulders, cropped tops and draped details among the statement suiting, party dresses and matching sets. Rhinestones, sequins and high-shine fabrics bring sophistication and vibrancy

to every piece, while a strong colour palette of hot pink, orange, red, sand, gold and black adds to the celebratory mood. For the Festive Collection, H&M wanted to create a special collection that draws upon beauty and merriment of the season. Draping along the waistline, shoulder lines and across the body accentuate the female form, while long trousers and skirts contrast with alluring cropped tops.

Tonal looks are vital, but the play of different fabrics and embellishment make it playful and modern.

"The Festive Collection comes at such a special time of year and we're thrilled with the collection. We were really inspired by the importance of light – candles, lanterns and fireworks – and worked that into a vivid sunset colour palette, but also brought in a lot of sequins, rhinestones and satin.

over 5400 entries, 11 superstars from different walks of life were handpicked to be part of the music video. All of these participants, at some point of their lives, had aspired to be dancers, musicians, singers, cinematographers, lyricists, art director and stylists, aside from being retired senior citizens.

The music video was created entirely by these 11 senior citizens, after going through multiple enriching workshops with expert mentors from Bollywood. The team's collective efforts for 37 days and 450+ hrs has resulted in this one-of-a-kind music video.

## Aakash Sambalpur announces Educational Scholarships for April 2024 Admissions



**Sambalpur:** Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), a national leader in test preparatory services, has announced various scholarships prior to the commencement of its new session scheduled to begin in April 2024 to enable students to realize their dream of becoming doctors and engineers.

The first scholarship is the Instant Admission Cum Scholarship Test (iACST), offering up to 90% scholarship for admission into Medical, Engineering, and Foundation courses. Additionally, Aakash will provide special discounts to children of martyrs, defense personnel and terrorism-affected individuals.

Mr. Anup Agarwal, Chief Business Officer at Aakash Educational Services Limited, stated, "We are dedicated to providing accessible and impactful educational opportunities for students across India. Through initiatives like iACST and our scholarship programmes, we aim to empower deserving students to achieve their academic and career aspirations. We are proud to continue our tradition of supporting the education of children of our brave Armed Forces personnel and are committed to fostering excellence and inclusivity in education."

The Instant Admission Cum Scholarship Test (iACST) offers students immediate scholarship awards and opportunities

### Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3,53,188 unit sales

**Gurugram:** Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May'22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May'21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon."

**New Delhi:** Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminum, has commissioned India's largest electric fleet of 27 forklifts, powered by lithium-ion batteries. Done in partnership with GEAR (Gemini Equipment and Rentals Private Limited) India, this sets the ball rolling

for instant admission.

Students can take the exam online and receive details of their earned scholarships instantly, enabling them to secure instant admission under the expert guidance of Aakash faculty. The online iACST, lasting 60 minutes, can be taken between 10 AM and 8 PM on designated exam days.

The Other dignitaries present at the occasion were Nalini Kanta Mohapatra, Branch Head, Bikash Das, Regional Sales & Growth Head, Sumit Kumar, Engineering Academy Head, Santosh Kumar, Foundation Academy Head.

Catering to students in Class VIII to XII, iACST serves as a platform for them to showcase their potential for careers in Medicine or Engineering. Scholarships awarded through iACST are applicable for admission into Medical, Engineering, and Foundation classroom courses. iACST is conducted via the Aakash Computer-Based Test (CBT) platform, as well as through the Aakash website and dedicated mobile applications for both Android and Apple platforms.

In addition to its scholarship initiatives, AESL is committed to social responsibility by supporting the education of wards of Defence Personnel. Aakash will provide tuition fee waivers of up to 100% to

three installments, is directly transferred to the bank accounts of landholding farmer families, consisting of the husband, wife, and minor children. Speaking on this, Sanjeev Kumar, Co-Founder & CEO, Spice Money, said, "At Spice Money, we have been striving to solve the problem of access to banking & financial services in rural India. As the 11th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is rolled out, our 1 million Adhikaris operating across 18,500 pin codes, will be an enabler in ensuring easy access and withdrawal of this subsidy to the rightful 10 crore beneficiaries of this scheme.

Farmers and farmer families will no longer

benefited over 75,000 students since 2014.

Aakash also celebrates its success in the recent JEE Mains 2024, where 41,263 students qualified the examination. Note-worthy achievements include 4,198 students attaining a percentile score of 95 and above, while 939 students secured a percentile score of 99 and above. Rishi Shekhar Shukla from Hyderabad achieved a perfect 100 percentile, with Abhiraj Singh from Karnal, Sri Ram A from Trinulveli, and Viswanath K S from Hyderabad securing an exceptional percentile of 99.99, among others.

## Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

**Mumbai:** Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI.

SIDBI is country's principal financial institution engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their

customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian

Economy contributing to GDP, Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank

## Spice Money to enable farmers to withdraw PM-KISAN subsidy through its 1 million Adhikari Network

**New Delhi:** The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each.

Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pincodes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through AePS at their doorstep Adhikari outlet. The PM Kisan Scheme, a central sector scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India, became operational on December 1, 2018. Under this scheme, income support of ₹ 6000 per year, divided into

have to travel large distances to bank branches or just let the money lie idle in their accounts in times of need. Our Adhikaris, trusted banking partners in their communities, will be there at the villages to help farmers withdraw their money, with the help of AePS, thereby providing much-needed safe and secure access to the subsidy amount."

Spice Money has been spearheading the efforts towards bridging the financial services gap in rural India by providing banking and financial services to the remotest corners of the country, across 700 districts and 5,000 blocks, thereby revolutionising the way Bharat banks.

Farmers and farmer families will no longer

have to travel large distances to bank branches or just let the money lie idle in their accounts in times of need. Our Adhikaris, trusted banking partners in their communities, will be there at the villages to help farmers withdraw their money, with the help of AePS, thereby providing much-needed safe and secure access to the subsidy amount."

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## Commissions India's Largest Fleet of Electric Lithium-Ion Forklifts

Further, as testimony to its endeavours towards increasing gender diversity in core manufacturing operations, Vedanta Aluminium is recruiting and training women to operate these top-of-the-line forklifts. The company has previously hired transgender employees as forklift operators in its

aluminium operations at BALCO in Chhattisgarh. These electric forklifts make use of the cutting-edge 'Smart Fleet Management' system to help ensure the highest levels of safety at site. The Smart Fleet Management system uses IoT (Internet of Things) technology to integrate the data collected



# Bangladesh's Afghanistan tour rescheduled

## Trusty old template brings fresh PowerPlay hope for KKR



**DHAKA:** Bangladesh Cricket Board announced on Saturday that their all-format away series against Afghanistan in July has been rescheduled.

Afghanistan Cricket Board was expected to host Bangladesh for two Tests along with three ODIs and three T20Is following the ICC T20 World Cup.

"The away series against Afghanistan will be rescheduled after both boards agreed to play the series at some other point of time," BCB cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus confirmed the development to Cricbuzz on Saturday.

Bangladesh were expected to play 12 Tests in 2024 along with other white-ball assignments but now will be featuring in only eight Tests. This is after their two-match Test series against Zimbabwe got rescheduled from May, choosing instead to play only five T20Is.

However, Bangladesh

will still have a busy 2024 after the T20 World Cup as they will travel to Pakistan to play a two-match Test series following which will be the tour of India to play a series comprising two Tests along with three T20Is.

In October, Bangladesh will host South Africa for a two-match Test series while in November-December, they will travel to West Indies to play two Tests along with three ODIs and three T20Is.

Bangladesh have gotten a big boost as talismanic all-rounder Shakib al Hasan has informed the board that he is ready to play regularly across all formats for the country. Shakib made a return to Test cricket after a year's gap with the ongoing two-match Test series against Sri Lanka as he decided to play the second Test in 2025 and now BCB is expecting him to be available without any disruption till that point of time.

It is understood he had taken the break as he wanted to make a comeback to international cricket after making sure that his eyesight issue had been completely resolved. Shakib had been diagnosed with an eye problem that he had been suffering from since the ICC World Cup and it continued to the initial stages of the Bangladesh Premier League. "He (Shakib) is ready to play in all the three formats in the coming days unless there is some fitness issues and that is good news for us considering his experience is very essential for our team," added Jalal. Earlier, Shakib insisted that he would make a decision regarding his international cricket future following the ICC Champions Trophy in 2025 and now BCB is expecting him to be available without any disruption till that point of time.

**KOLKATA:** Thirty-two minutes into Kolkata Knight Riders' chase of 182, Gautam Gambhir strode out into the playing area of the Chinnaswamy Stadium clapping enthusiastically. Virat Kohli, then occupying a different part of the field, wasn't in Gambhir's vicinity and therefore this dramatic entry at the strategic time-out didn't merit too much attention. The air appeared to have been sucked out of the stadium when KKR's mentor clapped all the way until he was joined by Sunil Narine and Phil Salt, the opening pair that had plundered 85 runs in the PowerPlay. In 38 balls of exhilarating hitting, KKR's openers whittled down nearly the same amount of runs from the target that Kohli had assembled by carrying his bat through the first innings on a difficult, two-paced track. Helped on by the arrival of dew as well as some RCB profligacy, KKR made short work of what should have been a competitive score of 182. But more than the two points they bagged on the streak of home team victories in IPL 2024 they ended, the night offered some hope for KKR: that their biggest recent bug bear could have a trusty old solution.

The events of Friday (March 29) were eerily similar to those of May 7, 2017 at this very

venue when Narine unleashed PowerPlay pandemonium on RCB to the tune of 105 runs. Seven years ago, having found his calling as a T20 opener with the Melbourne Renegades in the IPL, Narine reprised that role to devastating effect, forming an unusual but frightening partnership with Chris Lynn. The pair opened 25 times together and scored 707 partnership runs at an impressive run-rate of 10.60 over two seasons. But like with all sides, KKR went through the evolutionary churn. They moved on from Lynn and when teams began bowling short and fast at Narine, his batting returns diminished and he duly slid back down the order, coming out to open the innings only seven times in the last four seasons. Emerging talents Shubman Gill and Venkatesh Iyer had a good run together in KKR's run to the final of IPL 2021, but while they averaged 50.80 for their stands, their runs came at a more modest rate of 7.95 to the over. And when Gill exited after that year, the roulette made several stops.

KKR's PowerPlay struggles are best underscored by the fact that in the last seven years, they've had 29 different opening combinations and two games in, the Salt-Narine combine already has more partnership runs than 20 other pairs that

got a KKR innings underway in this time. One performance, in a stadium like the Chinnaswamy and against one of the seemingly lesser attacks in the competition, is no indication that KKR have landed on a fix or that Narine has rediscovered his batting mojo. However, there is tactical merit in running with the move for the time being. For the Narine-Salt combine is the closest KKR have come to recreating the Narine-Lynn pairing, which offered two-prong dynamism.

At the receiving end on the night, Faf du Plessis said it best when he echoed erstwhile SRH coach Tom Moody's assessment of bowling to the Narine-Lynn pair from 2017. "With Narine there, you can't really go to spin, you want to use pace upfront. That's also a really good match-up

for Salt and the way he plays. They were excellent, really broke the game in the first six overs," the RCB skipper said. Beyond the usual advantages of a left-right pair, it's always a great idea to pair a spin hitter with an excellent hitter of pace. Both can maximise their match-ups and cover for the partner's weaknesses. Narine has hit spin in the IPL at a strike-rate of 193.78. Salt, on the other hand, holds a T20 strike rate of 157.89 against fast bowlers. This may be a few points down from Lynn's scoring rate of 172.67 during that incredible 2017-18 phase but among T20 openers with 4000 runs, Salt is the only one to score at a rate in excess of 150. He is the opener that offers the promise of both speed and volume of runs while Narine trades off some of the volume for



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