

## CHSE to announce Odisha Plus-II results May 26

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) Wednesday informed that the annual Plus II Examination-2024 results will be announced May 26.

The council informed that the results of Arts, Science, Commerce and Vocational streams will be declared on the same day.

Students can access their results by visiting the official website at [www.orissaresults.nic.in](http://www.orissaresults.nic.in). They can also check the results through the Digilocker portal or their high school e-space, the council added.

## Election Commission asks BJP, Congress to desist from campaigning along caste, religious lines



**New Delhi(KCN):** The Election Commission Wednesday asked the BJP and the Congress to desist from campaigning along caste, community, language, and religious lines, asserting that India's socio-cultural milieu cannot be made a casualty to elections.

Nearly a month after it

issued notice to BJP president JP Nadda on an opposition charge that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a divisive speech in Rajasthan's Banswara, the poll watchdog rejected his defence and asked him and his party's star campaigners to desist from campaigning on religious and communal lines.

It also asked the BJP to stop campaign speeches that may divide society. Along with Nadda, the EC had issued a similar notice to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asking him to respond to the complaints filed by the

BJP against him and the main opposition party's senior leader Rahul Gandhi regarding their remarks.

The EC also rejected his defence and asked Congress not to politicise defence forces and make potentially divisive statements regarding socio-economic composition of the armed forces.

It also asked the Congress to ensure that its star campaigners and candidates do not make statements which give false impression that the Constitution may be abolished or sold.

The EC asked the presidents of the two national parties to issue formal notes to their star campaigners to correct their discourse, exercise care and maintain decorum.

## Modi, Shah likely to revisit Odisha for campaigning



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Odisha May 29, aiming to provide a final boost to BJP's electioneering efforts in the state, party sources said. Modi's upcoming visit will include addresses at two election rallies in Balasore and Kendrapada Parliamentary constituencies, BJP's election in-charge for Odisha, Vijay Pal Singh.

Ahead of Modi's visit, Tomar said. This will mark Modi's fourth visit to Odisha within a month, highlighting BJP's concerted efforts to strengthen its electoral prospects in the state. Previously, the PM visited Odisha May 6, 10, and 19, during which he addressed seven election rallies and held two road shows in Bhubaneswar and Puri. Ahead of Modi's visit,

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also scheduled to visit Odisha May 25, where he will address election rallies in Baripada, Chandbali, Korei, and Nimapara (Jagatsinghpur). Odisha's Lok Sabha and Assembly polls are being conducted in four phases. The first two rounds took place May 13 and 20, with two more phases scheduled for May 25 and June 1. Vote counting is set for June 4.

## Odisha records 73.50% voter turnout in second phase of LS, Assembly polls



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha recorded a voter turnout of 73.50 per cent in the second round of polls to five Lok Sabha seats and 35 Assembly segments, the Election Commission said.

The highest polling of 79.78 per cent was registered in the Bargarh seat followed by Bolangir (77.52 per cent), Kandhamal (74.13 per cent), Sundargarh (73.02 per cent) and Aska (62.77

per cent), it said in a statement.

The voter turnout in the five parliamentary constituencies in 2019 was 72.09 per cent.

Among the assembly segments, Bhatli under the Bargarh seat recorded the highest polling at 84.11 per cent, followed by 83.99 per cent in Kantamali.

Constituencies where the voter turnout crossed the 80-per cent mark were Sonepur (83.21 per cent),

Jharsuguda (82.75 per cent), Birmaharajpur (81.92 per cent), Boudh (81.44 per cent), Bonai (81.14 per cent) and Bijepur (80.68 per cent).

Aska recorded the lowest turnout of 59.05 per cent among the Assembly segments, the statement said.

The second phase of the Lok Sabha elections and Assembly polls in Odisha took place May 20.

Among the major parties,

BJD candidates have an average asset value of Rs 27.12 crore, followed by BJD candidates with Rs 6.61 crore, and Congress aspirants with Rs 2.37 crore.

Baijayant Panda, the

BJP nominee for Kendrapara, is the wealthiest among the candidates, with declared assets worth Rs 148.08 crore.

Following him is independent candidate Sriram Pandey with Rs 18.23 crore and sitting BJP MP Manjulata Mandal from Bhadrak with Rs 14.86 crore.

Candidates with lowest declared assets are Bhanumati Das of Utikal Samaj Party with Rs

1,500 (Jagatsinghpur), independent candidate Deepak Sankar Thakur Giri with Rs 6,000 (Balasore), and BSP's Bibhuti Bhusan Majhi with Rs 6,061 (Jagatsinghpur).

ADR also reported that 15 candidates have declared criminal cases against themselves, with 10 facing serious criminal charges.

Educational qualifications among the candidates vary, with 19 having completed education between class V and XII, and 43 being graduates or holding higher degrees. Additionally, two candidates hold diplomas, and two have declared themselves as just literate.

## BJD moves EC against BJP's Sambit Patra for using Jagannath temple pic in advertisement

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):**

Odisha's ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday lodged a complaint with the Election Commission (EC) against BJP's Puri Parliamentary Constituency candidate Sambit Patra for using a photo of Sri Jagannath Temple in an advertisement issued by him in the local media.

In a petition to the chief election commissioner Rajiv Kumar, the BJD highlighted that the full-page advertisement featuring Patra's picture with Sri Jagannath Temple in the background also had the BJP's "lotus" symbol.

The BJD also noted that Monday, Patra made an "offensive" comment stating that "Lord Jagannath is the devotee

of Modi," which

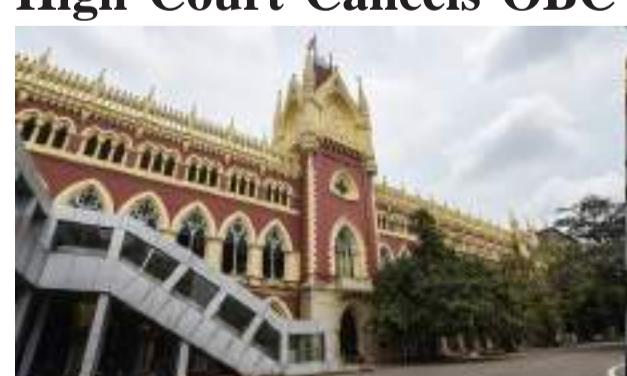
severely affected the sentiments of millions of Odias worldwide.

"But the issue here is issuing a full page advertisement with his photo and the temple in background along with

party symbol. We strongly object to it and consider this to be a violation of the poll code for political parties and candidates.

"The BJD argued that the advertisement violated the Model Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates.

Neither BJP, nor Patra were available for comment.



**Kolkata(KCN):** The Calcutta High Court has cancelled all certificates to Other Backward Classes issued in Bengal since 2011 under the Trinamool Congress administration, calling them "illegal". This, however, would not affect the people currently holding jobs or seats in educational institutions or made applications with caste

certificates, the court said. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said she "will not accept" the order, which will "take away the rights granted to the Tapashili community". The court struck down reservation for several communities as Other Backward Classes under a new law of the state government passed in 2012. Justices Tapabrata



party symbol. We strongly object to it and consider this to be a violation of the poll code for political parties and candidates.

The BJD urged the EC to ensure that all related expenses be appropriately recorded in Patra's expense account.

**Dream of God**

By Jasaswini Pattanaik

The significance which is in unity is an eternal wonder. Oneness is the perfect expansion Of our inner reality. Let our heart's oneness only increase To make us feel That we belong to a universal world ' family, And this world ' family



Is a fulfilled Dream of God.  
Chairperson, Nalanda Public School, Cuttack  
E-mail : nalandapublicschoolsodisha@gmail.com

**To Live of Love**  
by Aparna Nayak

The eve His life of love drew near its end, Thus Jesus spoke: "Whoever loveth Me, And keeps My word as Mine own faithful friend, My Father, then and I his guests will be; Within his heart will make Our dwelling above. Our palace home, true type of heaven above. There, filled with peace, We will that he shall rest, With us, in love. "Love is not a thing to understand. Love is not a thing to feel. Love is not a thing to give and receive. Love is a thing only to become And eternally be."



New Delhi

**Summer**

Mr. Sadyant Satapathy

Summer came  
Let's play indoor games  
Let's play Carrom & Ludo  
Let's play Sudoku  
  
Come on to eat ice creams  
Come on to drink cold drinks  
Let's eat strawberry  
Let's eat blueberry  
  
Let's eat watermelon  
Let's drink juice of lemon  
Let's go to sea beach  
To play in water of sea beach

**Nirvana**

By Dr. Arundhati Devi



All is abolished but the mute Alone.  
The mind from thought released, the heart from grief,  
Grow inexistent now beyond belief;  
There is no I, no Nature, known-unknown.  
The city, a shadow picture without tone,  
Floats, quivers unreal; forms without relief  
Flow, a cinema's vacant shapes; like a reef  
Foundering in shoreless gulfs the world is done.  
Only the illimitable Permanent  
Is here. A Peace stupendous, featureless, still.  
Replaces all, – what once was I, in It  
A silent unnamed emptiness content  
Either to fade in the Unknowable  
Or thrill with the luminous seas of the Infinite.

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

**Quotation of the Day**

**"Every day is a good day. There is something to learn, care and celebrate."**

— Amit Ray



Let's sow seeds  
Let's plant trees  
So that we can sit in shadow  
And enjoy the beautiful meadow  
Class-VI A  
Mother's Public School, Puri

**Girl.. Pretty looking**

Miss Pranshi



Eyes just like the beauty..  
Looking like the flowers..  
May be called cuty  
Acting like innocent  
Talking like sagacity..  
Ohh.. Umm..!!  
  
What you call stupid..??  
Ohh..  
Ohh little cupid..  
You're so stupid,  
Don't you know..!!

You too easy for now..  
Dont wanna lie,  
Little blue berry pie  
Listen the conclusion..  
  
Gonna get killed,  
Be trapped in a small cage,  
Broken from here and there..  
Here and there...  
  
Warning after warning  
(Soft wind blow)  
Gonna be trapped..  
(Soft drum)  
Enough, enough..  
Tired of looking..

Tired of caring..  
Face the conclusion..  
You.. Yourself  
Running away..  
Crying all day..  
Faking with a smile,  
Don't you think, I know..  
All I know..  
Darling, you don't know..  
You are a butterfly,  
Stuck in a spider web,  
Together forever.. With them..

Never love a person, who doesn't love you,  
They can never understand your importance  
Be aware of what you are doing, saying etc..!!  
Class 6, Shivalik House  
Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Bagudi, Soro,  
Balasore

**Lord Buddha: The architect of religious and individual evolution**

- Lalit Garg -



a corrupt form of the word 'Vaisakha'. On this day, lamps are lit in Buddhist houses, which are decorated with flowers. Buddhist followers from all over the world make pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya, a city in Bihar, and offer prayers. The Bodhi Tree is worshipped there in this city. Garlands and colourful flags are decorated on its branches. Milk and perfumed water are poured on this Holy Tree's roots. Lamps are lit around the tree. Food and clothes are donated as alms to the poor.

Mahatma Gautam Buddha was the founder of Buddhism. During his life, he always taught people the values of non-violence, love and compassion. Gautam Buddha was born in a royal family in Lumbini, Nepal in 563 BC. Mahatma Buddha is considered to be one of the most important and greatest Indian spiritual thinkers, an accomplished monk, social reformer, and a religious leader. He touched the hearts not only of influential people, but also the common people, and brought positive changes in their lives. Hence, he can be called the architect of a religious revolution as well as a personal and ideological revolution. His revolutionary speech is not only indicative of his personality, but also a sharp sarcasm on religious, social distortions and

superstitions that serves as an inspiration for change, which changed the direction of life of countless people around the globe. Before becoming a monk, Buddha was Prince Siddhartha of Kapilavastu. In search of peace, he left home, family, kingdom etc. at the age of 27. While travelling, Siddhartha reached Sarnath near Kashi, where his heart changed. Here he did severe penance under the Bodhi tree in Bodh Gaya. After severe penance, Siddhartha attained enlightenment and became famous as the great monk Gautam Buddha and illuminated the whole world with his knowledge.

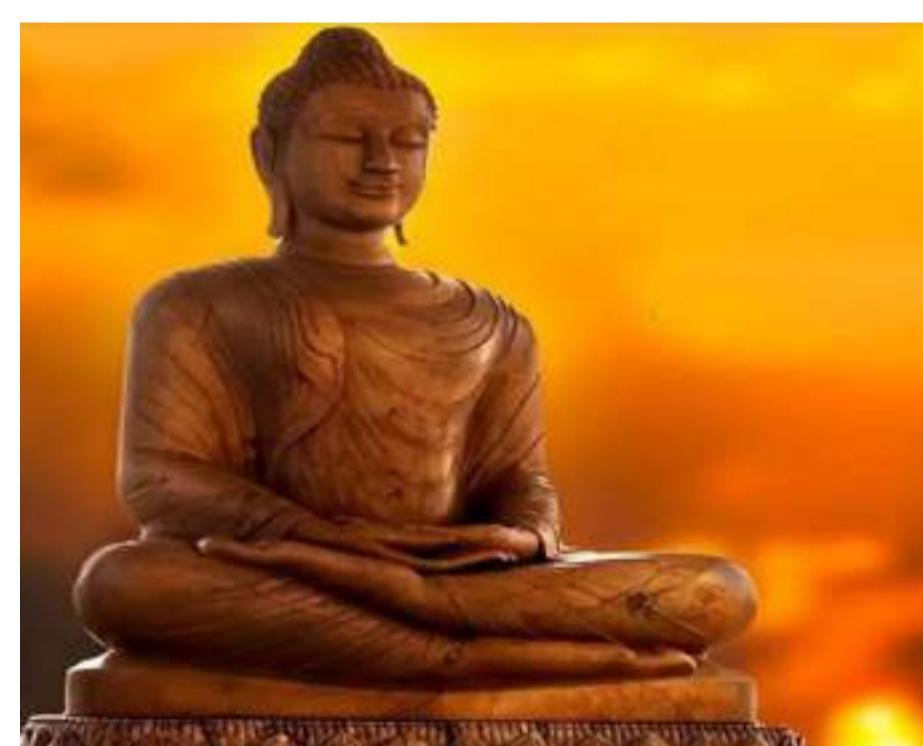
When Buddha saw the people of his era surrounded by ignorance regarding religious-social, spiritual and other rituals, and found the common people bogged deep in ignorance in the name of religion, saw women being insulted, saw atrocities against Shudras - then his heart was stirred in sympathy for the people. The Himalayan efforts he made to elevate the life of the people are amazing and astonishing. According to Buddha, it is better to win over oneself than to win thousands of battles in life. If you win over yourself, then victory will always be yours. No one can snatch it away from you. Gautam Buddha says that a person can never end evil with evil. Well, if someone cannot erase something from his

own heart, how can he erase it from thousands of other hearts? The foundation of a government is not laid on the ground of love, increases by sharing. It

India is not going to be cured by ordinary political movements. For this, the whole life will have to be sacrificed; leaving the attachment to

people started becoming followers of Buddhism. A few decades ago, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar adopted Buddhism along with a large number of his followers so that they could get an equal position in Hindu society.

It is very important even today to give practical form to the principle of equality of Buddhism. Basically, Buddhism remained in line with Hinduism, and Mahatma Buddha started a revolutionary and reformist movement by staying within Hinduism. It is a big expectation of the present era to highlight his contribution in the context of social revolution. Only by doing this, will we be able to build a healthy society. Buddha preached an egalitarian society. Where there is passion and hatred, inequality flourishes. From this point of view, the source of all problems is attachment and hatred. A person keeps wandering in the corridors of inequality to nourish his selfishness, to display ego, to humiliate others, to grab power and wealth. Before coming among the people, before sharing his life experiences, before doing severe penance, Buddha made him alone, made he empty. He underwent rigorous penance. He learned the truth of life. Then he said that do not let anything enter inside you which can pollute the inner world. Do not see badly, do not listen to bad, and do not say badly. This message of emptiness is



never decreases. One should be afraid of a deceitful and evil friend, rather than a wild animal. A wild animal can harm your body, but a bad friend can harm your intellect. According to Gautam Buddha, three things can never be kept hidden in life. They are Sun, Moon and Truth. In reality, the main objective of both governance and religious governance is to lead the people on the right path. But the dictators of governance are themselves creatures suffering from illusion, so they are not able to be completely successful in the work of social reform. Well, if someone cannot

affection and goodwill; it is usually laid on the foundation of fear, terror and oppression. This is the main reason that a government, even while protecting justice, morality and peace amongst the people, cannot establish a more permanent system. Whereas a religious government is based on mutual love and goodwill, as a result, it fundamentally changes the heart of the society by showing the path of truth and by removing sinfulness from all sides. It establishes permanent justice, morality and peace. Lord Buddha ultimately came to the conclusion that this incurable disease of

a petty family, the ideal of a 'world family' will have to be adopted. One cannot mingle with the common people by dressing up in royal attire. To reach there, one will have to accept voluntary smallness, that is, one will have to accept monkhood. The greatest gift of Buddha to humanity is to end discrimination. It is an irony that on this land of Buddha, untouchability and discrimination still exist in some form or the other. At that time, the society was divided into different classes due to untouchability. When Lord Buddha talked about mutual unity by considering everyone as equal, a large number of

the path to happiness, peace, and samadhi. He said to become your own lamp - be your own lamp. Because day and night being surrounded by resolutions and options, happiness-sadness, joy-sadness, being scorched by the worries of tomorrow, carrying the burden of stress, in such a situation, how and when can the mind be empty? How can it become balanced? How can one become meditative? To achieve these spiritual conditions, the practice of living in the present moment is necessary. Neither the memory of the past, nor the worry of the future can help you. One who learns to live today should understand that he has attained the meaning of human life and only a society made up of such people can be balanced, healthy and egalitarian. There is a need to inculcate the teachings of Mahatma Buddha in life for building an advanced and balanced society, and to inculcate Buddha-like qualities in every person. Only by doing this, can we make the society healthy? Do not limit Buddha to mere teachings; rather make Buddha a part of your life, incorporate Buddha in your life.

Writer, Journalist,  
Columnist  
E-253, Saraswati  
Kunj Apartment  
25 IP Extensions,  
Patparganj, Delhi-92  
Email:  
lalitgarg11@gmail.com  
Phone: 22727486,  
9811051133

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Gawasik Bajaj n tiptop condition  
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Contact: 2555326

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Required Single / Double / Triple Storied North/East facing building at Puri. Contact: 9437-143483



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## WANTED

## Dunki To Have Better Screen Space, Collection Than Salaar, Predicts Trade Analyst Girish Wankhede

As the Christmas season ushers in cinematic showdowns, the clash between Shah Rukh Khan's 'Dunki' and Prabhas' 'Salaar' is poised to be the ultimate face-off at the box office. Trade analyst Girish Wankhede, in an exclusive conversation with TOI, shared insights into the anticipated battle between these two mega releases.

Wankhede emphasized the daring move of 'Salaar' opting for a direct clash with 'Dunki,' considering its high-profile competition from SRK and Rajkumar Hirani's collaboration. Despite having the opportunity to release during Pongal in January, the makers of 'Salaar' chose the Christmas battleground, a move Wankhede described as "very courageous."

"Salaar: Part 1 Ceasefire" will be a big release because it comes from the production house, which has given the astonishing 'KGF' franchise and speaks volumes of its production value and ambition.



Written and directed by Prashant Neel and backed up by Hombale Films which believes in astrology to the extent of releasing and clashing it with 'Dunki' instead of coming in the second week of January during Pongal."

I see it as a very courageous act owing to its impressive screen-sharing clash with mighty 'Dunki,' which is riding high on the super successful duo of Shah Rukh Khan and Rajkumar Hirani. 'Dunki' will have more acceptability with exhibitors, whereas 'Salaar' will score

because of its precedence and newfound love for South Indian action films," said Girish.

Further, upon analyzing the trailer of both movies, he mentioned the highlights that speak volumes about the impact that the film will have on the audience and the market.

Looking at both the trailers and the excitement right now, I think 'Dunki' will have a better screen space and better collections because this year seemingly belongs to Shah Rukh Khan and he may score a hattrick as

he still is in great form and shape."

'Salaar's trailer still carries a hangover of 'KGF' and with Prabhas and Prithviraj Sukumaran, It doesn't give that extra edge irrespective of its great look. 'Dunki' is a sure-shot winner in terms of the first-day collection and it will not at all be less than 40 crores," he quoted.

In conclusion, Wankhede envisioned 'Dunki' as a global phenomenon, citing its charm, widespread appeal, and the compelling narrative it brings.

## Sunny Deol, Ayushmann Khurrana's 'Border 2' shoot to begin in October

Sunny Deol and Ayushmann Khurrana's 'Border 2' shoot will begin in October 2024. The film's production comes after the success of 'Gadar 2'.

After the success of 'Gadar 2', Sunny Deol will start shooting for the sequel of his 1997 blockbuster, 'Border' in October 2024. The film also stars Ayushmann Khurrana. Directed by Anurag Singh, the film is produced by JP Dutta, Nidhi Dutta and Bhushan Kumar.

A source close to the 'Border 2' team shared, "The team behind 'Border 2' has been working tirelessly to prepare everything and it's been



a long time in the making as they wanted to do justice to the magnitude of the first film. Now, as the preparations are almost done, the team will begin shooting. As it stands now, the team will begin shooting in October."

For the unaware, 'Border 2' starring Sunny Deol was shelved in 2015. On The Ranveer Show podcast, the actor said, "Sunne toh mujhe bhi aaya hai (I've also heard that they're making Border 2) (laughs). Ye hum bahut pehle karne wale the, 2015 mein. Par phir meri picture nahi chali, toh log ghabra ke nahi banana chah rahe. Ab sab bol rahe hain humein karni hai. (We were meant to start it a lot earlier, in 2015. But then my films flopped, so people were scared to make it then. Now, everyone wants to make it.)"

Sunny Deol added, "Wo characters bade hi pyaare the. Aaj main koi film dekhta hu toh mujhe lagta hai mujhe unn characters ka extension mile. Wo karne ka dil toh bahut karta hai. Lekin kahaani bhi waisi hi honi chahiye, jisse wo character ko ek justification de. Jissey log jo ummeed le ke ja rahe hain ki humey mazza mile, wo mazza unhne mile jaise unko meri film 'Gadar 2' mein mil raha hai. (Those characters were really lovely. When I watch a film today, I want to see an extension of those characters. I feel like doing it, but the story should lend a justification to that character. So that those who come to watch the film and hope it'll be fun, they're not disappointed, like they're getting that fun in my film Gadar 2.)"

Reportedly, 'Border 2' will hit the screens on the Republic Day weekend in 2026.

## Dhak Dhak: Fatima Sana Shaikh Takes A Road Trip Of Self-Discovery



Having always impressed the audience with her impeccable performances in her films, Fatima Sana Shaikh is on her way to delivering yet another one. The trailer of her upcoming film 'Dhak Dhak' has been released and nothing to doubt Fatima is leading her way ahead with an immensely intriguing story and an interesting character.

Bringing a never seen

before avatar, the actress is seen riding on the bike on the road of self-discovery with a bunch of other talented actors. 'Dhak Dhak' trailer showcases Fatima as a travel blogger, Sky. Carrying a bold, fierce, and modern personality, the actress seems to have stepped into this new character effortlessly piquing the excitement to watch her in the film. The trailer of 'Dhak Dhak' has

indeed come as an absolute treat for Fatima's fans. It would be exciting to see the actress in this new coming-of-age drama along with a bunch of talented actresses like Ratna Pathak Shah, Dia Mirza, and Sanjana Sanghi featuring with her. It is to be noted that that 'Dhak Dhak' is the maiden production of actress Taapsee Pannu. The film will bring a never-seen-before story of four

women, all different from each other, and daring to ride bikes to world's highest motorable road, the Khardungla Pass. The film stars Fatima Sana Shaikh, Ratna Pathak, Dia Mirza and Sanjana Sanghi in lead roles.

Apart from 'Dhak Dhak', Fatima has interesting films in her future line. She will be next seen in Sam Bahadur and 'Metro.. In Dino'.

## Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Akhtar Organise Grand Success Party For Bambai Meri Jaan



Excel Entertainment is one of the leading production houses in Indian cinema and has always hit a chord with its content on every platform. While they have proved their mettle in the theatrical medium, their hands on the digital platform also have no match. Recently, the production house boomed the digital entertainment sector with their widely acclaimed show 'Bambai Meri Jaan'. The much-acclaimed show, released on Amazon Prime Video, served audiences with top-notch content, taking them into a completely new world

led by exceptional talents Avinash Tiwary and Kay Kay Menon. The show met with

widespread acclaim from every corner, with fans and audiences praising the content and the performances of the cast. Following the massive success of

to celebrate the success of the show. The success party was attended by the producers of the show, Farhan Akhtar, Ritesh Sidhwani, cast Avinash Tiwary, Kritika Kamra, Vivian Bhatena, director Shujaat Saudagar, and Rensil D'Silva, amongst others.

Excel Entertainment, which was co-founded by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar, has time and again served the audience with several blockbuster films such as 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara', 'Dil Chahta Hai', and many more.

# Result time: Who would become India's next PM?



Singh), Nagpur (Nitin G. Adkar). Unquestionably, they are among the most VIP seats.

As now everyone is forecasting about the possible results of the Lok Sabha poll, Mumbai based acclaimed astrologer, columnist and author Dr. J.P. Trikha has also done deep research on the basis of astrology to find which party is emerging as the single largest party. Says J.P. Trikha -

"My astrological research clearly says that BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to win the largest number of seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. There should not be any debate on this matter. Therefore, the president of India would invite Mr. Modi to form the government for the third time in a row."

# Vice President Attends Iran President Raisi's Funeral, Pays Tribute

**Tehran (KCN):** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday met Iran's acting President Mohammad Mokhber here and conveyed condolences over the tragic demise of President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in a helicopter crash.

Jagdeep Dhankhar, who is leading the Indian delegation at the official funeral ceremony, paid tributes to Raisi, Amir-Abdollahian, and other Iranian officials who died in the crash.

A one-day state mourning was observed across India on Tuesday as a mark of respect for Raisi. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar paid tributes to late President Raisi, late Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian, and other Iranian officials in Tehran



today, his office said in a post on X along with pictures of the event.

"VP Jagdeep Dhankhar met Acting President of Iran, Dr. Mohammad Mokhber in Tehran today. VP conveyed condolences on the tragic demise of President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister H.

Amir-Abdollahian," the External Affairs Ministry said in a separate post on X.

Jagdeep Dhankhar, who arrived here earlier in the day to attend the official funeral ceremony, was received by the Iranian authorities on his arrival in Tehran.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime

Minister Narendra Modi have conveyed their condolences on the demise of Raisi.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited the embassy of Iran in New Delhi on Tuesday to convey India's condolences on the loss.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

presided over a funeral on Wednesday for the country's late president, foreign minister, and others killed in the crash. Thousands of people attended the funeral procession of the late president and his companions.

Several world leaders attended the official funeral ceremony in Tehran.

The Iranian president, the country's foreign minister, and several other officials were found dead on Monday, hours after their helicopter crashed in a foggy, mountainous region in the northwestern part of the country, Iran state media reported. Raisi, 63, and his entourage were heading to Tabriz city after returning from a visit to a locality on the Azerbaijan-Iran border on Sunday.

# Will Arvind Kejriwal Accept Rahul Gandhi As PM? What He Said



**New Delhi (KCN):**

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday distanced himself from speculation he could become the next Prime Minister - if the Congress-led INDIA bloc wins the Lok Sabha election.

He also sidestepped questions about Rahul Gandhi as a prime ministerial candidate, saying no such discussion had taken place and that the INDIA bloc would take a decision after the election results.

Mr Kejriwal pointed out

the AAP is a "small

party... contesting only 22 seats" in this election; the comment has been seen as indicative that his chances of being PM, at this time, are remote.

Speaking to news agency PTI, he said, "I don't have any intention of becoming the next PM if INDIA

INDIA face. (and) have decided to rotate the PM's chair among themselves".

"The INDIA alliance doesn't have any leaders. The INDIA alliance wants five PMs in five years. The INDIA alliances neither have leaders nor have any intention for the development of the nation," he said.

The 'dynasty' jibe is a favoured BJP attack on the Congress and the Gandhi family. It was extended Tuesday by Mr Modi to Samajwadi Party boss and ex-Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi - widely seen as the opposition's leading PM face - last month outlined the bloc's plans in this regard. He said a candidate would be chosen after the election result.

The selection of a candidate, he stressed, would be made by all INDIA constituents.

"INDIA bloc has decided we are, together, fighting an ideological election. After winning the election (questions like) 'who will be the leader', 'who will be the PM'... the coalition will jointly decide."

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge offered a similar answer as far back as November, telling NDTV his party was against projecting any one individual to be sucked into a head-to-head against Mr Modi.

# "BJP Will Win 305 Seats": US Political Scientist's Lok Sabha Poll Prediction

**Mumbai (KCN):** The BJP will win 305 (+/- 10) seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, American political scientist and global political risk consultant Ian Bremmer told NDTV Profit in an exclusive interview Tuesday.

Mr Bremmer, the founder of the Eurasia Group, a risk and research consulting firm, also said the Indian general election, from a global political perspective, is "the only thing that looks stable and consistent... everything else (including the United States election due in November) is problematic".

"... We have an enormous amount of macro-level geopolitical uncertainty and the future of globalisation is not going the way companies want it to. Politics is inserting



itself into the global marketplace... wars, US-China relations, and the US election are all a big part of that," he said. "All of these not being managed well and these pressures are more negative. In fact, the only thing that looks stable and consistent, politically, is the India election. Everything else looks problematic."

Asked about his prediction for the Indian election, which is spread

across seven phases and began on April 19, Mr Bremmer said Eurasia Group research suggests the BJP will win 295-315 seats.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party, bidding for a third consecutive term, won the 2014 election with 282 seats (336 including its NDA partners) and the 2019 with 303 (353 with NDA allies).

The BJP is expected to

complete its hat-trick this year - a prediction backed by poll strategist Prashant Kishor, who engineered its 2014 win - although the Congress-led INDIA bloc is seen as mounting a strong challenge. Domestic political analysts believe the 2024 battle could come down to one big factor - can the opposition eat into the BJP's fanatical voter base in the Hindi heartland?

Mr Bremmer, though, stressed that his interest is not in the numbers.

"My interest is that of all the elections in the world (which includes polls in the European Union and, possibly, a national election in the United Kingdom) India, which has the largest democracy, has the smoothest transition. There is not lot of uncertainty about the Indian political system" he declared.

Mr Bremmer also hailed "free and fair, and transparent" Indian electoral process.

"Modi is almost certainly going to win a third term on the back of pretty strong economic performance and consistent reform (and) that, in the grand scheme, is a very stabilising message."

Mr Kejriwal pointed out the AAP is a "small party... contesting only 22 seats" in this election; the comment has been seen as indicative that his chances of being PM, at this time, are remote.

Speaking to news agency PTI, he said, "I don't have any intention of becoming the next PM if INDIA

INDIA face. Last week, at a press conference in Lucknow, the AAP chief responded with a categorical "No, I am not" when asked if he is in the running to become PM in the event of an INDIA win.

The INDIA grouping - formed in June last year to unite the opposition and stop Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP from claiming a third term - is contesting sans a candidate for the top job.

The BJP, on the other hand, continues to fight from behind Mr Modi's larger-than-life shadow.

The BJP has often mocked its rivals for not naming a PM candidate or even an alliance figurehead, which it has claimed underlines persistent rifts that reflect incompatible political ideologies.

Earlier today Home Minister Amit Shah - campaigning in Bengal's

Ghatal - ripped into the

opposition, declaring they had failed to name a

candidate because they had no leader of that

calibre. In a thinly-veiled

swipe at the Congress,

Mr Shah said his rivals only sought to extend their

"dynasty".

The opposition "does not have leaders or any intention to develop the country" he raged, and repeated his attack from last week; at rallies in Bihar the union minister claimed the INDIA bloc

"doesn't have a PM face

# NTPC Secures 3rd Rank at ATD BEST Award 2024

NTPC is the only PSU to receive the award for seven times in the last eight years



**New Delhi, (KCN):** NTPC has achieved an impressive milestone by securing the 3rd rank globally at the ATD BEST Award 2024, the highest ranking among all Indian companies. Notably, NTPC is the only PSU to have received this prestigious award seven times in the past eight years. The accolade was accepted by Ms. Rachana Singh Bhal, CGM (Strategic HR & Talent Management), at a distinguished ceremony held in New Orleans, USA, on 21st May, 2024. The ATD BEST Award, established by

Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA, is one of the most esteemed international recognitions in the field of Learning and Development (L&D). It honors organizations that leverage talent development as a strategic business tool and demonstrate enterprise-wide success through effective employee development practices. The ranking is determined through a rigorous evaluation and assessment process conducted by international experts of high integrity and global

eminence. This remarkable achievement highlights NTPC's exceptional performance in the HR domain on an international level. The ATD BEST Award is a testament to NTPC's outstanding L&D practices and its relentless pursuit of excellence. The company has adopted a focused approach towards learning and development, embraced technology and innovation, set industry benchmarks, facilitated learning opportunities, and fostered a culture of continuous learning.

**Hyderabad, May 22 (KCN):** "Honey bees play a crucial role in addressing the challenges of climate change and global warming. Without bees, humanity would struggle to grow and survive. Honey bees provide us with nutritional and income security," said Director General of National Institute of Agricultural Extension

Management (MANAGE) Dr. P Chandra Shekara. Participating in the celebrations on the occasion of 'World Bee Day' in collaboration with VSN Reddy Educational Society on Wednesday, Dr. P Chandra Shekara announced that MANAGE would also soon start a Certified Beekeeping Advisor Program in order to develop experts in beekeeping and honey industry and wished that the Telangana Bee Hub Society would also

achieve great success in the honey export business. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor of Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticulture University Dr B Neeraja Prabhakar underscored the significance of beekeeping and extended well-wishes to the newly formed Telangana Bee Hub Association, expressing the institution's commitment to supporting the association in the future. President, Telangana Bee

Hub Society and Secretary of VSN Reddy Educational Society Indira Reddy delivered insightful lecture on the significance of beekeeping and the vital role of bees in agriculture and human life and made announcement of formation of 'Telangana Bee Hub' (Beekeepers Welfare Association) besides sharing her entrepreneurial journey and mentioned that successful beekeeping

would require multicropping and emphasized the need to stop using chemical pesticides and insecticides to protect the bees. A book titled "Telangana Queen Bee - A Journey with Honey Bees" authored by Dr. Indira Reddy was released on the occasion. MANAGE and VSN Reddy Educational Society jointly felicitated beekeepers who had successfully completed beekeeping training. Later, A discussion was held on 'How to Promote Beekeepers in Telangana State' in which beekeepers shared their experiences in beekeeping, the production of bee products, and the challenges they face in the industry. Beekeepers have also exhibited their products in the program and honeybee-friendly tree plantation program was carried out by guests and other dignitaries present at the event. Deputy Director (NRM) Dr. B. Renuka Rani, MANAGE Assistant Director, MANAGE Dr. Sai Maheshwari, and Consultant, by MANAGE Centre for Extension in Agri-Allied Sector Dr. Sushrikrishna Das, along with the AC&ABC team and Mithra Foundation team (Ramchandraya, Laxman, Thirumalesh, Sairam, Nagaraj) were present.

# Telangana Bee Hub launched at MANAGE



# Lack of jobs forcing Joda people to migrate

**Joda(KCN):** Abject poverty has prompted rampant migration of people living in many parts of the mineral-rich district of Keonjhar. However, after they migrate to other parts of India to earn a livelihood, they are often subjected to torture and are not even paid proper salaries. Residents of this bustling town are no exception to this development. They migrate elsewhere in search of jobs. Locals alleged that despite the Joda mining division contributing Rs 21,000 crore to the state exchequer nothing has been done to solve the unemployment problem in this town. They added

Rs 1,500 crore is collected from the district mineral foundation (DMF) annually by the government, but even that is not used properly to provide relief to the people. If one traverses through this district, the plight of migrant labourers can be heard in every nook and corner. Sources said that some residents of this town had migrated to Chennai for work. However, now they are being held hostage at a cement factory, given food only once a day and are being brutally assaulted by their employers if they protest. They are also forced to work more than 14 hours a day, the sources added.



Sources said that the majority of men living in the tribal villages on the Suna river basin near this town have migrated for work to Chennai. However, most of them have remained incommunicado since their departure. Two tribal women, identified as Manasi Nag and

Chandu Karua, residents of 'Camp Hutting' said that they do not even remember the last time they talked to their respective husbands who are supposedly in Chennai. They do not even know when their husbands will return. "I

met the middleman who had provided my husband a job. I tried to find my husband's whereabouts. However, he abused me and sent me back home," informed Chandu. Similar is the story of another tribal woman Saraswati, whose minor son Kalathakur Karua has not returned home for more than a year now. Her co-villager, Sunita Naik is ailing and bed-ridden but has no information about her son George, who is working in Chennai. Unable to get any help from the touts, they lodged a 'missing' complaint at the Rugudi police station. However, it did not yield

any positive results. Many other families alleged that if jobs had been available at the various mines and quarries in Keonjhar district, the male members wouldn't have been forced to seek livelihood elsewhere. "We have found in most cases that employers take away mobile phones. As a result, our family members lose touch with us. They cannot even tell us the exact locations," said a woman. The residents of 'Camp Hutting' appealed to the district administration to arrange for the safe return of their near and dear ones.

## Voter turnout increases in Naxalite-hit areas

**Rourkela(KCN):** Election officials informed here Tuesday that the voter turnout percentage in Naxalite-hit areas has gone up considerably despite Maoists warning people to abstain from exercising their electoral rights. Posters warning people not to vote had appeared in many places close to the Odisha-Jharkhand border.

However, that did not prevent people from turning out in large numbers in the second phase of polls conducted Monday. Officials said that there were large queues in more than 19 booths since morning in various villages under Bisra block.

Special security arrangements were provided for many of the booths including those in Jariaikela, Manko, Tulsikani and Bhalulata gram panchayats. "We informed the voters that their safety is assured and it worked. A record



number of youths turned up in these booths. This is indeed a very positive development," informed a CRPF officer. Despite putting up posters and banners at various places, Maoists have been on the back foot since the deployment of security forces well ahead of the elections. People now want the forces to stay on even after the results are announced fearing repercussions. "Previously many of these places had dismal turnouts of less than 30-35%.

However, this time, the turnout was more than 60% in the Maoist-hit areas despite polling ending at 4.00 pm. This has been due to the positive attitude of the voters. They were very enthusiastic to vote," said an officer who was present at a booth in Bisra. Another officer from the Bonai region added that the turnout was more than 50 per cent in most of the booths. There were plenty of pictures on various social media platforms of first-time voters. "It just goes to prove that the youths are ready to vote and are not afraid to hide their feelings. Displaying their pictures on social media platforms is indeed an encouraging sign. It proves that people are not interested in the philosophy of the Naxalites," stated a social media user. It should also be stated here that all the officials who had been deputed from this city to booths in various Naxalite-affected areas returned safely Tuesday. They all said that they were very happy with the security arrangements.

## Let PM Modi find keys to Ratna Bhandar if he has 'some knowledge': Pandian

**Puri(KCN):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi should find the missing keys to the 'Ratna Bhandar' — the Jagannath Temple's treasure warehouse storing the jewellery of deities — if he has "some knowledge" on the matter, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's close aide Kartik Pandian said Tuesday.

The issue that was long an emotive one in the state has rapidly gained political centre-stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah bringing it up in their rallies in the run-up to the simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. Modi recently said at an election rally that the keys could have gone to Tamil Nadu, a reference to Pandian's Tamil origins.

"The prime minister should find out where the keys have gone if he has so much knowledge... I would humbly request the honourable Prime Minister. He has so many authorities under him, he

would be having some knowledge. He can enlighten the people of Odisha," Pandian said in an interview to PTI Videos.

"He is making a political statement so we will take it like that," the former bureaucrat, Patnaik's confidant for years and now a BJD leader, added about the matter. Addressing election rallies in Angul and Cuttack Monday, Modi took up the issue of the missing keys and asked why the Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal (BJD) had "suppressed the judicial commission report" on the matter.

"The BJD's role in the case is suspicious. After the BJP forms the government in Odisha, it will make the report public," Modi said.

Naveen Patnaik should clarify on the missing keys of Puri Jagannath temple's Ratna Bhandar, Shah added in another rally in Nayagarh Tuesday.

Hitting back, Pandian said the inner chamber of the Ratna Bhandar has not been opened in almost

four decades. Of these, one decade was when BJP ministers handled the issue. "So perhaps they should find out where the keys are," he said.

The Ratna Bhandar has an outer chamber storing the day-to-day ornaments of The Holy Trinity and an inner chamber. Keys to the latter were found to be missing in 2018 when the Orissa High Court ordered an inspection. Following the orders of the court, the Odisha government last year formed a committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge. Though the original set is missing, there is a duplicate key. Asked if the Ratna Bhandar will be opened, Pandian said, "Absolutely, date is fixed." However, he did not elaborate.

"The honourable high court ordered the Jagannath temple administration to open the Ratna Bhandar at a time fixed by the administration... So they have decided at the Rath Yatra time, when pilgrims



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## Bharat SaaS Yatra Commences Journey from Bhubaneswar, Celebrating India's SaaS Industry Rise

Bhubaneswar, (KCN)-

The Bharat SaaS Yatra, a groundbreaking initiative dedicated to celebrating and nurturing India's dynamic Software as a Service (SaaS) sector, officially commenced its journey from Bhubaneswar today. With a resolute mission to inspire and empower the next wave of SaaS entrepreneurs nationwide, this transformative endeavour will traverse through 20 cities, orchestrating immersive SaaS exhibitions to showcase the extraordinary journey and accomplishments of India's SaaS ecosystem.

The momentous inauguration ceremony was organised in association with Startup Odisha for Odisha chapter, gathering over 100 prominent individuals and industry stakeholders. Dr. Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman of Startup Odisha, presided over the inaugural event held at Srusti Academy of Management, Bhubaneswar. Against the backdrop of Odisha's flourishing entrepreneurial landscape, with over 1800



emerging startups, the commencement of the Bharat SaaS Yatra signifies a significant milestone in the state's startup ecosystem. Among these burgeoning ventures are notable SaaS startups like Bookiningi, Typoo, Retrod, Fydo, and Goodmeetings.a.i, underscoring the vibrancy and innovation deeply ingrained within Odisha's startup ecosystem. India currently hosts approximately 7000 SaaS companies, generating an impressive revenue of

\$12-13 billion. To support and amplify this momentum, the Bharat Startup Yatra has forged partnerships with several State Govt agencies like Startup Odisha, SaaS BOOMi, Upekkha, and other ecosystem players from SaaS. Their collective aim to catalyze more individuals to venture into the SaaS domain as well as honor the contributions of industry pioneers. With a shared vision of establishing India as a global leader in product innovation, this initiative stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs nationwide. The journey

ahead will be documented in various forms, including podcasts, interviews, shorts, and culminating in a documentary for OTT platforms like Netflix and theatrical screenings in PVR cinemas.

Reflecting on the occasion, Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman of Startup Odisha, remarked, "The Bharat SaaS Yatra marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards fostering a thriving startup ecosystem in Odisha. We are proud to be the first destination for the Yatra, which will undoubtedly ignite the aspirations of countless

entrepreneurs across the nation."

Sri Maneru, Founder, Bharat SaaS Yatra expressed excitement, stating, "We are thrilled to embark on this transformative journey from the vibrant city of Bhubaneswar, which boasts one of the most proactive startup missions in Odisha. Through the Bharat SaaS Yatra, we aim to celebrate the resilience, innovation, and collective spirit of India's SaaS community, while paving the way for a future filled with limitless possibilities."

### Workshop on causes and Diagnosis of Bleeding



Bhubaneswar: Apollo Hospital Hematology Department is organizing one workshop on diagnosis and management of Thrombotic disorders under the aegis of herpetology. On 2nd Nov,

2023. The Diagnosis of these disorders is very important which affects people of all ages. Making proper diagnosis and giving appropriate treatment will save many lives particularly the young. All the laboratory

### Texmaco-SSFMPL JV Secures for Arun-3 Hydroelectric Power Plant Project in Nepal

Kolkata: Texmaco-SSFMPL JV, a collaborative effort led by Texmaco, has recently secured a contract with Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Arun-3 Power Development Company Limited (SAPDC) for the construction of the Arun-3 hydroelectric power plant, a 900MW run-of-the-river hydropower project presently under development in Nepal. The Texmaco-SSFMPL JV, entrusted with an order valued at Rs 179.89 crore from SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company Limited, is poised to play a pivotal role in advancing this crucial project. The scope of work encompasses an array of responsibilities, including procurement, fabrication, shop assembly, painting, testing, transportation, supply, erection, site testing, and commissioning of the Pressure Shaft Steel Liner. This significant task involves the installation of two lanes of Pressure Shaft Steel

Liner with a substantial diameter of 5500mm, two bifurcations, four branches with a diameter of 4000mm each, along with all necessary accessories. The total estimated tonnage for this undertaking stands at a formidable 4700 metric tonnes. The Arun-3 hydroelectric power plant, administered under the build, own, operate, and transfer (BOOT) model, is a collaborative endeavour between India's SJVN and the Government of Nepal. SAPDC, a wholly owned subsidiary of SJVN, will oversee the plant's operation for a period of 25 years, which excludes the initial five-year construction phase. Following this operational phase, ownership of the power plant will be transferred to the Nepal government. One of the most salient features of this agreement is the substantial benefit it bestows upon Nepal. Over the initial 25 years of commercial

operations, Nepal will receive 21.9% of the electricity generated by the Arun-3 power plant as free power. This underscores the exemplary cooperation between India and Nepal in harnessing the potential of renewable energy resources and reaffirms their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations.

On the joint venture, Sudipta Mukherjee, Deputy Managing Director, Texmaco Rail & Engineering Ltd., said, "Texmaco-SSFMPL JV is honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of contributing to the Arun-3 hydroelectric power plant project in Nepal. We are committed to delivering excellence in every aspect of our work and in advancing renewable energy solutions. This venture exemplifies our dedication to sustainable progress."

### BOB Financial crosses the 1 Million Credit Cards mark

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

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

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

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

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

### TSJU calls for ban on advertisements to politically aligned media outlets

Hyderabad, March 12

(KCN): The Telangana State Journalists Union (TSJU) convened its State executive meeting at the State office located at RTC Chowrasta, here on

as State Secretary, and Papani Nagaraju as Treasurer. During the meeting, the executive resolved to establish the Indira Gandhi Mutually Aided Co-operative Housing Society as an

demand for the government to refrain from issuing advertisements to media organizations aligned with political parties. The State executive committee pledged to actively



Tuesday. In a session chaired by Naragouni Purushotham, vice-presidents of the National Union of Journalists India (NUJI) unanimously elected the State executive. Esteemed journalist Murhu Chandramohan was elected State President, with Tokala Anil Kumar assuming the role of General Secretary, Komala Vasu Kumar

affiliate of the Union. Additionally, plans were made to hold general meetings and elect committees in the remaining 15 districts, complementing the existing 18 district working groups. A State Mahasabha, following the District Mahasabha, will be convened to elect a comprehensive State executive committee. The TSJU also voiced its

advocate for this cause. Furthermore, the group commended the developmental efforts of the recently formed People's Government, led by Chief Minister Enumula Revanth Reddy. In a move to support local newspapers lacking advertising support from the previous administration, plans were made to provide a panel for their benefit.



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# Litton aims to rediscover form ahead of T20 World Cup

**Dhak:** What is Bangladesh's biggest concern ahead of the three-match T20I series the USA, followed by the T20 World Cup?

Many would suggest consistency at the top in the batting department, while others will argue death bowling and fielding but on top of everything remains the form of Litton Kumar Das, who is going through a lean phase off late to an extent where he is no longer a guaranteed starter.

Litton can certainly claim to be lucky that his wicket-keeping helped him in retaining his spot in the 15-member World Cup squad despite scoring just 79 runs in his last six T20Is. He also lost his place in the XI for the final two T20Is against Zimbabwe recently.

The right-handed batter's last T20I innings against Zimbabwe raised quite a few eyebrows as he repeatedly attempted to scoop a fast bowler, only to fail in the end. "I don't think there is nothing to overthink during bad times because you are going through a bad patch the more you overthink it



will only be bad for you," Litton was quoted in BCB's official Facebook page on Tuesday.

"The only option left to you is how hard you are working and how much importance you are giving in practice. I think during bad times you need to be cool and calm without thinking too much and just focus on your cricket," he said.

"Lot of people motivate me all the time and I speak with lot of coaches with whom I talk and they motivate me and I think it is important to get that encouragement at this time and my wife

always motivates me and you don't need anything else.

"It is important to carry the performance in good time because you are playing well in one match and lot of things can be

going around your head like I am doing well and you start having a careless attitude and I think during good times the man who is working hard on continuous basis and having a clear mind like for example I can say about Towhid Hridoy as he is playing well in the last couple of matches and he is carrying the momentum and that is a

big thing," he said.

Litton said that the Bangladesh team has improved since the last T20 World Cup while admitting that he underperformed in the global events in recent times. "From the 2022

World Cup our T20 side is quite balanced as we won a lot of series and we are playing good T20 cricket and it is not like we are just winning because we won by playing good cricket so certainly there would be some other pressure in the World Cup and every team will have that but if we can play fearless cricket by remaining calm and cool without thinking about the outcome I think we have a good chance," said Litton.

"As a team we could not do what we expected in 2021 and in fact I would say in both 2021 and 2022 as a team we were not. As far as 2022 is concerned we were indifferent and though we failed to win against any big teams but we didn't do too badly. If I have to talk about me in that case it was not up to the mark considering the performances that I

should have delivered. If I haven't scored 100 runs in the last two World Cups and this time score 101 runs in that case I have done better. What I could not achieve I will try to do better than that," he said.

"The 2019 World Cup will be memorable for me and it could have been memorable if I could have won the game against India in 2022."

Litton added that both the seniors Shakib Al Hasan and Mahmudullah help out the juniors to ensure they are comfortable in the dressing room.

"I don't feel seeing Shakib bhai that he is a very old player because the way he behaves it looks he is

very friendly and this is a big thing in fact Riyad bhai is also friendly and they try to behave in a friendly manner with juniors who come into the national team. Naturally if I see that I am entering a dressing room where a player is playing international cricket for 15 years certainly there would be nervousness and from that point of view our senior cricketers never made us feel that way."

# Bangladesh stunned as USA take early lead



partnership, Towhid Hridoy joined forces with Mahmudullah to revive Bangladesh. The duo added 67 crucial runs before Mahmudullah fell in the penultimate over. Hridoy, who fell off the final ball of the innings, made a well-compiled half-century to ensure Bangladesh post a fighting total on the board.

That total definitely looked competitive for the major part of the chase. Despite not losing many wickets, USA were still cautious in their approach. Steven Taylor made a 29-ball 28 after Monank Patel's run out as USA found themselves in a decent state. However, a flurry of wickets turned the tide in the middle overs. Mustafizur Rahman struck a couple of times as the USA went from

65/1 to 78/4 in pretty quick time. In their quest for recovery, the home side also lost Nitish Reddy and at that stage, USA needed 60 more runs from just 31 balls.

That came down to 50 from 20 in a matter of few deliveries as USA looked out of their depth to chase it down. However, back-to-back sixes to round off the 17th over by Harneet changed the game on its head. He also hit Shoriful Islam for a six and a four off the next over to bring the equation down to a very gettable 24 off 12. Anderson, who couldn't find the boundary until then, finally stepped up when it mattered the most as he hit one cleanly off Mustafizur beyond the ropes before smashing Mahmudullah over the ropes in the final over to ease the nerves.

## Afghanistan rope in Dwayne Bravo as bowling consultant for T20 World Cup



**New Delhi:** The Afghanistan Cricket Board announced on Tuesday that they have appointed former West Indian Dwayne Bravo as national cricket team's bowling consultant for the upcoming T20 World Cup. ACB stated that Bravo is set to join the team during the preparatory camp ahead of the marquee event in the Caribbean. Afghanistan have already arrived in St. Kitts and Nevis and are expected to begin a 10-day long training camp, as part of their preparations for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which will be overseen by the

coaching staff, including Bravo. Bravo played 295 international matches for West Indies, scoring 6423 runs and picking 363 wickets. He has also 100 First Class, 227 List A and 573 T20 caps to his name. Bravo is currently the leading wicket-taker in T20 cricket with 625 scalps to his name in the format. He has also scored nearly 7000 runs in the format.

Besides a stellar playing career, Bravo also has coaching expertise. He is currently the bowling coach of Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League.

## Ravi Shastri brings up World Cup final, asks Mitchell Starc how he dismissed Travis Head



**New Delhi:** Ravi Shastri asked how Mitchell Starc was able to dismiss Travis Head for a duck during the IPL 2024 Qualifier 1 on May 21, Tuesday and said the whole India wants to know after the Aussie opener tormented them in the World Cup final. Head scored a fine hundred against India in the final in Ahmedabad. However, the SRH opener didn't make any impact on Tuesday.

Starc produced a fine delivery to clean up Head for a duck in the second ball of the game, which set the tone for the game in KKR's favour. After being adjudged as the Player Of The Match, Shastri asked how he was able to get the wicket of

Head. Starc smiled and said he got lucky and it was nice to see the back of Head early.

"Got lucky I guess (on taking Head's wicket), was nice to see his back

early, not always the case. We have been playing against each other in recent times," said Starc.

Starc said that the plan was to ensure that no width was given to the free-scoring Abhishek

Sharma and Head and bowl stump to stump.

"We know how important the powerplay is. These were the two sides who have dominated in the powerplay with the bat. We needed to pick early wickets and get into their middle-order. The way Head and Abhishek have been playing throughout the tournament, they like width and free their arms. We just tried to swing the ball and not provide them width. Bowl stump to stump and tried the hard length. The spinners were effective and the whole bowling department was great," said Starc. Starc and KKR will now head to Chennai for the IPL 2024 final on May 26.

## Russell's final plea to Sunil Narine: Windies will be happy if you play T20 World Cup



**New Delhi:** West Indies' star all-rounder Andre Russell has revealed that he made a final plea to in-form Sunil Narine to play the T20 World Cup 2024. Narine, who has been in scintillating form with both bat and ball in the IPL 2024 had earlier revealed that he opted out of the ICC tournament and that his decision was final. KKR and West Indies' star all-rounder Andre Russell has revealed that he made one final plea to Sunil Narine to play the T20 World Cup 2024. Narine, who has been in incredible form with both bat and ball in the Indian Premier League this season has opted out of

"I am so happy for Sunil Narine to be honest. I think when GG (Gautam Gambhir) came back, I think he said that we needed him (Narine) to open the batting. Batting him at No. 9 or No. 10, we really had no use of him in the backend. I think, given the opportunity, he has taken it and he is doing a good job as well for us. I think getting close to 500 runs is no joke while being a premier bowler. He has picked up 16 wickets as well. It just goes to show true all-rounder in him. I am very very happy for him," Andre Russell told Star Sports after KKR stormed into the final by beating SRH.

"You know, GG giving him an opportunity as well. That's a good decision for the team," he further added.

Asked if Narine should play in the T20 World Cup as West Indies co-host

the event, Russell said that he would like Narine to play in the ICC tournament. Russell revealed that for the last two weeks, he had been whispering about the ICC tournament in

Narine's ears. "I definitely think so (should Narine play T20 World Cup?). I was trying to get in his head before the squad was announced. For like two weeks straight, me and

Rutherford kept talking to him and told him 'hey please, just for this World Cup, then you can retire, do whatever you want to do'. I think he has made a decision and I respect his decision as well," Russell said. "If he could change the decision, the whole West Indies will be happy," concluded the all-rounder. KKR star Sunil Narine has firmly shut the door on making a retirement U-turn to come back for the West Indies ahead of the upcoming T20 World Cup on April 23, Tuesday. The mystery spinner made a statement via his Instagram channel and had said that he was at peace with his decision. "I hope this message finds

you all well and in good health. I am truly flattered and humbled that my performances recently have moved many people to publicly express their wish for me to come out of retirement and play in the upcoming T20 World Cup." "I have made peace with that decision and whilst I never wish to disappoint, that door is now closed and I will be supporting the guys who take the field in June for West Indies. Guys who have worked hard over the past few months and deserve to show our wonderful fans that they are capable of winning another title. I wish you all the best," said Narine.