

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES THE NATIONAL LAUNCH OF 'SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT FOR A CLEAN AND HEALTHY SOCIETY' ORGANISED BY BRAHMA KUMARIS

New Delhi, (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the National Launch of 'Spiritual Empowerment for a Clean and Healthy Society' organised by Brahma Kumaris in New Delhi today (May 27, 2024).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the golden chapters of world history and the history of nations have always been based on spiritual values. World history is witness to the fact that disregarding spiritual values ??and adopting only the path of material progress has ultimately proved disastrous. Holistic well-being is possible only on the basis of a healthy mentality. A truly healthy person meets all three dimensions - physical,



mental and spiritual. Such individuals create a healthy society, nation and world community.

The President said that spiritual empowerment is the real empowerment. When the followers of any religion or sect deviate from the path of spirituality, they become victims of fanaticism and suffer from

unhealthy mentality. Spiritual values ??connect people of all religions to each other. The President said that working with the spirit of public welfare while rising above selfishness, is a social expression of inner spirituality. Doing charity for the public good is one of the most

important spiritual values. The President said that the forces promoting fear, terror and war are very active in many parts of the world. In such an environment, Brahma Kumari Institution has provided an effective platform for the empowerment of humanity through many

centers in more than 100 countries. This is an invaluable effort to strengthen universal brotherhood by promoting spiritual values.

The President was happy to note that the Brahma Kumaris Institution is probably the world's largest spiritual institute run by women. She said that in this organisation, Brahma Kumaris remain in the front and their associates Brahma Kumars work in the background. With such a unique harmony, this institution is continuously moving forward. By doing so, it has presented a unique example of spiritual progress and women empowerment to the world community.



occupied by the BJD candidate from Basta Assembly segment, Subasini Jena, who declared both movable and immovable assets of Rs 135.17 crore. Similarly, five candidates in the fray for the Assembly elections in Odisha have declared zero or nil assets in their affidavits, as per a report. The zero asset candidates are independent candidates Ramesh Kumar Mahanand (Bhawanipatna), Sohan Sipka (Kantabanji) and Sanjay Kumar Das (Dhamnagar), BSP candidate from Rayagada Purna Chandra Majhi, and Ambedkarite Party of India's Gopal Krishna Mohanty, who is contesting from Korei. A total of 103 MLAs are re-contesting in 2024 Assembly polls, of which 74 are from BJD, 21 from BJP, five from Congress, two independents and one from CPI (M).

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## 412 'Crorepati' Candidates Contesting Odisha Assembly Polls

Bhubaneswar (KCN): As many as 412 'crorepati' candidates are contesting the Odisha Assembly elections which are being held from May 13 to June 1.

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Odisha Election Watch have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 1a,283 out of 1,285 candidates, who are contesting for the 147 MLA seats in Odisha. Assembly elections in Odisha are being held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections. Out of the 1,283 candidates analysed, 412 (32 per cent) are crorepati. In the 2019 Odisha Assembly elections, out of 1,121 candidates, 304 (27 per cent) were crorepati, the ADR said in its report.

... 128 BJD candidates, 96 BJP nominees, 88 Congress candidates and 11 AAP candidates have declared assets valued more than Rs 1 crore," it

The third palace is

### Day Temperature To Rise Across Odisha From Today

Bhubaneswar (KCN): With the threat of Severe Cyclonic Storm 'Remal' having no direct impact on Odisha, the regional office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Bhubaneswar has predicted that the day temperatures (maximum temperature) will once again rise across the state from Tuesday. According to Manorama Mohanty, Director of the

regional center of the IMD, the day temperatures will increase by 2°C to 3°C across Odisha from Tuesday. While heatwave conditions are unlikely to return to Odisha soon, there is no possibility of heavy rain or thunderstorms in the state shortly. However, some places in the state may experience light to moderate rain during May 31.

### Former Kendrapara MP Betrayed Me And People, Says Odisha CM Naveen

Kendrapara (KCN): Chief Minister and BJD President Naveen Patnaik on Monday made blistering attacks on former Kendrapara Lok Sabha MP Baijayant Panda without taking his name. Addressing a massive public meeting, the BJD President said that he made the person Kendrapara MP for ten years. The former MP had betrayed me and the people of Kendrapara while benefiting his own company, Naveen said. While campaigning in Kendrapara, the Chief Minister appealed to the people to

choose the right candidates this time by voting on double conches in the simultaneous elections. Speaking on the occasion, senior BJD leader and party's star campaigner Kartik Pandian highlighted the Chief Minister's commitment for the development of Kendrapara. The senior BJD leader described the Chief Minister's efforts to set up world's largest steel plant of Nippon Steel in Kendrapara. He narrated how the Chief Minister travelled all the way to Japan to build the world's biggest steel plant in Kendrapara.

## Papua New Guinea Landslide: 2,000 People Feared To Be Buried

New Delhi, (KCN): As many as 2000 people are feared to have been buried by the massive landslide that occurred in the mountainous Enga region in northern Papua New Guinea on Friday, cited the country's National Disaster Centre. The rescuers have been struggling to find any survivors in the remote region.

Earlier the UN revised the victims count to 670 from its prior figure 100. The latest figure is a sharp rise from earlier estimates.

"The landslide buried more than 2000 people alive, caused major destruction to buildings, and food gardens and caused a major impact on the economic lifeline of the country," Lusete Laso Mana, Acting Director of the National Disaster Centre, said in a letter to the UN.

According to Mana, the current situation remains unsafe as the landslip continues to shift slowly,



posing a life-threatening condition for both survivors and rescue teams. The highway to the area has been completely blocked by the landslide, causing extensive damage. Mana emphasised the need for immediate and collaborative actions from all involved parties. The landslide hit the remote village of Kaokalam, about 600 kilometres (372 miles) northwest of the capital Port Moresby, at approximately 3 am local

time on Friday, leaving a scar of debris that humanitarian workers said was as big as four football pitches. Over 150 houses in Yambali village were buried in debris, according to the officials.

Notably, Papua New Guinea is home to around 10 million people. Its vast mountainous terrain and lack of roads have made it difficult to access the affected area.

Pierre Rognon, an

associate professor at the University of Sydney's School of Civil Engineering, expressed that landslides have the potential to entomb both collapsed structures and individuals under a significant amount of geomaterials. He further added that these landslides can displace structures and entrap people across extensive distances. The exact location of potential survivors or the decide the initial point to start a

search for them is nearly impossible. Alan Collins, a Geology professor from the University of Adelaide, suggested that rainfall could have modified the minerals, thereby weakening the bedrock that constitutes the steep hillsides. He emphasised the role of vegetation in mitigating this as the roots of trees can stabilise the ground. He also pointed out that deforestation could increase the likelihood of landslides by destroying this natural mesh.

In a post on X, Jaishankar wrote,

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives in Papua New Guinea following the recent landslide. Our thoughts are with the Government and the people. India stands in solidarity with our friends at this difficult time."

## Punish BJP for corporatisation of agriculture, wealth inequality and unemployment: SKM appeals people

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), May 27: Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella of farmers' unions in India, has appealed to the people to punish BJP for corporatisation of agriculture, wealth inequality and unemployment. In a press release issued on Monday by media cell of SKM, the farmers' body stressed that workers and farmers will have to ensure change in

government as well as the policies to end agrarian crisis. It alleged that the BJP had brought 3 Farm Acts to open up Indian economy to Multinational Corporations. Commenting on the present scenario of the country SKM added that agrarian crisis causes unemployment, deep indebtedness, poverty, rural to urban migration and destruction of small and medium industries.

Sharing the release with our representative, SKM leader and AIKS National Vice-President Dr. Inderjeet quotes, "BJP has completely abandoned its 'swadeshi' economic policy and surrendered to the imperialist dictates of WTO to open up the Indian economy to foreign capital. In this process, the Modi government has

dismantled the public sector, disinvested and sold out the shares cheaply to private monopolies and facilitated liberalization of imports of agricultural commodities through many free trade agreements. The three farm acts were brought to open up the Indian economy, especially the agrarian sector to Multinational Corporations."

SKM further alleged that the international finance capital has exerted relentless pressure to open up the financial sector giving priority to the bank and insurance sector. The path of liberalization policies has benefitted the corporate sector, especially big business. Ambani and Adani and increasing penetration of

foreign finance capital became a marked feature of the Modi Raj. Release added that the common people, workers, farmers and middle class were put to ruthless exploitation in the name of facilitating 'development'. The acute and lingering agrarian crisis has caused unemployment, deep indebtedness, poverty, rural to urban migration and

destruction of small and medium industries. 23.5 crore people as per the 2011 census -17% of the 140-crore population- are migrant workers due to the rural distress and agrarian crisis. 736 farmers had become martyrs in the 13 month long historic farmers struggle, but Prime Minister Modi did not implement the agreement signed on 9th December 2021 with SKM for

MSP@C2+50% and comprehensive loan waiver to farmers due to the pressure from monopoly capital.

SKM pleads that the Constitution of the Republic of India had laid down a set of directive policies that includes adequate means of livelihood for every citizen and the right to work, an economic system which does not result in the concentration of wealth, right to free and compulsory education for children, living wage for workers and equal pay for equal work for men and women. The Modi government's policies just contradicted these principles and now the top 1% of the population -of wealthy billionaires and rich

sections- owns 40.5% of the total wealth of India while the bottom 50% of the people that mostly consist of workers and peasants owns merely 3%.

SKM has expressed its full confidence in the people of India and their democratic and political understanding of the serious challenges of livelihood issues due to the corporate policies being vigorously pursued in the last ten years by the BJP led NDA Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. SKM appeals to workers and farmers to ensure change in government as well as in policies for development of the people - not of the corporate houses, to end the acute agrarian crisis that has devastated the life of the working people.



### Declaration

Due to technical problem 25,26 & 27th May issue of The kalinga chronicle could not be published. Sorry for the inconvenience.

PUBLISHER

## International Tea Day celebrated to promote & expand Tea market globally

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** Globally, International Tea Day was celebrated on 21st May 2024 to spread awareness about tea industry and its role in socio-cultural-economic development.

In 2024, 5th edition of International Tea Day, celebrated since the UN General Assembly proclaimed it in recognition of the important role that the tea industry can play in fighting against hunger and poverty, empowering women, promoting rural development and ecosystem restoration, as well as the development of ecotourism, together.

This year, International Tea Day highlights women and their role in the tea sector. Tea is a symbol of hospitality, a bridge between generations, and a catalyst for connection. Tea is not just a drink, but a global heritage of tradition and civilization. Tea is a beverage made from the *Camellia sinensis* plant. Tea is the world's most consumed drink, after water. It is believed that tea originated in northeast India, but the exact place where the plant first grew is not known.

Global tea production is valued at over USD 18 billion and international trade in tea is estimated at nearly USD 10 billion annually, representing a reliable source of export earnings.

**KISS Students Excel in 10th Board Exam Achieve 100% Results for 17 Consecutive Years**



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) has posted a 100% result in the 10th Board Examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), Odisha, results of which were declared today. The state average is around 96.7%. For over 17 years, since its inception, the School has been achieving, almost 100% results in the Board Exams. As many as 2008 students appeared for the exam, the highest for any school in the State, out of whom 40% students secured 60% marks and the rest secured more than 50% marks. Sagun Tudu topped the

school with 90% marks. Fifty students from the Saura, Bonda, and Paudi Bhuyan communities of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) performed well in the examination with good marks, while students of KISS from the neighbouring state of Jharkhand also excelled in the matric board examination. Congratulating the students and teachers, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS said, the continued success of KISS students year after year has been possible only due to the continuous effort of teachers and staff, and the sincere dedication of KISS students.

**KISS Achieves 100% Pass Rate in CHSE Class 12 Exams**

**Bhubaneswar, May 27 (KCN):** In a significant achievement, all 1,885 students from the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) who appeared in the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE)-conducted Class 12 examination have passed, achieving a 100% success rate across the Arts, Science, and Commerce streams. The results were announced on Sunday. Girls outshine boys in this year's results. Among the students, 38% secured first



Bees are important pollinators that support tea plantations, preserving their biodiversity to provide tea's specific aroma. Tea is a labour intensive industry and it provides lots of jobs, often preferred by women. While launching International Tea Day 2024 from Rome Dr. QU Dongyu, FAO Director-General mentioned about FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 places the transformation of global agrifood systems at centre stage, to ensure they become more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient, and more sustainable, For the Four Bettters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better

life, leaving no one behind. Tea and the tea industry can be one of the engines to implement the Four Bettters. Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in collaboration with Tea Association of India (TAI) organised a program titled "Futuristic Tea" on International Tea Day 2024 in Kolkata. The program featured discussions on various topics including Indian Tea Brand, engaging the youth with tea, exploring new international markets, formulating a new tea policy for India and addressing the future prospects and challenges of Indian tea, with an emphasis on sustainability. Prominent speakers included Dr Subrata Gupta, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Food Processing & Horticulture Department, Government of West Bengal; Mr. Debasish

Sen, IAS, Former CMD, WBHIDCO; Ms Shailja Mehta, Director, Jardin Henderson Ltd & Vice President, TAI; Ms Chaitali Das, Director, Rakshak Group & MD, Route2Jute Pvt Ltd; Mr Vikram S Gulia, Chairman, ICC Tea Committee; Mr. Ravi Suchanti, Co-Chair, ICC Tea Committee; and Ms Susmita Dasgupta, Tea Artist and Founder, Tea with Susmita & ICC Tea Committee Member. These industry leaders deliberated on the future of the Indian tea industry. Dr Subrata Gupta, IAS, said, "...The name "tea" has become associated with a wide range of beverages, some of which do not even contain tea leaves...." Mr. Debasish Sen, IAS, highlighted about a unique tea garden build at Eco-Park in Kolkata

Ms Shailja Mehta highlighted importance of International Tea Day.

Mr Vikram S Gulia, MD, A m a l g a m a t e d Plantations Pvt Ltd, TATA Subsidiary stressed on market expansion of tea by expanding consumer base amongst the youth. Gulia mentioned Assam, Nilgiri and Doobars are the major tea-producing regions in India, renowned for their rich aroma and exceptional quality.

Mr. Ravi Suchanti, said ".... Given India's predominantly warm weather conditions, offering both hot and cold tea variants can cater to diverse preferences and seasons, ensuring year-

round appeal...." Ms Susmita Dasgupta, stressed on need for market expansion using multiple strategies including brand building, pairing with other food items including chocolates. Ms Chaitali Das, said, "... Jute presents a wonderful packaging option for tea, offering sustainability and eco-friendliness. Das mentioned Festive occasions present great opportunity to promote tea packed in jute. Mr. P K Bhattacharjee Secretary General of TAI moderated the program.



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division marks. Breaking it down by stream, 40% of Science students, 41% of Commerce students, and 33% of Arts

students achieved first division marks. Hiramani Mallick achieved a score of 88% and topped the Arts stream at the college. In

the Science stream, Libu Sardar topped with 80% marks. Shankar Bhumij secured 87% marks and secured the top position in the

Commerce stream at the college. Seventy-five students from various PVTG groups also excelled in the Science, Arts, and Commerce streams.

These outstanding results reflect the dedication of both students and faculty at KISS and underline the institute's role in providing quality education and opportunities for success, said the Founder of KIIT and KISS, Dr. Achyuta Samanta, while congratulating the students.

# Grim Reality of Modi's Guarantee

Dr. Santosh Kumar Mohapatra



Ahead of the seven-phased Lok Sabha polls beginning on April 19, the BJP unveiled its long-awaited manifesto titled the BJP's Sankalp Patra with the tagline "Modi ki Guarantee," on Ambedkar Jayanti. The manifesto outlines a road-map to transform India into a "Vikas Bharat" or developed country by 2047, including a pledge to introduce a 'one nation, one election' system and a common electoral roll.

But manifesto does not tell how far BJP has realised promises made before the last two Lok Sabha elections. It does not address the various social, economic malaise plaguing masses. It does not tell how much the standard of living of people has increased and people are enjoying a decent life. It does not tell how to tackle various social, economic malaises plaguing masses.

Hence, there is a need for examining the sobering reality- real things or the real nature of things rather than imagined, invented. Actually, the need for providing food assistance to around 81.3 crore people portrays the gravity of the situation in the country and grim reality of Modi's guarantee. Actually, propaganda by BJP is so packaged so well that even well-educated youth and the middle class are hoodwinked.

Elections are times when there is an evaluation of the performances of the Government, their promises in the election

manifesto, and the implementation of these performances. While in power for the past 10 years, the BJP has not fulfilled its promises like bringing back black money stashed abroad, crediting Rs 15 lakh each to bank accounts of people, generating two crore jobs each year and doubling the income of farmers.

The reality is that the UPA's schemes had unremarkable names even though they had the same aims. Modi's schemes have catchier names because he spends so much effort personally polishing coinage. Modi's schemes targeted at the wealthy had English names - Digital India, Skill India, Start-up India, Make in India - signalling aspiration. However, the schemes for the poor were in Hindi - Ujjwala Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Padhao Beti Bachao, Jan Dhan, Garib Kalyan, PM Kisan, Mudra Yojana - reflecting the branding priority.

"Vikas Bharat" or developed country by 2047 is an illusion and hoax. Nobody has seen tomorrow and in the long run everybody is dead. Corona Pandemic has taught us how life is uncertain.

India continues to be a lower middle-income country and the dream of developed India is an illusion now. Until 2006, the World Bank had put India in the low-income country club. In 2007, India moved to the lower-middle income country. Since then, the country has been jammed in the same club.

According to the IMF World Economic Outlook (October - 2023), GDP (nominal) per capita of India in 2024 is projected at \$2,848 at current prices. India is at 143rd position out of 195 economies in terms of GDP (nominal) per capita. India's nominal per capita is over 52 times lower than the richest country and approximately 10.61 times greater than the world's poorest country. India is at 33rd position in the list of Asian countries.



The per-capita income growth has dropped to 5.1 percent in this fiscal which is 21 years' lowest. Since 2011, India has become the third largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity and no further improvement seen since then.

The 2023 report on food security and nutrition released by five UN agencies earlier this week said 74.1 percent of Indians, or 104.3 crore people, were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021. For a comparison, about 66 per cent of people in Bangladesh, 30 per cent in Iran, 11 per cent in China, 2.6 per cent in Russia, 1.2 per cent in the US and 0.4 per cent in the UK were unable to afford a healthy diet in 2021. The report also estimated India's proportion of undernourished population at 16.6 per cent during 2020-2022.

What is disquieting is that Income and wealth inequality today is higher than that of British Raj. Between 2014-15 and 2022-23, the rise of top-end inequality has been particularly pronounced in terms of wealth concentration. By 2022-23, the top 1 percent income and wealth shares in the nation's income and wealth (22.6 percent and 40.1 percent) are at their highest historical levels and India's top 1 percent income share is among

the very highest in the world, higher than even South Africa, Brazil and the US. By contrast, the number of billionaires have increased from 1 in 1990 to 200 in 2024.

Employment is a mammoth challenge for a country where millions of young people enter the job market every year. Unemployment or underemployment is becoming both a political as well as a social problem in the country. Although India is the world's fastest-growing large economy, it faces a serious challenge of dealing with joblessness. India is witnessing jobless growth. The country's economy is witnessing a stagnating employment growth rate, weakening employment elasticity, slow structural transformation, and brewing structural problems in the labour market such as low female labour force participation and a rise in the unemployment rate (UR) with education levels, according to a study by D. Tripathi Rao of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow.

In urban India, the latest

September 2023. This is a current weekly status estimate that captures those who sought or were available for work during the reference period of a week preceding the survey.

India's youth continue to grapple with soaring unemployment rates, with nearly 83 percent of the jobless population belonging to this demographic, as per the India Employment Report 2024 jointly published by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Institute of Human Development (IHD). The share of educated youths among all unemployed people also increased to 65.7 percent in 2022 from 54.2 percent in 2000. The unemployment rate among youths was six times greater for those who had completed secondary education or higher (18.4 percent) and nine times higher for graduates (29.1 percent) than for persons who could not read or write (3.4 percent) in 2022. Whatever jobs created are vulnerable and not meant for educated youth. Over 60 Lakh Central and State Govt Posts Lying Vacant.

The average real monthly wages of a regular wage worker dipped to Rs 10,925 in 2022 from Rs 12,100 in 2012. Only 14.9 per cent of regular workers earned more than Rs 20,000 in 2022, down from 17.1 per cent in 2012. Similarly, the report notes that the average real earnings of self-employed individuals declined annually by 0.8 per cent to Rs 6,843 in 2022 from Rs 7,017 in 2019.

Contrary to BJP's well-organized propaganda machinery, the past decade of Modi rule has heightened the distress of the rural poor. The wages for the major agricultural and non-agricultural occupations have declined

by 3 percent per annum from 2013-14 to 2018-19, due to elevated inflation.

An ILO (International Labour Organisation) working paper also points to negative trends in the purchasing power of rural Indian wages in recent years. The crisis is so severe that agricultural workers are committing suicide. According to the National Crime Records Bureau report last year, 5,563 agricultural workers died by suicide. Overall, 40,685 farm labourers have been forced to kill themselves since 2014. Average 30 farmer - called as Anna data - commits suicides per day in Modi's era. The policies of BJP have wretchedly failed to address this frightening situation.

What is alarming is that India's household debt soared to an unprecedented level of 40 per cent of the GDP by December 2023, from 38 percent of GDP for the fiscal year 2022-23, the second-highest level since the pandemic-induced downturn in 2020-21. This indicates a significant escalation in financial strain and distress. Earlier estimates from the RBI

had already raised alarms, indicating that households' net financial savings had plummeted to an alarming 5.1 percent of GDP in the fiscal year 2022-23, representing a 47-year nadir from 7.2 percent in 2021-22. Despite subsequent revisions showing a slight uptick to 5.3 percent of GDP, the figures remained distressingly low, painting a bleak financial landscape for Indian households.

The government makes a pompous claim that poverty has been eliminated fully or if it exists it is around 4 to 5 percent of population only. Actually, the yardstick used to measure poverty is

deprivation or starvation only. What is disconcerting when the ruling class is talking of developed India, the \$2.15 a day poverty line, reflects the value of national poverty lines in some of the poorest countries, is often referred to as the extreme poverty line. For added perspective, the World Bank also tracks poverty at \$3.65 a day, the typical line for lower-middle-income countries, and \$6.85 a day, typical for upper-middle-income countries. Based on the poverty rate at \$2.15 a day, 11.90% Indians are plagued by extreme poverty in 2021, higher than Bangladesh 9.1%. If the poverty rate at \$3.65 a day (2017 PPP) is used then 46.54% Indians in 2021 are poor. If the poverty rate at \$6.85 a day (2017 PPP) used 82.98% Indians are found to be poor in 2021.

Inflation rate may decline or rise due to base effects but prices of essential commodities have increased manifold eroding the purchasing power of people. Lifestyle inflation is increasing at a much higher rate. Health, education has become unaffordable today. The problem is that India's ruling classes tend to cater to the interests of the rich, powerful and business behemoths. Hence, instead of resorting to publicity blitzkrieg, the government should try for greater empowerment for the poor and deprived section of society through better education, healthcare, gender equity and job creations. No attempt should be made to evoke emotions.

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## Preacher Of Humanism and Communism



India our blessed motherland always attract many sages, saints and religious teacher to come to this land. Gautam Buddha is among the greatest religious teachers of the world. He gave the message of truth, peace, humanity and equality. He founded Buddhism. It is followed in China, Japan, Sri Lanka, Burma and the countries of south-east-Asia. Service to all ix Buddhas

great teaching. Lord Buddha was born in 563BC at Lumbini, terai area of Nepal. He was the son of ruler of Kapilavastu and the chief of the shakya clan Suddhodana. His mother was Mahamaya. His childhood name was Siddhartha. He was child with contemplative bent of mind. So his father took every care to influence him in favour of a worldly life. He gave him a life of luxury and comfort. Siddhartha was married at the early age of 16 to a beautiful princess Yashodhara. After marriage son, Rahul was born to them. A turning point came into his life when he was 29 years old. Driving with his charioteer, one day, first he saw an old man, as

Siddhartha visited many places, met many scholars and saints but was not satisfied. After 6 years of wandering and meditation, at the age of 35 he got enlightenment

Meera Beura

of Bodheraya Siddhartha now got transformed into the Buddha or the enlightened one. The Peepal tree under which he got enlightenment came to be known as Bodhi Tree.

He delivered his first sermon called The turning of the wheel of law at Sarnath. He passed away peacefully in the presence of his followers during the reign of Ajata satru of Mahadha. His teachings from the basis of one of the world's great religion, Buddhism. His teachings were ethical rather than metaphysical, psychological and philosophical.

Buddha preached the Four Noble- Truth including the Eightfold path.

Which are 1- Life is f u n d a m e n t a l l y disappointment and suffering (duhkha) 2- Suffering is the result of one's desires for pleasures, power and continued existence (dukha samudaya)

3-

4-

moderate life. Lord Buddha opened the way to salvation defined or nirvana or liberation from the cycle of rebirth, to all, irrespective of birth. He didn't use it to explain cast and beliefs he propounded and training large number of learned and well-disciplined followers to continue the work after him.

Lord Buddha refused to recognise the religious significance of caste system. Buddhism was a non-theistic religion as no god was postulated and it gave no privileged position to a priestly caste. But he recognised connection between economic welfare and mood development.

According to the Buddha, trying to suppress crime through

the major trade roots of the next thousand years first throughout Indian subcontinent and then beyond to seylon (now Sri Lanka) and South-east-Asia in the South, to central Asia in the North to China and further in the east.

It received the protection and patronage of many kings like Ashok, Harshavardhana, Kanishka, Samudragupta and flourished rapidly. Buddha is worshipped by all castes, creed and faith.

He belonged to the humanity. Don't harm any creature for your interest is the remarkable ideal for all to practice.

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# Kejriwal appeals to Punjabis: Need your support in the fight to save democracy and the constitution

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN):**

Aam Aadmi Party supremo and Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, on Sunday appealed to the Punjabis to support him in the fight to save democracy and the constitution. He said that I need your support for the rapid development of Punjab. I request you to strengthen our hands. If you give us 13 seats, our strength will increase in the center. Then no one will be able to stop Punjab's funds and even the Governor will not be able to stop any bills of Punjab. Right now, the central government has stopped about eight and a half thousand crores of Punjab. This is happening because we are weak in the Lok Sabha.

He said that the central government is harassing Punjab. Punjab has a coal mine in other state, when we started bringing coal from there, the central government said to bring coal to Punjab via Sri Lanka and Gujarat. When Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann opposed this, then the central government

gave a direct train to bring coal. If we had more MPs in Parliament, this would not have happened.

Kejriwal said that the people of Punjab have made the biggest contribution in the freedom struggle. That is why today I have come to you with an appeal to save the country. Today the constitution and democracy of the country are in danger. To save it, you will have to come forward again.

If we do not defeat Narendra Modi this time, then the democracy and constitution of the country will be destroyed. Then the situation in the country will become like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Russia.

He said that Imran Khan was put in jail during the elections in Pakistan, due to which his seats decreased.

In Bangladesh too, Sheikh Hasina put all the opposition leaders in jail during the elections, and became the Prime Minister again. Similarly, in Russia, President



Vladimir Putin either put the opposition leaders in jail or got them killed, then he became the President with 87 percent votes. Today the situation in India is also the same. He said that this election of India is being conducted dictatorially. Before the elections, I and three big leaders of my party, Sanjay Singh, Manish Sisodia and Satyendra Jain were put in jail. In Maharashtra, they broke Shiv Sena and NCP. In Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren was put in jail. You tell me, is this the way to contest elections in a democratic country?

Kejriwal said that if Modi wins the election this time, he will change the constitution of the country. He will end the electoral system from the country and will end the reservation given to backward and scheduled castes by the Constitution. He said that this has been the aim of RSS and its associated organizations from the beginning. Therefore, in this election, we have to end dictatorship by any means. We will eat one less meal, but we should not let dictatorship be implemented in the country.

Kejriwal said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP leaders are in extreme arrogance. Look at the state of their arrogance that their national spokesperson Sambit Patra says that Lord Jagannath is a devotee of Modi ji. Whereas Jagannath means Jagat ke Nath. That is, the one who does welfare of the whole world. On Lord Shri Ram, these people say that Modi ji has brought Shri Ram home. Just think, can any human being bring God to earth! God has created the whole universe, but the BJP people have now started

thinking that Modi ji has created the universe. Therefore, it is very important for the country to defeat the arrogant BJP.

Kejriwal held a meeting with traders in Ferozepur on Sunday. Kejriwal heard the problems of the traders and assured them of a solution. AAP National General Secretary Dr Sandeep Pathak, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema and AAP candidate from Ferozepur Jagdeep Singh Kaka Brar were present in this meeting.

Addressing the gathering, Arvind Kejriwal told the Arthiyas (commission agents) of Punjab that Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls you middlemen. But we consider you the backbone of our economy. We have great respect for you. He said that just as farmers and labourers are important for the development of the country, traders, businessmen and industrialists are also important.

He said that I came to Punjab a year ago. At that

time, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and I, held meetings with traders for several hours in many cities including Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Mohali and I myself noted down their every problem.

After my departure, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann held several business meetings and, on that basis, took several important decisions like the 'One Time Settlement' scheme to solve the problems of traders. Kejriwal said that before our government was formed, the condition of industry in Punjab was very bad. For 75 years, Punjab's industry was a victim of nepotism. Traders were leaving the state and going to other states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, but in the last two years, the trend of industries leaving the state has ended and the new industry is coming to Punjab.

Investments worth about Rs 56,000 crore have been made in Punjab in two years. A reputed company like Tata Steel has set up its second

biggest plant here after Jamshedpur. Companies from countries like Germany and Netherlands are also coming to Punjab now. The biggest reason for this is that the law-and-order situation in Punjab has improved a lot in the last two years and the establishment of a large number of industries here proves this to be true. Apart from this, we have simplified the government process for the industry and freed them from the hassles of government offices.

He said that our government has ended corruption in Punjab, due to which a lot of government money is being saved now. With that money, we are giving free electricity to the people of Punjab. Today, 83 percent of Punjabis are getting zero electricity bills. Apart from this, we are building Mohalla clinics at various places and improving the condition of government hospitals. At the same time, we are converting government schools into Schools of Eminence. All this is happening because our intentions are clear and we are working honestly.

## Financial self-reliance initiative for self-improvement of transgenders



**Rajanna Sircilla, May 27 (KCN):** For the first time in the State, the government launched proposals for financial self-reliance and self-improvement of transgenders. The way has been paved to move ahead with self-confidence to sustain financially. A petrol pump will be set up in Rajanna Sircilla district soon. Plans have been made to set up a petrol pump to provide better opportunities to the transgenders in the district. Later, in the district development review meeting held in the month of February, the district collector instructed the officials concerned to complete this issue expeditiously. In compliance with the Equal Opportunity Act for Transgenders, the Rajanna Sircilla district administration has been working for their welfare under the direction of Collector Anurag Jayanti. Identity cards have been issued to 25 transgenders in the district so far. An agreement is being made with We-Hub to organize various training programs for their self-employment. Arrangements are in full swing to set up a petrol pump in the district headquarters with a long

term goal for transgenders to live with better opportunities in the society and also for rehabilitation. A No Objection Certificate (NOC) has also been issued for the same. Indian Oil Company has sanctioned a petrol pump here. At present, arrangements are afoot to start construction programs related to these in the V.Wing Park opposite the Medical College in the Second Bypass of the District Centre. The programs are going under the supervision of Collector Anurag Jayanti. A petrol pump is to be built with an estimated cost of Rs. 3 crores. With its construction, 15 transgenders will get direct employment in this pump, while there are opportunities for another ten people to get indirect employment. As part of this, additional collector (municipal institutions) Pujari Gautami will conduct awareness programs for transgenders in the district. Training programs for transgenders on petrol pump management will be conducted soon. To this extent, District Welfare Officer (Nodal Officer) Lakshmi Rajam is preparing a plan.

**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** The first

international football tournament in history with the representation of all regions, took place on May 25, 1924, during the summer Olympic games held in Paris. The date also coincides with the decision at the 17th FIFA Congress in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in 1928 to create the FIFA World Cup™.

In recognition of this milestone, on May 7, 2024, the General Assembly passed

**Kolkata, (Saikat Kumar Basu):** World Biodiversity Day, also known as the International Day for Biological Diversity, is observed on May 22 each year. This day aims to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. In 2024, the theme for World Biodiversity Day is "From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity," focusing on the successful implementation of global agreements on biodiversity and the importance of restoring ecosystems to protect and sustain the planet's biodiversity. Various events, activities, and campaigns will be held worldwide to highlight the significance of biodiversity and the urgent need for collective action to conserve and restore it. The theme for the World Biodiversity Day 2024 has been: 'Be a part of the plan'.

The World Biodiversity Day was celebrated on 24.05.24 organized by the Central Research Committee and the Department of Botany, Shri Shikshayatan College in collaboration with the Science Association of Bengal (SAB), Kolkata at the Shri Shikshayatan college campus. An Intra

Resolution A/RES/78/281 proclaiming May 25 as World Football Day.

The resolution acknowledges "the global reach of football and its impact in various spheres, including commerce, peace and diplomacy, and recognizing that football creates a space for cooperation."

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has thanked the United Nations (UN) for the "historic" World Football Day resolution, which was initiated by Bahrain, Libya and Tajikistan and

subsequently unanimously adopted by 170 nations at the General Assembly earlier this month. Such support at a global scale is a testament to the unifying power of football, the world's most popular sport, and its ability to bring people and nations together.

Mr Infantino called to launch the World Football Week to mark a number of significant milestones during May, kicking off with the recognition of the founding of FIFA in

Paris on 21 May 1904 and continuing the football festivities until 25 May. Football, as a prominent global sport, holds a unique position. Beyond mere recreation, it is a universal language spoken by people of all ages, transcending national, cultural, and socio-economic boundaries. This shared passion fosters a sense of community and national pride.

Football's broad appeal and accessibility make it a potent tool for

promoting health and well-being. It has also served as a vital platform for advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls, both on and off the field. Moreover, football serves as a catalyst for social inclusion, fostering unity and breaking down barriers between diverse communities. It provides a space where individuals from various backgrounds converge to promote mutual understanding, tolerance, respect, and solidarity.

## World Biodiversity Day Celebration at the Shri Shikshayatan College, Kolkata



event was organized under various categories, such as: Poster, PowerPoint and Video presentations, Extempore, Doodle Art & Collage, Craft & Model preparation; based on sub themes

Following registration, a large number of students both from the college and other institutes, attended the program in large numbers. The welcome address was delivered by the Honourable Teacher in Charge, Sri Shikshayatan College followed by a short speech on the Importance of International Celebrating Biodiversity Day by Saikat Kumar Basu representing the Science Association of Bengal. Recknowed scientists including Dr. A. K. Singh and others were invited from the prestigious

Centre for Research in Jute and Allied Fibers (CRIJAF), ICAR, Barrackpore to chair various sessions, serve as judges for student competitions and hand out prizes to the best performing students in the valedictory session. The CRIJAF team presented an excellent display and sale unit with products made of jute and allied fibres, made by local women as a part of their outreach practice.

Later Dr. Singh made an erudite presentation on the eco-friendly initiatives of CRIJAF. Certificates, prizes and food packets were handed to the students. Both CRIJAF team members and SAB representatives served as judges for the various student competitions along with in-house judges (faculty

members)

from the Sri Shikshayatan College. The success of celebrating the World Biodiversity Day 2024 jointly by the college and SAB can be gauged through several key indicators:

**Increased Awareness:** Greater public awareness about biodiversity and its importance is a primary measure of success. This can be seen through widespread media coverage, social media engagement, and educational activities that reach a broad audience.

**Policy Impact:** Effective celebration often leads to policy changes or the reinforcement of existing policies aimed at protecting biodiversity. This includes new legislation, improved conservation strategies, and increased funding for biodiversity projects.

**Community Engagement:** Active participation from communities, schools, NGOs, and local governments in events such as tree planting, clean-up drives, educational workshops, and biodiversity fairs indicates successful engagement.

**Corporate Participation:** Involvement of businesses in biodiversity-friendly practices and sponsorship of conservation projects can be a sign of successful celebration. Corporate

# Odisha Phase-IV Elections: 121 Crorepati Candidates In Fray 96 candidates have criminal cases against them.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The final and fourth phase of the state elections is scheduled for June 1, with voting taking place for six Lok Sabha seats and 42 Assembly seats. A total of 394 candidates are vying for the 42 assembly seats in this phase, with 121 of them being crorepati as per the report published by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Odisha Election Watch analyzing the criminal background, financial status, education etc of the

candidates. Financial Status: Out of 394 candidates, 121 (31%) are crorepati. The BJD has the highest number of crorepati candidates at 37, followed by BJP (30) and Congress (21) and the CPI and CPIM with one each. Among the crorepati candidates, Subasini Jena, a BJD candidate from the Balasore District Basta Assembly seat, is the wealthiest with assets worth over Rs 135 crore. Subasini Sahu a BJD, Simulia candidate and

Niranjan Patnaik a Congress, Bhandari pokhari candidate are second and third richest with assets over Rs 91 crore and Rs 86 crore respectively. Benudhar Mohapatra, an Independent candidate has the lowest assets worth Rs 645 followed by Jharanarani Jena, an Independent candidate of Basta with Rs 1000 and Gopal Krushna Behera of Jai Maha Bharath Party from Nimapara with Rs 2,671. Two candidates, Sanjay Kumar Das, an Independent candidate of

Dhamnagar and Gopal Krushna Mohanty of Ambedkarite Party of India from Korei have no fixed or immovable assets.

**Criminal Cases:** In terms of criminal cases, 24%

of 28 criminal cases against him. Educational Qualifications: The educational qualifications of the candidates vary from 5th pass to doctorate degrees. Among the candidates, three are just literates, 9 are 5th pass while 19 are 8th pass, 68 are 10th pass & 53 are 12th pass, 22 are diploma holders, 92 candidates are graduates, 54 are graduate professionals, 68 are post-graduates and 6 hold doctorate degrees.

**Age distribution:** The age of the candidates ranges

from 25 to 90 years. The majority of candidates (139) fall in the 41-50 age group, followed by 101 in the 51-60 age group. The report was unveiled during a press conference by Odisha Election Watch Coordinator Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, core team members Dr. Sahadev Sahu, Dr. Seva Mohapatra, and Khyamakar Swain. As the state gears up for the final phase of elections, the focus remains on ensuring a fair and inclusive electoral process.

## 11 persons held for ivory trade



raid and nabbed them. During the operation, two pieces of ivory weighing around 3 kg each were recovered and seized. The accused were brought to the Banki forest range office for interrogation where they admitted their involvement in the illegal trade. During interrogation, they revealed that Jasobant Patra alias Susant (58) of Keonjhar and Bidyadhar Patra (48) of Karanjia in the

Mayurbhanj district were also involved in this illegal activity. Following the confession, the duo was also nabbed and taken for interrogation. All the above-mentioned persons were involved in the illegal trade of ivory smuggling. They have been booked under Sections 9, 39, 44, and 49 B of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. A case (15/2024) has been registered in this

## BJP Distributing Cash, Resorting To Violence: BJD Complains Odisha CEO



in the wee hours of Thursday.

“These assailants, carrying swords, knives, and other weapons, forcibly entered Dash’s house and threatened him with dire consequences if he continued his support for and voted for the Biju Janata Dal (BJD). The attackers, demonstrating a shocking level of violence and intimidation, locked Dash’s wife, Padmini Dash, and their children in a separate room, effectively isolating Shri Dash and coercing him into compliance,” the BJD memorandum read.

“The perpetrators, who have been identified as close associates of Nauri Nayak, BJP MLA candidate for Rengali

constituency, proceeded to demand that Dash work for the BJD. During this unlawful and violent encounter, the assailants looted cash and gold ornaments from Dash’s residence. Moreover, Dash was severely beaten, suffering multiple injuries, including wounds to his face that required stitches,” the BJD alleged.

This incident is not only a gross violation of the law but also an egregious infringement of the democratic process and the Model Code of Conduct, it read. The conch party further demanded a thorough and impartial investigation into the incident to identify and apprehend all individuals involved in the attack on

Hemanta Dash and his family and the provision of adequate security measures to protect Hemanta Dash, his family, and other vulnerable individuals in the constituency who may be targeted for their political affiliations. Also, the Biju Janata Dal today alleged that supporters of BJP Badachana MLA candidate Amar Naik have brutally attacked some women campaigning for BJD. Sakuntala Behera and her associates, who were campaigning for the BJD, were attacked by BJP workers in Malapada village of Badachana block, following which they lodged an FIR in the nearby police station.

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# All Religion prayer on Nehru's 60th death anniversary

**New Delhi(KCN):** An All Religion Prayer was held on Monday at the samadhi of the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his 60th death anniversary. On this solemn occasion, Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Sikh and scholars of other religions read from their religious texts. Brother Solomon George has read from the holy Bible. He has been taking part in All Religion prayer in both Rajghat and Shanti Van since long. Islamic scholar Maqsood Ahmed read some parts from the Holy Quran. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also paid tribute to the Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In a post on X, PM Modi said, "I pay homage to former PM Pandit



Jawaharlal Nehru Ji on his death anniversary." Meanwhile, the Congress also paid rich tributes to India's first prime minister on his death anniversary with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge saying the country's history is incomplete without the incomporable contribution of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the

architect of modern India, who took India forward in scientific, economic, industrial and various fields. Nehru was a dedicated guardian of democracy and our source of inspiration, he said. "Our humble

tribute to 'Hind ke Jawahar' on his death anniversary," Kharge said.

The Congress president quoted Nehru as saying that the protection of the country, progress of the country, and unity of the country is the national religion of all of us.

"We may follow different religions, live in different states, speak different languages, but that should not create any wall between us. All people should get equal opportunity in progress. We do not want some people in our country to be very rich and most of the people to be poor," Nehru was quoted as saying.

## SMP Kolkata facilitates major boost to Kolkata Metro to unload new coaches

### Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE):

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK) announced the successful discharge of the second batch of Metro Rail coaches, significantly contributing to the city's transportation infrastructure. On May 23, 16 Metro Rail coaches, each weighing 48 tons, were efficiently unloaded at Netaji Subhash Dock under the Kolkata Dock System of SMP Kolkata on May 22.

In this connection, Shri Rathendra Raman, Chairperson, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata expressed gratitude to Eastern Railway for entrusting SMPK with this critical task. Shri Raman also lauded the dedicated efforts of the team SMP Kolkata and trade partners who accomplished the operation. SMP, Kolkata is honored to support Kolkata's metro expansion and remain committed to delivering excellence in all endeavors. Shri Raman, further stated that, the success underscores our commitment to supporting development in the eastern region of the nation and facilitating heavy infrastructure projects, reinforcing Kolkata's position as a dynamic and progressive metropolis.

## Mahagram offers door to door banking services through Kirana stores

**Bhubaneswar:** Mahagram is a social enterprise focusing on Financial Inclusion that has enabled banking from the mom-and-pop store around the corner through fintech solutions. The company's mission is to enable rural women to save money at the local Kirana (or grocery) stores, instead of traveling miles to the nearest bank branch.

Recently, Mahagram has tied up with a public sector bank – the Bank of Maharashtra to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha. The

fintech would provide financial technology and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion. As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail themselves of basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores.

Mahagram aims to increase the ratio and habit of household savings in rural India. "At Mahagram, we are indulged in offering basic banking services like

deposit and withdrawing transactions to consumers but it is now high time for rural people to save money. We are focusing on Financial Inclusion the flagship project of Modi government, by helping lot of beneficiaries to open bank accounts under the 'Jan Dhan Yojana'. We are also emphasizing on rural women because they are the ones who run households. Our vision for 2022 is to offer women the service of recurring deposit," says Mr. Ram Shriram, CEO, Mahagram.

**Bhubaneswar:** Godrej & Boyce, the flagship company of the Godrej Group announced that its business Godrej Appliances plans to strengthen its presence and expand its network of exclusive brand outlets further, inaugurating its first store in Chandol, Kendrapara district in the state of Odisha, India. This will be the brand's 26th exclusive outlet in Odisha under Bhubaneshwar branch. To ward off strengthening the supply chain and creating a next-level experience for customers in Kendrapara, Godrej Appliances has launched its exclusive brand outlet - called Godrej

Inspire Hub spread over 1200 sqft, strategically located on the Chandol main road, in collaboration with its channel partner Jagannath Electronics. Convenience and comfort are primacies for consumers today. This is evident from the gradual increase in demand for premium products, even in tier II and tier III cities. Moreover, with the pandemic in the backdrop, appliances have emerged as a necessity in every Indian home.

EBOs solidify Godrej Appliances' already extensive network across the country, fulfilling the premium product

## Godrej Appliances offers wide range of home appliances and enhanced shopping experience to consumers

requirement of its customers and most importantly give them a much wider display to choose from thus enhancing their purchase experience. The brand currently has 120+ exclusive outlets across the country and aims to have 140+ EBOs by this financial year.

Speaking on the occasion of the launch, Sanjeev Jain, National Sales Head - Godrej Appliances said, "We have always endeavored to be as close to our customers as possible. We believe our Exclusive Brand Outlets will give even greater value to our loyal customers. With our exclusive showroom, we

have the opportunity to showcase our entire range of best-in-class appliances at a single location. Odisha is an important market for us and we look forward to delighting our customers with the best shopping experience."

Adding further, Sanjay Kumar Behera, Owner of Jagannath Electronics said, "We are extremely delighted to have partnered with Godrej Appliances, which is a highly respected and trusted brand. We are sure that our outlet will prove to be a great destination for the discerning customers of Chandol through its unique offerings from Godrej Appliances."

The exclusive brand

## Raj Petro Specialities strengthens its leadership team with Prasad Vaze's appointment

**Bhubaneswar:** Mr. Prasad Vaze has been appointed as the Senior Director - Lubricants Business at Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd., a Brenntag Group company. He will lead the comprehensive lubricants Business Units, including Speciality, Industrial and Automotive lubricant businesses.

Mr. Prasad Vaze is a result-oriented business leader with more than 25 years of extensive experience in customer-centric roles. Mr. Vaze has served in numerous senior leadership roles, including leading retail operations, profit centre management, developing business strategy and channel

taking on the important hat of managing Raj Petro's Lubricants Business, and we wish him all the best for his journey! With his knowledge and extensive experience, we are confident that Prasad will assist Raj Petro in reaching new heights."

On his appointment Mr. Prasad Vaze said, "I am very thrilled to take on this new role. My vision is to create a world class experience for our consumers and channel partners. Our aim is to leverage Kyros, Onwo and Zoomol brands, explore humongous potential that India and international markets offer and grow the Lubricant business profitability."

Ms. Archana Ghate - Head HR said, "We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Prasad Vaze, our newest member to the LT team. He will be

## Annual General Meeting of Vitesco Technologies

**Regensburg:** Vitesco Technologies, a leading international developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge drive systems for sustainable mobility, held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) today. The AGM was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

In separate votes, the shareholders formally approved the actions of all the Executive Board members during their term of office in the 2021 financial year. The actions of all members of the Supervisory Board in office in 2021 were also approved for their respective terms. "We are delighted to have received this vote of confidence from the Annual General Meeting.

Vijayawada. Celebrity actor, Mr. Sabyasachi Mishra, will be flagging off the walk.

Whitathon is L V Prasad Eye Institute's annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma - a life and vision-threatening Eye Cancer in Children. One of the most common

symptoms of Retinoblastoma is White Reflex (white glow) in a child's eye. Through this walk, LVPEI aims to raise awareness among the public that if they spot a 'White Reflex' in a child's eye, it could be a sign of eye cancer that needs immediate medical intervention. Hence, the event is named 'Whitathon'.

Dr. Devyoti Tripathy, Ocular Oncologist, Mithu Tulsi Chanrai Campus, Bhubaneswar, L V Prasad Eye Institute said, "Our aim is to raise awareness about early detection and treatment of retinoblastoma eye cancer in children. No child should die of eye cancer because of lack of awareness and treatment. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Sabyasachi Mishra for

## OSL Group founder bags 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping Shipping & Logistics scenario in Eastern India



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** On the August occasion of the 4th Edition of prestigious Times Business Awards Odisha 2023, Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) founder Sri Mahimananda

(Mahima) Mishra was conferred with the coveted 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping the shipping and logistics scenario in eastern India. The OSL Group founder received the honour at a glittering event organized by the TIMES Group at the Central Hall, Mayfair Convention here in the state capital city. Notably, the TIMES Group organizes such a glorious event in a bid to celebrate and honour outstanding business houses and business leaders who have made significant contributions to their respective fields and communities as decided by a renowned research agency.

## LV Prasad Eye Institute Organizes a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk

**Bhubaneswar:** L V Prasad Eye Institute's Mithu Tulsi Chanrai Campus in Bhubaneswar organized a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk on 8th May 2022. This walk is part of the 'Whitathon' event organized by LV Prasad Eye Institute across its campuses in Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and

joining us for the Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk and spreading awareness about Retinoblastoma. We also acknowledge the support received from Aroh - Giving Hope, an NGO working for children with Cancer and their families."

Dr. Tripathy further added that it is time to make detailed eye check-ups a part of mandatory pediatric examinations.

# A host of problems for Bangladesh ahead of T20 World Cup

**Dhaka:** Bangladesh completed their preparation for the forthcoming T20 World Cup with a comprehensive 10-wicket win over the USA but only after losing the series. Their disappointing performance with bat and ball saw them lose the first two games before winning the third T20I comfortably, although the home team had rested some of their key players for the inconsequential game. The visitors can claim that they ended the series on a high note but that does not take away the fact a lot of things need to be in order ahead of the showpiece event.

According to Gazi Ashraf Hossain, the former Bangladesh cricketer, it was a reality check for the team. "We never expected that the team would start the tour with a series loss but that's the reality," said Ashraf in a dejected tone. "Everyone is not carrying the expected form and that is disappointing. We could not earn the desired result, which is certainly dissatisfaction," he said. Bangladesh's death bowling was exposed in the opening game as they conceded 55 runs in the last four overs when Corey Anderson shared an unbeaten partnership of 62 runs with Harmeet Singh for the sixth wicket

to take the USA to 156/5 in 19.3 overs and earn their maiden T20I win against the visitors. And this wasn't the only occasion that the Bangladesh bowlers were found wanting at the death. Ashraf said that they paid the price of not bowling according to plans. "In the opening game we were behind due to our bowling as they needed around 15 runs in the end and managed to get that, and that too against our best bowlers," said Ashraf.

Bangladesh's pace bowling attack will be bolstered when Taskin Ahmed returns for the global event following his rehabilitation for a rib

injury that he sustained in the last ODI against Sri Lanka at home.

Meanwhile, Shakib Al Hasan's form with the ball is a concern, with the experienced cricketer bagging only one wicket in 10 overs across the three matches.

Another problem for Bangladesh is that their

batting unit hasn't yet come to terms with the tempo required for T20 cricket, and they have lost quick wickets whenever they have tried

to accelerate. Ashraf, the former national captain, feels the batting unit is failing as they are not playing according to the situation. "We need to play according to the call of the hour. If we need to hit fours and sixes we need to do that and if we see we need to play for singles with one or two boundaries here are there, we need to follow that. But unfortunately we are failing to do so," he said.

Even though Soumya Sarkar has been involved in two century partnerships in recent matches, Bangladesh's top order has not delivered consistently.

The form of Litton Das, Najmul Hossain Shanto and Shakib adds to the concerns, while Jaker Ali, an explosive finisher, was left out for the last game against the USA mainly due to sloppy wicket-keeping. Bangladesh, meanwhile, can heave a sigh of relief as their premier bowler Mustafizur Rahman bagged a career-best six-wicket haul in the third T20I, helping them avoid the embarrassment of being clean swept by the home team. But looking ahead, they have a fair share of problems and need to find a solution quickly, and a proper method, heading into the T20 World Cup.

## Injured Jason Holder out of T20 World Cup



**New Delhi:** West Indies suffered an injury blow ahead of their T20 World Cup campaign after all-rounder Jason Holder was ruled out with an unspecified injury. Left-arm fast bowler Obed McCoy, who is playing the ongoing series against South Africa, has been named as Holder's replacement. Holder suffered the injury while playing for Worcestershire in the County Championship. However, Cricket West Indies' release didn't specify the nature of the injury or the timelines of his recovery. "Jason is an experienced player in our set-up. His absence will undoubtedly be felt both on and off the field," chief selector Desmond Haynes said. "We look forward to having a fully fit Jason with us again soon."

"While it is unfortunate to lose a player of Jason's calibre, we are confident in the abilities of Obed McCoy. Obed has shown remarkable skill and promise in his performances, and this opportunity will allow him to further showcase his talent on the international stage. We believe he will bring a fresh and dynamic energy to the squad."

CWI also named a pool of five reserve players from which a replacement player will be picked if there are subsequent injuries in the squad. The co-hosts and two-time champions of the T20 World Cup begin their campaign against Papua New Guinea on June 2.

**Squad:** Rovman Powell (c), Alzarri Joseph (vc), Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Shimron Hetmyer, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Nicholas Pooran, Shai Hope, Andre Russell, Romario Shepherd, Obed McCoy, Akeal Hosein, Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford

**Reserves:** Kyle Mayers, Matthew Forde, Fabian Allen, Hayden Walsh, Andre Fletcher

**Kolkata Knight Riders:** Kolkata Knight Riders became IPL 2024 champions, lifting their third title - and first in a decade - as they ran through the dominant SRH batting line up to bundle them out for just 113 for a comprehensive 8-wicket win. Here's what the various KKR players and support staff had to say:

**Bharat Arun | KKR's bowling coach:** It has been pretty tough the last two years, we didn't qualify and there has been introspection and we worked on areas which needed to be worked on. [on Harshit Rana] He has been outstanding and it's about the bowler understanding what his strengths are and when he does, it comes out beautifully on the ground. Mitch [Mitchell Starc] coming into the team boosted the confidence of the other youngsters. He has been one of the best bowlers in world cricket and he has been in such situations before, it's about understanding Indian conditions and once he did that, it was magic all over. [On spinners] They

have been outstanding, spinners mature with age, both bowling in tandem has worked exceptionally for us. [on Narine opening] He has brought a totally different dimension to our batting this year and it was Gautam [Gambhir] who insisted that Sunny open and what Sunny did was outstanding.

Nitish Rana: When GG [Gautam Gambhir] bhai was appointed as the mentor I had messaged him and congratulated him saying I am very happy he's coming back to KKR, but he said that he would be happy if we were on that podium lifting the trophy. I'll never forget that message ever.

**Angkrish Raghuvanshi:** The feeling hasn't sunk in and might do when we party tonight.

**Ramandeep Singh:** This has been a great season for me. All I can think of now is the person who has built the Indian core - Abhishek Nayar.

**Abhishek Nayar:** It means everything. It has taken a very long time. I have been with the IPL for 16 years and it has taken me so many years to be a champion. I'm, the big man here, this means a lot for him (on Russell).

**Rinku Singh:** Outstanding feeling right now. Dream has come true - I have been here for 7 years and we are so happy. Credit to GG sir. I will finally lift the IPL trophy.

**Vaibhav Arora:** My role is to take wickets with the new ball, we have very good spinners, so if we chipped in with 2-3 wickets, the spinners will do the rest.

**Harshit Rana:** Can't express [in words] as we are so happy.

## French Open: Stan Wawrinka rolls back the years to knock Andy Murray out in 1st round

**New Delhi:** French Open 2024: 39-year-old Stan Wawrinka took fans down memory lane in Paris on Sunday, beating familiar foe Andy Murray in straight sets in the first-round battle between veterans. Former champion Stan Wawrinka showed he is still hungry and fit for a big fight by defeating Andy Murray in a high-octane first-round men's singles match at French Open 2024 on Sunday, May 26. Wawrinka showed glimpses of his vintage self, beating the former finalist in straight sets - 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 in a match that extended to a little more than 2 hours at the center court -- the Philippe Chatrier -- in Paris. Stan Wawrinka, who

won the clay-court major in 2015 and reached the final in 2017, reached the second round at Roland Garros for the second successive year. The Spaniard was dominant during his first-round win against Murray, who has not gone past the first round in Paris since his run to the semi-final in 2017.

Stan Wawrinka finished off the game with his trademark backhand down-the-line shot, much to the delight of the Paris crowd that stayed back to watch the last match at the Chatrier on Sunday. The Paris crowd also gave a hero's reception to Murray after the match, knowing that the 3-time Grand Slam champion might have



played his last match at the Roland Garros. Stan Wawrinka gave no room for Andy Murray to fight as he wrapped up a straight-set victory, winning 79 percent points on the first serve in a flawless display of tennis on the red dirt. Wawrinka converted four break points when compared to Murray, who fluffed two break point opportunities. It was Wawrinka's 3rd win in four meetings against Murray at Roland Garros, but the mutual respect between the two champions was evident when they shared a warm embrace at the net after the first-round match on Sunday. Wawrinka is likely to face World No. 32

Cameron Norrie in the second round in Roland Garros.

"My first words to him were respect to a great champion. As a tennis fan, I enjoyed watching Andy play against the great champions. We had battles with those players for nearly 20 years. We are not that young anymore. We are trying to make the best of what we have left," Wawrinka said during the on-court interview.

Earlier in the day, 3rd seed Carlos Alcaraz dispelled fears about his forearm injury, thumping lucky loser JJ Wolf 6-1 6-2 6-1. The Spaniard will face qualifier Jesper De Jong next. Madrid champion and sixth seed Andrey Rublev was pushed hard by Taro Daniel before securing a 6-2 6-7(3) 6-3 7-5 victory while Polish eighth seed Hurkacz was dragged the distance by another Japanese player in Shintaro Mochizuki. Hurkacz returned from the rain break to seal a 4-6 6-3 3-6 6-0 6-3 victory. Grigor Dimitrov, the 10th seed, had no such trouble as he completed a smooth 6-4 6-3 6-4 win over Aleksandar Kovacevic. Four-times Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka and 2017 winner Jelena Ostapenko also advanced before rain briefly interrupted play but the action continued on Suzanne Lenglen with a new retractable roof inaugurated earlier in the day deployed.