

## Will there be an alliance between BJP and BJD ahead of 2024 elections?



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Speculations of a possible announcement of an alliance between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) today, have warmed up the political atmosphere in Odisha. Ahead of the upcoming general elections 2024, if an alliance is formed, it will be after a gap of 15 years that the BJD will return to the NDA fold. However, it is still unclear whether the parties will come to any consensus for any alliance. As per sources, a discussion is probably going on between BJD and BJP over seat sharing. It is said that the BJD might get a majority of Assembly constituency seats while the BJP may

opt for more Lok Sabha seats. Such alliance speculations are rife as senior BJP leaders have been called to Delhi by the senior leadership for a crucial meeting this evening. Similarly, senior leaders of BJD have also been called by the Odisha Chief Minister and the party chief Naveen Patnaik to discuss several issues. Though both BJD and BJP leaders refuted alliance possibilities in the past, the recent developments have again reignited the coalition possibility. Both the crucial meetings by the BJP and the BJD have sparked coalition rumours in Odisha. It is being said that

## Odisha court awards death sentence to five convicts for politician's murder

**Keonjhar, (KCN):** A court in Odisha's Keonjhar district has sentenced five persons to death for the murder of politician Rama Chandra Behera in 2019. The additional district and sessions judge of Anandpur pronounced the verdict Tuesday based on the testimony of 53 witnesses and 94 documents, additional public prosecutor Aswini Kumar Mallick said.

The five convicts are Sanjay Prusty, Ajit Prusty, Arun Prusty, Alekh Prusty and Dola Boitei. One of the accused Pramod Das, who was a minor then, is under judicial custody of a child care institute (CCI), Mallick added. Behera, a former block chairman, was brutally murdered near his residence at Dhakotha village in Keonjhar district March 25, 2019, to his injuries on the way to Cuttack, police said.

## Crocodile survey begin in Sunderban Forest by West Bengal Government



Apart from tiger, crocodile are found in the brackish waters in Bengal's mangrove region. The Sajnekhali and Basirhat ranges of the Sunderban Tiger Reserve and the Matla range of the South 24 Parganas division were

covered on January 17 and 20 during the course of the exercise. "Each boat covered 40 km in two days. The data, compiled on the basis of the physical sightings and the health of the habitat, is being prepared now. A preliminary report is

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTS SANGEET NATAKA AKADEMI FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS FOR THE YEAR 2022 AND 2023

**New Delhi:** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Awards for the year 2022 and 2023 in New Delhi today (March 6, 2024).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that art is not just for the sake of art. It also has social purpose. She added that there are many such examples in history, when artists used their art for social welfare. Artists have been contributing to awakening of society through their creations. Indian art is the best example of India's soft



power. The President said that today mental issues like stress and depression are increasing. There are several reasons for this. One of the reasons could be focusing more on material happiness rather than spirituality. She stated that connection with art makes us

creative. Art provides a way to discover truth and gives meaning to life. The President said that art and artists have worked to weave the diversity of India into the thread of unity. By doing this, they have also fulfilled the fundamental duties enshrined in the

Constitution. The President appreciated Sangeet Natak Akademi for promoting various art forms for the last seven decades. She said that the work done by the Akademi in the field of performing arts and intangible heritage is very important.

The President congratulated all the recipients of Akademi's Fellowship and Awards and expressed confidence that they will continue to enrich the Indian art tradition through various forms and genres of music and drama.

## HOWRAH AND KOLKATA GETS CONNECTED UNDER RIVER HOOGHLY THROUGH METRO SERVICES

### PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATES HOWRAH MAIDAN-ESPLANADE STRETCH OF EAST-WEST METRO AND OTHER METRO CORRIDORS

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Another feather is being added to the cap of Kolkata Metro as Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the much awaited Howrah Maidan to Esplanade Stretch (4.8 km) of East-West Metro today from the newly constructed Esplanade Metro station of this Corridor.

Shri Modi also inaugurated the Kavi Subhash - Hemanta Mukhopadhyay Stretch (5.4 km) of the Orange Line and extended Taratala - Majerhat Stretch (1.25 km) of Purple Line. With these inaugurations, the traffic scenario of Kolkata and Howrah is assumed to be undergoing a facelift. The Prime Minister waved to the waiting crowd waiting patiently outside as well as inside of new Esplanade station this morning before the inauguration. Shri P



Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway explained him the East-West Metro Project with the help of a 3-D Model. Shri Modi expressed his satisfaction witnessing such an engineering marvel and praised the Metro officers, staff as well as the engineers and labourers who have toiled hard to realise the dream of running Metro services under a mighty river like Hooghly for the first time in the country which is going to make public transport farst, hassle-free as well as

environment-friendly. After the inauguration, the Prime Minister flagged off the first Metro services on these three routes. He also travelled in a Metro from Esplanade to Howrah Maidan and back. During this Metro journey, he sat beside the school children, labourers and engineers associated with these projects and interacted with them. He enquired them about their expectations from Kolkata Metro and also about their feelings while travelling under river Hooghly for the first time.

The students thanked the Prime Minister for making them experience a dream come true travel with the Head of the State. In a series of posts on X, the Prime Minister said: "The metro journey was made memorable thanks to the company of these youngsters and those who worked on this project. We also travelled through the tunnel under the Hooghly river." "It's a very special day for the people of Kolkata as the city's metro network gets

significantly enhanced. Connectivity will get a boost and traffic will get decongested. It's a proud moment that the Howrah Maidan-Esplanade Metro section has the first underwater metro transportation tunnel under any major river in our country."

A total of 11.45 kms has been added with Kolkata Metro network today at a cost of Rs. 6925 crore. These projects will help people of far-flung areas of South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly Midnapur to travel in and around Kolkata without any traffic snarl and at a faster pace. This apart, the Prime Minister also inaugurated several Metro projects worth Rs 15,400 crore of Agra, Pune, Kochi and a part of Delhi - Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS). Shri Modi also flagged off the first metro services on these routes.

## Former Union minister Srikant Jena returns to Congress



**New Delhi, (KCN):** Former Union minister Srikant Jena returned to the Congress Wednesday and asserted that the INDIA bloc will defeat the BJP-BJD's 'unholy alliance' in Odisha. Jena had been expelled by the Congress in 2019 for alleged anti-party activities.

At a press conference at the AICC headquarters

the Congress even though I have been away," he said.

"PM Modi and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, their parties (BJP and the BJD), are uniting themselves in an open alliance. They had been in an open alliance, and now also they are joining hands," he said.

The Congress and INDIA bloc will face BJP-BJD and defeat them, he asserted.

"People of Odisha are angry with this unholy alliance. Their real face has been exposed," he said.

Kumar said that the BJP and BJD had been in a "live-in" relationship and it is high time that the "marriage" between the two parties be made official.

## Three sketch of love

(Shibangi Dhara), Bandana Sahoo

Love 1 :

A huge positive change  
Even if just for a moment  
Far away from this world  
Alone,  
Inside each other  
A golden feelings that smells like a lost flower is love.



Love 2 :

Darkness  
Silent atmosphere  
Far away from this world  
All alone,  
The feeling of losing everything  
As if despite everything being together,  
But no one of yours is love.



Love 3 :

Fun  
Passion  
Trust  
Dedication  
Every breath is tied to him  
an unbroken bond,  
despite not getting anything  
the one who gets everything  
and every comfort is love.

Jajpur

# Soulful Sivasagar

Sivasagar is a district in the state of Assam, India, 369 kms away from Guwahati. The district is located on the upper Brahmaputra Valley. It is known for its historic monuments and temples built during the reign of the Ahom Dynasty.

The Ahoms influenced the political and cultural life of Assam and ruled from the 13th century to the early 19th century. Charaideo was one of the earliest capitals of the Ahom Kingdom. Later, under the reign of different rulers, Saragua, Gargaon, Rangpur and Jorhat became capitals of the Ahom Dynasty at different points of time. The Ahoms were the descendants of the Shan/Tai tribe of Chinese origin who had settled in the region of Upper Burma. Thereafter, Sivasagar was founded by King Chaolung Sukaphaa, also known as Siu-ka-Pha of the same tribe. It is said that Siu-ka-pha was accompanied by his soldiers, elephants, ministers and officials when he entered the Brahmaputra valley in the 13th century crossing the Patkai Hills. The rule of the Ahom Dynasty ended with the Burmese invasion of Assam somewhere between 1817 and 1825 and then the subsequent annexation by the

British East India Company in 1825. The Ahom dynasty reached its zenith under the reign of Rudra Simha (1696-1714). During his rule the capital was shifted to Meteka near present-day Sivasagar. He built the city of Rangpur with the help of Ghanashyam, the chief architect. It is believed that Ghanashyam was a Muslim from Bengal who later converted to Hinduism. As a result of Ghanashyam's influence we find an amalgamation of Islamic architectural elements such as domes, arches with Hindu elements like the sikhara. The architecture of the buildings constructed during the reign of the Ahoms can be understood in two ways - secular and religious. The secular architecture includes forts, pavilions and palaces. Whereas the religious architecture is dominated by temples dedicated to Lord Siva, Lord Visnu and Goddess Durga. A dynasty which lasted for almost six hundred years paid great attention to the security of their kingdom. They built ramparts at various points which are locally known as Garh. These were surrounded by deep and wide moats called Garkhawoi which were filled with water. In fact, today the presence of ramparts can be determined from places

whose names have 'Garh' as suffix. The city of Sivasagar is named after the famous Sivasagar tank, locally known as Borpukhuri. The city embraces multiple ethnic groups such as the Mishings, Naga, Manipuri, Garo and Deori. The peaceful co-existence of these ethnic groups have led to the evolution of their diverse cultures in the arena of Sivasagar. The art, folklore, costumes, dance, cuisines of these groups are unique and collectively exhibit the rich tradition of Assam. The monuments on the other hand, stand as a symbol of the power and the might of the Ahoms. The locals of Sivasagar embraced Hindu rites, beliefs and customs. Sivasagar is home to two popular saints of the Vaishnavite tradition, Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva and Sri Sri Madhabdeva.

The Satra at Amguri, Assam has been

imparting their teachings. Satras are social centres associated with the Ekaaharana tradition of Vaishnavism. The word 'satra' has been mentioned in the Bhagavata Purana as a Sanskrit term 'sattra', which means a gathering of devotees. It is said that the Ahoms observed three Bihu which are the festivals

related to agriculture. Bihu has its origin from the Tai word 'Pi-hu' or 'Poi-Hu'. People of Sivasagar observe various traditional festivals and rituals among which Bihu is of great importance. Poi-Chankein or Bohang Bihu (observed in April) is the main festival and is observed at the beginning of Spring Season. It is celebrated right before the paddy cultivation. In this festival, people wish for a good harvest because this is the time when farmers start sowing. Chip-song-ka or Kaati Bihu (observed in October) is celebrated to mark the cutting and binding of grain and Meji Joluwa Utsav or Magh Bihu (observed in January-February) marks the season of harvesting of the crops. The main aspect of these three celebrations is the ancestor worship called Me-Dam-Me-Phi. Where, Me means worship, Dam means the dead and Phi means God. That is, the dead are worshipped as Gods. Another very popular festival celebrated in the new year's month of Dinsing or Aghun is called Kin-on-Meu or Na-Khuwa. In these festivals, the first produce of the season is offered to the ancestors. Some of the traditional rituals performed during these festivals are chanting of

hymns by the priests, eating traditional food like Amroli-tup and pork and drinking lao or rice beer.

The Bihu dance and the Bihu Song are the most popular art forms in Sivasagar. These are performed with an instrument called Dhol and Mahar-Singar pepa. The Bihu songs were initially sung in Tai language, but over time these have been replaced by songs in Assamese language. The husari group of

dancers and singers used to visit the king and nobles to bless them with prosperity, good health and luck by performing Bihu dance. During the rule of the Ahom kings numerous tanks, temples and historical monuments were constructed. The most outstanding of these are water tanks by the name of Sivasagar, Joysagar and Gaurisagar. Various temples of great

historical significance were also built such as the Sivadol group of Temples. These are located on the bank of Sivasagar tank which is also known as Borpukhuri tank. The Sivadol complex comprises of three temples namely, Sivadol, Vishnudol and Devadol dedicated to Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu and Goddess Durga respectively.

The most unique temple of Sivasagar district is the Ghanashyam Dol, a terracotta brick temple which is located near Joysagar Tank. According to popular belief, it was constructed during the reign of king Rajeswar Singh (1751-1769) for his naati (grandson) belonging to the lineage of Parbatiya Gosain. Hence, the temple is also called Naati Gosain Dol. A different narrative of the origin of Ghanashyam Dol is that it was built under the

these have now been closed due to security reasons.

The tombstones of the Ahom kings and queens are known as 'Maidans'. They are constructed as pyramidal structures similar to the pyramids of Egypt.

One of the popular structures is the 'Namdong Stone Bridge' which is made from a single solid rock cutting. The famous Ajan Peer Dargah Sharif in Sivasagar stands as the symbol of Hindhu - Muslim integration. It is located in the Saraguri Chapori.

This sacred mausoleum was built in the memory of a reformer and saint named Ajan Fakir who was originally from Baghdad and came to North East India in the 17th century. He played a pivotal role in unifying the people of the Brahmaputra Valley. Devotees in large numbers visit this Dargah from all over the world.

Apart from the built heritage, Sivasagar is home to archaeological sites, zoo and sanctuary. One such place is Na-pukhuri Archaeological Site also known as Rudrasagar. It is located on the bank of Rudrasagar tank, a paradise for migratory birds. The Shivadol at this site is a structure of a

architectural importance. It was built during the rule of king Swaradew Lakshmi Singh in 1773. The monument is a typical Ahom structure built on an octagonal base.

During the rule of Ahom Swargadeo Rudra Singh, Pohugarh came into existence as the first zoo in Sivasagar.

## THE BEAUTY OF DARKNESS

By Santyona Jena

Calm in night's darkness,  
After a long bright day,  
Throwing out all my stress,  
To a place which is far away.



Now no noise exhausts my mind,  
As the silence dances everywhere,  
And my mind left all the worries behind,  
In the dark downstairs.

Nothing is visible in the darkness of night,  
Not even the anxiety taken during the day,  
Just the moon & moonlight,  
Accompanied by the stars who love to play,

This delightful darkness refreshes my soul & heart,  
And excites me for the upcoming brightness,  
This darkness is actually an aesthetic art,  
Filled with peace and happiness!

C/o. Kabir Ku. Jena, Advocate  
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## Quotation of the Day



“ONLY DO WHAT  
YOUR HEART  
TELLS YOU.”

PRINCESS DIANA



People and C



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# Rani Mukerji says how SRK's 'Pathaan' opened floodgates for films after pandemic



Rani Mukerji was at Ficci Frames event in Mumbai, where she spoke about how Aditya Chopra did not release his films on OTT after the pandemic, as he had faith in theatrical releases. The actor further mentioned how his films eventually flopped at the box office, leading to the company facing a low moment.

The 'Mardaani' actor added how the success of Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathaan' success brought things back on track. Rani said at the event, "During the pandemic, Adi (Aditya Chopra) had these couple of big films that were to be released. They were those commercial potboilers, as we say, which started in the pre-pandemic time. Unfortunately, when the pandemic started, there was a question mark on all the films. And that's the time when I observed my husband (Aditya

Chopra) closely because there were no talks of films releasing."

She added, "And there is a business point of view where each film needs to be released at a particular time for it to be able to sustain the cost that it has incurred. There was a lot of pressure on filmmakers to release all these films on OTT and a lot of them were doing that. The biggest films were releasing on OTT. And my husband was

completely calm and composed. I would use the word 'conviction', that my husband had, and he said, 'These movies were made for theatricals, for the audiences at large to enjoy. I would want to release these films theatrically.' He was being offered a lot of money to release it on OTT, and it was a complete business call where it would be a win-win situation for the OTT platform and for the

producers, where he was making a profit by releasing it on OTT."

She further said, "But there I see my husband, taking this brave call and saying, 'No, I would not release any of these films on OTT because I believe in the power of Indian cinema of what it does theatrically.' And in time, when the films came, all of those films flopped because the whole way the audience watched content changed overnight because of

OTT. The kind of content they saw globally, everything changed. All these films failed at the box office and it took a complete hit commercially because none of the films did well. It was like complete depression. People were sad in our company and the whole conviction that Adi stood with that his movies would be released theatrically. We thought that there would be some divine intervention and that he would be rewarded for his conviction of releasing films theatrically, and everything kind of didn't work for us. And then came 'Pathaan'. It changed the entire thing forward at Yashraj."

Rani shared, "And it became the highest-grossing film. Jab bhagwan deta hain toh chappar faad ke deta hain (When God provides, he gives it in bounty). So He just tests

you and sees how much courage you have. Adi had that courage and I, as a colleague of his, completely salute that because I thought it was commendable", further adding, "So when you ask me, what are the things that need to change is, filmmakers need to have more faith in the product that they make, and they should believe in what they make and they should stand with each other to make that change. Today, 'Pathaan' stood the test of time and opened the floodgates for people going into cinemas."

The film industry witnessed an all-time low after the pandemic. Theatres were shut for almost two years, halting income and businesses for many. As the world steadily returns to normal, the world of cinemas is again witnessing a boom. 2023 was a great year for Hindi cinema and here's hoping it continues.

## 'Swatantrya Veer Savarkar' trailer: Randeep Hooda explains true meaning of 'Hindu'



The trailer of 'Swatantrya Veer Savarkar' was unveiled on March 4. Directed by Randeep Hooda, who also essays the role of Savarkar, the film promises to be more than just a biopic and its official note mentions that it will be an epic and daring retelling of India's armed revolution for independence.

The trailer, packed with striking visuals and gripping dialogues, begins with Randeep Hooda as Veer Savarkar walking in the Kaala Paani prison, setting the tone with an impactful voiceover, "Hum sabne padha hai ki Bharat ko

aazadi ahinsa se mili hai lekin yeh voh kahaani nahi hai (We have all read that India attained freedom through non-violence, but this is not that story.)" It encapsulates the journey and struggles of Freedom Fighter Swatantrya Veer Savarkar in the fight for India's independence.

The trailer also showcases the historic moment when the two influential leaders, Mahatma Gandhi, and Veer Savarkar, met, highlighting the difference in their ideologies and approaches towards India's independence struggle. The trailer unravels the film's focus

on the Indian armed revolution along with glimpses of its leaders and martyrs such as Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Madanlal Dhingra, Bhagat Singh and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose while teasing with the politics of that period making the film most anticipated with the revelations it has in store with respect to modern Indian history, which the film promises to rewrite.

"I didn't know so much about Vinayak Damodar Savarkar when I was approached for this," said Randeep Hooda. "When I read up about him in

great detail, I was astounded by his life and his influence on other freedom fighters of that time. Why do we, as a nation, don't know much about him infuriated me so much that I took it upon myself to tell his story to world as it was. This film is a tribute to his undying spirit and unwavering commitment to the nation and about the contribution of armed revolution in India's fight for Independence which he influenced so much. We will break many myths surrounding Veer Savarkar and honour his legacy with an honest, no-holds-barred portrayal."

Producer Anand Pandit who has been instrumental in ensuring the film was made is excited ahead of the release. Pandit says, "I have been deeply inspired by Veer Savarkar and his life. His was the idealist vision of India and his contribution to our freedom struggle is immense. This movie is my gift to the youth of the country."

The first song from 'Crew' is out. Titled 'Naina', the song features Tabu, Kareena Kapoor and Kriti Sanon. The track was released on March 5 and is sung by Diljit Dosanjh and features rap by Badshah. Diljit's vocals and Badshah's rap add dynamism to the track. The music video features the actresses in stylish avatars.

Total solar eclipse to make the sun disappear. Here's what's happening. Directed by Rajesh A Krishnan, this highly anticipated film from Balaji Telefilms and Anil Kapoor Film & Communications Network is set to hit theaters on March 29, 2024

## And Cut! It's A Wrap For Kartik Aaryan-Starrer Chandu Champion



Kartik Aaryan is back and how! Back with a bang, actor promises a power-packed performance in 'Chandu Champion'. Presented by Sajid Nadiadwala and Kabir Khan, the film has wrapped up the final shoot. Actor Kartik Aaryan's shocking body transformation is a highlight to watch out for. The film marks an exciting collaboration of three giants of the entertainment industry - Sajid Nadiadwala, Kabir Khan and Kartik Aaryan. It's being reckoned as the most anticipated film of the year and now has finally completed its shoot.

Apart from this, the film will bring Kartik Aaryan into a never seen before

avatar on the silver screen and his shocking body transformation guarantees to leave the audience amazed. It is a significant highlight to watch out for in the film.

The film marks Kartik and Kabir's first association and the second one with Sajid Nadiadwala after the super hit Satyaprem Ki Katha. The trio is

coming together with an interesting true story of a man who refused to surrender. Jointly produced by Sajid Nadiadwala and Kabir Khan, Chandu

Chandu Champion is all set for its grand release on 14th June 2024. Kartik has gone through an incredible transformation to get into the shape of his

character in Chandu Champion and has prepared very hard for his titular character. On Republic Day, Kartik treated fans with new look poster. The 'Shehzada' actor shared a picture on Instagram and wrote, "Being a Champion is in every Indian's blood... Jai Hind. Happy Republic Day #ChanduChampion." He can be seen wearing a uniform and a cap.

Helmed by Kabir Khan, 'Chandu Champion' is based on the extraordinary real-life story of a sportsman and his spirit of never giving up. Kartik will portray the character of Chandu.

# Fruit Peels for Glowing Skin

Shahnaz Husain



peels of these three fruits, save and use them.

1--Orange-----

Orange peel contains vitamin C and is best for your skin's collagen production. Their acne-fighting properties, ability to lighten dark spots, and knack for boosting collagen production make them a skincare essential.

It is very helpful for problems like blackheads, dark circles, and dry skin. Mix orange peel powder with milk and apply it to the skin which will help in lightening the skin tone.

Simply dry the peels and ground them to make a powdered texture. Combine peels with lime juice and rose water to make a DIY scrub. Exfoliate your skin with the scrub to keep oil and acne at bay. Take 1 orange and squeeze the juice from it. Add a few drops of honey and a teaspoon of curd, and blend well. Apply it on a clean face and let it



stay for a few minutes. Rinse well with water, this pack will make your skin well-toned and youthful.

2---Lemon-----

Lemon peels contain a high amount of citric acid, which brings a glow to the skin and also prevents excess oil on the face. Rubbing its peel on the teeth makes them brighter and whiter.

The high level of powerful antioxidants that are present in lemon peel extract is great as an anti-aging ingredient. They can help to prevent fine lines and wrinkles in

the form of premature aging. Vitamin C in lemon peel extract can help to stimulate collagen production, which can help to ward off sagging or loss of elasticity.

The citric acid in the lemon peel can help to dissolve away excess oils that can cause blackheads and clogged pores.

To use it, first dry the lemon peels and make its powder, now add honey to it and apply it like a mask. Take 1 tablespoon of lemon peel powder, 2 tablespoons of rice flour, and Milk.

Pour the rice flour into a bowl. Mix it with cold milk and a pinch of lemon peel powder. Form a paste. Then apply the mixture evenly on your wet skin. Keep it for a few minutes and wash it off immediately before it gets too dry.

3---Banana-----

Banana moisturizes the skin, remove facial spots, and prevent it from drying out. Banana peels contain vitamins A, B, and C, along with antioxidants like lutein are considered super good for glowy skin. Applying banana peels to the skin

removes facial spots and moisturizes the skin.

It is also a rich source of fatty acids which can treat issues such as eczema and psoriasis. In addition, it is rich in potassium and moisture which help hydrate dry skin and make it soft and supple.

Take a peel and exfoliate your skin gently, and then wash it off. The inside of a banana peel, when gently rubbed on your skin, moisturizes, soothes inflammation, and minimizes the appearance of fine

lines, leaving your skin looking plump and radiant. If you have issues with under-eye patches then, Place the peel's soft side under your eye area. Close your eyes and relax for 15-20 minutes. Remove the peel, rinse off, and apply an under-eye cream.

4---Papaya -----

Papayas are a fruit that is easily available throughout the year and is quite affordable. This peel is a natural exfoliator packed with an enzyme called papain and Vitamins which gently exfoliate the skin and remove dead skin cells to achieve perfect radiant skin. Vitamin C and folate content present in it keeps your skin hydrated.

Papaya is rich in the antioxidant lycopene that fights wrinkles and fine lines. It can improve skin elasticity, thereby making it look smooth and supple. Rubbing papaya peel on the ankles and feet makes them smooth.

Mash papaya peels into a paste and apply it to your face for a rejuvenating and refreshing treatment that unveils your skin's natural glow.

Mash one 1 tablespoon of papaya and add 2 tablespoons of milk to make a paste of smooth consistency.

Apply the mixture all over the face using your fingers and massage well to thoroughly cleanse the skin. Wash with lukewarm water. Gently rub the inner side of a papaya peel on your face in circular motions. Leave it on for a few minutes, allowing the enzymes to work their magic, and then rinse off with lukewarm water. Regular use helps remove dead skin cells, unclog pores, and promote a glowing complexion, revealing the natural luminosity of your skin.

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

## A Preview of OTBA

Bijaya Kumar Parhi



the textbooks will remain open in the examination hall and children will be allowed to refer to the texts and other text supporting materials while answering to the questions. As a result, the pressure of examinations on children can be minimized. The night before examinations is no more tensed in any way. Children will remain in no state of uncertainty, confusions and worries. All sorts of nightmares are likely to disappear from the minds of the learners.

OTBA is the brain child of John Dewey, an American philosopher of Education. It was also implemented in some states of America and gained a wonderful response. Even the greatest economist of our country, Kutyalya, popularly known as Canakya favoured this system of examination to maintain transparency. Many countries like the U.S.A., the U.K., Netherland, Canada and Singapore have already implemented this system of examination. Even C.B.S.E. introduced this system in the academic years of 2014-15 and 2016-17. The result was not satisfying because of some inadequacies. In spite of that, it is going to be a forward looking and progressive one that will have a profound impact on the existing examination system. The traditional method of rote learning and memorization of facts are no longer going to be

a way of excellence. Children will not go for convergent thinking, which cripples their creativity. The cognitive domains of Benjamin S. Bloom's Taxonomy, especially the last domain- Evaluation (1956) revised to CREATION (2001) will play significant role in determining the performance of learners in the examination. The most notable feature is that OTBA is against only objective and multiple-choice questions which squeeze the fecundity, creativity and imagination of the learners, but it will facilitate insightful and divergent thinking.

Broadly speaking, the focus of teaching-learning and assessment would be shifted from content-understanding to concept-understanding. Although nothing is mentioned about OTBA in NEP-2020, it fully justifies its veritable worth. This is the time for inculcation of life skills-critical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving and decision making. Each learner is unique in their own ways. Open ended, skill based,

value based and extrapolative questions are the ideal ones to test the capability and perspicacity of the learners. The traditional questions- who, what, where, when etc. must take back seats otherwise 21st century learners will not be well equipped to overcome the challenges ahead. Problem solving questions and decision-making answers should go hand in hand in order to strengthen the bedrock of creativity, analysis and logical aspects of the learners. Children will be no more overdependent on reference books, key books available in the market. The aim is to shift towards the 'criterion referenced testing' to from the present 'norm referenced testing'.

Ground breaking research work will be promoted from the beginning as each learner is free to cut their teeth, bring something new and add something to the existing. Over and above, it will prime the pump of idea of VIKSHIT BHARAT and ATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT because each child will be moulded as a creative thinker. For the western civilization education means

modification of behaviour in a desirable manner, Indian philosophy believes in "Manifestation of perfection already in man" (Swami Vivekananda). It is blindingly obvious that children have the potentials and they require only a push in the right direction. Let the children find their own ways under the supervision of parents and teachers.

The idea of OTBA may not be fool proof, but can be the touch stone of new examination process. If certain road blocks are removed, it will be adjudged as the master stroke of entire education system. There are no reservations in stating that trained, knowledgeable and highly skilled teachers are required who can deal with the children efficiently and expeditiously in the class room. Pedagogy should be finetuned keeping the creativity of the learners in view, otherwise all the planning in bringing a change will go pear shaped. Of all the stakeholders teachers are only instrumental in proper execution of this

system. In order to enhance the creativity of children, a congenial, joyful learning atmosphere in class room is essential. The teachers must be intellectually rich and aesthetically sufficient to create interest and inquisitiveness of the learners. Teachers can only ensure that learners are well grounded and

(Views are Personal)

**Teacher of English  
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## Letter to Editor

Sir

Poll charchas, debates, talks and along with these spicey mock poll surveys and exit poll discussions on different channels rule the roost nowadays as the election temperature soars high. Coming days are sure to witness a lot of exit polls in the infinite number of channels. But do these exit polls do any good? Other than attracting viewers, forcing them to be glued to the channel and maintaining the channels' TRP exit polls, most often such exit polls give wrong predictions, error stuffed calculations and at times changes the complete perspective and idea of the ordinary voter.

Exit polls should be either curbed or should not be aired especially during the polling season as it tampers and tarnishes the very character of having a truly democratic fair and just poll. After all in a democracy each and every citizen has his or her own right to choose their representative and let citizens prudence be given priority as they are ones to decide who should lead the nation.

M Pradyu  
Kannur

# THE LALIT GREAT EASTERN HOTEL KOLKATA AND MR. KAMAL RAZA HOST A SURPRISE CELEBRATION FOR BOBBY CHAKRABORTY'S MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY .

**Kolkata,(KCN):**The LaLit Great Eastern Kolkata was built in 1840 as the "Auckland Hotel" and is the longest continuously operating luxury hotel in Asia with 165 years of operation until its renovation in 2006. The architecture at this hotel is a combination of Victorian, Edwardian, and contemporary styles. One of the best 5-star luxury hotels in Kolkata, it is centrally located in close proximity to key commercial and business locations. The LaLit Great Eastern Kolkata today, with the vivacious resident General Manager, Mr. Kamal Raza, operates 215 rooms and suites and

offers over 8,000 square feet of conference and banqueting space. The spa at this hotel is spread over 13,000 square feet and includes a salon. Overall this landmark hotel has received a tremendous facelift under the present G.M. Mr. Raza, like never before, so much so that, it has become the 1st choice of The Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi's entourage, whenever he is in Kolkata.

Recently Mr. Kamal Raza organised a surprise birthday party for actor/activist/teacher of method acting Mr. Bobby Chakraborty's mother, Mrs. Sudipta Chakraborty on March



5th, leaving no stones unturned to make her birthday a memorable

one. We spoke with Bobby about the celebration and here's what he had

to say:- "I share a long and strong relationship with Kamal Bhai. I feel he is

an ardent well-wisher of mine and I consider him very close to my heart. He is a perfect

gentleman with a heart of gold. When I was discussing my mother's recent cerebral attack with him, last year(2023), at a party in his hotel, he asked me to bring over Ma to his hotel on her birthday, which is 5th March.

We kept it a surprise from Ma. Kamal bhai and his team, had arranged everything with a lot of care and affection, just like he would do, for his own mother. Right from the moment we entered the hotel, till the time we left it, Kamal bhai, was personally there to look after Ma, arrange a yummy cake for her to cut, arrange for all of Ma's favourite food, make her comfortable

and take her around on a sightseeing tour of his visually stunning hotel. Ma was overwhelmed by his warmth and blessed him and his family with all the happiness and prosperity.

Some time back in the recent past, I have seen Ma, fight with fatal circumstances. She had lost her memory. To see her happy and satisfied, especially on her birthday, gives me a sense of happiness that nothing else in this universe can.

I sincerely thank The LaLit Great Eastern Hotel Kolkata and Mr. Kamal Raza, my dear Kamal bhai for bringing in so much of happiness in Ma and a smile on her face."

## Empowered Women Empower the World

**Srinagar(Aasif Malik ):**District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with Human Rights & Anti-Corruption Forum Srinagar, and Department of Social Welfare, Srinagar, Celebrated International Womens Day on 06/March/2024 at Zila Sainik Bhawan Srinagar on February 06, 2024. The awareness programme was held under the able guidance of Chairman (PDJ) DLSA, Srinagar, Mr.Jawad Ahmed. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Jawad Ahmed, Chairman DLSA (PDJ), Srinagar as Chief Guest. Mr.



Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA, Srinagar, Officials of DLSA, Srinagar, District Social Welfare office, Srinagar, Zila Sainik Bhawan, Srinagar & LADCs and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA, Srinagar, were also present on the occasion. It served as a platform to raise awareness about the rights of women and inspire action towards creating a more just and equitable society. Mr. Jawad Ahmed, Chairman DLSA (PDJ), Srinagar, in his presidential speech, emphasized the crucial role women play in society and highlighted

the need for continued efforts to address gender disparities. He highlighted the need for increased legal awareness among women and access to justice for those who have faced discrimination or violence. Ms. Ruqaya Ashraf, District Development Officer, Srinagar, addressed the participants and highlighted the various welfare schemes and initiatives implemented by the government to empower women. She urged women to take advantage of these programs to improve their lives and realize their full potential.

Ranching of Hilsa fertilised eggs and Spawn for restoration at Jharkhand upstream of the Farakka Barrage in the River Ganga



**Kolkata,(KCN):**Hilsa, one of the most well-known commercial fish, is a favourite in West Bengal and national fish of Bangladesh. It is very valuable economically and socio-culturally, especially in Bengal. But dramatic reduction in the natural stocks of Hilsa compelled ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore, making constant attempts to revive Hilsa's decreasing population in order to preserve the sustainability of the Gangetic stretch and past five years have been spent raising captives. As part of the NMCG project, mature Hilsa were caught from the wild and were artificially bred on board using the stripping method at Beniagram (Downstream of Farakka Barrage), West Bengal on 6th March, 2024. A total 11 males Hilsa and 4 females (maximum weight 168 g and 182 g, measuring 26.3 cm and 26.7 cm in

## "Truly Important Partners": S Jaishankar Describes India, South Korea Ties



provided us the guidance to go forward."

The External Affairs Minister said, "We have also noted the growing convergence of our views in the international forum. Your focus on the Indo-Pacific region is a good case to point, and we both have stakes in its stability, security, and prosperity."

He held a meeting with South Korea's Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Ahn Dukgeun in Seoul on Tuesday in which the two leaders held discussions on trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

In a post on X, Mr. Jaishankar stated, "Pleased to meet with Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Ahn Dukgeun today in Seoul. We had a wide-ranging conversation on our trade and economic cooperation, both current and future, which is at the heart of the India-South Korea relationship."

He also met South Korea's think tank representatives. In a post on X, Mr.

Jaishankar stated, "Interesting conversation with think tank representatives of RoK. Our exchanges and interaction would only increase as the convergences between our two countries grow."

Mr. Jaishankar also held a meeting with Director of National Security Chang Ho-jin in Seoul. During the meeting, the two sides discussed shared convergences in the Indo-Pacific and contemporary regional and global issues.

In a press release, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated, "India-Republic of Korea Special Strategic Partnership has expanded to diverse areas of cooperation, which include trade, investments, defence, education, S&T, and culture."

"The Joint Commission Meeting is expected to comprehensively review the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation and explore avenues for further strengthening it. It will also provide an opportunity for the two sides to exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest," it added.

**CUO to host International Conference on Beyond Horizons: Exploring the World in World Literature**

**International Conference on Beyond Horizons: Exploring the World in World Literature**  
07-08 March 2024

Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, CSD, Faculty  
Prof. Bill Ashcroft, Keynote Speaker  
Prof. David Damrosch, Keynote Speaker  
Prof. Alan Johnson, Keynote Speaker  
Dr. Nirjharini Tripathi, HOD, CSD, CCO, Convener

Department of English Language & Literature, CUO, Koraput, Odisha, India

**Koraput,(KCN):**The Department of English Language & Literature at the Central University of Odisha is proud to announce the organization of an International Conference titled "Beyond Horizons: Exploring the World in World Literature." The conference is scheduled to take place on 7-8 March 2024 at the university campus in Sunabeda, Koraput. The academic programme of the aforesaid conference will be inaugurated by Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha. The keynote

speakers of the programme are Prof. Bill Ashcroft, Professor Emeritus, School of the Arts and Media, UNSW, Sydney, Australia; Prof. David Damrosch, Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard University, USA; Prof. Alan Johnson, Department of English and Philosophy, Idaho State University, USA and Prof. N. C. Panda, Dean, School of languages, CUO for the two-day International Conference. Prof. N. Nagaraju, the Vice-Chancellor of Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur is the 'Guest of Honour' to the conference on the

diplomatic ties. During our Prime Minister's visit in 2015, our relations were elevated to a special strategic partnership. It is important that we live up to that."

"We have grown from strength to strength in the years that have passed. We have become truly important partners for each other. And our bilateral exchanges - trade, investments, defence, and S&T cooperation, have all seen a steady growth," he added.

Mr. Jaishankar and his South Korean counterpart, Cho Tae-yul, chaired the 10th India-South Korea Joint Commission Meeting in Seoul on Wednesday. The External Affairs Minister congratulated Cho Tae-yul on his appointment as South Korea's Minister of

Foreign Affairs. Stressing expanding cooperation between India and South Korea in new sectors, Mr. Jaishankar said, "While keeping up the momentum in the traditional areas of cooperation, we would be very much interested now in expanding it to new areas, such as critical and emerging technologies, semiconductors, green hydrogen, human resource mobility, nuclear cooperation, supply chain resilience, etc., to make our ties more contemporary."

He recalled the meetings between PM Modi and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in Hiroshima and New Delhi in 2023. He further said, "I think their discussions have

# Odisha CM Seeks PM Modi's Support In Endeavor Of 4.5 Cr Odias

**Chandikhol(KCN):** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday heaped praises on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and appreciated his efforts to make India an economic powerhouse.

Prime Minister Shri Modi arrived at Bhubaneswar this afternoon on a day-long visit to Odisha. Soon after his arrival, he flew to Chandikhol in Jajpur district to inaugurate and lay the

foundation stone for multiple developmental projects. On this occasion, the CM paid homage to the Legendary icon Biju Patnaik and said, "I pay my deepest respects to him on this occasion. Biju Babu was a visionary leader. The country, even abroad, has made an important contribution to the struggle for independence. He worked his entire life for the

development of Odisha. In 1990, Biju Babu thought of making 'Kalinganagar' (Odisha) an industrial hub. Today, Odisha has become the steel hub of the country. Not only Odisha, but the entire country is benefiting from it. The Chief Minister welcomed PM Modi and said, "Hon'ble Prime Minister has set a new direction for India. He is taking India on an accelerated drive to



make it an economic powerhouse. India is now the 5th largest economy marching forward to be the number 3 in a few years. Happily, Hon'ble Pradhamantri started many projects for

Odisha today including Chandikhol-Paradeep NH, many NH raw expansions, Desalination plant, LPG terminal, gas pipeline, various projects like new train.

He thanked the Prime Minister for his focus on the development of Odisha. "Today Odisha is going to become a major manufacturing hub of East India. In the field of infrastructure development, both social and physical infrastructure, there has been a transformation in Odisha today. Today, Odisha has become the top second state in the country in terms of investment.

With the blessings of Lord Jagannath and the good wishes and cooperation of crores of Odias, the Sri Mandir Parikrama Project and the Samalei Project have been launched. The conversion work of Maa Biraja's temple is going on. Development is the new identity of Odisha today. There is still much work to be done. the CM added. CM also said, "I seek the support of

the Hon'ble Prime Minister in the endeavour of 4.5 crore people of Odisha. I wish the cooperation of the Prime Minister in the efforts of four and a half crore people of Odisha for the development of Odisha. "Bande Utkal Janani" Odisha Governor Shri Raghubar Das and Union Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan were also present on the occasion.

## Breach in Indravati canal submerges village, farmlands in Odisha's Kalahandi



**Bhawanipatna(KCN):** More than 250 acres of agricultural land and houses were submerged as water flooded several parts of Kalampur block in Odisha's Kalahandi district following a 20-feet breach in the Indravati

Right canal around 3.30 am Monday, officials said. Water also entered some houses in Deypur village due to the breach, they added. Executive engineer of Indravati Right canal

division, Rajkumar Behera, said the breach took place in the canal's left bank. The spot where the breach took place was weak as it hadn't been renovated for the construction of a bridge, Behera said.

Canal engineers have reached the spot and are taking stock of the situation. Water supply will resume tonight, he said. After the water recedes from the fields, officials of the agriculture and revenue departments will assess damages to the fields and standing crops, Behera said.

## Odisha CM launches 'Nabin Magic Card' for UG, PG students

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday launched the 'Nabin Magic Card' for undergraduate and postgraduate students, an official release said. On the occasion of the CM's father Biju Patnaik's 108th birth anniversary, the initiative was rolled out and registration on an online portal commenced. Launching the web portal, Patnaik called the youth wealth of the nation and said his government wanted them to realise their potential. He said the 'Nabin



Odisha are eligible to register for the card from March 5 at [www.MagicOdisha.com](http://www.MagicOdisha.com). By excelling academically, engaging in community service, and participating in extracurricular activities, students earn points that lead to greater rewards, the statement from the CMO said.

With four card levels — regular, silver, gold, and platinum — benefits increase with a student's achievements.

Odisha Magic Card' will help students in personality development, reduce the financial burden on parents and create opportunities for career progression and employment. With the smartcard, students will be able to access WiFi facilities, recharge mobile phones, get online coaching and discounts on the purchase of books and fare concessions on travel by bus, train and plane.

All undergraduate and postgraduate students in

## CM Naveen Launches BJD's Revamped Website With Citizen-Centric Features On Biju Babu's Birth Anniversary



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** On the auspicious occasion of Biju Babu's birth anniversary, Party President and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the revamped, citizen-centric website of Biju Janata Dal. The website showcases multiple pillars of 5T-led transformation across sectors like women empowerment, inclusive development,

tribal welfare, youth & sports, agriculture, IT and investments. The website also underscores the party's commitment towards strengthening people's voices, making them a partner in the state's progress. A section is also dedicated towards the relentless effort of the 5T Chairman to all districts to collect feedback from people and the expeditious

redressal of grievances in a time-bound manner. The website features a modern social media wall showcasing the party's efforts to connect with supporters and citizens alike on digital domains. A separate section is dedicated to citizen welfare, where the party has listed all State Government schemes under the able leadership of Hon'ble

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## NTPC Bongaigaon's Digital Literacy Drive: Empowering more than 10,000 Citizens across Bodoland, Assam



New Delhi, (KCN): NTPC Limited, Bongaigaon (3x250 MW) and the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Government have joined hands to initiate a significant partnership aimed at fostering digital literacy and career development in the region as a part of Corporate Social Responsibility of the power plant.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the two entities on 5th March, 2023, highlighting the commitment to social development and educational excellence. The MoA signing ceremony was presided by Shri Pramod Boro, BTR Chief Executive Member, NTPC Bongaigaon in the presence of Shri Akash Deep, IAS, Principal Secretary, BTC and Shri Karunakar Das, Executive Director, NTPC Bongaigaon witnessed the formalization of plans to establish Bodoland Digital Literacy & Counselling Centres across key 5 educational institutions in the Bodoland Territorial Region.

The cost of the entire initiative includes NTPC Bongaigaon contributing Rs. 200 lakhs and BTR Government contributing Rs. 150 lakhs towards the noble cause. These centres will offer high-quality training, professional counselling services, and access to e-libraries, aiming to empower individuals and foster sustainable development in the region.

As part of the MOA, the Bodoland Digital Literacy & Counselling Centres across BTR will greatly

benefit the children, college going students, jobseekers, SHGs, farmers and budding entrepreneurs by providing them tailor-made and cutting-edge hands-on training. From e-skilling to psychological and spiritual support, these centres will also strive to empower the community on all fronts. These centers will be strategically located at each of the 5 Districts of BTR - Boksa Degree College, Baganpara; Kalaguru Bishnu Rabha Degree College, Orang; Bengtol College, Bengtol; Zamduar College, Sarabil; and Tamulpur College, Tamulpur of the BTR, Assam. The project will directly benefit more than 2000 citizens per centre adding upto 10000 for five centres. The benefit of the project will indirectly benefit citizens across all age groups and socio-economic categories of BTR.

Expressing his enthusiasm for this collaboration, Shri Pramod Boro emphasized the importance of partnerships with prominent organizations to advance social development in the region. He commended NTPC Bongaigaon for their commitment to support the establishment of these centers, which will cater to the diverse educational and skill-building needs of the community.

Shri Karunakar Das, Executive Director of NTPC Bongaigaon, shared his gratitude for being a major part of the collaborative efforts

## SHRI M K BEHERA JOINED AS NEW ADDITIONAL GENERAL MANAGER OF EAST COAST RAILWAY



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Shri Mohes Kumar Behera, an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE) has assumed office of the Additional General Manager of East Coast Railway (ECoR). Prior to this, he was working

M.Tech in Ocean Engineering from IIT, Madras joined Indian Railways in 1991. He worked in various capacities in Railways like Chief Bridge Engineer, Chief Engineer (Bridge Rehabilitation) in ECoR; Group General Manager of Rites at Bhubaneswar, Chief Engineer (Construction) of Ganga Bridge under East Central Railway at Patna & Munger and many other crucial posts including Sr Divisional Engineer (Co-ordination), Sambalpur, Dy. Chief Vigilance Officer in ECoR and Dy. Chief Engineer (con) in NF Railway.

## BITM to Celebrate International Women's Day

Kolkata, (KCN): Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM), a constituent unit of National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), under Union Ministry of Culture is going to celebrate the invaluable contributions of women in science globally, this International Women's Day, at its premises BITM, with an interactive session titled 'The Journey to Green Chemistry' - an experiment-backed narration of the evolution of Chemistry into Green Chemistry. The session will be deliberated by Dr. Kamalika Sen, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Calcutta. This will be followed up with the Open-House Quiz 'Women of Wonder' - visual quiz on the Life and Work of Women Scientists and Film show 'Women in Science who Changed the World'. The sessions will be available to registered students from Matrix Modern School, Beleghata Deshbandhu Girls' High School, Agrasain Balika Siksha Sadan, New Horizon School, La Martiniere for Girls and Mitra Institution - live at the BITM premises and online at <https://www.youtube.com/BirlaMuseum>.

### Get your daily grocery needs fulfilled during Super Value Days on Amazon Fresh

Bhubaneswar: Get ready to shop for daily grocery essentials during Amazon.in'Super Value Days' till 7th June, 2022. Customers can avail up to 50% off on fresh produce, daily and household essentials, packaged foods, personal care, baby products, pet care essentials and much more. They can enjoy grocery deals starting at ₹ 1 and free delivery for prime members. Customers can also avail great prices and fresh offers from popular brands including Daawat, Fortune, Tata, Nestle, Godrej, Cadbury, and Himalaya among others at convenient delivery slots options from a single online destination. Credit card holders can avail of an instant discount of 10% by using SBI Bank Credit Card and Credit EMI with a minimum transaction of INR 2,500, and discounts up to INR 300 till 3rd June 2022. From 4th to 7th June 2022, customers can avail of an instant discount of 10% by using ICICI Bank Credit Card and Credit EMI with a minimum transaction of INR 2,500, and discounts up to INR 500.

**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



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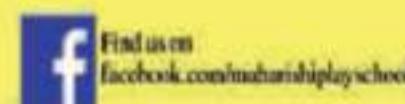
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India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan

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,

**India to see largest increase in energy demand worldwide over the next 20 years, says Infomerics**

New Delhi, : India faces the twin dilemma of co-existence of shortage and abundance in several parts of its energy system. While the provision of electricity has increased significantly over the years, weak institutions and utility governance hamper the power sector's financial performance with issues of accountability, operational efficiency, customer service, and transmission to state-level transmission institutions. The sector takes a huge and grossly unacceptable hit due to extensive losses, leakages and pilferages, and the cost recovery

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled

Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd, the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company.

The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries.

India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

## Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE 2021

**Bhubaneswar:** Unacademy, India's largest learning platform\*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gamini Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to ₹ 7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by 2050.

The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Climate Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL e-Commerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

## Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

Bhubaneswar: Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment



# It's going to be an emotional week: Bairstow on 100th Test appearance

**Dharamsala:** Two days out from the fifth and final Test of the series, Jonny Bairstow posed for a few photos in front of the snow-capped mountains at the HPCA Cricket stadium in Dharamsala. "I don't think there's a more picturesque ground in the world," he'd go on to say, but that was not why he was getting some pictures clicked. Come Thursday, Bairstow - like R Ashwin in the opposition - will become a 100-Test player.

"It is going to be an emotional week. Absolutely. I am very proud, I am an emotional kind of guy. So at some point get the tears ready, the tissues even," the England batter joked. "It [playing 100 Tests] means a hell of a lot. Every young kid that

sets out on a journey of playing professional cricket wants to try and play a 100 Test matches."

The Dharamsala game will have as many as 5000 England fans in the stands, and among them will be Bairstow's friends and family. "It's great to have them [friends and family] out here. It's an amazing place to come. They've come to some pretty cool places along the way as well. It's fantastic to have some family and some friends out here. It's a magnificent place. Some of them haven't been to India previously so it is a special occasion for everyone who's been on the journey, from the guys at Yorkshire on the academy all the way to

Baz [McCullum] and the guys here," Bairstow said. While he admitted he'd love to mark his milestone with a century, Bairstow hoped to do all the same things he's done throughout the series, and by extension, his career so far. Bairstow has not had the best of tours so far, with scores of 37 & 10, 25 & 26, 0 & 4, and 38 & 30 in the four Tests. The batter still reckoned he had been 'in the zone' all through.

"Like in every game, you put your best foot forward. No matter what it is, I'll be going out there, chewing my gum, puffing my chest out and trying to have a good time with the other ten blokes out there. Whatever the situation

is, we'll be going out there with smiles on our faces, like we have done in the whole series," Bairstow said. "I have felt good all series. [I've] just not got the runs I've wanted... a couple of good balls, a

couple of bad decisions [on his part]. But that's what happens in India, it's allowed to happen. The whole trip I've been happy with how I've been moving, I've been in the zone the whole way," he added.

The occasion of a milestone paved the way for a little reflection and reminiscence. Bairstow spoke of Andrew Strauss's final Test - against South Africa at Lord's in 2012 - where the former scored 95 and

54, albeit in a defeat. He also fondly remembered his maiden Test century in 2016 but felt it was difficult to 'go beyond the summer of 2022'. He specifically picked out the games against New Zealand and India at home, where he hit 136 and then twin centuries (106 & 114) respectively. "You go back to certain ones that people won't necessarily remember. Not necessarily milestones, but probably one of my favourite games that we didn't get over the line - the game at Lord's, we unfortunately didn't win that.

It was Strauss's last game which was incredible to be part of his last game. To play against that South Africa team in their pomp was special. "I think the Cape Town

100 in 2016 was a special time again, for the family and myself and everyone. Then it is between Trent Bridge against New Zealand and the Test match at Edgbaston against India. I think it is difficult to go beyond that summer. I think they were pretty special Test matches in the way that the group came together and the way in which everyone bought into a style of play that the world started speaking about."

England will hope that the style of play that Bairstow is referring to will empower them one more time this series as they look to become the first touring side since Alastair Cook's England in 2012 to win two Tests in a series in India.

## Williamson, Mandhana among 890 players registered for The Hundred draft



**New Delhi:** New Zealand's Kane Williamson, India's Smriti Mandhana, Australia's Meg Lanning and David Warner, and West Indies' Kieron Pollard are among the 890 players from 22 countries who have registered for the upcoming The Hundred drafts, for the men's and women's competition, set to take place on March 20. The eight men's teams had the option of retaining 10 players each and the women's team could retain 8. On the

retention day, a total of 137 players were retained, leaving 75 more spots to be filled on the draft day. A further 16 players, two per squad, will be added to both men's and women's teams via Wildcard Draft before the competition starts. In the women's competition, Birmingham Phoenix will have the first pick, and in the men's competition it will be Northern Superchargers. The England players in the list include Dawid Malan, Amy Jones, Ollie

Pope, Lauren Filer and Jason Roy. Some of the other top foreign players are India's Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh; New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell, Suzie Bates, Tim Southee and Rachin Ravindra; Australia's Ashleigh Gardner, Tim David, Matthew Wade, Beth Mooney and Annabel Sutherland; Pakistan's Shadab Khan and Fatima Sana. West Indies' Nicholas Pooran, Deandra Dottin and Shamar Joseph; Ireland's Orla Prendergast and Paul Stirling; Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews; South Africa's Lizelle Lee and Lungi Ngidi; Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman; Bangladesh's Jahanara Alam and Shakib Al Hasan have also put their names for the Draft day.

**New Delhi:** Led by half-centuries from Jemimah Rodrigues and Meg Lanning, followed up with a triple-wicket burst by the pacers in the powerplay, Delhi Capitals secured a comfortable 29-run win against Mumbai Indians in the opening game of the Delhi leg of WPL 2024.

With this victory in their fifth game of the tournament, Capitals have extended their lead at the top of the points table. Shabnim Ismail may have breached the 130kmph mark on Tuesday, but apart from a couple of testing overs upfront by her, the rest of the bowlers were taken apart. She managed to even induce a top edge off Shafali when she was batting on 15 but Saika Ishaque allowed the ball to pass through her hands. Shafali ensured

that she pounced on that opportunity slightly, with Ismail being at the receiving end of that onslaught. She hammered two sixes in Ismail's next over before the pacer got her revenge with a short of length delivery that took the edge to the keeper. However, by then, Lanning had settled in and she took the attack to Amelia Kerr. It was yet another slow-scoring powerplay for the DC skipper, who managed to score only 19 runs off 18 balls. In the eighth over, both Capsey and Lanning went after the leggie and smashed three boundaries. By the 12th over, it was just Lanning dominating the attack, smashing Kerr for 20 runs in the over. In the next over, she brought up her third half-century of the season and soon departed pulling Pooja

Vastrakar to deep mid wicket where Kerr took a fine forward-diving catch. For a brief while following the dismissal of Capsey and Lanning, MI bowlers had brought the scoring rate down. Vastrakar, Saika and Nat Sciver-Brunt bowled three overs in which they conceded only 14 runs.

Marizanne Kapp and Rodrigues struggled to get going. However, with the return of pace in the form of Ismail's final over, Rodrigues started picking boundaries and took the veteran pacer for 16 overs to begin the death overs charge. Even as Kapp was struggling, Rodrigues ensured the flow of

boundaries didn't stop. A pull through square leg, a slice over point, a shovel through long on, a drive over cover point, a lap over short point - she started attacking different parts of the ground. In the 19th over, she came down the track to Sciver-Brunt and hoisted a six over the bowler's head to bring up her half-century. In the last five overs, DC added 69 runs to finish with 192 for 4. Even before Mumbai Indians got an opportunity to settle down in the chase, Kapp and Shikha Pandey had sent three of their top order batters back in the hut. Kapp knocked over the top of Yastika Bhatia's offstump, Sciver-Brunt was cleaned up by Pandey's incoming delivery and Harmanpreet Kaur miscued a flick to backward point.

## Champions League: Mbappe, Kane shine as Bayern Munich, PSG reach quarter-finals



**New Delhi:** Bayern Munich top scorer Harry Kane struck once in either half to steer the Germans to a 3-0 win over Italy's Lazio on Tuesday and into the Champions League quarter-finals with an 3-1 aggregate victory, reigniting title hopes among their fans.

Kane headed in for the lead in the 38th minute to cancel out the Lazio's first leg 1-0 advantage and then tapped in their third goal on the rebound in the 66th after Thomas Mueller's first half stoppage time effort had made it 2-0.

The win provides instant relief for coach Thomas Tuchel, who will leave at the end of the season, and his team as they had won just one of their last five matches in all competitions prior to Tuesday and are currently 10 points off the top in the Bundesliga.

"It's a perfect evening for

us. It was a big game," said Kane, who has scored six goals for Bayern in the competition and another 27 in the Bundesliga this season. "We were 1-0 down in the first leg. It's obviously a big moment in our season. It was a top performance. "Of course we know we have to improve, but nights like this can really change the season. I'm really proud of the boys and we

just have to keep this momentum going." Lazio were on the backfoot from the start and waited to hit the Germans on the break. Ciro Immobile's header was their best chance but it sailed narrowly wide a minute before Kane bagged his first knockout stage goal in the competition in five years with a diving header. Mbappe was enjoying an inspired night and his speed and agility were too much for the hosts' defence to handle. He was virtually unstoppable

their first quarter-final spot in 24 years, had succeeded for half an hour in keeping Bayern outside the box but could do nothing when Kane, who had missed an earlier chance, headed in from team mate Raphael Guerreiro's miskick.

Paris St Germain's Kylian Mbappe scored twice to lead them into the Champions League quarter-finals with a comfortable 2-1 win away to Real Sociedad in their last-16 second leg that wrapped up a 4-1 aggregate victory on Tuesday.

Bidding to win their first Champions League title, a disciplined PSG made the most of their chances from counter attacks, with the lightning fast Mbappe a constant menace. Mbappe was enjoying an inspired night and his speed and agility were too much for the hosts' defence to handle. He was virtually unstoppable

down left channel and Tuesday's brace means he has scored 11 of PSG's last 15 Champions League knockout goals.

"We knew right away that we couldn't go to sleep. If they had opened the scoring, they would have pushed on with their fans' backing," Mbappe told Canal Plus. "We had to dampen their hopes early on. That's what we did, and we're very happy to be back in the quarter-finals."

Mbappe created a couple of opportunities early on before scoring the opener with a fabulous curling strike in the 15th minute. After receiving a long pass from Ousmane Dembele, he surged into the box, darting in from the byline and feigning to shoot, before shifting the ball out of his feet again and creating just enough space to fire a curling effort into the far corner.

**New Delhi:** SunRisers Hyderabad speedster Umran Malik arrived in Hyderabad on Tuesday, 5 March to join the team's camp ahead of the new season of Indian Premier League. Malik, who is the fastest bowler that India has ever produced, would be looking to redeem his credentials after a poor last season. Umran broke into the Indian cricketing scene with his performances in the Indian Premier League. After playing just 3 matches for SRH

in the 2021 season, Umran was retained by the Hyderabad franchise. The speedster was given 14 games in the 2022 season, where he emerged as the highest wicket-taker for his side with 22 scalps to his name. Things went a little haywire for the speedster in the 2023 campaign where he was entrusted with just 8 matches. Umran picked just 5 wickets in 2023 and conceded at almost 11 RPO. The fast bowler was also snubbed from both

the ODI and T20I sides after inconsistent performances.

2024 has been a better start for Umran Malik who was recently awarded with a fast bowlers' contract by the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

"The Selection Committee has also recommended Fast Bowling contracts for the following athletes – Akash Deep, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Umran Malik, Yash Dayal, and Vidhwath Kaverappa," the BCCI had said in its press release on 28 February. The speedster landed at Hyderabad and via an official SunRisers Hyderabad video said that he was feeling good and looking forward to seeing fans in the ground. "Feeling is good. My aim is to do well for the fans and show them that we can win. Inshallah, we'll see you soon on the ground and do well for you," Umran Malik said.

The Italians, bidding for

