

district which is considered a stronghold of the ruling BJD, the prime minister said the central government wants Odisha to become the gateway for 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India). "The massive development work taking place today could have been undertaken earlier also... But in the years before 2014, the entire focus of the Congress and its allies was only on filling their

coffers,” he said. “Over the past 10 years, the BJP-led central government has made huge investments in Odisha. We want Odisha to become the gateway for Viksit Bharat,” the PM asserted.

He also said that a permanent house, tap water and gas connection at home, which were once a dream for the poor, “is now becoming a reality”.

"My slogan 'Mera Bharat, Mera Parivar' troubles the INDIA Alliance leaders. So, they are making personal attacks. But the people across the country including poor, youths, farmers and others have started staying they belong to Modi Ka Parivar," he said.

Modi occasionally spoke in Odia, evoking applause from the audience.

Claiming that the

opposition parties have a single-point agenda to remove him from office, the prime minister said. “My agenda is to make India the third largest economy in the world.” “For them, the family is first while it is nation which is first for Modi,” he said adding that 25 crore people have come out of poverty since 2014 when he came to power. On the other hand, Modi alleged, the aim of the opposition leaders is

to make their relatives rich. Targeting the previous Congress governments, the prime minister said that when the poor sought help from the administration, it asked for guarantees for various services. “They (Congress) demanded guarantees from everybody – for opening a bank account or taking a loan for business. However, after 2014, the son of a poor man came to power and became the

Prime Minister. Now, Modi is the guarantee for the poor,” he said. He claimed that the people across the country have now reposed faith in the BJP-led government at the Centre because of the ‘Modi ki guarantee’. Because of this guarantee, he said the PM Surya Ghar Yojana (solar power scheme) has been launched. By installing rooftop solar panels, consumers can get 300 units of free

electricity and sell the surplus, he said adding that the farmers can also now generate solar power in their open fields.

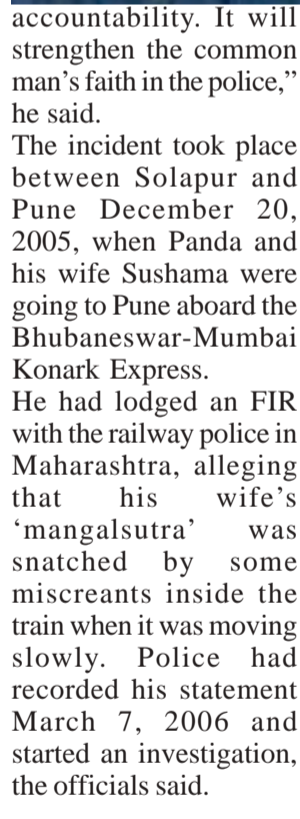
Overwhelmed at the massive turnout at his public meeting which he described as the blessings of Lord Jagannath, Modi said it reflects the mood in the East and Odisha's resolve which is 'Ab Ki Baar, 400 Paar' (This time, NDA will get over 400 Lok Sabha seats).

Mayurbhanj(KCN): A former Sub Inspector of police in Mayurbhanj district has been sentenced to 5 years of rigorous imprisonment in a graft case.

Sarat Chandra Ray, Ex-SI of Police (Retired) was charge-sheeted by Odisha Vigilance in a case vide Spl. Judge, Vigilance, Baripada TR No.17/2017 U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d)/7 P.C. Act,1988 for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs.7,000 from a complainant.

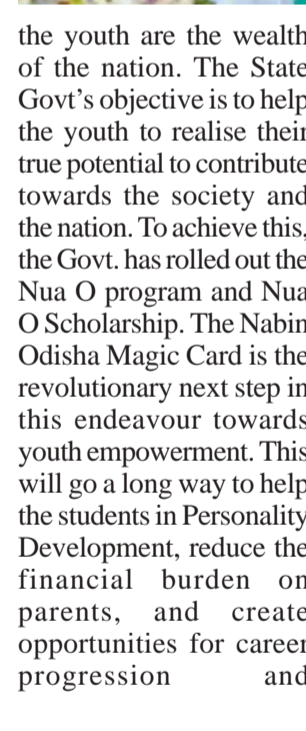
The Special Judge, Vigilance, Baripada today convicted Ray for the offence and sentenced him to undergo rigorous imprisonment for 5 years and a fine of Rs.5,000 and in default of payment of the fine, to undergo further rigorous imprisonment for 5 months more for the offence U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of P.C. Act, 1988.

Berhampur (KN): Former Odisha Assembly Deputy Speaker Rama Chandra Panda Monday got back gold snatched from his wife in Maharashtra around two decades ago, officials said. Two Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel from Kurduwadi railway station, where the 'mangalsutra' of Panda's wife was snatched in a moving train 19 years ago, visited the Berhampur residence of the BJD leader and handed him over the 1.6 grams of gold, albeit in a moulded form, worth Rs10,000. "I thanked the railway policemen from Maharashtra for recovering the snatched gold ornament and returning it to the rightful owner after about two decades. The value of the ornament might be small, but this gesture shows their



During the probe, police had arrested a chain-snatcher from Solapur, who was allegedly involved in a series of snatching cases inside trains, March 20, 2006. The looted gold ornament in a moulded form was also recovered from a goldsmith, they said. After completing all the legal procedures, the police had May 20, 2011 asked Panda to collect the snatched gold from Kurduwadi Railway Police Station. Panda, however, refused to cover such a long distance to get back the gold and requested the police to hand it over to the Maharashtra government. "We came here to hand over the recovered gold to Panda, as per the directions of our higher-ups, after consulting him about his availability at his house," Shinde Yashwant Dagadu, one of the policemen who visited his residence, said.

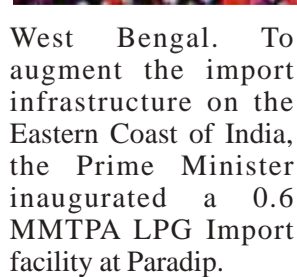
Malkangiri(KCN): As per the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha Sh. Kartik Pandian visited Malkangiri district today. He attended the Nua-O Scholarship Distribution Programme at Sports Complex, Malkangiri where he interacted with students from all over the district. Sh. Karthik Pandian informed us that 5,069 eligible students from 10 colleges of Malkangiri District will get their scholarships today. Rs. 5.19 Crores has been sanctioned for 5,069 nos. of students. He distributed Nua-O Scholarship Sanction Orders to the students. Chief Minister Sh Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the launching of the Nabin Odisha Magic Card web portal in Malkangiri District today on the birthday of Legendary Shri Biju Pattnaik. He said that



employment. All students in UG and PG courses across the state are eligible to register for the Nabin Odisha Magic Card from today onwards by visiting the link www.magiccard.odisha.gov.in. Sh Kartik Pandian elaborated on the Nabin Odisha Magic Card, a points-system-based smart card which will engage and empower the youth and enable them towards academic development, personality development, skill development and employment. All the UG and PG students from various government-aided, and private institutions that admit students through the SAMS portal are eligible for the Card. Sh Pandian explained the features of the card to the students. He conveyed the message of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

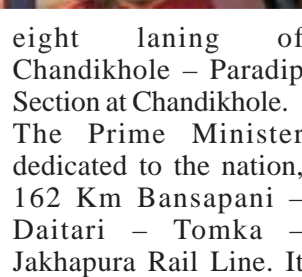
that the youth should dream big and work hard towards achieving their potential. The government will ensure that the youth are provided with the support to achieve their goals. Later in the day, he attended the Nua-O Scholarship Distribution Programme at Utkal University, Rama Devi Women's University and BJB Autonomous College in Bhubaneswar where he informed that 8,480 eligible students from these three institutes will get their scholarships today. Rs. 8.53 Crores has been sanctioned for 8,480 nos. of students. He distributed Nua-O Scholarship Sanction Orders to the students. He requested all the students to enrol through the Nabin Odisha Magic Card web portal. The distribution of the Cards will be done from August 15th onwards.

Chandikhol(KCN): The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 19,600 crores in Chandikhole, Odisha today. The projects relate to sectors including oil & gas, railways, road, transport & highways and atomic energy. Modi inaugurated the Indian Oil Corporation Limited Mono Ethylene Glycol project in Paradip Refinery which will further help in reducing India's import dependency. He also inaugurated a 344 km long product pipeline traversing from Paradip in Odisha to Haldia in



To boost road infrastructure in the region, the Prime Minister dedicated to the nation four laning of Singhara to Binjabahal Section of NH-49; four laning of Binjabahal to

Tileibani Section of NH-49; four laning of Balasore-Jharpokharia Section of NH-18 and four laning of Tangi-Bhubaneswar Section of NH-16. He will also lay the foundation stone for



will not only enhance the existing traffic facility's capacity but also facilitate efficient transportation of Iron and Manganese ore from Keonjhar District to the nearest ports and steel plants, significantly

contributing to regional economic growth. The inauguration of CONCOR Container Depot in Kalunga Nagar was also done to boost domestic and international trade. The foundation

stone was laid for the Electric Loco Periodical Overhauling Workshop at Narla, the Wagon Periodical Overhauling Workshop at Kantabanji and the upgradation and augmentation of maintenance facilities at Baghuapal. Other railway projects include the flagging off of new train services. The Prime Minister also inaugurated a 5 MLD capacity seawater desalination plant at Odisha Sands Complex of IREL(I) Ltd. This project has been built as a part of field applications of indigenous desalination technologies developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

Congress asks if ‘Modi Ka Parivar’ includes Vijay Mallya, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Congress Tuesday sought clarification from the BJP whether fugitive businessmen Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya were also in “Modi ka parivar”. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera raised the issue at a press conference in Bhubaneswar after BJP leaders suffixed “Modi ka Parivar” to their names on their social media profiles, a day after RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav took a jibe at him for having no family. Khera asked, “Weren’t Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, Pawan Singh, Nirav Modi, and Vijay Mallya also Modi ka parivar?” Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is a BJP MP and former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief, who is accused of sexually harassing women wrestlers. Pawan Singh is a Bhojpuri singer-actor who withdrew his name as BJP Lok Sabha poll candidate from West Bengal’s Asansol seat Sunday. West Bengal’s ruling TMC alleged that many of his songs were crude and depicted women in a vulgar way. “(PM Narendra) Modi has completed 10 years in office and his associate Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has completed 24 years in Odisha. We want to ask the PM what action has been taken on the chit fund scam and mining scam in Odisha,” Khera said ahead of the prime minister’s visit to the state. Claiming that lakhs of people in Odisha have been affected by the “multi-crore scams”, the Congress leader alleged that none has got back their money. D e s p i t e recommendations made by a commission, no CBI probe was conducted in the mining scam and no one was arrested, Khera claimed. He said, “Whenever there is a corruption or



scam in the state, the BJP comes to BJD’s rescue. Recently, the BJD has allotted one Rajya Sabha seat to the BJP.” Khera asked the Prime Minister to disclose the kind of relation the BJP has with the BJD. “Earlier, there was an invisible relation between

the two parties, but now, it has become visible to all,” he said. Khera said that the Congress, after coming to power, will take strong action against persons involved in the chit fund and mining scams. The Congress spokesperson alleged that tenders of big projects have been awarded to non-Odisha contractors. “Valuable land and forests of Odisha are being sold to outsiders. The rights of the people of the state are being provided to outsiders. One non-Odia man became king of the state and has been roaming in choppers,” he alleged without naming anyone. Now Odisha is ready for change and the Congress will bring the change for them, he said. He claimed that Congress’ vote share in Odisha is going to increase by 30 to 35 per cent in upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly polls and the party would win 10 to 12 Lok Sabha seats. “Young boys and girls are committing suicide due to unemployment. Two farmers are committing suicide every hour. To whose family they belong?” the Congress leader asked. The BJP and the BJD are yet to react to the accusations of the Congress spokesperson.

NTPC holds Media Interaction-2024 meet



Peddapalli, March 5 (KCN): “NTPC Ramagundam & Telangana Super Thermal Power Station has now become the second largest power generating station in NTPC with a combined capacity of 4200 MW,” said Executive Director of NTPC of Ramagundam and Telangana Kedar Ranjan Pandu. Addressing the mediapersons at the EDU Millennium Hall of NTPC, Ramagundam in Media Interaction-2024 on Tuesday, Kedar Ranjan Pandu termed the year of 2023-24 as a momentous year for NTPC Ramagundam (2600 MW) as it had been celebrating the 40th year of continuous operation. “The past four decades, Ramagundam has been generating reliable, efficient and economic power and continuously supplying power to the state of Telangana and

others,” he added. Stating that in addition to Ramagundam, NTPC has set up a new generating capacity of 1600 MW named as Telangana Super Thermal Power Station (2X800 MW) within the same premises, Executive Director Kedar Ranjan said that the 1st unit (800 MW) commenced commercial operation in Sep’23 and was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on 3rd October, 2023 while the second unit (800 MW) started commercial operation from 1st March, 2024 and dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister on the 4th March, 2024. “The Telangana STPP units (2X800 MW) are based on Ultra-Supercritical Technology with highest efficiency and will supply 85% of power generated to Telangana State. NTPC Ramagundam

also boasts of installing the country’s largest floating solar of 100 MW capacity, Future plans of expanding solar generation by 176 MW is underway,” he explained. Remarking that NTPC Ramagundam, in addition to its core mission of generating electricity, has been taking steps for environmental conservation and protection like development of green belt, Miyawaki afforestation, roof top and ground solar installations in township and plant, rain water harvesting works, Kedar Ranjan Pandu asserted that NTPC, Ramagundam had also been contributing to the upliftment of socio-economic status of the people through various CSR/CD activities in the surroundings. Commenting on the various awards & accolades received by

NTPC Ramagundam for its efforts in generating energy efficiently and in an environment-friendly manner and contributing to the development of surrounding areas, Kedar Ranjan Pandu said that NTPC Ramagundam bagged Golden peacock award 2023 for contribution in energy efficiency, Green Energy, CO2 Emission reduction and Miyawaki Afforestation besides recognition of NTPC Ramagundam as Excellent Energy Efficient Unit and National Energy Leader Award at 24th National award for excellence in Energy Management 2023 by Confederation of Indian Industry and a Gold in “Best PSU implementing CSR” category at 14th Exceed Green Future Environment, CSR & HR awards and thanked the State and District Administration and the people of Ramagundam. GM (TS) T Mohan Reddy, GM (O&M) Sanjib Kumar Saha, GM (TS) Arpan Das Gupta, GM (Project Construction GB Suresh, GM (C&T) Santosh Tiwari and GM (Operations) KC Singha Roy, HOHR Bijoy Kumar Sikdar, CC Executive Rupali Ranjan and Vishnuvardhan were also present.

New Office Bearers Elected For CII Odisha State Council 2024–25

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Dr Pradipta Mohanty, Chairman, SNM Group has been elected as the Chairman of CII Odisha State Council for the year 2024-25 and Sunil Gupta, COO Aluminium Sector and CEO, Vedanta Aluminium & Power Ltd, has been elected as the Vice Chairman of CII Odisha State Council for the same term. Their names were announced at the CII Odisha State Annual Day 2023-24 held here today. Dr Pradipta Mohanty is a distinguished figure in the field of mining, manufacturing, power, infrastructure development and solar power generation. Devoting 21 years as Senior Deputy Director, National Productivity Council (NPC), Dr Mohanty is a recipient of several awards and accolades including a Honorary ‘Doctorate’. He has served as a Governing body member of Sponge Iron Manufacturing Association and held prestigious positions of responsibility including Chairman of Orissa Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association and Vice Chairman of CII Odisha State Council. Known for his dedication to social service, demonstrating dynamism, consistent innovation and

achievement of exceptional results, Dr Mohanty exemplifies commitment to both industry and community welfare. Sunil Gupta helms the strategic operations of the company’s aluminium business across its plants at Jharsuguda, Lanigarh as well as the mines business. With over 29 years of diverse experience, he has played a crucial role in steering Vedanta Aluminium towards achieving significant growth and operational efficiency, firmly establishing the company as India’s largest aluminium producer. His key areas of focus include

expanding production, enhancing the availability of bauxite and coal resources, harnessing technology for added value, reducing the carbon footprint to align with Vedanta’s goal of being net zero carbon by 2050 and net water positive by 2030, and upholding the highest standards of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) in all operations. Under Gupta’s steadfast leadership, it’s evident that commitment is at the core of his approach. Coinciding with its annual meeting, CII Odisha also organized a session on “Odisha: Exploring Opportunities on a Faster Growth track”.



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Nia Sharma raises hotness quotient in black sleeveless dress

Popular TV actress Nia Sharma has again treated her fans to some of her hot pictures from a recent photo shoot, where she is seen sizzling in a black sleeveless dress. Nia, who is best known for her role in 'Jamai Raja', 'Naagin 4', took to Instagram, and dropped a series of photographs, wherein

she can be seen raising the hotness quotient. The 33-year-old actress wore a sleeveless black dress, with plunging neckline. She is candidly posing on a couch, with open messy hair look. For the makeup, the actress opted for nude lips, and smokey eyes. Nia accessoried the look with some



oxidised silver rings. Fans took to the comment section and wrote: "So pretty", "Sultry". One user said: "Grace lies in simplicity". Nia is also known for her roles in 'Ek Hazaaron Mein Meri Behna Hai', 'Behenein', 'Meri Durga', 'Kaali - Ek Agnipariksha'. In

2020, she participated in 'Khatron Ke Khiladi: Made in India' and emerged as the winner. She has also done web series like 'Twisted', and 'Jamai 2.0'. The actress has also done various music videos like 'Waada', 'Do Ghoont', 'Phoonk Le', 'Garbe Ki Raat', and latest 'Soul'.

Amitabh Bachchan hails Jaishankar's Muizzu retort; says 'Wah! Well said, Sir'



Amitabh Bachchan has heaped praise on External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for the way he exposed Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu.

The cine icon took to X, where he shared a tweet on Jaishankar talking about Muizzu's claim that "India was being a bully in the sub-continent".

The tweet also featured a clip, where Jaishankar was heard saying: "Big bullies don't provide \$4.5 billion when their neighbours are in trouble."

He also spoke about how India supported other nations by supplying vaccines to them during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Jaishankar said: "Bullies don't supply vaccines to other countries when Covid is on. Bullies don't make exceptions to their own rules to respond to food, fuel or fertiliser demands because some war in some other part of the world has complicated their lives."

Amitabh is set to be seen next in Nag Ashwin's 'Kalki 2898 A.D.', a science-fiction dystopian epic with Kamal Haasan, Prabhas and Deepika Padukone in the lead roles.

Shweta Tiwari oozes elegance in a chikankari kurta; fans call her 'goddess'



Mumbai: The 'Kasautii Zindagii Kay' fame actress Shweta Tiwari is a vision to behold in the new pictures that she has dropped on social media, oozing grace and elegance.

Shweta, who was recently seen in the web series 'Indian Police Force', shared a series of pictures, wearing a baby pink coloured chikankari kurta. The actress opted for a subtle makeup look — glossy pink lips, kohl rimmed eyes, and blushed cheeks.

Shweta kept her long tresses open, and rounded off the look with small silver jhumkas. She is holding a flower in her hand.

The fans took to the comment section and wrote: "Cuteness overload".

One fan said: "goddess queen", another commented: "ur smile is lit".

Meanwhile, on the professional front, Shweta was seen in a Punjabi film 'Mitran Da Naa Chalda'.

In the action thriller series 'Indian Police Force', which is directed by Rohit Shetty and Sushwanth Prakash, she plays the role of Shruti Bakshi, Vikram's (Vivek Oberoi) wife.

This series stars Sidharth Malhotra, Shilpa Shetty Kundra and Vivek Oberoi in the lead.

'Fateh' Actor Sonu Sood Receives Deepfake Video From Follower; Urges Fans To Be Aware Of Cyber Criminals



Actor Sonu Sood was in for a rude shock when he received a screen recording of a deep fake video call from a follower recently. In the deep fake video call featuring Sood, the impersonator interacted with a family in need of funds for medical treatment, assuring them of financial assistance. The actor-philanthropist took to his social media handle to voice his concerns about cybercrime.

The post read: "My film FATEH is inspired by real life incidents involving Deep Fake and fake loan apps. This is the latest incident where someone tried to extract money from an unsuspecting family, by chatting with them through video call pretending to be Sonu sood. Many innocent individuals fall into this trap. I request all of you to be vigilant if you receive such calls. #fateh"

Interestingly, inspired from such events, the actor turned writer and director for his new thriller, Fateh. Sood wrote the story after one and a half years of research and interviews with victims, cybercrime police officers, and ethical hackers. He essays the role of a tech-savvy investigation agent who is on a mission to protect the country from cybercrime.

Grammys Reduce Nominees From 10 to 8 In Top 4 Award Categories

Grammys has announced to reduce the number of nominees in four of its award categories - Album, Song, Record of the Year, and Best New Artist - from 10 to 8, Variety reported on Friday. An announcement in this regard was made after the Recording Academy updated its rules and guidelines following its semiannual board of trustees meeting. The number of nominees for those categories was increased from eight to ten in November 2021, just before the nominees for 2022 were announced -- a surprising and perplexing turn of events, given that such changes usually occur after the annual board meetings, Variety reported. While three new award categories were announced earlier this week, the reduction in the number of nominees in four award categories was announced on Friday. An Artificial Intelligence (AI)-related rule was also introduced, effectively stating that only human creators are eligible for awards; however, as with all things AI, the vast possibilities that the technology makes possible in this still-developing area necessitate an extensive series of caveats, Variety further reported. While Recording Academy CEO Harvey Mason Jr. stated at the time that the change was "an incredible opportunity for us to honour more artists and shine a light on more great music, and potentially offer a greater chance for more genres of music to be honoured", some speculated that it was done to ensure Taylor Swift received a best new album nomination for her album 'Evermore' and thus increase the chance that she would appear on the show and boost its rating, as reported by Variety.

Aayush Sharma Shares BTS Video Of His Hardcore Workout On The Streets Of Azerbaijan

Having recently wrapped the Azerbaijan shoot schedule of his upcoming film AS04, Aayush Sharma shared a throwback video of his last-minute grind to ace the perfect body shot physique to shoot a shirtless scene.

Aayush recently announced the wrap of his straining schedule packed with action in Azerbaijan, which also included a body shot flaunting his washboard abs and toned muscles. The actor shared a video presenting the grind needed minutes before the main shot, to define the abs and muscles more prominently. Ever since his jaw-dropping transformation from the lean, guy-next-door look from his debut film to the beefed up, toned, physique with washboard abs for Antim: The Final Truth,



Aayush Sharma has bagged his permanent spot amongst the fittest actors of the business. Further surprising everyone with his muscular built, Aayush Sharma regularly treated his fans and followers with glimpses into his rigorous

workout routine as he gears for his upcoming film AS04.

Launching debutante Sushrii Mishraa with AS04, Aayush Sharma also roped in veteran South Indian actor Jagapathi Babu for the film.

Produced by KK

Radhamohan, under the banner of Srisathyasai Arts, the yet untitled action entertainer AS04 stars Aayush Sharma as the lead, co-starring debutante Sushrii Mishraa. Directed by Katiyayan Shivpuri, the film is slated for release in 2023.

SLUMS Expanding instead of reducing

According to a study published in the International Journal of Environment and Pollution, weather patterns are changing in Asia due to pollution from slum settlements. On one hand the wind speed is increasing, on the other hand the rainfall is decreasing. Climate models have already indicated that local pollution can influence the formation and development of cyclonic storms.



Amit Bajinath Garg

These days slum settlements have become a problem for the world. According to estimates, about a quarter of the world's urban population lives in slums. This is a big problem in India also. In the coming 10 years, 50 percent of India's population will start living in cities. 28 percent of India's current population lives in cities. This huge increase in urban population will have a direct impact on their habitat. There will be a rapid increase in the population living in slums in the coming years. According to a report, there are slum areas in 2,613 cities of India. A large population lives in these settlements. Of these, 57 percent of the population lives in Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Delhi is the sixth largest metropolis in the world. Despite this, one-third of the houses here are part of slum

areas. Even basic resources are not available in it. According to a recently released report, every sixth urban citizen in the country is forced to live in slums. These settlements are not fit for human habitation. The person living here is forced to live a low standard of living. Statistics show that every third urban family in Andhra Pradesh lives in these slums. 9 out of every 10 houses in Odisha have no drainage facility. Slum settlements can be seen in 65 percent of the cities of the country. Despite being a part of the dazzling world of cities, the people living in these settlements are still in darkness.

Statistics show that 6 out of every 10 people in the country live in slums. There are dirty drains in these settlements. 4 out of every 10 do not have access to basic facilities like clean water. The people living in these slums are the result of political games and administrative neglect. Actually, slum area means illegal urban settlements on public land. Usually, it develops continuously and irregularly over a period of time. Slum areas are considered an integral part of urbanization and are seen as an expression

of the overall socio-economic policies and plans in the urban area.

In the slum areas most of the people are living in poverty. The literacy rate is low in these places. However, the literacy rate in Dharavi, the country's largest slum area, is 69 percent. In Andhra Pradesh, 36.1 percent of the urban population lives in slums. A large part of the urban population of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana live in the slums. According to a report, 64.1 percent of the houses living in slums of Odisha have not yet reached clean drinking water. On the other hand, 90.6 percent of the houses in these settlements do not have any arrangement for drainage. There remains a risk of spreading the disease here.

A total of 65.49 million people live in 13.7 million slum houses in the country. Slums and slum areas exist around 65 percent of Indian cities, where people live in dense clusters. According to the National Service Scheme Round survey, as of 2012, there were about 6,343 slums in Delhi, with more than one million houses. 52

percent of the total population of Delhi lived here. About 81 percent of the country's population works in the informal sector. The sudden imposition of the complete Covid lockdown had severely affected the livelihoods of slum dwellers. Delhi saw a large number of reverse migrations after the first lockdown. Thousands of migrant workers went back to their hometowns. During this period, about 70 percent of the slum population became unemployed, 10 percent had wage cuts and eight percent saw other effects.

According to a study published in the International Journal of Environment and Pollution, weather patterns are changing in Asia due to pollution from slum settlements. On one hand the wind speed is increasing, on the other hand the rainfall is decreasing. Climate models have already indicated that local pollution can influence the formation and development of cyclonic storms. It is noteworthy that many big cities are situated on the east coast of India, which are regularly affected by storms between

October and December every year. Millions of people living in the slums of these cities still use wood as fuel for cooking, which produces large amounts of biomass particles that end up in the air. These polluted particles, which remain chemically in the air in cities for a long time, are affecting the process of cloud condensation nuclei in the clouds.

In reality, the benefits of government schemes reach only a small section of the intended beneficiaries. Most of the relief funds and benefits do not reach slum inhabitants. The main reason for this is that these settlements are not officially recognised by the government. The country has seen a lack of proper social distancing measures and this has had a huge impact on our ability to fight the disease. Thus, new approaches to urban planning and effective governance are the need of the hour. It is important to take necessary actions to build sustainable, strong and inclusive infrastructure.

Senior Journalist

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Letter to Chief Minister

Shri Naveen Patnaik

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Bhubaneswar – 751001

Respected Shri Patnaik:

Subject: Request for setting up a semiconductor chip manufacturing research institute in Odisha

I am a Photolithography Scientist at IMEC (Belgium), with 10+ years of experience in chip manufacturing and nanotechnology research (at MIT, EPFL, and NUS). With great enthusiasm, I am writing to you regarding the recent interest of the Odisha government in semiconductor design and manufacturing.

At the outset, thank you for introducing chip design (fabless) companies in Odisha. I am also excited about the MoU signed with the SRAM & MRAM Group, planning to set up a chip manufacturing plant in Odisha. However, I want to echo an important point raised during the recent World Economic Forum debate, where our esteemed Minister Shri Vaishnav (of MEITY) presented his visionary and pragmatic thoughts. But a point raised by the US Science and Technology Policy Director Arati Prabhakar on R&D in chip manufacturing also struck a chord.

As you know, an important value-creating step in chip manufacturing is process development. It involves R&D to determine the optimal recipe to manufacture functional chips. Production-driven fabs – focusing on economies of scale – have minimal scope to undertake such R&D. Instead, they outsource the research to specialized R&D hubs (in the EU or the US) which are equipped with relevant equipment and expertise. So, while our “SemiconIndia Program” attracts production giants like Micron and others, I feel that incentivizing production plants alone might have limited value-addition to our semiconductor ecosystem.

Potentially, to bridge this gap, our government is investing in infrastructure development at IITs and other institutes. However, I feel that a dedicated research institute with production-level equipment (and automation capabilities) will be better poised to deliver customized process development services to incoming fabs and attract internal and overseas funding too.

Secondly, as rightly acknowledged in the “Odisha Semiconductor Manufacturing and Fabless Policy 2023”, there will be a critical shortage of skilled workforce for chip manufacturing. To that end, our government is ramping up existing universities to impart relevant skills to students. Collaborations are also being planned to make available virtual platforms such as SemiVerse™ for simulated training.

However, chip manufacturing is an interplay of optics, materials, and nanotechnology, requiring multidisciplinary knowledge and hands-on experience with the right equipment and tools. Creating infrastructure at all the IITs to address these needs for a rapidly growing workforce will be cost-intensive and might also strain the educational programs of these premier institutions.

On the other hand, a research institute will be more effective in preparing a competent workforce. For one, having an institute with an industry-centric R&D program will attract experienced researchers and experts who could offer more effective training. Secondly, involving students in R&D projects will equip them with industry-relevant skills, also contributing to R&D projects thereby reinforcing their learning.

Since I am working on one of the most critical steps in chip manufacturing (photolithography) I understand that the exceedingly high cost of equipment and cleanroom setup is a roadblock. Fortunately, the recent MoU signed between India and the EU could enable the setting up of such a research institute through cooperation and guidance from existing R&D centers in the EU. If you kindly consider my request to set up a chip research institute in Odisha, I will be happy to share a detailed proposal for your reference. Thank you for your valuable time and kind consideration.

**Sincerely,
Hemant K. Raut, Ph.D.
Lithography Process Developer (Specialist)
Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre Belgium
Email: hemantkura@gmail.com; Tel. (+32) 476174219**

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

Soura Chandra Mohapatra



How amny of us known about Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. Here with iam disclosing some points about Savarkar. Vinayak Damodar 'Veer' Savarkar is back in the news, 38 years after he passed into the ages.

Savarkar (1883 to 1966) was a revolutionary who spent many years in prison in the Andamans. He propounded the philosophy of Hindutva. He was born on May 28, 1883, in Bhagpur village near Nashik. After his parents died young, his elder brother Ganesh looked after the family.

In 1898, the British hanged the Chapekar brothers in Pune for killing a British officer. This had a deep

impact on the teenaged Savarkar, who decided to take up armed struggle against the British. In 1901, he joined the Ferguson College in Pune and set up the Abhinav Bharat Society, which preached a revolutionary struggle against the British. He also won a scholarship that took him to Britain to study law in 1906.

In Britain, Savarkar organised students and advocated an armed struggle to throw the British out of India. He also wrote his book on the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny, which he called India's First War of Independence, a terminology the Indian government accepted after Independence. Since there was no question of printing the book in Britain, it was printed in Holland and copies of it were smuggled into India. The book was a huge success, giving Indians a strong sense of pride, providing a fresh perspective on a war that was till then merely seen as the outcome of disgruntled

Indian soldiers in the service of the British.

The second edition was published by Indians in the US while Bhagat Singh printed the third edition. Its translations were a big success: the Punjabi and Urdu translations traveled far and wide while the Tamil translation almost becoming mandatory reading for soldiers of Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army -- a majority of who were Tamilians from Southeast Asia. In Britain, he also created a network of like-minded individuals. Given his anti-British activities, the police soon came looking for him. He was arrested in London on March 13, 1910 and sent to India to face trial.

The story that made Savarkar a national hero! The ship in which he was being taken to India berthed at Marseilles, France, on July 8, 1910. Savarkar wriggled out of the porthole and swam a great distance in the cold water to reach the shore. He had earlier told his friends, including Madame



Bhikaji Cama, to meet him at Marseilles, but they arrived late and the British recaptured him.

Since Savarkar did not speak French, he was unable to tell the local policeman that he was a refugee. Even though he could not escape, this story resonated across India. He was tried, and on December 24, 1910, sentenced to 50 years in prison. On July 4, 1911, he was sent to Port Blair's Cellular Jail. 50 years! That must have been very tough.

It certainly was. Savarkar's supporters always point to his incredibly difficult and degrading days in jail, sentenced to rigorous imprisonment when he was in the prime of life; placed in solitary confinement while other leaders had it much easier and were released whenever their health failed or someone in the family fell ill. Savarkar enjoyed no such luxury. In 1920, Vithalbhai Patel -- Vallabhbhai Patel's elder brother -- demanded

Savarkar's release, a demand also backed by Gandhi and Nehru. On May 2, 1921, Savarkar was shifted from the Cellular Jail, first to the Alipore Jail in Bengal and then to Ratnagiri Jail in western Maharashtra. He was released on January 6, 1924 on the condition that he would not leave Ratnagiri district, which is not very far from Mumbai (then Bombay), till 1937.

Up to this point, most historians regardless of ideology would agree that Savarkar was a committed revolutionary, even if one does not support the notion of an armed struggle. But from the point of his release from jail, Savarkar becomes a divided figure, either loved or loathed. Savarkar agreed he would abstain from political activities to facilitate his release. His supporters say he only made such promises to get out of prison and that he remained committed to throwing the British out of India.

He became active in the Hindu Mahasabha, founded in 1915, which sought to protect the

interests of Hindus. The Hindu Mahasabha, which differed radically from the Indian National Congress, attracted followers who were either opposed to Gandhi and the Congress, or believed in Hindutva. It is not clear why Savarkar joined the Mahasabha, though given his dislike for non-violence and his assurance to the British, joining the Congress was out of question. Savarkar, who popularised the term 'First War of Independence', also coined the term Hindutva when he wrote an eponymous book. The book outlined the features of Hindutva, including its economic, social, and political aspects. He also wrote another book in English, Hindupadpadshahi, extolling the Maratha rule over India. He had developed and expounded the notion of one nation, one culture, bound by blood and race. In 1937, he became president of the Hindu Mahasabha, and

remained in the post till 1943.

The Hindu Mahasabha, under Savarkar's presidency, did not support the Quit India movement launched in August 1942. Savarkar also asked Hindus to help the British in their war effort against Germany and Japan. His supporters say this was a tactic to get more Hindustopickupmilitarytraining that could have been turned against the British later. He was not alone. The Communist Party of India and Muslim League also did not support the Quit India movement.

For his supporters, Savarkar believed in a strong Hindu society and in the Hindutva ideology of one nation, one culture, one people, which meant no special provisions for any minority. For his opponents, this ideology divides India today by trying to deny the minorities a rightful place in Indian society.

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26-year-old organ donor saves four lives in Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital

New Delhi (KCN) :The Medical Superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Vandana Talwar, inform a 26 years old deceased donor Vijay and his family generously gave a new lease of life to four patients. The family hails from Ballabgarh district, Haryana. He was unwell for a week and was on private treatment for a while. He had acute febrile illness and was hospitalized in Safdarjung Hospital on 25th Feb 24 in critical condition. On the evening of 2nd March, 2024, after a series of tests, a panel of specialists certified him brain dead. The family was explained and counseled for donation of organs, to which they agreed in spite of tremendous grief after losing their son. The parents of the deceased donor Vijay agreed for this act



generosity and decided to donate four vital organs to the hospital for waitlisted needy patients. The organ retrieval was successfully carried out in Safdarjung Hospital by the Organ Donation and Transplant Coordination Committee. The retrieved organs were allotted across the city in coordination with NOTTO. The heart of the deceased donor was transplanted in a patient at AIIMS, New Delhi,

the liver and one kidney were transplanted in R & R Army hospital and one kidney was transplanted in Safdarjung Hospital by the respective teams of Nephrology and Urology. The recipient of the kidney at Safdarjung Hospital is stable and recovering well. This selfless act on the part of the kin of the donor will go a long way to spread awareness in the masses regarding Organ Donation.

The current cadaveric organ donation and the previous cadaveric organ donation in Safdarjung Hospital in the month of Jan 2024 are a result of the revival of ongoing programme for increasing awareness in the faculty and residents towards Brain stem death declaration and Deceased Organ Donation. The Medical Superintendent also informed that in Safdarjung Hospital, the

Organ Donation and Transplant Coordination Committee, under the charge of Dr. Vandana Chakravarty, Additional MS and the officer in charge Dr. Binita Jaiswal has been actively holding sensitization and training sessions to increase awareness towards potential brain stem death declaration and organ donation.

The Organ donation involves healthy organs and tissues from one person to be transplanted into another. The organs can only be donated either after the natural death of a person or if the person is declared brain dead, which was legalised in India under the 'Transplantation of Human Organ (THO) Act' in 1994. Since then it has been made possible to undertake multi-organ transplant activity from brain dead donors.

Government's Incentives to MSME sectors catalyzing Export growth



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY) :Export from MSME sectors is growing steadily year-on-year due to various policy intervention and Incentivization of export from MSME sectors- both goods and service sectors. Shri Fihad Hakim Minister In Charge, Department of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs, Government of West Bengal during his address mentioned on the inspiration of Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal Government is initiating policy measures as well as setting up and strengthening infrastructure for healthy sustainable growth of MSME sectors as well as mega/large industries sectors. Minister Hakim said West Bengal Government is initiating further steps to promote welfare of Youths, Women, Children. Minister Hakim said efforts are on to develop all the districts of the State to develop local economy in each district. Deputy Consul General of Germany Mr. Juergen Gerhard Kurzhals said India Germany relationship are growing steadily. He mentioned Germany is export oriented nation and keenly interested to develop trade partnership with India. Deputy

Consul General said Germany will welcome Indian investment in Germany as there is scope of Indian investment in many sectors. Kurzhals said Germany is reliable trade partner. Kurzhals added many German companies will be exploring opportunity to invest in West Bengal as many German companies has already invested in Maharashtra.

While addressing 91st AGM of Oriental Chamber of Commerce (OCC) President of OCC Shri Shekhar Mohan Saha said ".... the future of manufacturing is sustainability. Customers are looking for products and partners who follow eco-friendly practices, adopt green policies and share commitment to sustainability...."

National award winning Exporter Shri Shekhar Mohan Saha Chairman of Krishna Export, a two star export house said Prime Minister Narendra Modi Government's policies to promote Export from goods and services sectors are facilitating Export of goods from MSME sector despite turbulence in global economic scene due to multiple reasons. He added various policies as well as schemes of Union Government to provide Incentives to

MSME sectors not only promoting export but also significantly contributing in growth of domestic economy.

Shri Shekhar Mohan Saha lauded West Bengal Government's effort to promote MSMEs & to provide various Incentives to MSMEs operating in West Bengal. Saha said West Bengal is emerging as successful leather & leather goods Export hubs. He said Mega Footwear Park set up by West Bengal Government will encourage German investors in footwear sector to explore investment opportunity in West Bengal. Saha appreciated West Bengal Government's "Make in Bengal" initiatives.

Oriental Chamber of Commerce was established on 24th August 1932.

Subhankar Saha representing young Entrepreneurs in OCC said Bengal is a community are entrepreneurship driven historically. Large no. of Business units founded by Bengali Entrepreneurs are successfully running for decades. Saha indicated he will initiate initiatives to promote investment in West Bengal in time ahead. Saha concluded "When West Bengal grows, India grows".

NABARD HO ORGANISES CONCLAVE ON SUSTAINABILITY OF FPOs

Kolkata, (KCN):Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood, Deputy Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) inaugurated a two-day Conclave on "Sustainability of Farmers Producers Organisations Promoted by NABARD" on Monday (March 4, 2024). The Conclave was organised for Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) of Eastern and North-Eastern States at Kolkata in association with Bankers Institute of Rural Development, Kolkata (BIRD-Kolkata) and Farm Sector Development

Department, NABARD, Head Office, Mumbai to discuss various issues and strategies for making the FPOs strong and vibrant. BIRD-Kolkata is a training institute of NABARD catering to the training/capacity building needs of the client institutions of 11 States in Eastern and North-Eastern regions, including Andaman and Nicobar.

Addressing the FPOs, Dr. Sood stressed on the following important areas that are crucial for sustainability of FPOs: FPOs are mostly managed by CEOs or few Board members which sometimes create

trust deficit among members and affects its performance in the long term. So, efforts are to be made to inculcate a sense of belongingness among the members.

Selection of products is vital for FPOs, products having assured markets have better chances of success.

FPOs may foray into allied activities along with farm sector activities for ensuring higher profitability and sustainability. The conclave was attended by representatives of FPOs from Eastern and North-Eastern States, Senior

Bankers, State Government officials, agri start-ups and subject matter specialists as panellists.

The objective of the Conclave was to generate ideas on key issues of FPO ecosystem, devise strategy for sustainable growth of farmers' collectives and gather ground level feedback for policy strengthening. Thematic panel discussion on five key areas viz. Governance & Management, Agri Value Chain, Business Planning, Branding & Marketing and FPO Financing are being held with domain experts

working in the FPO ecosystem.

NABARD has promoted more than 7200 FPOs under different funds across the country. It included 1680 FPOs under CSS and 5520 FPOs under NABARD'S own fund (PODF). FPOs have emerged as an effective mechanism to transform small holding-based farming into viable agri-business enterprise and to increase the net income of farmers through collectivisation and aggregation, FPOs acquire better access to credit, inputs technology, market, post-harvest management, value addition, etc.

"Phaag Mahotsav" celebrated through "Raaga"- Indian Classical Music at ICCR Kolkata



Kolkata (PARTHA ROY) :As Bharat is preparing for one of the most popular traditional celebration - Holi - the festival of colours, "Phaag Mahotsav" was celebrated through "Raaga"- Indian Classical Music by Ministry of Culture, ICCR Kolkata in collaboration with Pandit Siyaram Tiwari Memorial Sangeet Trust of Patna, Bihar on 3rd March 2024. The festival began with a Rudra Veena recital by

Carsten Wicke from Germany, and concluded with a Sarod recital by Aniket Chakravarty from Kolkata.

Phaag Mahotsav featured Dhrupad vocalists Sumeet Anand Pandey and Nirmalya Dey (both from New Delhi) and Khayal vocalists Rosy Dutta and Malyaban Chatterjee (both from Kolkata). Lead artists were supported by accompanying artists

Tapash Das, Risbabh Dhar and Mithun Chakraborty (all Pakhawaj), Prabir Mitra, Sandip Banerjee (both Tabla), Kamalaksha Mukherjee (Harmonium). Program was hosted by Indrani Dey.

The music festival was titled "Phaag Mahotsav" to celebrate month of Phagun welcoming festival of colour, Holi. On full moon day in the month of Phagun of traditional

Indian calendar systems Holi is celebrated across India. All the artists tried to bring out the spirit of myriad colours through their raag sangeet. Phagun is month of celebration of romantic love across India with seasonal change. Celebration of traditional Hindu season of love begins from Basant Panchumi and continues till Holi. Vocalists sang songs depicting Braj ki Holi, a

romantic and poetic play of love and colours between Shri Krishna Radharani and Gopis of Braj. The festival was attended by Deputy Consul General of Russia in Kolkata Mr. Maxim Aleshin and his wife, Ms. Minakshi Misra, Head and Zonal Director of ICCR Kolkata, Ms. Astrid Wege Director Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan in Kolkata, other diplomats, and music connoisseurs.

Discussion Programme on 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh ke Liye' at Sikra, Chapra of Nadia District

Kolkata, (KCN):A discussion programme was organised on 'Desh ke Liye Mera Pehla Vote'- the awareness programme to make every first time voter to

as each vote is important for helping form a strong government, which in turn helps in the overall development of the country. The first time voter

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had urged every citizen of the country to spread the message of the campaign relating to the first time voters-Mera Pehla Vote



exercise her franchise and help in making a strong country at college Chapra Government College, in Sikra, Chapra of Nadia district on Monday (March 4, 2024). There, Professor Sunayan Mukherjee, Professor Rudra Shekhar Basu and others inspired the college students, more importantly, the first time voters to cast their vote this year with enthusiasm. Both of them asked the first time voters to cast their votes

students who were present there also revealed their enthusiasm to cast their franchise for the first time. They said, every vote is important for upholding good governance in the country, and all the youngsters, who are supposed to cast their votes for the first time should come forward and exercise their franchise, which are their fundamental duties towards the country and democratic right also.

Desh ke Liye'. The Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Anurag Thakur had shared the anthem for the same and has urged everybody to share it. Appreciating the initiative, Shri Modi had remarked, the election process of the country should be made more participatory and hence #Mera Pehla Vote Desh ke Liye message is required to be spread among all sections of people.

Plastic Ban In National Parks, Sanctuaries

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With an aim to ensure a plastic-free environment for wildlife, the State Government has imposed a ban on use of plastics in the premises of national parks, tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries of the State from 1 April. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Susanta Nanda has issued an order in this regard on Monday. PCCF Wildlife, Shri Nanda is known for nature care and a no-nonsense mandarin, so acting tough he has issued marching orders in this regard.

“In exercise of power conferred U/S 33(C) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, it is hereby ordered that, entry of single-use plastic shall be prohibited inside Sanctuaries/ National Park/Tiger Reserves of the State with effect from 1st April, 2024,” read the order issued by the PCCF Wildlife Shri Nanda. A Nature Lover, Shri Nanda posted a video in his X in which it was seen a Royal Bengal Tiger was lifting a plastic bottle from the forest stream and threw it in front of a videographer, delivering the message “Loud & Clear”, which was appreciated by all. As plastic water bottles

will also be banned, alternate drinking water facilities will be provided for the tourists at different places inside the protected areas and refundable plastic water bottles may be provided for them at the entry points if they so desire, he said. Visitors carrying food items in plastic wraps will have to dispose of the wraps in designated places/garbage bins etc and not litter the protected areas. As per the order, all the plastic garbage generated from visitors sources/camps/nature camps and other places inside the protected areas will be disposed



of in accordance with existing guidelines and local Panchayats/ Urban Bodies in this respect. Following the notification, PCCF Wildlife Shri Nanda has written a letter to all Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,

Divisional Forest Officers (T/WL) Deputy Director, STR, North, South & Nandankanan. The PCCCF said entry of single use plastics has been prohibited in all the protected areas in the State and at the same time use of single use

plastics is banned at Eco Tour sites from April 1, 2024. “While this was necessitated for protecting habitats of the last mile of our State, it is reiterated that the public at large should not be put to inconvenience,” he said.

Wide publicity is to be given to facilitate tourists to the PAs and Eco Tour Camps that single use plastics are banned from 01.04.2024, he instructed. For violation of the instructions issued vide order under Section 33(C) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, all should be impressed upon that violating the same would invite arrest and jail term along with fines, he pointed out. Sufficient alternatives will be provided at the entry gate with help of SHGs and EDCs to the tourist for purchase after depositing the single use plastics and Styrofoam.

The field level officer asked to sensitize villagers residing inside the sanctuary that this is in the interest of their habitat and they should come forward to assist the Department and stop using the banned items. Resorts and eateries, even in the eco-sensitive areas, would be informed not to use the banned items, which may enter into the habitat of the PAs. Help of the Odisha State Pollution Department and the District Administration are to be taken to enforce this ban from 1 April, 2024, PCCF Wildlife added.

State vaccine store inaugurated in City



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Health & Family Welfare and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjana Pujari inaugurated the State Vaccine Store at Nilandri Vihar, Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Pujari said that the state government has left no stone unturned to achieve the goal of ‘Sustha Odisha, Sukhi Odisha’ by providing quality healthcare services to the people. He informed that the full immunisation coverage in the state is 90.5 per cent as per National Family Health

Survey 5 Report, which is highest among all states in the country. On this occasion, a booklet on ensuring quality vaccine supply chain under Universal Immunisation Program (UIP) was released by the minister and other dignitaries. The Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Health & FW Department, Shalini Pandit, said that immunisation has significant contribution to the reduction of mortality among children less than five years of age. There has been 50 point decline in

under-five mortality in the state from 89 (in 2008) to 39 (in 2020) as per SRS Report, she informed. The Chief of Field Office, Unicef, Odisha William Hanlon Jr. told that the state has made significant progress in immunisation coverage as per NFHS 5 report and Unicef is committed to providing support for further strengthening of health services. The Mission Director, National Health Mission, (NHM) Odisha Brundha D, said that the new store has been constructed under NHM

PIP with budget of Rs 123.25 lakh and this store has adequate capacity for storage of vaccines and logistics. The Family Welfare Director Bijaya Kumar Panigrahy said that the Cold Chain & Vaccine Management system of Odisha is very much robust with adequate infrastructure and manpower. On the occasion, Minister also inaugurated two mobile Blood Collection Vans and a new offset printing press of the Department of Health & Family Welfare at Kharvel Nagar, Unit III, Bhubaneswar.

Research funds now at govt medical colleges


Bhubaneswar(KCN): To strengthen the quality of medical education and research in the state, the government decided Monday to create a research fund under the deans or principals of all government medical, dental colleges and hospitals and postgraduate institutes for meeting expenditure towards research activities undertaken by these institutions. In a notification, the Health and Family Welfare department said, “For imparting quality education to medical students, conducting research activities along with participation of faculties in seminars and conferences are essential. These help the faculties to remain updated in the field of advanced treatment and



teaching methodologies which in turn will help in providing better healthcare services to the people.” A total annual provision of Rs 9 crore has been made by the government for this purpose. The notification informed that every year, a total research fund of `1 crore each will be provided to SCBMCH, Cuttack, MKCG MCH, Berhampur and VIMSAR, Burla. A

research fund of `50 lakh each per annum will be provided to the new government medical colleges and SCB Dental College, Cuttack. The PG institutes will be provided with a total research fund of Rs 25 lakh each per annum. “The provision of research fund will enhance the quality of medical education by facilitating research, publication, participation in seminars and conferences within the

country and will facilitate research in subjects specific to the state by creating an environment for inquiry and innovation in health sector of Odisha,” said a department official. This initiative will yield qualitative and quantitative outcomes and enable the institutes to undertake appropriate actions to improve the quality of research, medical education and patient care in the state, he added.



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BOOKMARK THESE PLATINUM JEWELLERY TRENDS

Bhubaneswar : With the onset of spring, it’s time to take the style game a notch higher with jewellery trends that have the runways blazing! 2024 is all experimenting with these new style trends and letting your jewellery take centre stage! This year jewellery isn’t simply about accentuating a look or just following but about adapting that trend to express your mood, mark your moments and create a statement that is sure to make heads turn.

Commenting on these trends, Pallavi Sharma, Business Director, PGI India, stated, "The landscape for women’s jewellery has really evolved over the years, creating a whole new segment that caters to modern women who seek contemporary designs that align with their lifestyle and serve as an extension of their personality. In 2024, being authentic will continue to maintain centre stage, with women playfully experimenting with jewellery that serves as a canvas for artistic expressions through fun patterns, unique materials combined with precious metals, bold colours and motifs representing pop culture. The art deco trend already has the runway buzzing. Stacking continues to be a favourite, encouraging women to mix and match different shapes, colours and motifs to create their own unique style story with wristwear, rings and even neckwear. This year is all about expressing oneself and as the mood is never constant, nor should the style statement. From sculptural minimalism to bold stacking, the style mantra for 2024 will be about experimenting and catering to every mood while staying true to one’s core."

And as you browse through a plethora of options to update your jewellery closet, platinum jewellery emerges as the ideal choice to ace your style game for the year. Be it the bold statement pieces or the versatile and more functional designs for frequent wear, exquisitely crafted pieces from Platinum EVARA by PGI offers something for every mood and occasion.

Crafted from 95% pure platinum, the subtle white sheen of intricately crafted platinum jewellery by Platinum Evara promises to take your style game to the next level as you experiment with new looks, try new trends or simply add to your collection of perfect everyday jewellery.

Below are our top 3 recommendations to ensure you sparkle and shine through 2024. This year is about wearing your mood while staying aligned to your authentic self at all times. Being bold does not mean steering away from your love for the minimalist, clean lines. ‘Sculptural Minimalism’ with clean, sculptural jewellery such as cuff bracelets, or organic shaped earrings with clean lines or bold statement platinum rings adds a modernist, industrial feel to any look. These designs combine the powerful volume of organic form, akin to the intrinsic strength of platinum with the timeless elegance of a clean, minimalist look. Platinum with its natural white sheen, promises an understated elegance that remains untarnished through the tides of time. There is an increasing preference for jewellery that resonates as art and serve almost like a canvas. From mosaics, motifs and miniatures of pop culture aesthetically imbibed in the core design to the use of distinct materials like ceramics, onyx and gemstones to add a touch of colour and vintage vibe, there is a certain aesthetic that has the runway ablaze. Intricate patterns mirroring the mysteries of the universe encapsulated in a delicate platinum bracelet intertwined with diamonds to quirky pendants and charms - the allure of the artistic vibe is here to stay. Platinum is denser than any other precious metal ensuring an exceptionally secure grip on diamonds and gemstones. Its pure white sheen lets precious stones shine with all their true brilliance.

BOB Financialcrosses the 1 Million Credit Cards mark

Mumbai:BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL),awholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (Bank)that issues and manages Bank of Baroda Credit Cards, has crossed the 1 Million Credit Cards mark.

As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Bank of Baroda Credit Cards have grown 9X over the last four years – from 0.12 million cards in March 2018 to over 1.1 million cards in March 2022. Further, the monthly spends on credit cards have grown 10X over the same period – from Rs.80 crore in March 2018 to Rs.830 crore in March 2022.

In CY2022, cobrandingwith IRCTC, HPCL, Defence Services, and partnerships with fintechs have been some of the key initiatives in the ongoing transformation journey.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shailendra Singh, MD & CEO, BFSL said, “In 2017, we started on a journey of transforming BOB Financial into a leading credit card issuer in India. Crossing the 1 million credit cards mark is an important milestone.However, while we celebrate this achievement, our ultimate aspiration is to become one of the largest Credit Card issuers in the country, serving customers of every demographic and socio-economic classification.”

BFSL has been focusing on investing in people, processes and technology to enhance customer experience.

LIC Mutual Fund Announces Completion of IDBI MF Schemes Merger

Mumbai : LIC Mutual Fund (LIC MF), one of the reputed fund houses in the Indian asset management industry, has announced the successful completion of the takeover of schemes of IDBI Mutual Fund (IDBI MF). The effective date of merger hasJuly 29, 2023.

The move is in line with LIC MF’s mission to strengthen and diversify its product offerings, expand its footprint and grow its assets under management (AUM) to emerge as a leading MF house in the country. LIC MF had an AUM of Rs 18,400Crores and IDBI MF had Rs 3,650Crores as of June 30, 2023.

After completion of the merger, out of 20 schemes of IDBI MF, 10 schemes will be merged with similar schemes of LIC MF and the remaining 10 will be taken over by LIC MF on standalone basis, which will takeits total

scheme count to 38. With this merger, investors invested in IDBI MF schemes will get access to LICMF’s diversified basket of product offerings covering Equity, Debt, Hybrid, Solution oriented themes, ETF and Index funds.

Commenting on the successful completion of the scheme merger, Mr. T.S. Ramakrishnan, Managing Director& CEO of LIC Mutual Fund, said: “It is an important milestone in our journey as we are working towards developing our capabilities to serve as a diversified mutual fund house catering to investment needs across key markets in India. The merger complements our goal to strengthen our scheme offerings in the mid-cap, small-cap, gold fund, passive fund segments, etc. The merger will help us build wider market presence and offer a

more extensive range of product basket. The combined strength will help us capture emerging opportunities in the thriving asset management industry and drive value for investors and distribution partners.” He further added“Our vision is to be a trusted partner in wealth creation and a mutual fund of choice. Our track record of managing funds for over three decades has enabled us to gain trust of investors.We will remain focused and work towards delivering long-term performance by adopting adequate risk control mechanisms.” About LIC Mutual Fund: LIC Mutual Fund was established on 20th April 1989 by LIC of India. LIC MF is an AMC with LIC of India as its Sponsor and other stakeholders being LIC Housing Finance Ltd, GIC Housing Finance Ltd and Union Bank of India.

Ambuja Cements introduces Cool Walls, a special product that keep homes cool in summersand hot in winters

Mumbai : Ambuja Cements Ltd, one of India’s most sustainable cement manufacturers, is now offering an innovative green solution for constructing strong walls. Ambuja Cool Walls is a unique wall solutions that keeps the house cool during summer and retains inside temperature to make the house warmer in winter. Ambuja Cements is among the first Indian cement companies to offer this unique block and mortar solution to individual house builders.

Ambuja Cool Walls is a sustainable product made with an innovative heat-barrier technology that is far superior to any other products available in the market. The ‘heat barrier technology’ of this product helps to maintain inside temperature of any house lesser by 5°Celsius as compared to external temperature. These innovative heat barrier technology,

consistent quality and enhanced strength (>5 MPa) are the main differentiators of this product.

Ambuja Cool Walls is an innovative solution to the problem faced by traditional construction with non-sustainable products. The challenge poised by traditional construction today are efflorescence on walls, termite attack, water absorption and highly prone to earthquakes. Ambuja Cool Walls along with unique jointing mortar makes the wall stronger and eliminates the problem faced by traditional construction practices. This helps the consumers in cost saving on electricity due to thermal insulation, low frequency of repeat painting because of no efflorescence, lesser repeat maintenance and lower construction cost. Additional benefits include noise reduction, high fire resistance etc.

Also it enables speedy construction and reduces project completion time by ~ 30%.

Ambuja Cool Wallsis a sustainable product as it consumes large volume of fly ash in its manufacturing. The walls does not require curing during construction and thus saves 5000 liters of water for a 1000-square feet house.Mr. Neeraj Akhoury, CEO India Holcim and MD & CEO of Ambuja Cements Ltd., said, “Ambuja Cements has always pursued innovation to provide customers with eco-friendly solutions for a better and a greener future. It’s our endeavor to provide world class solutions to customers in India. Ambuja Cool Walls is a testimony to our commitment to provide sustainable, high strength and durable solutions to our customers”.

KiiT International School becomes the only school from Odisha to win at Toycation

Bhubaneswar: The revered founder of KiiT International School, Shri Achyuta Samanta, has always inspired and encouraged the youth to think outside the box. This motivation has led to an immense achievement for the school. A game, ‘Untold Stories’, designed by Shree Roy, a 10th Grade student of KiiT International School, has been selected as one of the top 7 winning games at Toycation, an inter-ministerial initiative of GOI, in association with AICTE. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mona Lisa Bal, Chairperson, KiiT International School said, “This is an extremely proud moment for KiiT International School family. I congratulate Shree for her endeavours. This is an accomplishment not just for

her but the entire school. We always nurture our students to think beyond their textbooks and take interest in activities outside their classroom. I am glad that this morale-boosting has steered us to achieve this great honour. I firmly believe that these leaders of tomorrow can drive us towards a better tomorrow with proper education and guidance.” Shree’s game ‘Untold Stories’ is a multiplayer game where one must answer questions about India’s heritage to move on to the next level. With this game, Shree intended to revive the art and culture of India. With modernization and technology, most youngsters are glued to their smartphones and the internet. Shree designed this game with the help of the

school’s research wing, Inspiron, in a pursuit to move them away from this exposure while enhancing their knowledge on India’s art, history, and culture. From over 14 lakh online entries, 200 games were chosen for the physical edition of Toycation. Untold stories was the only winner from Odisha among the top 7 felicitated games.

Under the ‘AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan’ initiated by our Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi, Toycation is conceived to challenge India’s innovative minds to conceptualize novel Toy and Games based on Bharatiya civilization, history, culture, mythology and ethos.

Hilton Metal Forging Ltd reports Net Profit up 82% to Rs. 6.14 crore in 9MFY24



Mumbai : Hilton Metal Forging Ltd- prominent manufacturer and distributor in the steel forging industry, specializing in products such as for railway forged wagon wheelhas reported exceptional operational and financial performance for Q3 FY24 and 9MFY24. Net profit of the company for Nine months ended December 2023 rise 82% to Rs. 6.14 crore as compared to net profit of Rs. 3.37 crore reported in the corresponding period last year. Total income of the company also registered growth of 41% to Rs. 105.34 crore in 9MFY24 as compared to total income of Rs. 74.48 crore reported in same period last year. Going forward, the company is eyeing big business for Railway Forged Wagon Wheel and has installed capacity to manufacture 48,000 Wheels annually. Company aims to meet the increasing demand in the replacement market and is also looking forward to bigger Railway Forged Wagon Wheel Orders in the near future through tender route.

For Q3FY24 company reported net profit of Rs. 2.11 crore, Y-o-Y growth of 68% and Total income of Rs. 42 crore with Y-o-Y growth of 44%. The company has reported improvement in its business performance over the years. Net Profit of the company for FY23 was reported at Rs. 5.85 crore, 3 fold growth from net profit of Rs. 1.76 crore in FY22. Total income also rise 25% to Rs. 105.4 crore in FY23 as against Rs. 84.2 crore in FY22. Net profit margin of the company has improved to 6.71% in FY23 as against 2.1% in FY22 on account of increase in operating performance. Established in the year 2005, Hilton Metal Forging Ltd stands as a prominent manufacturer and distributor in the steel forging industry, specializing in products such as flanges, fittings, and oilfield and marine products. The company has successfully expanded its portfolio by manufacturing turbine blades, and making inroads into the railway industry with the production of forged wheels. Company has

complete in-house facility of Forging, Machining, Heat Treatment and Lab Testing under one roof at it’s manufacturing facility spread across 5 acres at Wada, Maharashtra. Company had initiated development of technically specialized product - Railway Forged Wagon wheel business in early 2022. In the last 18 months the company has supplied more than 2000 Railway Forged Wagon Wheels and Rail Gear Blanks. Company supplies Railway Forged Wagon Wheel for the replacement market across various Indian Railway Workshops in India.

With the demonstrated quality and delivery, Railway Forged Wagon Wheel has been approved by the Third Party Inspection agency- RITES Ltd. Hilton Metal Forgings Limited with proven successful track record makes it a strong bidder for the Global Wheel Tender floated by Indian Railways. Company is also looking forward to bigger Railway Forged Wagon Wheel Orders in the near future through tender route.

RBI Approves Merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank with and into AU Small Finance Bank

Mumbai : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today approved the merger of Fincare Small Finance Bank Limited (“Fincare SFB”) with and into AU Small Finance Bank Limited (“AU SFB”). This merger marks a significant milestone in the Indian banking sector, creating a formidable entity with a combined customer base of over 1 Crore, over 43,500 employees, and a network of over 2,350 physical touchpoints across 25 states and union territories, with deposit base of Rs. 89,854 Crore and Balance Sheet Size of Rs.1,16,695Crore as on December 31, 2023. On October 29, 2023, the Board of Directors of both AU SFB and Fincare SFB had approved the merger, and the ‘Scheme of Amalgamation’ was later approved by their respective shareholders at their meetings on November 27, 2023, and November 24, 2023, respectively. On January 23, 2024, the proposed merger scheme also received the approval the Competition Commission

of India (“CCI”) under the provisions of Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. With the RBI’s approval, Fincare SFB will merge into AU SFB effective from 1st April 2024 and shareholders of Fincare SFB will receive shares of AU SFB in exchange for their shares in Fincare SFB at the approved share swap ratio. All employees of Fincare SFB will become part of the AU SFB family. Commenting on the merger, Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, Founder, MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank, said, "We are extremely grateful to the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India for reposing their faith in us. This merger will allow us to participate in our Honourable Prime Minister’s vision for the ‘Amrit Kaal’ and India’s dream of becoming a ‘Viksit Bharat’ by 2047. The approval adds further responsibility on us, as custodians of public trust, and we are committed to continue building a sustainable and inclusive Bank and empower the unserved and underserved segments of

society to take part in India’s economic growth. Combining the complementary products and geographic footprints of both the banks will make us a true pan-India deposit and assets franchise, underscoring our commitment to financial inclusion and creating a more robust and efficient bank. We are excited about the opportunities it presents for growth and innovation and committed to delivering enhanced value and service to our customers and all stakeholders". Mr. Rajeev Yadav, MD & CEO of Fincare Small Finance Bank, added, "The merger with AU SFB marks a new chapter for our organization. It is a transformative merger between two successful and well-respected banks, both known for their industry-leading growth and profitability. We believe that by joining forces, with the synergy and complementary strengths of the two entities, we will be well-positioned to serve customers in a sustainable manner in the coming years.

We lost the Ranji semifinal at 9 am on day one: TN coach

New Delhi: Tamil Nadu head coach Sulakshan Kulkarni has cited a mistake at the toss for his team's innings-defeat to Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy semifinal. The former first class cricketer said that the side was mentally prepared to field first if they won the toss but captain R. Sai Kishore had 'some different instinct'.

Sai Kishore opted to bat first and saw his side quickly slip to 42 for 5 in the first session under helpful bowling conditions. Although the captain hit back with a five-fer of his own in the first innings, Mumbai's famed lower-order resistance came to the fore in easing conditions with Shardul Thakur's 109 and Tanush Kotian's 89 powering a huge lead for the hosts, something Tamil Nadu couldn't recover from.

Kulkarni minced no words in his assessment of the game. "I always speak straightforward -- we



lost the match at 9 o'clock on day one," he said after the teams' defeat in their first Ranji Trophy semifinal in seven years. "The moment I saw the wicket I knew exactly what we were going to get. Everything was set, we won the toss, as a coach, as a Mumbaikar, I know the conditions well. We should have bowled but the captain had some different instinct." "When I saw that they had played on a

different pitch in the quarter-final and what wicket they gave, [that] moment I realised that this is a seaming-friendly wicket and it was going to be a very tough match, we would have to play really well to win this game," Kulkarni said.

"Ultimately he [Sai Kishore] is the boss. I can give my feedback and inputs [on] the kind of wickets and Mumbai's mindset also."

According to Kulkarni,

once Tamil Nadu lost opener Sai Sudharsan to the fourth ball of the innings, there was no arresting the slide. "We were mentally prepared that whoever wins the toss would bowl first," he said. "We knew that we would bowl first. The moment the TV said we would bat first, whatever you say, it goes in the batsmen's minds. That first half an hour [before start of play] got in the batsmen's minds. "When you get into the first over, fourth ball, your

international player gets out and you see the situation... In the first hour, we lost the game and the plot. It was very difficult to come back."

Kulkarni, who has won this competition with Mumbai both as player and coach, doffed his hat to his former team for having the best lower-order batting strength in the domestic circuit. "They are the best Nos. 9 and 10 in India. I told this in the dressing room that their batting starts after No. 6. I can take the horse to the water; [but] the horse has to drink."

Kulkarni's comments, publically running down the team after a defeat, didn't go down too well. Veteran TN cricketer Dinesh Karthik termed them 'disappointing'. "This is so WRONG," Karthik wrote on X. "This is so disappointing from the coach .instead of backing the captain who has brought the team to the semis after 7 yrs and thinking it's a start for good things to happen, the coach has absolutely thrown his captain and team under the bus."



The Chelsea striker has pleaded not guilty to the charges, thereby necessitating a criminal trial in the UK to ascertain the veracity of the allegations.

"I understand that the defence is that she didn't intend to cause alarm, harassment or distress to the officer, [her behaviour] did not amount to it and it was not racially aggravated," Judge Judith Elaine Coello was reported to have said to Kerr's barrister in court. In a statement, Football Australia (FA) said they're focused on supporting Kerr and will continue to monitor the situation.

“Football Australia is aware of the legal proceedings involving

Sam Kerr in the United Kingdom. As this is an ongoing legal matter, we are unable to provide further comment at this time. Our focus remains on supporting all our players, both on and off the field. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide support as appropriate,” said FA in a statement. Kerr is the all-time leading goalscorer for Australia, netting 69 goals in 128 appearances. She has scored 58 goals for Chelsea in the WSL since joining the club in 2020 following prolific stints in the USA and Australia. However, the star-striker has been sidelined since January after suffering an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury during training with Chelsea.

Thierry Henry hails 'outstanding' Arsenal after Sheffield United hammering

New Delhi: Legendary Arsenal striker Thierry Henry has heaped praise on his former club, saying they were outstanding in their win over Sheffield United. The Gunners hammered Sheffield United 6-0 in the Premier League on Monday, March 4.

Martin Odegaard, Gabriel Martinelli, Kai Havertz, Declan Rice, Ben White scored, while Jayden Bogle netted an own goal as Arsenal routed Sheffield 6-0 at Bramall Lane.

Speaking to Sky Sports after Arsenal's win, Henry said Arsenal are playing outstanding football at the moment,

adding that they're playing the way the manager wants them to play. Arsenal are placed third in the Premier League table, having won 19 out of their 27 matches this season. "They did not concede, they have different scorers, they kept on playing the way Mikel Arteta wants to play at the minute, they took Bukayo Saka off the field [at half-time], but it is important to do this type of thing and this is why at times when you lead well in any Premier League game, make sure you rest," said Henry.

“The way we are playing at the minute is



outstanding but if I do not see you with the trophy in your hand at the end, then I cannot celebrate too much. But I am really happy," Henry added. He went on to say that it's important for Arsenal to finish their chances, while staying open to the possibility of them signing

a new striker in the summer transfer window. Arsenal did not sign a single player in the January transfer window. "I'm pleased that discussion about them having to buy a striker in January, with everyone saying they must, but no,

they must finish their chances. Are they going to go for a big striker in the summer? That is a d i f f e r e n t discussion. They were creating, they just were not putting the ball in the back of the net," Henry added.

Following their win over Sheffield, Arsenal will turn their focus towards Brentford, with the two sides set to lock horns at the Emirates Stadium on March 9. They will then face Porto in the second leg of their round of 16 tie in the UEFA Champions League.

Fielding lapses haunt UP Warriorz again

New Delhi: Of all of Grace Harris's eccentricities, she had taken the field on Monday with two caps on her head. The yellow UP Warriorz one covering the more flaunt-worthy WPL Orange Cap. By the time the first innings of the match was over, she had lost possession of the latter to Smriti Mandhana, the RCB opener who had mustered her highest score in the tournament. A match-winning 80. She now sits 55 runs clear of the next best on the highest run-getters' list, S Meghana. Some fine strokeplay and wise shot-making in a skewed-dimensioned ground notwithstanding, that she managed to go as far as she did in her innings and on that list was due to the aid of the UP Warriorz's fielders.

She could have been dismissed on 29, off the last ball of the eighth over, when she attempted to hit Sophie Ecclestone for a six over long off. The bat went high in the air but carried only as far as Chamari Athapaththu at long off, who dropped a sitter. Ecclestone was in disbelief.

An opportunity to dismiss Mandhana popped up again two balls later when she had come out of her crease but missed a straightish delivery by Athapaththu. It beat the inside edge of the bat but also beat Alyssa Healy, the 'keeper. This time, the fielder was flaying her hands in disbelief after missing a stumping opportunity.

Six overs later, batting on 71, she could have been dismissed again when she lofted Anjali Sarvani through long off. This

time, Eccelstone misjudged the line of the shot and went late on a dive, only to get her fingers to the ball. Some stellar fielding efforts notwithstanding, dropped catches, misfields, overthrows and missed stumpings haven't been uncommon in the ongoing season of the WPL. While all teams have been guilty of it to various extents, for dropped catches, UP Warriorz have led the way, missing 10 chances in five games. Six of those drops were straightforward ones. Jon Lewis, UPW's head coach, had no qualms in admitting that their fielding performances is what has let them down, leaving them with only two wins in five games of the Bengaluru leg. "Our bowling and batting at times have been good



enough to win every game we have played, against any team," Lewis admitted following UPW's third loss of the season. "We've lost just a little momentum with our fielding... We missed Smriti when she was on 20 (29). It was a pretty straightforward catch,

you would expect an experienced international to catch that. So that was disappointing.

"If I was to put my finger on where we really let ourselves down (tonight), it is that we dropped that catch, and we weren't quite as accurate with the ball. If you drop the

top players, they make you pay. We can't afford to do that. We've done that a few times in the tournament already and we need to get better at it for sure."

Interestingly, all the catches that UPW have dropped have been of top-order batters, and almost all of them of big batting reputations. Even in their tournament opener against DC, they had dropped Mandhana on 12. It didn't prove too costly then as she was dismissed after adding only one more run. But in the same game, S Meghana was put down on 16 and then again on 21. She went on to make 53.

In their next game against Delhi Capitals, they dropped Lanning on 11. She went on to make 51. In the same game, Shafali Verma was

dropped on 48. She added 16 more runs, finished unbeaten and closed the chase for her side.

Against Mumbai Indians, Hayley Mathews was put down twice, on 23 and 43 respectively. She ended up scoring 55. Even in their most comprehensive victory, against Gujarat Giants, they dropped two chances. Phoebe Litchfield on 19 and Laura Wolvaardt on 20. While Litchfield added 16 more to her score, Wolvaardt could manage only 8 more.

But UP Warriorz are neither the only team guilty of excessive fielding blunders nor are they runaway leaders in this forgettable list. Royal Challengers Bangalore have dropped only one catch less than UPW. Even the best among the

five teams - Mumbai Indians - have averaged 1-drop-a-game.

A few days ago Charlotte Edwards, the head coach of Mumbai Indians, had hinted at the possibility of inexperience, especially among the domestic Indian players of playing under lights that could have been the cause of ample fielding errors. Lewis also trained his understanding along similar lines.

"Primarily it's the local Indian players who are dropping the balls under lights," Lewis summarised. "Probably it's just that they are not used to the ball coming as fast as it does, the perceived depth of the ball coming out of the night sky, especially if it goes high... The ball comes a little faster than you expect under lights."