

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES 22ND CONVOCATION OF NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the 22nd convocation of the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) in New Delhi today (May 10, 2024).

Underlining the importance of golden hour in medical emergencies, the President said that the life of patients could be saved if they get treatment during this period. She said that specialist doctors should be sensitive towards emergency patients and they should never ask an emergency patient to go somewhere else for treatment.

Giving reference of the saying - 'justice delayed is justice denied', President Murmu stressed that in the healthcare sector, the time is even more important because treatment delayed may be life denied. She said that sometimes we hear



the sad news that if timely treatment had been given, the life of the person could be saved. Even if life is saved, in many situations, treatment delayed is health denied. Such examples are often seen in paralysis patients. Due to lack of timely treatment, patients lose the ability to move their limbs and become dependent on others.

The President appreciated the past and present members of NBEMS for their contribution to medical education over the past nearly four decades. She noted that

the efforts of NBEMS have significantly increased the availability of specialist doctors in the country. The President urged doctors to pay attention towards prompt healthcare, sensitive healthcare and inexpensive healthcare. She said that they can make an invaluable contribution to the country and society by giving their time free of cost to poor patients. She told the medical students that if they have chosen medical as a profession, then they

definitely have the desire to serve humanity. She called upon them to protect, enhance and spread the spirit of service. The President said that in view of the vast population of our country, there is a need to continuously increase the availability of doctors. She stated that it should be the endeavor of all to give priority to quality along with quantity. The President said that Indian doctors have made their mark globally. Due to affordable Medicare, India has become a major center of medical tourism.

She described doctors as the most important part of the country's healthcare system and expressed confidence that they will take the health services of the country to greater heights. Noting that the number of female doctors is more than the male doctors who got degrees and medals at this convocation, the President said that the achievement of girl students in higher medical education is a great achievement of our society and country. She stated that in the context of most of the families, it can be said that girls are made to feel the limitations and restrictions. Even in society and public places girls have to be extra conscious about their safety and society's acceptance. In such an environment our daughters are presenting a new picture of the new India by proving their excellence.

## Will quit politics if Naveen Patnaik fails to become Odisha CM again: Pandian

Jharsuguda, (KCN): Bureaucrat-turned-BJP leader Kartik Pandian Friday asserted that he would quit politics if party president Naveen Patnaik does not become the chief minister of Odisha for the sixth time in a row after the Assembly elections.

Pandian, a close aide of Patnaik, challenged union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan to announce that the BJP leader would also take political 'sanyas' if the saffron party failed to come to power in the state.

"You (BJP) say that there is BJP wave and wave for a change in



Odisha, but I strongly say that if the chief minister (Patnaik) does not become the CM again, I will take sanyas from politics," Pandian said while addressing a rally at Brajrajnagar in Jharsuguda district.

Patnaik has been at the helm of Odisha since March 5, 2000.

Pandian claimed that the BJP calls him "gumastha" (clerk) or "chamcha" (obedient servant) of Patnaik. "But you (Pradhan) are a Union minister. If you have the courage, announce that you will also take sanyas from politics if the BJP does not come to power in

Odisha," he said. The BJD leader wondered what Pradhan had done for the people of Odisha. Pandian claimed that the BJP leader tried to contest from Dhenkanal for 10 years and finally went to Sambalpur. Prime Minister Narendra Modi May 5 said that June 4 was the expiry date of the BJD government in Odisha and a BJP chief minister will take oath June 10. Pandian was quick to hit back and claimed that the BJD would win the polls with three-fourth majority and Patnaik will be sworn in June 9 between 11.30 am to 1.30 pm.

## Akshaya Tritiya' an auspicious day in Odisha: PM Modi

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Ahead of his Odisha visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday highlighted that 'Akshaya Tritiya' is an auspicious day in Odisha as chariot making of Lord Jagannath begins on this day for the annual Rath Yatra.

Taking to X, Modi said: "Akshaya Tritiya is a very auspicious day in Odisha and for the great Odia culture. This is the day when the making of chariots begins for the Rath Yatra of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath. It is also closely linked with Akhi Muthi Anukula, when farmers start sowing seeds. May the blessings of Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath always remain upon us."

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds mega roadshow in Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a spectacular roadshow in Bhubaneswar on Friday evening. A huge crowd turned up and lined the 2.5-km-long stretch from the state BJP

party office to Vani Vihar.

The Prime Minister's road show started at around 8.30 pm. As his cavalcade moved along slowly, people from all walks of life thronged either side

of the road behind the barricades and welcomed him shouting slogans, waving party flags, holding cut-outs of the party's election symbol lotus and showering flower petals on him.

## BJD's exit from Odisha certain; Congress 'murdered' democracy, says Rajnath Singh

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday claimed that the ruling BJD's exit from Odisha is certain. While addressing a public meeting at Ranpur, Singh said that there is a change in the atmosphere in Odisha and the people have made up their minds to bring the BJP to power here. "Congress ruled Odisha for 50 years while BJP for 25 years. Now the atmosphere has changed in Odisha and it is time for BJD's exit," said Singh. Singh said that the Congress

and other parties are making baseless

allegations against the BJP government at the Centre. While addressing a public meeting, Singh said that in independent India, MPs have been elected for 28 times.

"The democracy was not murdered then and now when BJP's candidate wins unopposed in Surat then it is murder of democracy? Congress party has murdered democracy by imposing an emergency and has the highest record of toppling elected state governments in the country. Congress has a record of toppling governments 136 times in the country by using Article 356. Now they are alleging that BJP is murdering democracy," alleged Singh.

## 12 Naxalites killed in encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur

Bijapur (Chhattisgarh) (KCN) : At least 12 Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Friday, a source said. The gunfight took place in a forest near Pidia village under Gangaloor police limits

when a team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxal operation, the source added.

As per the field report, bodies of 12 Naxalites have so far been recovered from the encounter site, he said, adding that security

personnel are reported to be safe. Further details are awaited. A search operation is still underway in the area, the police said. Mentionably, security forces April 16 gunned down 29 Naxalites in an encounter in Kanker district of the state, they said.

## The Laws and investigative agencies are being weaponized by the BJP: Kumari Selja

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), May 10: Former Union Minister and candidate for the Congress (India Alliance) from the Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency, Kumari Selja said that our biggest concern is the current atmosphere of 'fear, threat, and hatred'. For the past ten years, people from every section have been living in fear. Laws and investigative agencies are being weaponized to intimidate people. Hatred has been spread among people of different religions, languages, and castes. Democracy in India is being hollowed out.

Slamming the BJP government for anti-farmer policy Kumari Selja said, "The country's food providers are becoming weaker, and it

seems like the government wants to destroy the farmers. Congress has announced 5 guarantees for farmers, and these will be implemented as soon as the government is formed."

Selja further expressed that MSP will be given legal status and the price of crops will be given according to the Swaminathan formula, GST on agricultural inputs will be removed, an Agriculture Loan Waiver Commission will be constituted to determine the amount of loan waiver, import-export policy will be made for stable prices of agricultural products, changes will be made in the PM Crop Insurance Scheme, and compensation for crop damage will be paid directly to the bank accounts of farmers within



30 days. Promising to resolve the people's grievances, Selja said that in the villages and towns, whatever local issues there are, will be resolved after consultations and discussions among

Congress leaders once the Congress government is formed. While touring various villages in the Sirsa assembly constituency on Friday, she appealed to the people to vote for the Congress. She first reached Bhagwan

Parshuram Chowk and offered prayers and worshiped the idol of Lord Shri Parshuram. Addressing a public meeting in the village of Bajekan, she said that she has an old relationship with this village, when in 1988,

after the death of her father, she contested a bye-election, then the then Congress district chief Thakur Bahadur Singh, senior leader, Minister Chaudhary Jagdish Nehra, Minister Laxman Das Arora went to the village and introduced her to the people, since then she has a relationship with the people here.

She said that today is a fight of ideologies, BJP is doing politics in the name of religion and caste, creating divisions among people. BJP has nothing to do with development, it just chants slogans of development. She added that the Congress is fighting to save democracy, to save the poor, farmers, labourers, and traders.

Parshuram Chowk and offered prayers and worshiped the idol of Lord Shri Parshuram. Addressing a public meeting in the village of Bajekan, she said that she has an old relationship with this village, when in 1988, listening to them, whoever has denied the power of youth, the country has never progressed. The youth have fallen prey to the addiction of drugs, addiction is at its peak in Sirsa, the government and administration are not taking effective steps to curb addiction, although Dabwali has been made the police headquarters to control addiction, but has addiction stopped? It is still going on, until the noose is tightened on the drug traffickers, addiction will not stop, for this, leadership, intention, and policy are needed, the Congress government will make the state addiction-free. She said that Congress has promised to make women socially, economically, and

politically strong, Congress fulfills what it says, Congress promises and announcements are not just rhetoric, today BJP is a party of rhetoric. She said that a resolution has been taken to start the Mahalaxmi scheme to provide one lakh rupees annually unconditionally to women from poor families. This amount will be sent to the bank account of the oldest member of the family if there is no elderly woman in the family. Fifty percent reservation in government jobs will be reserved for women by the central government. The amount of institutional loans given to women will also be increased. She said that Congress has announced justice, youth justice, and women's justice guarantees.

## Central University of Odisha Commemorates 163rd Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore

**Koraput, (KCN):** The Central University of Odisha honored the 163rd birth anniversary of the esteemed Nobel laureate and cultural luminary, Rabindranath Tagore, through a special event held on 08 May 2024 within its campus. Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University, paid tribute to Tagore by laying flowers at his portrait. Joining him on the dais were distinguished figures, including Prof. Sharat Kumar Palita, Dean of the School of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources, Dr. Kapila Khemundu, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology, and Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, Assistant Professor in

the Department of Biodiversity and Conservation of Natural Resources. Presiding over the ceremony, Prof. Tripathi shed light on Tagore's vision, philosophy, and educational endeavors aimed at fostering the sustainable development of our nation. Quoting from Tagore's renowned work, *Gitanjali*, he remarked, "The whole world was astonished upon witnessing Tagore's writings in *Gitanjali*. The Vishwaguru (World Teacher) illuminated the essence of our society and the image of our nation through the verses of *Gitanjali* in the form of poetry." Prof. Tripathi further emphasized Tagore's visionary establishment of Visva Bharati, a distinguished institution of higher education. He also underscored Tagore's

envisioning a peaceful and developed world grounded in societal values and the advancement of village life. During that era, he depicted Rabindranath Tagore as a remarkable poet, writer, playwright, composer, philosopher, social reformer, and

painter. Prof. S. K. Palita highlighted Tagore's profound contributions to India and the world, particularly through the establishment of Visva Bharati, a distinguished institution of higher education. He also underscored Tagore's



significant connection with Odisha. Dr. Khemundu elaborated on Tagore's educational philosophy, as reflected in the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020, while Dr. Banerjee celebrated Tagore's legacy as a prominent environmentalist, captivating the audience

with renditions of some of his popular compositions. Several other esteemed faculty members, including Dr. Sourav Gupta from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Dr. Debasish Karmakar from the Department of Sanskrit, Dr. Partha Pratim Das as a Guest Faculty in Education, Dr. Ganesh Prasad Sahu from the Department of Odia, and Dr. Prasenjit Sinha from the Department of English, also shared insights during the event. Dr. Rudrani Mohanty, Associate Professor and Head of the Department

of Odia Language and Literature, compered the program, while Dr. Chakradhar Padhan, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Hindi, delivered the vote of thanks. The event witnessed the presence of the entire teaching staff of the University, underlining the significance of commemorating Tagore's enduring legacy. Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer, Central University of Odisha, provided coordination and support for the event, ensuring its successful execution and widespread recognition.

### ECOR ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY FOR PASSENGERS TOWARDS DIFFERENT DESTINATIONS:

### More Summer Special Trains from ECoR jurisdiction.

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** aiming to cater to passengers' needs across the country, Indian Railways has announced special train services to avoid rush of passengers in regular trains during summer. These trains will connect important destinations, offering convenience, comfort, and safety for seamless journeys and memorable experiences throughout the season. In view of the above, East Coast Railway had announced Special Train Services towards various destinations of the country from its jurisdiction. This is to cater to the travel needs of passengers from various regions. Passengers can look forward to traveling in comfort and style to ensure a pleasant journey experience.

The special summer train services will operate on convenient schedules, offering flexibility to passengers to plan their trips according to their preferences. Whether it's a weekend getaway or an extended holiday, special trains provide the perfect solution for hassle-free travel.

Apart from the Summer Special Trains announced earlier by ECoR, more summer special trains are now being planned to run towards important destinations to cater the travel need of the passengers. These trains are Bhubaneswar-Mumbai LTT, B r a h m a p u r - S e c u n d e r a b a d , Brahmapur-Surat, etc. Apart from this, reviewing the passenger profile, ECoR is also planning to avoid heavy rush of passengers in regular trains and running Single trip Special Trains to important destination points. Passengers may also plan their journey accordingly and may search for Special Trains from their boarding points for their destinations where they can get confirmed tickets for their comfort journey. These trains are Sambalpur-Kacheguda, Khurda Road-S e c u n d e r a b a d , Bhubaneswar-Pune, Bhubaneswar-Mumbai CSMT, Puri-Paldhi, Bhubaneswar-Chennai, Sambalpur-Chennai, Bhubaneswar -

Egmore-Bhubaneswar-Chennai Egmore Special Train from Chennai Egmore will leave at 1030hrs on 11th May & 1st June 2024. In the return direction, this train from Bhubaneswar will leave at 2300hrs on every Wednesday between 8th May to 26th June 2024. In the return direction, this train will leave from LTT at 1320hrs on every Friday between 10th May to 28th June 2024. 0 7 0 3 5 / 0 7 0 3 6 S e c u n d e r a b a d - B r a h m a p u r - Secunderabad Summer Special from Secunderabad will leave at 2045hrs on 11th & 14th May 2024. In the return direction, this train from Brahmapur will leave at 1645hrs on 12th and 15th May 2024. 0 9 0 5 9 / 0 9 0 6 0 S u r a t - B r a h m a p u r - S u r a t Special from Surat will leave at 1420hrs on Wednesdays between 22nd May to 26th June 2024. In the return direction, this train will leave from Brahmapur at 0430hrs on Fridays between 24th May to 28th June, 2024. 0 6 1 0 7 / 0 6 1 0 8 C h e n n a i

### Cops dismantle Andhra health camp in Pottangi



However, the plan failed as locals informed the officials of this block. They rushed to the village along with personnel from the Sunki police station and closed down the camp. Andhra officials then played the victim card. They told the crowd which had gathered at the camp that they were being prevented from carrying out a 'humanitarian' duty. They told the villagers that had they been a part of Andhra Pradesh, they would get such benefits on a regular basis. Sources informed Thursday that officials frequently visit villages

under Kotia panchayat to lure residents with welfare and development schemes if they become a part of Andhra Pradesh. They added that many private organisations are aiding the Andhra government in this regard. However, till date, their efforts have failed. In the latest case, healthcare officials arrived at Laudi village in an ambulance (AP-39NP3546). They set up base inside a cultural centre constructed by the Odisha government. They distributed free medicines to people who came to the camp for a check-up.



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# "NEET hurdles Stepping stones to medical mastery"



In life's journey, mistakes often serve as unexpected detours that lead us down uncharted paths. Yet, it is through these detours that we discover hidden treasures of wisdom and resilience. Just as milk transforms into yogurt and cheese, and grape juice evolves into wine, our mistakes have the potential to metamorphose into invaluable experiences that enrich our lives and shape our destinies. Consider the tale of Vincent van Gogh, whose early artistic endeavors were met with indifference and rejection. Despite facing numerous setbacks and self-doubt, he persisted in his passion for painting, ultimately

creating some of the most revered masterpieces in art history. Van Gogh's story serves as a poignant reminder that setbacks and failures are not roadblocks but rather stepping stones toward greatness. Moreover, the world of science is replete with examples of groundbreaking discoveries that emerged from mistakes. In 1928, Alexander Fleming's accidental contamination of a petri dish with mold led to the discovery of penicillin—a serendipitous breakthrough that revolutionized modern medicine. Fleming's willingness to embrace the unexpected transformed his error into a catalyst for innovation and progress. Similarly, the story of Percy Spencer, an engineer working

Aubaid Ahmad Akhooon

on radar technology during World War II, highlights the transformative power of mistakes. While conducting experiments with a magnetron, Spencer noticed that a chocolate bar in his pocket had melted. This observation ultimately led to the invention of the microwave oven—a ubiquitous household appliance that has revolutionized cooking and food preparation. "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill

Stephen Hawking, renowned physicist and cosmologist, faced tremendous challenges due to his amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) diagnosis. Despite his physical limitations, he persevered in his scientific pursuits, making groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of the universe. His resilience in the face of adversity serves as a powerful example of how embracing challenges can lead to extraordinary achievements. Similarly, for students who didn't qualify in the NEET exam, it's important to recognize that setbacks are not indicative of one's abilities or potential. Instead, these setbacks can serve as motivation to work harder and smarter in preparation for the next opportunity. Like Alexander Fleming's accidental discovery of penicillin, success often arises from unexpected sources, and each attempt provides valuable insights and growth opportunities. Indeed, mistakes are not merely failures to be avoided but opportunities to

learn, adapt, and grow. Each misstep serves as a valuable lesson, providing us with insights that guide us toward greater self-awareness and personal development. As American inventor Thomas Edison once remarked, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Edison's perseverance and resilience in the face of adversity epitomize the transformative potential of embracing mistakes. In the pursuit of excellence, it is essential to cultivate a mindset that embraces imperfection and values the lessons learned from setbacks. Rather than succumbing to fear of failure, we must view mistakes as integral components of the learning process. After all, it is not the absence of mistakes

that defines success but rather the ability to rise above them and emerge stronger and more enlightened. The poetry of Allama Iqbal beautifully captures the essence of ambition and perseverance. His couplet "Tu Shaheen Hai, Parwaz Hai Kaam Tera, Tere Aage Asmaan Aur Bhi Hain" (You are a falcon; flight is your vocation: You have other skies stretching out before you) symbolizes the boundless potential within each individual to transcend mediocrity and strive for greatness. Similarly, in another verse, Iqbal contrasts the falcon's ambition with the vulture's complacency: "Parwaz Hai Dono Ki Issi Aik Fiza Mein, Kargas Ka Jahan Aur Hai, Shaheen Ka Jahan Aur" (The vulture

and the falcon soar in the same air, but in worlds apart). This analogy emphasizes that while some may settle for a mundane existence, the Shaheen aspires for grandeur. In the journey towards excellence, embracing mistakes as avenues for growth and learning is paramount. Majrooh Sultanpuri beautifully captured this sentiment: "Girte hain shahsawar hi maidan-e-jung mein. Woh tifl kya gire jo ghatno ke balchale" (only the horseman falls on the battlefield; how will that child fall who crawls on his knees). While setbacks are inevitable, it's our perseverance and resilience that enable us to transcend them and carve our way to success.

**Author is a distinguished Educational Columnist, Motivational Speaker, and Associate Editor of the weekly educational publication 'Education Quill.'**

akhomahid@gmail.com

## CAN FILM STARS IMPACT VOTERS



In the time of election All the Political parties develop their interest in Film Stars. The Political Parties present the Film Stars at political rallies in order to attract the crowds. But can these Film stars impact the voters to cast their valuable votes in favour of the concerned parties for whom they publicize? But yet the mainstream parties were yet to familiarise themselves with this process of using stars for campaigning. Basically in Mumbai, some party candidates were bound to

know an actor or somebody who did. Politicians in other cities used cash, contacts or favour. In the old days in Uttar Pradesh, for instance, a star was repaid by exempting his films from entertainment tax. Taxes then were not standardised as they are today. The entertainment tax, being a state subject, varied from state to state and ate up a big chunk of a cinema ticket.

In national politics, involvement of stars or other film personalities started with nominating them to Rajya Sabha. The people at large and the media usually endorsed such appointments, for nominated star commanded their respect. The first

such star to be nominated to the Rajya Sabha was the late Prithviraj Kapoor in 1952. His third generation is still active in the film industry, though none seems to show an inclination towards politics. The next one to be so nominated was Nargis Dutt. Dara Singh also made it to the Rajya Sabha. People welcomed such nominations. Today quite a few film personalities adorn the Upper House. Nominations to the Rajya Sabha always been an honour but these nominated stars hardly served any purpose for the parties nominating them or for film industry. They basked in the glory of being in Rajya Sabha. Most were not

Uma Shankar Prasad

interested and rarely attended the sessions. The industry was held to ransom in those days by just about every government body that the film industry dealt with. Be it Central Excise, Censor Board or Income Tax. There was red tape in all these departments. For example, a film's release print had to pay excise duty according to the length of the film and most of the films in those days exceeded 16,000 feet! The customs department would only accept the length as certified in the censor certificate! And no star Member of Parliament raised his or her voice against this anomaly. They remained decorative pieces. As election started

politicians thought of a better way to use film celebrities—make them contest lok Sabha elections instead of using them as crowd pullers in election rallies. Sunil Dutta who had been contesting from Mumbai. Dutt was an apt choice and he won the election from Mumbai North West and stayed in office for 12 years. Thereafter it was all about star power for that is what worked. Amitabh Bachchan had been contesting from Allahabad, Rajesh Khanna from New Delhi but it is obvious that these stars did not have staying power and as their popularity waned, they failed to repeat their success. Now a days voters were becoming more aware of whom to choose. A transition was taking place. Meanwhile, as against national politics, South India was different. Film Stars did not contest for a party; they formed their own political parties. Here film stars, in people's eyes, are only to God. Fan clubs built temples for their stars. Tamil Nadu was early starter where film personalities took to politics. M. Karunanidhi took over as the David Muthuram (DMK) as its president. M. G. Ramachandran soon parted ways with Karunanidhi and formed (AIADMK). In Andhra Pradesh, it was NTRama Rao, a Telugu Superstar formed Telugu Desam Party (TDP). The power of star was evident

when Amitabh Bachchan was nominated to contest from a very veteran leader H. N. Bahuguna and won by a massive number of votes around 1.85 lakh. Since then a galaxy of stars have been active in politics: Raj Babbar, Satrughna Sinha, Jayabachhan, Vinod Khanna, Dharmendra, Govinda, Hema Malini, Kirron Kher, Jayapradha, Paresh Rawal and many Odia heroes like Prasant Nanda, Uttam Mohanty, Siddarth, Anubhab Mohanty and many more. In most cases in National level film stars have felt out of place in politics and have eventually deserted their positions. They

**Columnist, Khordha (63706 75562)**

# Why don't general masses' woes become Election Issue?



**- Lalit Garg -**

The third phase of Lok Sabha elections has been completed; as the elections are progressing, the layers of tainted character of politicians and poll candidates are being exposed, in the process. There was a time when people used to follow the conduct of country's leaders in public life. Leaders were also concerned about their image and reputation in the society. But in recent years, leaders of many satraps' families have also entered politics, who in their pursuit of power, kept aside all the morals and decorum. Recently, the serious allegations made against Prajwal Revanna, MP of Janata Dal (Secular) from Hassan seat in Karnataka, of misconduct with

hundreds of women, have shown the nadir point of degradation in politics. Moreover, the Enforcement Department, which is investigating an old case in Ranchi, has recovered Rs 39 crore in cash from the house of a servant working at the house of private secretary of Jharkhand government minister Alamgir Alam. This election involving leaders and tainted candidates tainted with sexual harassment, misconduct, corruption and treason is a serious question on democracy. Our politics is becoming a tragedy. The politicians started doing everything for power and in this race they forgot the ideals of politics, this is why the poison of inequalities and inconsistencies is mixed in the atmosphere of the country, and there is no hope of light from anywhere. We are afraid of the politically corrupt, of those who glorify crime, of those who misuse power, of



those who put the unity and integrity of the country at stake, and of those who tear down women's dignity through sexual harassment and misconduct. The country is faced with a complex mix of sorrow, pain and insensitivity; problems are scary and horrifying in new masks. A lot has changed in the society, including--values, thoughts, life-style, architecture, and a lot more. The election process is increasing very expensive. Being honest is a vice in today's politics. Taking action against crime has become a

sin. Taking interest in religion and spirituality has come to be considered communal. Exposing any irregularity is considered prejudice. Speaking the truth falls into the category of ego-feeding. Candor is impractical. Not supporting corruption is not recognizing the time. It is necessary to discuss these and such basic questions in the context of elections. After all, for how long will these new definitions being coined in the name of political interests continue to push the society and nation in deplorable directions? How long will our country and

our society remain forgotten in the name of the strong storm of evolution? In this grand show of elections, the talk of reform, morality, values and principles is not being heard anywhere? There is no light visible anywhere. It is a very dark and dense night. There is neither self-confidence, nor moral strength. This great sacrifice of elections organized for building a great and strong India is today becoming 'Mahabharata'. How this undertaking of establishing values and standards is becoming a medium to hollow out democracy is a matter

of deep concern and contemplation. A naked dance of character devaluation, economic anomalies and giving support to disparities has started taking place in the elections and every party is displaying its strength in it with great enthusiasm. It is not only about election donations, but also about donations received from foreign countries. Today the question is very big, and that is how to protect Indian politics from direct foreign influence. The allegations against Aam Aadmi Party of taking huge sums of money from alleged anti-India foreign

powers are a challenge to our entire electoral system. Have the people associated with the ruling party, or the opposition parties, or the newly emerging political contenders, and those who talk about ideals, ever given any feeling through their actions that they should be considered as politicians who have risen above limited vested interests? Here the names of the leaders are not that important, nor is the political party important, what is important is the fact that this kind of Kupmandu leadership can overall make the politics of the country shallow. The kind of moral integrity that is required for positive politics and the kind of maturity that is required from politicians for this, the lack of it in the entire opposition parties is creating a painful situation. And we are the ones who are engaged in creating such leaders! Elections are

considered the beginning of the democratic process, but today elections have become a mockery of democracy. The methods adopted in elections are contrary to the basic idea of democracy. Faced with these conditions, Indian democracy, which is said to be the world's best, is today at the crossroads of anarchy; where no path leading from here appears to be safe. The fault of putting it at the crossroads lies much more with the political parties and leaders than with the public, who have weakened it greatly by making it a medium to fulfill personal and party interests. Today these parties, these people have lost the ability to take it out of the current quagmire. Only Kauravas and Pandavas were not affected in the battle of Mahabharata. The sparks of that war had reached far and wide. It is clearly visible that even in this Mahabharata, the so-called anarchist political and

economic forces are

trying to show their influence, which will have far-reaching consequences. In

these circumstances, 100 universities in the world. The result is in terms of better education in which intervention of the year who have challenged students to obtain a higher quality education from foreign universities. In view of the extreme scarcity of funds, it has become more important that the government should increase its efforts to provide adequate education to the students in the local universities for wrong conduct.

Otherwise campuses of foreign universities there is no dearth in the country, particularly in which the dream of securing a foreign degree is about to come true. Which can only be fulfilled at a cheaper rate. When the individual but such

arrangements should be made to bring foreign universities to democratic system.

At the top of the Mahananda Vihar Women's Degree College, Cuttack-4, Contact: 904151475, examples of policies and ideals which indicate that the democratic system

## Attracted to foreign education

**Dr. Laxman Sahoo**



There is much more to the magic of foreign education. Which is attracting students from all over the world, America, Britain, Australia. As a result, a wonderful education industry has been created there. Every year lakhs of Indian students participate in the race to get admission in foreign universities. Most of them dream of studying abroad and settling there. But countless examples of how those dreams are reaching their destination are constantly being seen from countries like America, UK, Canada, Australia etc. The latest information from Canada is that hundreds of our students have taken admission in such universities after being lured by fake agents, whose degree is not recognized even in

Canada. The Canadian government itself has admitted that in the past few years, many educational institutions there have accepted more foreign students than needed for the purpose of making money. To deal with the situation, at the beginning of this year, the Canadian government announced to reduce the number of foreign students for the next two years from January.

Now even in our India, good education is becoming more expensive day by day. For many people, the cost of education in private schools and colleges is too expensive. But one of the ironies is that people prefer to send their children abroad for foreign degrees. Hence, they are willing to spend ten times more for the same degree or course. A few years ago, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences prepared a report titled 'Realizing Skilling Towards Make in India' on the basis of a survey. It said that every year Indian



higher education available, still 62 percent of Indian parents go to USA, UK, Australia etc. for better education. Shipping to Canada and Singapore is important. They are also given an answer as to why they do so in the 'World University Ranking' published by the British company QUS (Quacquarelli Symonds Limited). Not one of the first 200 universities included in this ranking is Indian. IIT Mumbai is ranked 22nd in this list. While IIT Delhi is ranked 235th. Then there is much more to the magic of foreign education than has already been pointed out, which has resulted in the creation of a wonderful education industry.

Which is only

attracting students from all over the world, America, UK and Australia. Because of which a wonderful education industry has emerged there. An example can be taken from the American education system. In America, law and medicine are two professions that have huge earning potential. It takes seven to eight years to complete law studies there. Even it takes eleven years to study medicine and become a doctor. One and a half crore rupees have been spent in Indian currency. Harvard and Stanford are considered among the best universities for these two courses. But even with such an expensive education, American or British parents have to take out a bank loan when their home or

business is threatened or their child gets a degree in medicine or MIT.

The foundation of preschool education in America is also very strong. Education is free from primary to high school. However, along with the government in county schools, there are also private schools, which are relatively expensive. But it does not necessarily mean that a county school child can prove superior in any respect to a private school child.

It should also be remembered that the higher education system in the US, Singapore and Australia has become an industry for foreign students. About four to five lakh young people from China and India come here every year for higher education. A large

number of students from other countries also go there. Of this, the United States alone earns 25-30 billion dollars every year. In contrast, IITs, IIMs or medical colleges in India, which depend on government aid. Instead of the expected improvement in infrastructural facilities, they are forced to work with minimum facilities and minimum faculty in normal pay scale. The situation is even worse in private colleges in our country, which is better not to mention here. Here the vast courses are conducted only with the help of ad-hoc lecturers.

Now there are about four hundred universities and about twenty thousand higher education institutions in our country. More than seven lakh professors are working among them. More than 1.5 crore students study in these educational institutions. But this fact is surprising as to why none of these universities are able to provide that level of education. On the basis of which it can be included among the top

examples of policies and ideals which indicate that the democratic system

# UAE-India CEPA Council & ICC collaborate to enhance economic & trade cooperation

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC) and Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), to boost economic and trade cooperation between UAE and India on 9th May 2024 in Kolkata.

The MOU is focused on spreading awareness on various facets of CEPA and emerging trade and economic cooperation scope and opportunities for investors and industrialists, companies in private sector in both nations as well as wider business communities in India and in UAE.

UICC and ICC will also engage in information sharing, explore hosting of joint events and facilitate member interactions, promote organisational



roles, and seek opportunities to expand tangible cooperation between the organisation's respective leadership.

Ambassador of the UAE to India, Dr. Abdulsattar Alshaali, emphasized UICC & ICC collaboration will further strengthen economic ties between

UAE and India. He also mentioned both UAE and India are committed to create environment conducive to investments, technological collaborations, and people-to-people exchanges. Director General of ICC Dr. Rajeev Singh mentioned MOU provide opportunities to create

synergy of wide range of resources available to both the organisations to spread awareness on detailed fine-prints of CEPA for sustainable economic and trade development for long term. UICC established in early 2024 and is dedicated to promoting economic cooperation and trade relations mostly

in private sector between the UAE and India. CEPA has facilitated easier market access, reduced trade barriers, promoted dynamic exchange of goods and investments, leading to diversified economic cooperation between UAE and India.

In fiscal year, April 2022 to March 2023, bilateral trade between UAE & India grew from USD 72.9 billion to USD 84.5 billion, marking a growth rate of almost 16%. In specific sectors such as gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, and fruits and vegetables, saw rises of 64%, 39%, and 35% respectively.

UICC and ICC strategic partnerships will script new and enhanced economic and trade cooperation between UAE & India.

## "Sufficient Material Against Accused No.1": Court Charges BJP's Brij Bhushan

New Delhi: In a big blow to Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, a Delhi court has ordered the framing of charges against the former Wrestling Federation of India chief in the sexual harassment allegations levelled by women wrestlers. The court has said there is sufficient evidence on record to do so, paving the way for the beginning of the trial against him.

Mr Singh "welcomed" the order, asserting that he was "ready to face it".

Friday's order by the Rouse Avenue court comes days after the BJP decided not to repeat Brij Bhushan, who is the party MP from Uttar Pradesh's Kaiserganj, as the candidate from the constituency and decided to field his son Karan Bhushan Singh instead. The court has ordered the framing of charges against Brij Bhushan under sections 354 (outraging a woman's modesty), 354-A (sexual harassment) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of

the Indian Penal Code. The Delhi Police had filed a chargesheet against under these sections and one additional section - 354D (stalking) - on June 15 last year.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Priyanka Rajpoot said the charges will be framed against Brij Bhushan for sexually harassing five wrestlers and that he stands discharged in the allegations levelled by the sixth.

"This court has found sufficient material on record to frame charges against accused no. 1 Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for the offences under Section 354, 354A of Indian Penal Code regarding victims no. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5," Ms Rajpoot said while pronouncing the order. "This court has also found sufficient material on record to frame charges against accused no. 1 Brij Bhushan Singh for the

offences under Section 506 Part 1 of IPC with respect to victims no. 1 and 5," she said. Charges should also be framed against the former assistant secretary of the Federation, Vinod Tomar, under Section 506, the court said. The neat hearing will be on May 21.

Ms Mallikh had also hung up her boots and said she was quitting the sport after an aide of Brij Bhushan had won the elections for the Wrestling Federation of India in December last year. The sports ministry had later suspended the new managing committee. Brij Bhushan has consistently denied all the charges.

Earlier this month, the BJP nominated the MP's son as the candidate for the Kaiserganj seat and the move led to digs from the opposition as well as a strong statement by Ms Mallikh.

The Antarctica

expedition finds mention in NCERT textbooks but the topics would be restored with the release of books based on the new curriculum framework. These books are currently being worked on and will be available for all classes by 2026.

In a rationalisation exercise post COVID-19, the NCERT dropped topics such as climate change, monsoon and greenhouse effect from textbooks, triggering a controversy.

The council later clarified that the subjects had been dropped to reduce curriculum load in view of

## We have to save country from dictatorship: Kejriwal after walking out of Tihar

**New Delhi (KCN):** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday thanked Lord Hanuman as he stepped out of Tihar Jail on interim bail and sought people's support in his "fight against dictatorship".

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor was granted interim bail till June 1 by the Supreme Court earlier in the day.

In fiscal year, April 2022 to March 2023, bilateral trade between UAE & India grew from USD 72.9 billion to USD 84.5 billion, marking a growth rate of almost 16%. In specific sectors such as gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, and fruits and vegetables, saw rises of 64%, 39%, and 35% respectively.

UICC and ICC strategic

partnerships will script new and enhanced economic and trade cooperation between UAE & India.

He further said that he would visit the Hanuman temple at Connaught Place at 11 am Saturday and address a press conference at the AAP office at 1 pm.

"I am feeling great to be with you. I had told you that I would come out soon... First of all, I want to pay obeisance to Lord Hanuman. I am among you because of the blessings of Lord Hanuman," Kejriwal added.

The AAP leader also thanked people for their love and blessings and asked them to come together to fight against dictatorship.

"I want to thank you all. Crores of people of the country sent their blessings to me. I want to thank the Supreme Court because of which I am here," he added.

## India's Strides In Arctic, Antarctica, Himalayas To Soon Be Taught In Schools



Antarctica in recent years. "We have not taken any high school students so far but several senior students involved in the research have been to Antarctica," he said in response to a question. Asked about possibilities of introducing a programme such as Students on Ice for Indian school students, Meloth said, "It is not logistically feasible. It costs around 1 crore to send a single person to Antarctica... there are lot of other logistical issues too when it comes to high school students.

The Students on Ice programme is run by Canadian educator and environmentalist Geoff Green, under which high school students from across the globe, accompanied by educators and scientists, get an opportunity to travel to Antarctica and the Arctic.

## INDIA bloc leaders meet EC over voter turnout data, alleged model code violations

**New Delhi (KCN):** A delegation of opposition party leaders Friday met the top brass of Election Commission and raised its concerns over the delay in releasing voter turnout figures for the first two phases, and urged them to take action on complaints of model code violations by ruling BJP leaders during the ongoing polls.

Samajwadi Party leader Javed Ali, meanwhile, raised the issue of a "red card" being issued by the Uttar Pradesh Police to people in the state, which they said is stopping many from exercising their franchise.

The delegation included Congress leaders Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Salman Khurshid, TMC's Derek O'Brien, DMK's TR Baalu, JMM's Mahua Majhi, CPI's Binoy

Viswam, and Ali among others.

"We have a very distinguished gathering of INDIA alliance. Each party across India is represented. We spent 45 minute to an hour," Singhvi said briefing the media after the meeting.

"Issue number one was one of great trust deficit, question mark and a feeling of alarm and distress that 11 complaints by Congress alone, and complaints by all parties put together against the Prime Minister and Home Minister, starting from early April, have not been addressed," Singhvi said.

"No action has been taken. Look at the oddity – you have sent notices after a long gap and not to the offenders. For the first time in the history of

the Election Commission you have sent notices to the party presidents," Singhvi said, referring to its letter to BJP president JP Nadda over complaints against Modi's Banswara speech.

He said they have not been informed about the response to the EC notice, or about the action being taken. "Why there is a delay?"

"This is an irreversible window, it touched upon level playing field, it touches upon elections, it touched upon democracy and basic structure. Custodian of all these constitutional values is the Election Commission. If they don't act promptly, it will be a complete abdication of Constitutional duty," Singhvi said.

"We made three quick points – the difference of voter percentage increase is 5.74 per cent or 5.5 per cent. The comparable figure in the 2019 election the first three phases was two

per cent, one per cent, two and half per cent, this time it is double," he said.

"We are not given a stamp of approval by the published figures of the EC. We are told to calculate on our own because there is real time data available with the candidate or the voting app. That maybe so, but the stamp of approval of a published absolute figure and a percentage figure by the EC carries its own constitutional weight, we have asked for that," he said.

Amid the opposition's allegations, the Election Commission had asserted last week that booth-wise data of the "actual number of votes polled" is available with the candidates soon after the voting ends. They said copies of Form 17C, which

contains the number of voter turnout, duly signed by the presiding officer and all present polling agents are shared with all present polling agents.

Singhvi added that the questions are avoidable if the EC acts promptly. "You have to avoid this delay and this huge discrepancy in figures because it raises unnecessary question marks. Did this increase in vote suddenly occur only in those areas where the ruling party had done badly last time, did it occur across all constituencies... these are all avoidable questions because transparency and promptitude by EC will solve them immediately," he said.

Ali meanwhile raised the issue of Uttar Pradesh police issuing "red cards" to a number of individuals banning them from going near polling booths. "We have raised this issue in many meetings with the poll panel... in Uttar Pradesh, police is issuing red card to some people and warns them not to come near the booth. You will be surprised to know in one Lok Sabha constituency the red card numbers are ranging from 10,000 to 60,000-70,000," he said. Ali said EC took cognizance and has assured them that no such card will be issued in future. "They accepted this so called red card is unconstitutional."

The meeting came after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge

# Anti-liquor drives prove futile as sales up 530 lakh litre in 10 years

**Jajpur(KCN):** Total prohibition and anti-liquor campaigns have proved to be unsuccessful with liquor sales increasing in the state by an additional 530 lakh litres during the last 10 years. Despite various anti-liquor campaigns and total prohibition programmes being undertaken in the state, reports said liquor sales have gone up exponentially by an additional 530 lakh litres in last 10 years. Growing liquor consumption has resulted in increasing menace of alcoholics and anti-socials. This has also caused a

spurt in road accidents and social unrest while giving rise to immoral acts as well as law and order situations. People have alleged that the state has achieved record liquor sales notwithstanding its development in comparison to other states. According to reports available from the Excise department, 13,832 lakh litre of various types of liquor has been produced from 2014-15 to December 2023. Similarly, 1,950 lakh litre foreign liquor including beer has been purchased for sale in the state. The report states that

1,607 lakh litre of liquor was sold in the state in 2013-14 FY. This includes 596 lakh litre foreign liquor, 850 lakh litre beer and 161 lakh litre country liquor.

Similarly, liquor sale has increased to 2,137 lakh litre in 2022-23 FY. This includes 785 lakh litre foreign liquor, 1,210 lakh litre beer and 142 lakh litre country liquor. An official of the Excise department said according to the Excise Policy-2021 a number of foreign liquor shops and country liquor shops have been opened at various markets squares, roadsides, and populated areas in urban

and rural areas of the state. However, many shops are illegally kept open till 11pm. The Excise department has shut down many on and off shops which are within 500 metre from the national highways but it

has become difficult to control the mushrooming foreign liquor shops and country liquor shops in civic body areas like municipal corporations, municipalities, NACs as well as in blocks and rural areas. These shops are doing brisk business throwing the restrictions to the wind. The administration has failed to bring them under control. Moreover, many licensed liquor shops have come up during this period near national highways, educational institutions, government offices, cultural institutions, and banks in

brown sugar and ganja from West Bengal and other neighbouring states has aggravated the situation. The drug and liquor mafias are carrying out their business with impunity by allegedly greasing the palms of the Excise and police officials as well as politicos. Various anti-liquor and total prohibition campaigns are being carried out in the state but these have proved futile in downsizing the liquor sale. Funds worth over Rs4.69 crore have been spent in these campaigns during the last 10 years but liquor sales are increasing by the day.



## Green activists urge candidates to avoid using plastic flags, banners

**Berhampur(KCN):** As candidates gear up for campaigning in the Odisha Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, green activists in Ganjam district appealed to all political parties to use eco-friendly materials during electioneering. Candidates and political parties are requested to use only eco-friendly campaign materials which can be recycled and to avoid non-biodegradable poll materials like plastic flags, banners and flexes,

said Sudhir Rout, an environmentalist. "In the last several elections, we have seen candidates and political parties use several non biodegradable materials during the campaign. This practice causes harm to the environment," he said. Rout, the director of Aryabhatta Foundation, an organisation that works to raise awareness on protection of environment, said much before the poll announcement, that they

had written to the Election Commission to ensure the green protocol in polling stations and counting centres. "We are happy as ECI has directed the election officers to make some eco-friendly polling stations as model booths in districts and asked political parties to adopt eco-friendly measures during the campaign," he said. "We are now appealing to candidates to adopt such a step to protect the environment," he said. Subu Bahini, a city-

based organisation which campaigned against nailing banners and flags on trees in the last election, also appealed to candidates to avoid such practice of nailing banners or flags on trees in the elections. Ramesh Chandra Chyau Patnaik, BJD Ganjam district president, said his party does not use the plastic flags during campaigning. "We use party flags made in cotton clothes," he said. Subash Sahu, BJP Ganjam district president also made similar claims.

## 'Tigresses need proper places to give birth'



**Baripada(KCN):** An increase in the population of Royal Bengal Tigers at Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district has created happiness in the minds of wildlife lovers. Forest officials have said that if the tigresses in the park get a conducive atmosphere for reproduction, then in the years to come, the population will continue to grow. Currently, the total number of tigers in the park stands at 27, according to the latest census.

Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF) Dr Prakash Chand Gogineni said Tuesday that tigresses are not ready to mate under any circumstance. The first and foremost condition for any tigress is to find a suitable place

where its cubs will be safe and plenty of food will be available. More than the tiger, it is the tigress which is fiercely protective about its cubs. It rears the cubs, provides them with hunting lessons and finally when they mature, the tigress lets them go on their own. It also leaves the male once the cubs are born. Gogineni informed that the Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary had only four Royal Bengal Tigers in 2004. Among them, three were tigresses and the other one was a black melanistic male tiger. One of the tigresses gave birth to melanistic cubs next year after it mated with the male tiger. Out of the 27 Royal Bengal Tigers in

Similipal, 14 are females. Five of the tigresses in the recent past have given birth, though the exact number of cubs born is yet to be ascertained. It just goes to show the importance of a conducive atmosphere for tigresses. Tigers usually have a life span ranging from 14 to 16 years. From the age of 11, they start getting old. A tigress will never mate with an 'old' tiger as the latter cannot hold on to its own territory. Once a tigress turns pregnant, it goes away from the male. The rules of the tiger kingdom are strange indeed. The tigress usually allows those cubs to suckle her who she deems fit will survive the first six to seven weeks.

The weak are neglected and sometimes they die. During the first six to seven months she takes care of the food for the cubs. Then slowly she introduces them to hunting so that by the time they are two years old, they are ready to be on their own. Once the cubs turn into adults, the tigress is ready to mate again and give birth. Prior to that, she will never mate as the cubs cannot fend for themselves.

When contacted, former honorary wildlife warden of Similipal National Park, Bhanumitra Acharya said the Forest Department

should immediately clampdown on poaching activities in the park. He feels that if it happens,

the tiger population in STR will grow substantially in the years to come.



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## Modicare Limited launches Blue Light Shield range under its color cosmetics brand, Urban Color London

**New Delhi:** Modicare Limited, one of India's leading direct selling companies, recently launched Blue Light Shield, a gender-neutral and efficacious skincare range to combat the harmful effects of Blue Light rays. Owing to the pandemic and the work-from-home culture, the average screen-time has significantly increased, raising concern over Blue Light's adverse effects on the skin. Since it has the ability to penetrate deeper into the skin, excess exposure to Blue Light rays can lead to a number of skin concerns, including premature ageing and hyper-pigmentation. Urban Color London's Blue Light Shield range leverages innovation and technology to offer the

consumers a 'Screeenguard' against the high energy Blue Light emitted from digital devices and provides modern day solution to the new-age skin concerns. The range comprises of a meticulously designed five-step regime—Gentle Face Wash, Resurfacing Gel Scrub, Deep Clean Coffee Masque, Reset Serum Oil and Moisturising Crème. The products have been formulated using Urban Color London's proprietary technology that neutralises effects of Blue Light rays. The hero ingredient in the range is Carotolino\* Active, a combination of Beta-Carotene, Carrot Root Extract and Carrot Seed Oil that unite in a perfect base to provide complete protection from

Blue Light rays and promoting overall skin health. The range is 100% vegan, paraben & cruelty free and dermatologically tested. Announcing the launch, Mr. Samir Modi, Founder and Managing Director, Modicare Limited said, "Our skin is constantly exposed to invisible Blue Light rays emitted from the several digital devices we use like smartphones, laptops, televisions, tablets etc. Most of us do not even know the implications of this. Blue Light tends to affect our skin's natural barrier function and accelerate signs of ageing. Keeping this in mind, we are launching Urban Color London's Blue Light Shield range. This is one of the world's best

formulations. Mr. Sameer Nayak, the Unit Head of Aditya Aluminium says, "Project Sinchai, launched in January this year, has been greatly welcomed by the farming community of the Sambalpur district. Essentially, it has resulted in a significant rise in the income of farmers. Here 55 farmers within the



proximity of the plant were encouraged to adopt the Sprinkler Irrigation System. Each farmer was given 41 pipes (20 feet/pipe) and 9 sprinklers. It enabled the farmers to draw water from the ponds and wells close by. Among its other major advantages is a rise in crop productivity and reduction in water wastage, besides of course the monetary advantages".

"The ease of use has made it the most sought-

Gagan Bihari Patra, a farmer from Sambalpur district who was finding it tough to look after his family of five due to insufficient income from farming, expresses his gratitude to Aditya Aluminium for introducing him to sprinkler irrigation system through 'Project Sinchai' leading to multiple crop farming, and income enhancement. Patra owns six acres of agricultural land in

which he was cultivating paddy and vegetables during the kharif season. Being rain-fed, it resulted in low productivity. He could not produce anything during the rabi season due to lack of irrigation facilities. Not satisfied with his income from agriculture, he was desperate to explore ways to increase productivity. Project Sinchai provided the perfect answer.

Many farmers in the locality who faced similar issues, given poor irrigation facilities, lack of modern agricultural equipment and resorting to traditional agricultural practices. Then came the Aditya Aluminium CSR team extending a helping hand to farmers like Patra through Project Sinchai and Samridhi.

## SpiceJet and Axis Bank launch co-branded credit card

**GURUGRAM:** SpiceJet, the country's favourite airline and Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, have partnered to launch the most rewarding co-branded credit card, powered by Visa that will offer a host of privileges and benefits to customers. The card comes in two variants – SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black, and is aimed at facilitating a superlative travel experience for flyers through SpiceClub, the first frequent flyer program by a low cost carrier in India.

Through this collaboration, the two

brands hope to capitalize on the resurgent demand for travel following two years of stagnation caused by the pandemic. Further, with the shared goal of expanding their reach to Tier 2 & 3 cities and other synergies, the brands are committed to serving a much larger populace.

SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage & Voyage Black credit cards were officially launched at Indira Gandhi International airport in the presence of Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD, SpiceJet and Amitabh Chaudhary, MD & CEO, Axis Bank, where they unveiled a special

SpiceJet-Axis Bank credit card livery on a SpiceJet Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

The products are designed to enable customers to use the rewards earned on their daily spends for booking flights and add-ons, thus encouraging both travel and digital payments embedded with benefits of SpiceJet's frequent flyer program, SpiceClub.

Customers can earn benefits up to 7% on the Voyage Black credit card which is a Top-tier offering in the travel credit card segment. In addition, the redemption of earned points does not

have any limitations on blackout dates, festival demand, and are on first-come basis. Cardholders would get exclusive SpiceClub membership with direct entry in either Silver or Gold tiers, and special benefits like complimentary or discounted travel add-ons, priority check-in, SpiceMax upgrade, preferred seat selection, complimentary meal etc.

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I am delighted to announce the launch of the SpiceJet-Axis Bank co-branded Credit Card. This card will make every customer journey an even

more rewarding one. We are the pioneers of the frequent flyer program for budget airlines in the country and this partnership with Axis Bank significantly strengthens the value offering of SpiceClub. Our association with Axis Bank – founded on the shared vision to offer unparalleled customer experience – is yet another innovative step towards creating a world class travel experience. I hope to see our customers enjoying the benefits of this rewarding collaboration as much as they love to fly with us."

The Price Band of the Offer has been fixed at ₹39 per Equity Share to ₹42 per Equity Share of face of ₹10 each. Bids can be made for a minimum of 350 Equity Shares and in multiples of 350 Equity Shares thereafter.

The Issue offer comprises (i) fresh issue of equity shares face value ₹10 each share aggregating to ₹10,040

million (The "Fresh Issue") and (ii) Offer for Sale up to 118,507,493 equity shares by Promoter Selling Shareholders and GoI Selling Shareholder (The "Offer for Sale").

The Equity Shares offered in this Offer are proposed to be listed on both BSE Limited ("BSE") and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE", together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges").

Axis Capital Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, JM Financial Limited and SBI Capital Markets Limited are the Book Running Lead Managers to the Offer.

## JSW Infrastructure begins commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Terminal in Odisha

**Paradip/ Bhubaneswar :** JSW Infrastructure, India's leading ports company and part of US\$ 13 billion JSW Group, has begun commercial operations at Paradip East Quay Coal Terminal in Odisha. This is a fully-mechanized terminal at Paradip Port Trust with an annual coal handling capacity of 30 million tons. The coal terminal has been built as a cape compliant terminal and will handle capesize vessels once the dredging at Paradip Port is completed. The terminal has capacity to unload 25 rakes per day and can load two vessels simultaneously. The infrastructure of the terminal is built to ensure higher productivity while reducing overall logistics cost to power producers.

The company has invested approximately Rs 1,300 crore to establish this terminal at Paradip Port. Paradip Port Trust awarded JSW Infrastructure to develop a fully-mechanized coal terminal on Build, Operate & Transfer basis for 30 years. Following the commissioning of this coal terminal, JSW Infrastructure's current cargo capacity crosses 150 MTPA. It aims to have a total cargo handling capacity of 200 MTPA by FY24.

Commenting on its coal terminal at Paradip, Mr. Arun Maheshwari, Joint MD & CEO of JSW Infrastructure said, "Paradip Port continues to be an attractive sea route for coal movement. With the commissioning of this terminal, India can now offer

cape size shipments with efficient operations. During the last few months, steam coal prices globally have witnessed sharp increase forcing thermal power plants and other coal based industry to switch to domestic coal. Start of this coal terminal has come at the right time to fill up the demand gap of domestic coal.

Through high productivity and larger shipment size, we hope to reduce overall logistics costs for our coal cargo customers. As the country pursues PM's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, the total thermal coal demand in India is expected to remain strong and our endeavor would be to maximize fulfillment by domestic producers.

Bhubaneswar : Sony India today announced the launch of BRAVIA 32W830K television with attractive picture quality and life like sound. The all-new 80 cm (32) HD ready Google TV lets you enjoy movies, games and shows from apps or broadcast in an instant with advanced voice controls and built-in Chromecast.

Now seamlessly integrate Google TV and bring together more than 700,000 movies, shows, live TV and more from apps and subscriptions and organize seamlessly. With BRAVIA 32W830K, browse content from across your apps, intelligently organized just for you. Customers can easily find something to watch with personalized recommendations and bookmark shows and movies by adding a watchlist from phone and watch it on TV to keep track of what to watch. Users can even add to their Watchlist from their phone or laptop with Google Search and find everything in one place. BRAVIA 32W830K supports Apple Home Kit and AirPlay that seamlessly integrates Apple devices like iPads and iPhones with the TV for effortless content streaming. Easily control your TV with Hands-free voice capabilities. The hands-free voice control is built into the TV, no need to reach for the remote every time to search for entertainment, get answers, or control the TV and smart home devices. Simply say, "OK Google" to issue a voice command.

Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) is duly recognized as a pioneer in 'Skill Integrated Higher Education'. Its unique model lays specific emphasis on creating sustainable livelihoods on a national scale in challenging geographies

through education that results in employability and sparks entrepreneurship. This model has been recognized by multiple Governments (Central and State), International Organizations such as UNESCO and the World Bank as well as Policy Think-tanks such as the Niti Ayog.

Centurion University has continually strived to be a best-in-class human resource development hub that builds employable, enterprising and society centric youth through industry relevant education, skill

further commented, "A death claim is the ultimate test of a Life Insurance product, and it is the 'dharma' of a Life Insurer to honour all such claims with speed and accuracy. We continue to be fully committed and financially stable at 235% solvency (against the regulatory requirement of 150%), to meet all customer claims that may arise in the times ahead."

Experian launches new cloud-based decisioning solution – PowerCurve® Strategy Management

**MUMBAI:** Experian, the world's leading global information services company, has launched a new PowerCurve® Strategy Management solution, a powerful decisioning solution delivered as software-as-a-service via cloud. The solution is designed to help organisations leverage data and make faster, secure, and informed business decisions.

PowerCurve® is a unified platform that helps businesses understand and leverage their data across the entire customer life cycle – be it acquisition, retention or growth – to make fast, efficient decisions that support their strategic goals. With the new solution, businesses will be able to quickly adapt their decision-based strategies at lower operational cost while harnessing the power of cloud.

## RELIANCE NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE RECORDS STRONG GROWTH IN FY22

**Mumbai :** Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited, a JV between Reliance Capital and Nippon Life of Japan, announced its financial results for the year ended March 31, 2022. The key performance highlights as on March 31, 2022 include:

Commenting on the company's strong performance in FY22, Mr. Ashish Vohra, ED & CEO, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance said, "FY22 continued to pose its own set of challenges with the outbreak of the second, and then the third wave of the pandemic. We are grateful for the support we have received from our customers, employees, distributors, service providers and their families, that powered our journey of providing maximum value to each

one of our stakeholders." Mr. Vohra further highlighted that in a volatile economic environment of today, there is a heightened appreciation of Life Insurance for ensuring certainty of life coverage as well as financial investments. These guarantees are designed to drive durable long-term returns and to help customers fulfill their life goals and form the

# Colin Munro retires from international cricket

**New Delhi:** Colin Munro has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect. The aggressive New Zealand batter, who has scored over 3000 runs in international cricket, has not played for the national side in the last four years with his most recent appearance coming in a T20I against India in 2020. The left-hander first made his debut in a T20I in December 2012 before making his ODI debut the following month. He has played only one Test in his career, back in January 2013 as he was predominantly considered a white-ball specialist. In total, he represented New Zealand 123 times across formats and ended up scoring over 3000 runs.

Munro is the only New



Zealand batter with three centuries in T20Is and was a part of the T20 World Cup squads in 2014 and 2016 and was also part of the squad that finished runners-up in the ODI World Cup in 2019. The veteran batter has been plying his trade in franchise cricket around the globe and

revealed that he decided to retire after failing to find a spot in the 2024 T20 World Cup squad. "Playing for the BLACKCAPS has always been the biggest achievement in my playing career," the 37-year-old said. "I never felt prouder than donning that jersey, and the fact

that I've been able to do that 123 times across all formats is something I will always be incredibly proud of. Although it has been a while since my last appearance, I never gave up hope that I might be able to return off the back of my franchise T20 form. With the announcement of the

BLACKCAPS squad for the T20 World Cup now is the perfect time to close that chapter officially."

NZC chief executive Scott Weenink reserved rich praise for Munro, labelling him as one of the pioneers of 360-degree style batting. "Colin was one of our first players to embrace the aggressive, 360-degree style batting that is now accepted all around the world as best practice," he said. "He was one of the pioneers of the new game, an innovative batsman who took calculated risk-taking to a new level, and led what was to become a revolution in the way short-form cricket was played. We thank him for his amazing contribution in more than hundred international games, and wish him well in his future pursuits."

# Hasaranga back to lead Sri Lanka at T20 World Cup

**New Delhi:** Dushmantha Chameera, Pathum Nissanka, Dhananjaya De Silva and Dunith Wellalage have been included in Sri Lanka's 15-player squad for the 2024 T20 World Cup, announced on Thursday by Sri Lanka Cricket.

Avishka Fernando, Niroshan Dickwella, Binura Fernando and Jeffrey Vandersay have been left out from the squad that played against Bangladesh in March. Squad: Wanindu Hasaranga (C), Charith Asalanka (VC), Kusal Mendis, Pathum Nissanka, Kamindu Mendis, Sadeera Samarakrama, Angelo Mathews, Dasun Shanaka, Dhananjaya De Silva, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Dushantha Chameera, Nuwan Thushara, Matheesha Pathirana, Dilshan

Madushanka Chameera will lead the pace attack which includes several promising youngsters to give him company - Nuwan Thusara, Matheesha Pathirana and Dilshan Madhushanka. The pace attack will also include Angelo Mathews and Dasun Shanaka. The spin attack will be led by Hasaranga, along with Dunith Wellalage and Maheesh Theekshana. They will also have the part-time options of Charith Asalanka and Dhananjaya De Silva in the squad. The squad will be led by all-rounder Wanindu

Hasaranga, who missed out on the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League due to an injury. Meanwhile, Charith Asalanka has been named as his deputy. Sri Lanka's campaign begins on June 3 against South Africa at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York, followed by the clash against Bangladesh in Dallas on June 7, against Nepal in Florida on June 11 and Netherlands in St Lucia on June 16. Asitha Fernando, Vijayakanth Viyaskanth, Bhanuka Rajapaksa and Janith Liyanage have been named in the travelling reserves.

## India would want Virat Kohli to continue IPL 2024 form in T20 World Cup: Anil Kumble

**New Delhi:** Anil Kumble has said that the Indian cricket team fans would want Virat Kohli to continue his IPL 2024 form in the upcoming T20 World Cup. Kohli continued to pile on the runs this season as he scored 92 off just 47 balls to help RCB win their 4th game on the trot. The star batter's innings proved to be the difference in Dharamsala.

RCB would win the match by 60 runs as Kohli continued to rule the roost when it comes to the Orange Cap standings. The RCB star currently has 634 runs in 12 matches with a strike-rate of 153.51 and an average of 70.44. Kohli will be a key member of the India squad that will head to the West Indies and the USA for the T20 World Cup.

Speaking to JioCinema, Kumble said that Kohli is always engaged in every single moment of the game and just wanted to take a cheeky dig at the PBKS batter.

"He's engaged in every single moment of every game and nothing like that Rossouw had on display. And he made sure that he let Rossouw know exactly back at you. And it was a critical time as well."

"Kohli's engaged in every single ball of every game, and he doesn't miss a thing. And he certainly didn't miss Rossouw's celebration for his 50," said Watson. Kohli also showed his agility on the field when he inflicted the fantastic run-out of Shashank Singh with a fine effort. RCB will be next in action against DC at the Chinnaswamy stadium on May 12.

**New Delhi:** UEFA Europa League: Xabi Alonso-managed Bayer Leverkusen clinched the European record for being undefeated for the most number of games, after their draw against Roma in the Europa League semi-final. Leverkusen defeated Roma by 4-2 on aggregate to secure their spot in the final against Atalanta.

Xabi Alonso managed Bayer Leverkusen clinched the record for being the team who has gone undefeated for the most number of games after their thrilling stalemate against Roma in their UEFA Europa League semi-final second leg on May 10. With a 2-2 draw against the Daniel Rossi-managed Roma on Friday, Leverkusen are now 49 games unbeaten across all competitions, which is one more than

SL Benfica's 59-year-old strong record. Having already won the first leg by a comfortable 2-0 margin, the results at the BayArena sealed the place for Xabi's side in the Europa League final against Atalanta on May 23. Having conceded two goals from the penalty spot by Roma's Leandro Parades, the match saw the German giants almost slip off their phenomenal streak and also their treble winning hopes. However, Leverkusen yet again came in clutch and managed to keep their record intact due to a late own-goal from Roma's Gianluca Mancini and a stoppage-time goal from Josep Stanicic. Leverkusen's pattern of grabbing late

goals and extending their brilliant record, has been a constant sight for the football world this season, which has seen them turn from underdogs to heavyweights in an emphatic fashion. After completing their fairytale run of winning the 2023-2024 Bundesliga title, which was also their first-ever, the football world started anticipating

# We're managing his workload: Fleming on Dhoni's batting position

**New Delhi:** Is MS Dhoni injured or fit? Why did he have to bat at No. 9 as was seen against Punjab Kings a few days ago? Will he do the same again at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera on Thursday? Even as Harbhajan Singh kicked off a debate about Dhoni's utility in the Chennai Super Kings setup should he be batting so low in the order, the franchise has come up with its own version of the Dhoni's batting position.

"We're managing his workload," says Stephen Fleming. "It's risky and we've seen that early on in the season with a little bit of muscle injury, that if he bats too long, we run the risk of losing him. So we're trying to find that balance where he can

have an impact on the match by just hitting sixes and fours, which he's done pretty well and keep as well as some of the best in the competition, if not the best in the competition."

While the CSK coach ruled out any injury to the legend, as is being speculated, he insists that Dhoni would not be asked to bat in a situation where he would have to stay at the wicket for too long.

"So don't underestimate his influence on the team just because he comes in at number nine. There's a timing aspect, but we're very wary of what he can give us and we will max that out, but we don't want to max it out where we lose him. So it's a delicate balance."

Fleming's explanation was a curt riposte to



three overs, four overs with the bat and his keeping and his ability to share tactical advice with the new captain is really important. So we're valuing some other things," Fleming said.

Specifically asked if Dhoni

is nursing an injury, Fleming categorically denied it. "I've told you, there's nothing there in terms of small muscle injury ages ago, but it's only become news now. Yeah, he can run. He's not going to bat for a long period of time, so finding that point, keeping is fine.

every couple of balls. So it's a specific role that we're using him for." Meanwhile, in another entirely different development, Gujarat Titans have expressed displeasure over what they called preferential treatment. They were upset that Chennai Super Kings were allowed to practise range hitting from the centre of the Narendra Modi Stadium when they should not be. As per the practice session guidelines of the IPL, range hitting is not allowed on Match Day minus two. It is permitted only on the eve of the game. Teams will be able to practise range hitting in the last 60 minutes of their scheduled practice session. Teams can also utilise the same wicket for