

**PRESIDENT OF  
INDIA TO VISIT  
HIMACHAL  
PRADESH FROM  
MAY 4 TO 8**

**New Delhi, (KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu will visit Himachal Pradesh from May 4 to 8, 2024. During her visit, the President will stay at the Rashtrapati Niwas, Mashobra, Shimla. On May 6, the President will grace the 7th convocation of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh at Dharamshala. On May 7, the President will witness a cultural programme at Gaiety Heritage Cultural Complex, Shimla. Later, she will attend a dinner hosted by the Governor of Himachal Pradesh at Raj Bhawan, Shimla.

## Heatwave To Prevail For Two More Days In Odisha Districts, Thunderstorms/ Rain Thereafter

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Severe heatwave conditions will prevail in 16 districts of Odisha for another two days, the regional center of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here cautioned in its mid-day bulletin on Friday. At the same time, the weather office has said that thunderstorms and light to moderate rain are likely to occur in most Odisha districts from today. Light to moderate rain/thundershowers are very likely to occur at one or two places in Koraput, Rayagada, Ganjam, Gajapati, Nabarangpur, and Kandhamal and dry weather is very likely to prevail over the rest districts of Odisha.

**ORANGE WARNING (BE PREPARED):** Heatwave conditions are



very likely to prevail in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Angul, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Boudh, Bolangir, and Deogarh.

**YELLOW WARNING (BE UPDATED):** Heatwave conditions are very likely to prevail in Nayagarh, Dhenkanal, Nuapada, Sonepur, and Kalahandi.

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers are very likely to occur at one or two places in Ganjam,

Gajapati, Rayagada, and Koraput, and dry weather is very likely to prevail over the rest of the districts of Odisha.

**YELLOW WARNING (BE UPDATED):**  
Heatwave conditions are very likely to prevail in Angul, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Boudh, Bolangir, Sonepur, Sambalpur, and Jharsuguda.

Thunderstorms with lightning are very likely to occur at one or two places in Ganjam,

Gajapati, Rayagada, and Koraput. Light to moderate rain/thundershowers are very likely to occur at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput, and dry weather is very likely to prevail over the rest districts of Odisha.

**YELLOW WARNING (BE UPDATED):** Heatwave conditions are very likely to prevail in Angul, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sonepur, Boudh, and Bolangir. Thunderstorms with lightning are very likely to occur at one or two places in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, and Koraput.

## Lok Sabha polls: EAM S. Jaishankar to visit Odisha today, PM Modi on May 6



Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Sambalpur. Tomorrow, the Union Minister is scheduled to meet intellectuals and editors of various media houses in Bhubaneswar with similar events in Cuttack in the pipeline the next day. BJP National President JP Nadda is also scheduled to visit the state on May 5 and meet

party leaders in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, added Mohapatra. Similarly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also visit the state on May 6. Notably, the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in Odisha will be held simultaneously in four phases – May 13, 20, 25, and June 1. The counting of votes will be done on June 4.

## Sujata Karthikeyan Transferred As Special Secy To Odisha Finance Dept

**Health Secy Shalini Pandit gets addl charge of Mission Shakti dept & OLL & C dept**

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha government Friday effected a minor reshuffle in the IAS cadres by transferring two senior bureaucrats from their posts and handing them new tasks. Accordingly, the General Administration and Public Grievance Department has issued a notification to this effect Friday evening. As per the order, 2000-batch IAS officer, Sujata Rout Karthikeyan, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Department of Mission Shakti with an additional charge of Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt., Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department, has been appointed as Special Secretary to Government, Finance Department. Similarly, 2001-batch IAS officer, Shalini Pandit, Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt. the Health & Family Welfare Department can remain in an additional charge of Commissioner-cum-



Secretary to Government, Department of Mission Shakti and Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department. “The additional appointment of Smt. Sujata Rout Karthikeyan, IAS as Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department shall stand terminated from the date Smt. Shalini Pandit, IAS takes over,” the GA&PG Dept order read.

The move came a day after the Election Commission of India ordered the transfer of senior bureaucrat Sujata Karthikeyan, secretary of Odisha’s Mission Shakti

department, to a non-public dealing department with immediate effect. The orders were issued after the Bharatiya Janata Party accused the bureaucrat, wife of powerful Biju BJD leader VK Pandian, of “misusing” her position to mobilise women attached with self-help groups “for electoral gains for the Biju Janata Dal”. In its representation, the BJP demanded that Karthikeyan should not be given any responsibility till the simultaneous general polls are over as she was “indulging in open, blatant and gross, misuse of authority, government machinery and manpower for influencing voters through SVEEP for electoral gains of BJD.”

## Supreme Court Refuses To Entertain Plea On 'Namesake' Candidates In Polls

**New Delhi(KCN):** Refusing to entertain a plea seeking Election Commission to take urgent steps for an effective mechanism to solve the issue of “namesake” candidates contesting polls, the Supreme Court on Friday said, “If parents have given similar names to candidates, how can they be prevented from contesting polls?” “If somebody is born as Rahul Gandhi or Lalu Prasad Yadav, how can they be prevented from contesting elections? Would this not affect their rights? If someone’s parents have given a similar name (to a political leader), can it come in their way of their right to fight elections?” the bench asked advocate VK Biju, who appeared for the petitioner, Sabu Stephen. “You know what is the fate of this case,” the judges told the advocate and permitted him to



withdraw the plea. Fielding namesake candidates is an age-old electoral trick adopted by several political parties where candidates with names similar to that of a popular candidate are fielded by rival parties in a bid to confuse the voters and get them to vote for the namesakes. This trick effectively harms the heavyweight.

Arguing that namesake candidates are fielded in high-profile seats to mislead voters, petitioner Sabu Stephen had moved a public interest litigation (PIL) in which he stressed that the presence of such candidates often causes the heavyweight candidates to lose by a slim margin. The petitioner also sought

a direction to the Election Commission of India to take urgent steps to stop this trend. Describing the issue as “extremely serious” Biju had referred to Rule 22(3) of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, which says if two or more candidates bear the same name, they shall be distinguished by the addition of their occupation or residence or in some other manner. A bench headed by Justice B R Gavai which also comprised Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and Sandeep Mehta asked, “If somebody’s parents have given a similar name, can it come in their way of their right to contest elections? Like Rahul Gandhi and Lalu Prasad Yadav.” the bench asked advocate V K Biju, who appeared in the court on behalf of petitioner Sabu Steephem.

## Odisha Elections 2024: BJP fields Santosh Khatua from Nilagiri Assembly seat

**Balasore, (KCN):** Ahead of the Odisha Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday announced its candidate for the remaining one Assembly seat. Get Latest Updates on Election 2024 Stay Updated with us.

The saffron party nominated Santosh Khatua as its candidate from Nilagiri Assembly seat under Balasore parliamentary constituency. Khatua will face sitting Nilagiri MLA and BJD candidate Sukanta Nayak, who had resigned from the BJP in March this year and joined the conch party, polls in Odisha will be held in four phases -- May 13, 20, 25, and June 1. The counting of votes will be done on June 4. The Balasore Lok Sabha seat and the Assembly segments under it will go to polls in the seventh phase (June 1).

## Naveen Tops BJD Star Campaigners' List For 3rd & 4th Phase Polls In Odishae

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal President Naveen Patnaik will lead the conch party's star campaigners for third and fourth phase elections in Odisha.

The ruling BJD has released its list of 40 Star Campaigners for the State's 3rd and 4th phase polls. Senior party leaders, Kartik Pandian and Pranab Prakash Das featured in the 2nd and 3rd positions in the list. Other senior BJD leaders featured in the list are Debiprasad Mishra, Ranendra Pratap Swain, Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Ashok Chandra Panda, Snehangini Chhuria, Niranjan Pujari, Pratap Jena, Pratap Keshari Deb, Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Arun Kumar Sahoo and Sanjay Kumar Das Burma.

# Raja Warring counters Bittu with 'ghost' MP tag, over outsider charge

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), May 3:** Punjab Congress president and party candidate from Ludhiana parliamentary constituency Amarinder Singh Raja Warring on Friday countered the BJP's turncoat candidate Ravneet Singh Bittu's charge that he was an outsider to Ludhiana, saying, it is better to be an outsider than a ghost like Bittu, who can neither be seen nor be heard.

"At least, unlike you, I am accessible to every worker of the party 24x7, no matter where I belong to, although I strongly believe I belong to the whole of Punjab and the whole of India", he told Bittu.

"Although neither I consider myself as an outsider to Ludhiana nor

do people of Ludhiana consider me to be an outsider, as I am very much a Punjabi and an Indian so can contest from anywhere, still I challenge my 'friend' to list 15 people who have known his whereabouts in fifteen years", Raja retorted, while referring to Bittu's complete inaccessibility, both in person and on telephone. The Congress candidate told Bittu that if he could contest from Shri Anandpur Sahib in 2009 and his "new found leader" Prime Minister Modi who is from Gujarat and can contest from Varanasi, why can't he (Warring) contest from Ludhiana?" Raja Warring, the President of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee, in a proactive move to bolster the party's



presence in Ludhiana ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, held strategic meetings with senior party leadership and dedicated workers across the city. In a series of meetings held in the regions of East, Central, and North

Ludhiana, the PPCC President engaged with key Ludhiana leaders including Sanjay Talwar, Surinder Dawar , and Rakesh Pandey . These deliberations were aimed to outline a comprehensive campaign strategy that resonates

with the aspirations and concerns of Ludhiana's diverse populace. The collaborative sessions fostered a platform for open dialogue, enabling the exchange of innovative ideas and grassroots-level insights. By

harnessing the collective expertise and energy of party stalwarts and grassroots activists, the PPCC aims to craft an inclusive campaign agenda that addresses the pressing issues faced by Ludhiana constituents. Motivating the party's

workers, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring said, “We are fighting the fight of ‘Vafadari’ against ‘Gaddari’. In this fight, every Congress soldier at the grassroots plays a crucial role. You have devoted your lives to the welfare of the people of Ludhiana and I’m sure that together, we will fight this battle and win it too.” Underlining the revitalized engagement of PPCC in Punjab, he highlighted, “I’m so proud that we have rejuvenated grassroots engagement with 234 Block Congress committees, 2145 Mandal Pradhans, 24570 Mandal Committee members, and 117 Halka Coordinators in Punjab. Thanks to their combined efforts, the Congress is poised to secure the most

seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections in Punjab.” The PPCC remains steadfast in its commitment to championing the welfare of the people of Ludhiana and advancing their interests on the national stage. Through strategic collaborations and unwavering dedication, the party endeavours to secure a brighter future for Ludhiana and its residents.

The excitement among the party's workers is palpable as they gear up for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in Ludhiana. With renewed vigour and dedication, they are eager to mobilize support and connect with the electorate, ensuring that the voice of Ludhiana's residents is heard loud and clear on the national stage.



# Pattnaik India Foundation Felicitates Kishore Dwibedi

**New Delhi, (KCN):** Eminent Journalist and Prominent Social Leader Kishore Dwibedi was felicitated by Pattnaik India Foundation recently in New Delhi. In a felicitation ceremony hosted at the headquarter of the Foundation at Burari, Shri Dwibedi was greeted by the members, office bearers and well wishers of the Organisation. Shri Dwibedi was presented a citation and memento by the Founder Chairman of the Foundation Dr Nirmal Pattnaik and Member Trustee

Professor Alpana Pattnaik during the occasion. Shri Dwibedi was chosen for this coveted honour for his yeomen services to the society. Established in the year 2012 in the memory of nature – lover Late Lamented Gurushree Pitabas Pattnaik, Pattnaik India Foundation has been engaged in promoting Indian Culture, furthering humanity and protecting environment under the able and active stewardship of its Chairman Dr Nirmal Pattnaik. Every year,



the Foundation has been organising India's Youngest Freedom Fighter Baji Rout's Martyrdom Day, Wet Lands Day and Workshop, Mother Tongue's

Day, World Water Rice Day, Odisha Day, Ambedkar Birth Anniversary, Parents Blessing Day, World Environment Day & Seminar, Vishwaguru Vedvyas Day, Human

Rights and Responsibility Day, Media Workshop, Entrepreneurship Conference and Pattnaik India Foundation Day. The Foundation has also

been publishing the literary Journal Utkal Bharatee. The noble missions and lofty visions of the Foundation have been to sensitise the society about the Indian ethos, ideals and value systems and inculcate the essence, elegance and excellence of Indianness among the Younger generations. New Delhi based Kishore Dwibedi was honoured by the Foundation because of his remarkable contributions in the field of positive journalism and social service spanning over four decades at

National and International level. As Chairman of three illustrious institutions like World Odisha Society, Journalists' Development Council of India and Bande Utkal Foundation, Shri Dwibedi continues to render services towards the well being of his mother state Odisha and motherland India in a spectacular manner. It is pertinent to mention here that Shri Dwibedi was adjudged by Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) as the Eminent Journalist of the Year 2023 and was conferred Prestigious

Chanakya Award by PRCI. Shri Dwibedi is currently holding the position of Chief Editor in OMM Media Network. Attendees of the Event include Chairman of Bijayini Foundation Reeta Patra, Vocalist Acharya Abhimanyu, General Secretary, Culture of World Odisha Society Kaveri Behera, Managing Editor of Utkal Bharatee Madhusmita Pattnaik, Entrepreneur Asit Kar, Social Activist Priyatama Kar, meritorious student A.R. Aditya and child prodigy Mimamsa Pattnaik.

## BIPF's 11 th Shambhavi Puraskar honours efforts for empowering women and forest-dwelling communities in Odisha



**Bhubaneswar, May 3(KCN):** The 11th Shambhavi Puraskar by Bansidhar and Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF) was awarded to Ranjit Majhi for his exceptional work in implementing the Forest Rights Act (FRA). Additionally, Sasmita Mangaraj was honored with the Jury C o m m e n d a t i o n Certification for her outstanding work in empowering women at the grassroots level toward livelihood and self-reliance. Chetna Sinha, Founder and Chairperson of Mann Deshi Bank and Mann

Deshi Foundation Maharashtra graced the occasion as the chief guest along with Guest of Honor, Lt General C P Mohanty, 42nd Vice Chief of Army Staff and Member of the Armed Forces Tribunal, Delhi. Speaking at the 11 th Shambhavi Puraskar, Chetna Sinha, Founder and Chairperson Mann Deshi Bank and Mann Deshi Foundation Maharashtra said, "True change begins with a single act of courage and a small act of courage by silent heroes can become a capital for the poor. As we gather to honor the

silent heroes of Odisha, let us remember that every small step towards social change creates ripples of hope and empowerment." Elaborating on the initiative, Mrs. Shaifalika Panda, Trustee & Founder CEO, BIPF, and Chief of CSR (Special Initiatives), IMFA, added, "It is our responsibility, to be of service to the underserved and to create a ripple effect of change toward social transformation. The Shambhavi Puraskar has given these grassroot leaders of Odisha a platform to further their

vision and ambition toward collective growth." Furthermore, Guest of Honour Lt General C P Mohanty 42nd Vice Chief of Army Staff Member Armed Forces Tribunal Delhi said, "As we recognize the exceptional efforts of social changemakers in Odisha, let us salute the resilience and commitment of those who work tirelessly to uplift communities and inspire positive change. The qualities embodied by the Shambhavi Puraskar - courage, discipline, and integrity - are essential for shaping the future generation."

## Odia actress Zeena Samal joins BJD after quitting BJP



**Bhubaneswar, May 3(KCN):** Ollywood actress Zeena Samal has joined Biju Janata Dal soon after announcing her resignation from BJP on Friday. The actress reportedly decided to quit BJP after being

denied a ticket for Assembly polls in Odisha. Zeena expressed her gratitude after joining the regional party in the presence of Rajya Sabha member Sasmit Patra at Sankha Bhaban

in Bhubaneswar. She remarked that joining BJD, a party known for its respect towards women, was a stroke of good fortune for her. Zeena cited inspiration from the Chief Minister's principles and extended

her thanks to CM Naveen Patnaik for welcoming her into the party. It was noted that Zeena was an aspirant for the party ticket for the Bhogarai Assembly seat. However, when the BJP nominated Asish Patra for the same seat, the actress made the decision to part ways with the party. It's worth mentioning that in March 2023, Zeena and her husband Rudra Panigrahi had joined the saffron party in the presence of Lok Sabha member Pratap Sarangi. Their decision to join the party came alongside 80 other individuals.

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# The Ever Charming Nirmal Da Madhusudan Das : The Pride of Odisha



Award management is a different art which is not known to people like me. I am unfit for this game. The country doesn't require Global Local people like me anymore. Crooks are now on demand. This morning I was thinking of Professor Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, the most successful Manager of Art and Culture in the country. He was Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Director, NBT, Director, KK Birla Foundation and Chairman of various initiatives. He was Editor, Indian Literature and publishing consultant of many publishing houses. I don't know why this government is not appointing him as Chairman of NBT.

An efficient editor, Prof Bhattacharjee was the editor of a series of books on Rashtrapati Bhawan during the tenure of President Pranab Mukherjee besides many others. He also headed the publication department of Viswa Bharti. My first meeting with him was in 1987 when I was with NCERT and he was assisting Prof Amaresh Dutta for the Encyclopaedia of Indian Literature. Later, I met him when he as Regional Secretary of Sahitya Akademi for Eastern Region visited the National Workshop on Literary Translation organised by Sahitya Akademi in 1989 at New Delhi, the first one of its kind in the country. But, our bond became strong when I visited Kolkata in 1992 as Odia Language Editor of NBT for typesetting of Odia translation of the book Mind of Mahatma done so carefully by Professor Chittaranjan Das. In due course, he

offered me a travel grant to visit Karnataka as a young author and to translate the poetry book Log Bhul Gaye Hain by Raghubir Sahay from Hindi to Odia. Nirmal Da didn't marry. We have never asked him the reason, nor he has divulged. People say that he had affairs with someone to whom he could not marry. It was in 1997. Arvind Kumar vacated the post of Director, NBT. Our Chairman Dr Sumatheendra Nadig one day gave me a good news that Prof. Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharje is going to join as the next Director, NBT. I was thrilled. But this happiness didn't last long. My family was at Puri those days and children were in school. I used to come to Odisha for various works of NBT as our books were typeset in Odisha, marketed too. Some Punjabi colleagues were envious. They were usually polluting the mind of Nirmal Da. I was to

come to Odisha for preliminary arrangements for a workshop and suddenly in 1998 Super Cyclone took place. I was worried. Though all activities were stopped in Odisha, I stuck to my tour programme as I had to see my wife and children at Puri. When I returned, I found a different man in Nirmalkanti Bhattacharjee. We fought in official nothings. That was a rough weather which continued. Nirmal Da left NBT as he didn't pull well with the Chairman Dr Sitakant Mahapatra. It is a big story. Our contact remained intact. I went on deputation to North Eastern Council. Suddenly a phone call came from him that he is visiting Shillong and needs my assistance. I decided to receive him at Guwahati airport. Normally, I used to go to Guwahati for official works and at times to receive the Minister. When he found me at the

airport, he was amazed. We came back by my car to Shillong. He stayed in our Guest House. In fact, I wanted him to stay with me in my Guest Room. But, I was worried that he may be annoyed of my dog. One day I invited Nirmal Da for breakfast. My daughter prepared idli and sambar for him. - Manas, I am now understanding why you were always keen to go to Puri. One should have a family. I should not have then stopped you, he said. - Dada, that is now history. Let us concentrate on today and idli, I said in a lighter tone. Visiting Professor of Development Communication Former Director, I & PR and Culture, North Eastern Council Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India

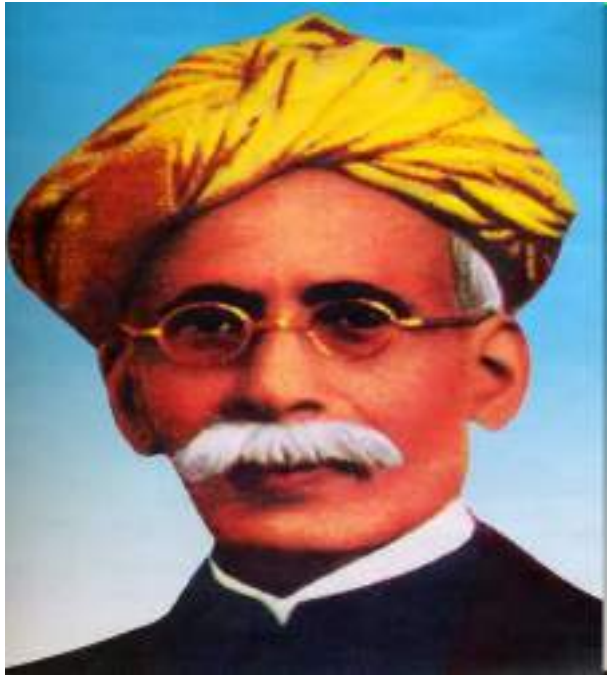


Madhusudan Das, popularly known as Madhu Barrister, respectfully regarded as Mr. Das and nationally esteemed and addressed as 'Utkal Gaurav' was the moving spirit for about half-a-century in the political, economic and social life of Odisha. As the third child of his parents, Choudhury Raghunath Das and Parvati Devi, Madhusudan was born on 28th April, 1848, in Satyabhamapur, a little-known village in the district of Cuttack. Mother Parvati Devi had molded the emotional life and character of young Madhusudan, and had left her imprint on his personality. "You alone can keep your own honour," she had impressed upon Madhusudan from his childhood. This golden maxim Madhu Babu had remembered all through his life and was guided by it whenever situations necessitating compromise with honour or principles arose. Madhusudan's appearance at the Cuttack Court heralded a new era in the history of Odia nationalism. Madhusudan held women in great esteem. He did not want them to suffer under social, economical or political disabilities under

## Dr. Arundhati Devi

the umbrage of sex-disqualification. Speaking on a Special Resolution on franchise for women in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council on November 23, 1921, he had said "It is the disqualification which I object to. Madhu Babu paid sufficient attention for industrialization of modern Odisha and tried his best for revival of our

of 'Utkal Tannery' in close association with the subjugated untouchables. The quality of the products manufactured by Utkal Tannery were of such a high standard that the boots manufactured by Utkal Tannery were used by the Soldiers during the First World War. Gandhi was overwhelmed on visiting the Utkal Tannery at Cuttack in 1925. Thus,



indigenous cottage industries. He established 'Odisha Art Wares' for manufacturing highly artistic filigree products which earned reputation for its brilliance and excellence in designs, presentation and craftsmanship. In course of time, the delicate filigree works of the Orissa Art Wares became internationally famous and used to be marketed to the fashion capitals of Europe. He had manufactured improved 'Charkha' for spinning of the yarn from the cotton, which had attracted the attention of Mahatma Gandhi. Besides this, he started from the year 1905 the export orientated venture

Madhu Babu was the moving spirit for about half a century in the political, economic and social life of Odisha. He breathed his last on 4th February. 1934. Odisha was about to emerge as a separate entity in the body politic of India. But the architect of new Odisha was not there to guide its destiny any more. But his immense contributions towards the State and Nation would be admired forever and he will continue to remain as a source of motivation for the younger generations. Director & Secretary, International Indecency Prevention Movement, Odisha, Cuttack, Mob. : 9937172810

## Trends in Communication



"Change is the sign of life and it is the only constant factor in life. This remains the universal dictat for any personal or professional situation. For an industry like the "Communication Industry", the substrate for its very survival is dynamic change. Entertainment and media have evolved into a highly challenging industry, interconnected by the global digital platform in a manner that few people could even have conceived 20 years ago. Earlier media print on paper, music on CDs, movies rented on DVD at the local Blockbuster, and TV networks that forced the viewer to be in front of the screen were existing. Now, the industry has changed dramatically into an always-on, easy to time-shift, always with you on mobile platforms, a customizable stream of news and views, entertainment, movies and music. The years of financial crisis in 2008 and 2009 were tough, but now advertising revenue for global media firms has improved substantially. Global advertising media revenues were projected to be \$427.0 billion in 2011, growing further to \$449.0 billion in 2012, according to Magna Global, a unit of advertising agency leader Interpublic Group. This growth is occurring mainly

in online media, and the fastest growing markets are developing nations such as China, India and Brazil. Broadly measured, the entertainment and media industry spans multiple sectors. Bollywood is a mammoth industry. Fourteen million viewers throng the theatres each day to lap up its movies. Four billion cinema tickets are sold each year. According to published reports, in 2004, more people globally watched Bollywood movies than Hollywood movies-3.8 billion vs. 3.6 billion (Paul Brett, British Film Institute [BFI], UK. India has over 4000 radio stations with lakhs of listeners from all walks of life tuned in almost throughout the day! The digital media industry is growing at a frantic pace not only in India but worldwide. The growth is fuelled by both, the growth in the traditional broadcast medium in some markets and by the advent of the newer medium of distribution in other markets i.e. broadband, mobile phones, iPod, iPad, X-Box, play-stations, etc. This creates more value chains, new business models, increasing competition for loyalty and gives people more options and flexibility to consume digital content. Newspapers have been dramatically affected by online alternatives. Newspapers are finding it increasingly difficult to compete against Internet news and advertising rivals. However, many of India's leading newspapers still enjoy their status and retain their fan following and circulation since it is well ingrained in the daily routine of a

## Vijay GarG

household to enjoy the morning with the newspaper – as a matter of habit! Meanwhile, free daily or weekly newspapers and shopping guides are also enjoying substantial growth. Both newspapers and magazines are rapidly adopting new formats and new technologies with the goal of making themselves highly relevant and readable for Internet users on PCs, and for mobile users on smartphones, iPads, ebook readers and other digital devices. Some consumer magazine industry executives in the country expect at least 25% of their readership to be on digital devices by 2015. Television in India is a huge industry which has thousands of programmes in many languages. The small screen has produced numerous celebrities, some even attaining national fame. TV soaps are extremely popular. Approximately half of all Indian households own a television. As of 2010, the country has a collection of free and subscription services over a variety of distribution media, through which there are over 515 channels of which 150 are pay channels. According to Pioneer Investcorp, the Indian cable industry is worth 270 billion (US\$4.91 billion) and is the third largest in the world after television in the People's Republic of China and television in the United States. The number of TV homes in India grew from 120 million in 2007 to 148 million in 2011. Cable reaches 94 million homes with 88 million analogue connections and 6 million digital ones, while DTH has commanded 41 million

subscribers. The burning issue affecting all sectors of the entertainment and media industry is maintaining control of content and audiences while taking advantage of myriad new electronic delivery systems. Consumers now demand more and more control over what they watch, read and listen to. Issues Related to Control Include: Pricing for content (including free-of-charge access; illegal downloads versus authorized downloads; and full ownership of a paid download versus pay-per-view). Portability (including the ability for a consumer to download once, and then use a file on multiple platforms and devices including iPads and cell phones, or the ability to share a download with friends). Delayed viewing or listening (such as viewing TV programming at the consumer's convenience via TiVo and similar digital video recorders). Today, electronic offerings such as advanced smartphones, digital video recorders (DVRs), video-on-demand (VOD) and MP3 players have vastly altered the way consumers enjoy entertainment. People watch and listen according to their own desires and whims and at their time and space. For instance, if you are interested in only one track from a recording artist's new CD? Buy and download just the one song via iTunes. If you love a prime-time drama on a major network but hate commercials then

you can record the show while skipping over the commercials with a DVR. The implications of these changes are staggering. The business models upon which most entertainment companies have traditionally run are becoming obsolete. Revenue from traditional advertising is in jeopardy while revenue from subscription-based business models is soaring. Online advertising is growing at a supersonic speed. Television programming schedules are losing relevance while electronic program guides are becoming more and more vital. Printed books are slipping while ebooks are scoring. Smartphones are now used more and more for entertainment purposes, including games, videos and TV-like programming. Game machines are going multipurpose with the ability to connect to the Internet. Broadband to the home has matured into a true mass-market medium, while wireless broadband systems such as Wi-Fi are enhancing the mobility of entertainment and media access. A serious evolution of access and delivery methods will continue at a rapid-fire pace, and media companies will be forced to be nimble than ever count on continued, rapid changes. As the revolution in new media continues, platforms will evolve quickly, the discerning consumers will obtain even greater control and competition will be fierce.

Educational columnist Malout Punjab

## Rule Breaker Women

(Shibangi Dhara), Bandana Sahoo



As small as this word "woman" is when we hear it, its importance is as big. It's not just a word, it's a huge treasure which is not so easy to know and understand, it's difficult at all. Our whole life will end, still it will take less time for us to understand it's importance. A woman is a milkmaid who serves the welfare of two families, that of her maternal family and that of her in-laws. And she dedicates her entire life to serve the welfare of these two clans, but still people keep blaming her for not understanding her. She dedicates her life completely for her father, mother, brother in her mother's house and for her mother-in-law, father-in-law, husband, children in her in-laws house. But despite this, no one is able to understand her. And all the time her family members and people of this society keep try to

humiliate her for some reason or the others. Woman is another name for sacrifice, who always sacrifice all her desires and happiness for others. Whose heart is very soft. And if needed, she can also destroy the sinners by taking the form Maa Durga and Chandi. Education, knowledge, intelligence and bravery they are not less in any quality. And many improvement started coming in today's women. Now a days women have started moving forward on the path of development. They are not less than in any quality or anything. Why in today's time women will depend on someone, even if it is for marriage. Today's society is progressing at such a high level, where there is no discrimination between men and women, then why can't she break every policy rule of this society and give it a different and better direction? Why will she bear the pressure of family and this society even for the shake of marriage and will do anything against her wishes and then she will make her life hell. Breaking the rules doesn't mean that you forget all your cultures

,lose your temper by drinking alcohol, indulge in wrong activities, become an adulterer by following wrong company, leave your home and family, children and run away with someone else and completely destroy or lose your purity and lead yourself to destruction. Even a woman doesn't want to do anything, she can do a lot. A woman sometimes a daughter, sometimes a sister and sometimes a daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, wife, mother in her in-laws house. She continues to fulfill all these relationships alone, and she tries to handle all these responsibilities well. The woman who always sacrifices every happiness away from her mother for all these relationships, which I don't have the ability to describe. The society is incomplete without the development of women. In today's time, in the name of development, they are losing their way and have started forgetting their responsibilities and all the values. Therefore, they need the development of women in a good direction.

Jajpur 7205550713



# SC Decision on Hindu Marriage Praiseworthy

- Lalit Garg -



By delivering a major decision on Hindu marriage, the Supreme Court has not only confirmed rites, rituals and traditional customs of Hindu marriage, but has also accepted them as necessary from the legal point of view. Today, when the sanctity, social acceptance and efficacy of Hindu marriage is getting undervalued due to so-called modern life under influence of western culture, there was a dire need to reinforce it. Those who consider marriage ceremonies just as a registration need to be wary. They have to understand the underlying meaning of taking seven rounds around the altar; without these seven rounds, Hindu customs and wedding ceremonies will not be valid in the eyes of the law. The latest decision of the Supreme Court on Hindu marriage is welcome, and its long-term consequences will be pleasant for society. This decision will reinforce Hindu culture and traditions. The institution of family will get strengthened. While rendering this decision related to Hindu marriage, the Supreme Court said that marriage

is not an occasion just for 'singing and dancing', 'drinking and eating' or for demanding dowry and gifts by exerting undue pressure. Hindu marriage is not a commercial transaction. It is a serious basic cultural and family event which is celebrated to create a relationship between a man and a woman who attain the status of husband and wife for a good family in the future. It is a basic unit of the Indian Hindu social system, which has a strong cultural and religious dimension. In fact, the Supreme Court has made it clear that Hindu marriage cannot be recognized without taking seven rounds around the altar, that is, the rules and provisions made in the Hindu Marriage Act will have to be followed strictly for solemnizing the marriage. In this way, the Court in its decision has clarified the legal requirements of solemnizing a Hindu marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act 1955. According to the Act, a Hindu marriage shall be solemnized according to traditional rites, rituals and ceremonies of either party. The ceremonies include Saptapadi (the taking of seven steps jointly around the sacred fire by the bride and groom both); the marriage becomes complete and binding when they take the seventh step together. Overall, Hindu marriage is an institution, a ritual and the marriage is not a commercial transaction. The Supreme Court has

stressed that proper rites like Saptapadi (seven rounds around the sacred fire) and associated rituals and ceremonies are necessary for the validity of a Hindu marriage. In case of later disputes between

compromise for many. Justice B Nagarathna in her relevant and useful judgment has rightly said that Hindu marriage is a sacrament, which should be given status of an institution of great value in the Indian society. A

coming to the court's doorstep regarding the rituals and traditional customs related to Hindu marriage, and every time the court has been presenting its view on the matters related to the institution of marriage

Overall, the message of the court is that the basic meaning of marriage should be understood, while avoiding unnecessary pomp and show. There is now a need for more clarity regarding Hindu

marriage ceremony is commonly known as Hindu marriage. In other religions, marriage is a kind of contract between husband and wife which can be broken under special circumstances, but Hindu marriage is a relationship between husband and wife for many births which cannot be broken under any circumstances. By taking seven rounds of sacred fire and keeping the Pole Star as witness, the two bodies, mind and soul get tied in a sacred bond. It is also a union of two families. In Hindu marriage, there is more spiritual relationship between husband and wife than physical relationship and this relationship is considered extremely sacred. Hindu marriage not only contains family, social and cultural significance, but it also has deep spiritual significance. Hinduism has prescribed four purusharthas (four basic pursuits of life), i.e. Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha. The purpose of the marriage ceremony is to complete the effort of 'Kama' and then gradually move towards 'Moksha'. Many important things in the life of a man and woman are associated with marriage; for example, love between man and woman, their relationship, children, their parents, various happy events falling in course of their life, social status and prosperity. In Hindu society, a married woman is viewed with utmost respect. The sight of a

woman with kumkum-sindoor on her forehead, wearing a mangalsutra around her neck, green bangles, toe rings and a six or nine-yard saree automatically generates respect for her in the mind of an observer. Of the seven Hindu marriage vows, there are at least three where the couple promises to take care of their elders. The fifth promise is to have children and take care of them. In recent years, many anomalies and distortions have been added to the Hindu marriage tradition and culture in India. With the introduction of dating culture, the prevalence of love marriage has increased. Potential brides and grooms prefer to choose life partners on their own. Today's romantic relationships are not actually marriage, but a new practice, which has the opposite effect of disintegrating the family institution. Along with marriage, the practice of pre-wedding has also become the carrier of many distortions, big grand events and hotel culture has also blurred the sanctity of marriage. Widespread use of alcohol and other drugs at events has also become a cause of accidents. Due to which cracks are seen appearing in marriage bonds even before it takes place.

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husband and wife, it is necessary to present proof of the solemnizing of the marriage ceremony. This effort of the Supreme Court to explain the value of the seven rounds and the ceremony related to it will not only strengthen the institution of Hindu marriage, but will also reinforce the values that are getting blurred in the storm of modernity. There is no doubt that the basic importance of marriage ceremony has reduced in the modern times as compared to the earlier times; now marriage has become just a show, compulsion or

marriage without traditional rites or rituals like seven rounds around the sacred fire will not be considered a Hindu marriage as per Section 7 of the Hindu Marriage Act. For this reason, the Court has urged young men and women to think deeply about the institution of marriage before entering into it; and to consider how sacred they said institution is in Indian society. The question is why did the Supreme Court need to stress upon Hindu marriage and strengthen Hindu values? In fact, many cases have been

with alertness, foresight and prudence. The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court recently held that as per the Hindu Marriage Act, the ceremony of Kanyadaan is not necessary to solemnize a Hindu marriage. The importance of Saptapadi was also shown in that decision. In the decision of a family court of Madhya Pradesh, it was explained to the woman's side that applying vermilion is a religious duty of a married Hindu woman. A similar attempt at persuasion is reflected in the latest decision of the Supreme Court.

marriage and especially to emphasize Hindu rituals and culture; because the family institution continues to exist in India, the reason for this is Hindu values and traditions. In this way, the Court in its decision has clarified the legal requirements and sanctity of Hindu marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act 1955. Hindu marriage is an ideal tradition and culture. In Hindu religion, marriage is considered one of the sixteen sacraments; Marriage or Vivaah, hence its literal meaning is to bear special responsibility. The

# Herbal Face Packs to Revitalize the Skin

Shahnaz Husain



Summer has arrived – and so have all our summer skin problems. Oiliness, acne, dullness and whatnot Summer can be a challenging season for our skin, especially if we live in hot and humid areas or spend a lot of time outdoors With the scorching heat waves engulfing us as soon as we step out, the excessive sweat makes it extremely difficult to keep on any skincare or makeup product, naturally turning the face dull, greasy and prone to infections.

Taking care of your skin during the summer months is essential to avoid common skin issues and maintain healthy, glowing skin. Going for a facial every time you feel your skin unattractive is not a healthy practice as the salons are expensive , time consuming and use nothing but harsh chemical products. If you want to rejuvenate your skin by removing excess dirt, dead skin cells and oil in your face without spending a single penny for a salon like effect then head for your kitchen pantry than departmental store for organic face masks which will also save money and time both . Many ingredients available at home make ideal

ingredients for face packs for refreshing and revitalizing the skin, as well as enhancing beauty. Fresh home ingredients leave the skin refreshed and glowing. With homemade packs allergic reactions are rare. You can relax and pamper yourself in your own home, where many ingredients with beauty benefits are easily available, like honey, curd, milk, eggs, fruits, and spices. These can be easily mixed into a face pack. Many other ingredients can be added like rose water, dried and powdered orange and lemon peels, ground almonds, oats, wheat bran (choker), gram flour, chocolate, wine and so on. Applying such ingredients can actually nourish and

revitalize the skin powerfully, while others, like tulsi, neem, fenugreek, c i n n a m o n , sandalwood and turmeric have antiseptic, healing and soothing properties. Here are a few home-made packs for refreshing and revitalizing the skin: Make a cold infusion of Hibiscus flowers, by allowing them to stand overnight in cold water, in a ratio of one to six. Next morning crush the flowers. Strain and keep the water. Mix the flowers with 3 teaspoons oats, 2 drops tea tree oil and add the water to mix into a paste. This hibiscus pack helps to cleanse, refresh and tone the skin, adding a glow. Apply on the face and wash off after 20 to 30 minutes.

Take honey and yogurt and add a few tablespoons of red wine. Apply this on the face and leave it on for 20 minutes. Rinse with plain water. This softens and moisturizes the skin, removes tan and also adds a glow. Avocado pulp can be mixed with aloe vera gel and applied on the face to nourish and moisturize the skin. Wash off with plain water after 20 minutes. Fresh and raw avocado should be used. Avocado contains about 20 vitamins and minerals. It is rich in antioxidants, which help to delay visible signs of skin ageing. Mix cucumber and ripe papaya pulp with curd and two teaspoons oats. Lemon juice can also be added. Apply on face and neck. Wash it off after

half an hour. Helps to remove tan and brighten the skin. For oily skin, soak one tablespoon moong dal in water for a few hours. Make a paste and add one tablespoon tomato pulp. Apply on face with a light massage. Wash off with water after 20 minutes. Reduces oiliness and brightens the skin. Take two teaspoons choker (wheat bran), one teaspoon each ground almonds, honey, curd and egg white or rose water. Mix together and apply on the face, avoiding lips and area around eyes. Wash off after 30 minutes. Allow marigold flowers to stand in warm water overnight. Add yogurt and sandalwood paste and mix together to

make a smooth paste. Apply on the face, avoiding the lips and area around eyes. Wash it off after 20 minutes. Marigold has a soothing and germicidal effect on skin irritation and eruptions. It may be used to control pimples and rashes. It has an astringent effect, reducing oiliness and closing the pores. It is ideal for normal to oily and combination skin. For dry skin, add red wine to aloe vera gel and dried milk powder. Apply on the face and wash it off after 20 minutes. Add a few strands of saffron to warm milk and wheat bran (choker). Let it stand for a couple of hours. Then apply it on the face, using cotton wool. It is said to lighten skin

colour over a period of time. Mix together three teaspoons cocoa powder and 2 teaspoons oats with egg white and one teaspoon each honey and curd. Adjust the ingredients, so that it is a thick paste, which does not drip. If it is too thin, add more cocoa powder. To make it thinner, add more curd or milk. For dry skin, add egg yolk, instead of egg white. First cleanse the skin and then apply the mask, avoiding the lips and area around eyes. Wash it off after 20 to 30 minutes with plain water

**The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the Herbal Queen of India**



## Baseline Survey for Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) at NTPC Bongaigaon

**Kolkata, (KCN):** The Baseline Survey for Girls Empowerment Mission (GEM) programme was conducted at NTPC Bongaigaon on 3rd May, 2024. Aimed at empowering the government. School girls from nearby villages of NTPC-Bongaigaon, the programme attracted 13 girl students along with Parents and Teachers. Resource persons from M/s GYT Enterprises (nodal agency for the GEM programme at NTPC-Bongaigaon) interacted with girls,



teachers and parents. The girls are also exposed to similar programmes conducted in other NTPC projects through Video screening.

students to assess their strength and subsequently design the curriculum for the upcoming Four-Week workshop beginning from July, 2024. NTPC CSR team led by Shri Onkar Nath, AGM (HR), Shri Madhurjya Singha Lahkar, Sr. Manager (HR-Communications), Ms. Aduity Thakuri, Executive, CSR, and the team from M/s GYT Enterprises were present on the occasion.

Sample test on the academic subjects was conducted for the girl

## Chilling CCTV Video Captures Ex Kazakh Minister Beating His Wife To Death

**New Delhi:** The trial of a former Kazakhstan minister charged with beating his wife to death has become the talking point across the nation, with some seeing it as a litmus test of President Kassy m - J o m a r t Tokayev's promise to build a fairer, more equitable society. Saltanat Nukanova, 31, was found dead last November in a restaurant owned by a relative of her husband Kuandyk Bishimbayev, where the couple had spent almost a whole day and the previous night. She had been unconscious for



hours. In a recent hearing, the court was shown 8-hour-long footage of 44-year-old Kuandyk Bishimbayev, a former economy minister, beating his wife Saltanat Nukanova. The surveillance footage shows Bishimbayev kicking and punching the

31-year-old repeatedly in a restaurant owned by his family. When she tried to escape by hiding in the toilet, Bishimbayev "broke down the door, pulled her out, and continued beating her," the prosecutor said during the trial. "He grabbed her by the throat after dragging her out of the toilet. This is when she lost consciousness," the prosecutor added. As she lay on the floor, covered in her blood, Bishimbayev dialled a fortune-teller, who assured him his wife would be fine.

## 1717 Candidates to Contest Poll Across 10 States/UTs in Phase 4 of General Election

**Kolkata, (KCN):** Election Commission of India (ECI) in a Press Note issued today stated 75 candidates from West Bengal will be contesting in the Phase 4 of Lok Sabha Elections. A total of 138 nomination forms were received for the phase 4 of General Election in West Bengal, stated the Press Note. After withdrawal, 75

candidates will be contesting. A total of 4624 nominations were filed for 96 Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) across 10 States/UTs. The last date for filing of nominations for Phase 4 for all these States was April 25, 2024. Across the country 1970 nominations were found to be valid. After withdrawal, the number

of final contesting candidates is 1717. In West Bengal, 75 candidates were found to be valid after scrutiny. In the fourth phase of the General Election, eight PCs will go for polling. They are Baharampur, Krishnanagar, Ranaghat (SC), Bardhaman Purba (SC), Bardhaman-Durgapur, Asansol, Bolpur (SC) and Birbhum.

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court will look into the possibility of granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal so that he can campaign for the ongoing Lok Sabha polls. A bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta today said it will look at the interim bail plea on Tuesday (May 7) and asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Mr Kejriwal's counsel to be prepared. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader was arrested by ED officials on March 21 in connection with alleged irregularities in the now-scraped Delhi liquor policy. He has approached the Supreme Court after he did not get relief from lower courts. He is the third top AAP leader to be arrested in the corruption case, after Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh. Mr Singh, a Rajya Sabha MP, is out on bail. Appearing for Mr



Kejriwal, Senior Advocate Abhishek Singhvi today said there is no evidence against the Delhi Chief Minister and his arrest is legal. Mr Kejriwal, he said, had responded to nine summonses from the ED. He added that failure to appear cannot be a basis for arrest. "All evidence on which I am arrested is pre-2023 end. Every material is as in July 2023. Same evidence relied on in

Manish Sisodia's case. Money trail chart was the same," Mr Singhvi said. When the court asked if any action had been taken against AAP, Mr Singhvi replied in the negative. Referring to Section 70 of the PMLA, which deals with offences by companies, he said, "Anything or everything done by a political party cannot be attributed to its convenor or president. Merely mentioning a company cannot lead to

arrest of the MD unless you show something, same thing with AAP." To this, Justice Khanna replied, "Any person in overall charge of the company, then you are vicariously liable with the company and then you have to show that it was done without your knowledge." Mr Singhvi responded, "They say he is the brain behind AAP... he is involved in demand of kickbacks. There is no direct

evidence." Appearing for the central agency, Additional Solicitor General SV Raju said the decision to arrest Mr Kejriwal was not just taken by the investigating officer, but also fortified by a special judge. "Before he was arrested, they moved a division bench of Delhi High Court, saying that he should not be arrested, but the court perused the documents and said no interference. So application of judicial mind in three stages," he said. The court eventually noted that this case and examination of its various aspects may take time. "But if the case takes time, we may consider interim bail due to elections," the bench said. The court asked what conditions may be imposed if bail is granted. "We are yet to decide on that and (will) hear on Tuesday. We must be open so that neither side is taken by surprise," the court said.

## Rahul Gandhi Files Nomination From Raebareli, Accompanied By Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka



**New Delhi (KCN):** Mother Sonia Gandhi and sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra by his side, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today filed nomination papers for the Raebareli Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi's husband Robert Vadra were also with Mr Gandhi as he submitted the papers at the district magistrate's office. Early this morning, the Congress leadership announced its candidates for two high-profile seats - Amethi and Raebareli. Putting an end to speculation that Mr Gandhi may be fielded from Amethi, a seat he has represented thrice in Lok Sabha, the Congress picked Kishori Lal Sharma for the seat. Rae Bareli is considered one of the safest seats for the Congress. Out of the 20 elections it has witnessed so far, the Congress has won 17. History, however, also records an odd distinction for this seat -- Raebareli is the seat from where a sitting Prime Minister lost an election. This was when Indira Gandhi was defeated by Janata Party's Raj Narain in the

1977 elections after Emergency. Earlier, the seat has been represented by Mr Gandhi's grandfather and Indira Gandhi's husband, Feroze Gandhi. Over the past two decades, the seat has elected Sonia Gandhi. Despite the wave in support of the BJP in 2014 and 2019, this seat stayed with the Congress. Mrs Gandhi has now moved to Rajya Sabha, vacating the prestige seat for her son. In Raebareli, Mr Gandhi is up against the BJP's Dinesh Pratap Singh, who finished a runner-up in the 2019 election. Congress's Amethi pick Mr Sharma is a long-term loyalist of the Gandhi family and has been working as an MP's representative in the two constituencies for a long time. Congress leaders say he is a grassroots man and hope this will pay off in the polls. Speaking to the media, Mr Sharma said he has been working in Amethi for 40 years now. "I am very grateful that the Congress has given this opportunity to an ordinary worker like me. I came here in 1987 as a Youth Congress member and from then I have been here. I started

my career with Rajiv (Gandhi) ji. In 1987, Rajivji brought me here. Then the circumstances were such that I stayed here." Ms Gandhi Vadra praised Mr Sharma and wished him luck. "Kishori Lal Sharma shares a bond with our family. He has been dedicated to serving the people of Amethi and Rae Bareli. His zeal for public service is an example," she said. "It is heartening that the Congress has named him its candidate from Amethi. His dedication and sense of duty will surely bring him success in this election," she posted on X. But Mr Sharma's fight is not going to be easy. He is up against Union Minister Smriti Irani, who had trumped Rahul Gandhi in the 2019 election. Ms Irani has been camping in the constituency for a while now and has the advantage of a headstart due to the BJP's early announcement of her candidature. Like Raebareli, Amethi, too, has been a Gandhi family stronghold for years and has been represented by four Gandhis so far -- Sanjay Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

## "Netanyahu Not Interested In Reaching Agreement": Hamas On Gaza Truce

**Gaza:** A top Hamas official accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Friday of issuing statements intended to torpedo prospects for a truce in the nearly seven-month war in Gaza. Hossam Badran told AFP that Hamas was in the process of conducting internal dialogues within its leadership and with allied fighter groups before negotiators return to Cairo to continue negotiations towards a truce. But he warned that Netanyahu's repeated statements insisting he will send troops into the territory's far southern city of Rafah were calculated to "thwart any possibility of concluding an agreement". "Netanyahu was the obstructionist in all previous rounds of dialogue and previous negotiations, and it is clear that he still is," he said in a telephone interview. "He is not interested



in reaching an agreement, and therefore he says words in the media to thwart these current efforts." Mediators from Egypt, Qatar and the United States have proposed a deal that would halt fighting for 40 days and exchange Israeli hostages for potentially thousands of Palestinian prisoners, according to details released earlier by Britain. The outcome of the

indirect negotiations has remained highly uncertain, with back and forth over the number of hostages that could be released, and profound differences over the scope of any agreement. Badran reiterated that Hamas's goal remains a lasting ceasefire and "a complete and comprehensive withdrawal of the occupation forces from the Gaza Strip". That aim is at odds with the stated

position of Netanyahu, who has vowed the army will keep fighting Hamas, including in Rafah, where some 1.5 million civilians are sheltering in cramped conditions. But after months of stop-start negotiations, the head of Hamas's Qatar-based political bureau, Ismail Haniyeh, said Thursday that the group would "soon" send a delegation back to Egypt aiming

for a deal that "realises the demands of our people". Haniyeh further said that Hamas was studying the latest proposal from Israel in a "positive spirit". Any deal reached would be the first since a one-week truce in November that saw 80 Israeli hostages exchanged for 240 Palestinian prisoners. Israel estimates that 129 hostages remain in Gaza. The Israeli military says 35 of them are dead. The Hamas attack on southern Israel that started the war resulted in the deaths of 1,170 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures. Israel's retaliatory campaign against Hamas has killed more than 34,600 people in Gaza, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.



# Sundargarh forest fires under control: Officials

**Rourkela(KCN):** Due to the cooperation and assistance of locals, forest fires have remained more or less under control in various ranges of Sundargarh district, officials stated Thursday. The Bonai forest is one of the biggest ranges in this district. A fire had broken out in a part of the forest, but it was finally brought under control Wednesday, an official said. "We faced difficulties, but the situation is finally under control," said the district forest officer (DFO), Bonai range, Lalit Patra. The DFO also

explained why the department had faced difficulties in controlling the flames. "The problem was due to the gradient of the area. The fire spread to the upper region and we initially found the going tough. However due to the efforts of the staff and locals, we managed to control the flames," Patra informed. Currently, there are 459 fire points in Sundargarh district. Most of these are in Hemgiri forest range. "We have kept the situation under control due to the assistance of the locals. They promptly inform the



Forest department if they see flames. At times they even douse the fires, before we

arrive at the spot," informed Patra. Pradip Mirase, DFO of Sundargarh division

informed us that time span in tackling forest fires has come down drastically. "Bonai is

one of the largest forest divisions in Odisha. This year our time in tackling forest fires has

come down to five hours instead of the 10-12 hours in the past. This is because we have managed to control the fires," Mirase said. Patrolling, especially early in the morning by volunteers and Forest department officials has helped in controlling the situation. "This year Sundargarh division had three large fires and those were near the Chhattisgarh border. Our patrolling teams, locals and satellite imagery helped us reach the area with pinpoint accuracy and helped in dousing the

flames promptly," informed Mirase. The easy availability of equipment like blowers has also helped in controlling the fires. The construction of water bodies for animals has also played a major role in preventing large fire incidents. "In most parts of the forests there is an abundant quantity of water to tackle and douse the flames," stated Mirase and Patra. Officials said that more than 50 water bodies are spread across the forests.

## Special initiatives to protect inmates of Sambalpur Zoo

**Sambalpur(KCN):** To help the animals beat the heat, authorities at the 'Sambalpur Zoo' here are taking special initiatives. Temperatures in this town have constantly been soaring up to 40 degrees Celsius or more. Hence measures have been put in place to prevent heatstroke and dehydration among various types of animals, reptiles and birds in the zoo. Among them are bears, leopards, blackbucks, hog deer, sambars, barking deer, monkeys, pythons, mongooses, palm civets, cockatiels, budgerigars and peacocks. The process to safeguard animals from the heatwave was initiated in March.



All 28 enclosures have been covered with bamboo sheds and thatch roofs. Also water holes have been created in all the enclosures. Air coolers have been placed in the enclosures that house leopards and bears, officials informed. Animals are provided a special summer diet like glucose, ORS, honey and other electrolytes along

with water to keep them hydrated. Fruits with water contents such as water melons, sugarcanes, cucumbers, papayas, grapes and tomatoes are fed to herbivores, said an official. He added that constant watering of the thatched roofs is done to keep the atmosphere inside the enclosures cool. The official also

informed that special care is being provided to animals and birds born in April. He added that the reptile section will see an increase in numbers as soon as the rock python laid 15 eggs May 1. Even during the heatwave, the 'Sambalpur Zoo' had a footfall of approximately 1,000 visitors daily, said another official

## Female jumbo delivers stillborn; dies

**Keonjhar(KCN):** An adult female elephant died Thursday due to various complications after delivering a stillborn calf in a forest near Renda Sahi locality of Dubuna village under Bamebari section of Champua range in this district. Environmentalists and wildlife enthusiasts have expressed concern over the death of the tusker. They informed that two dozen elephants have died in the past three years in Keonjhar forest division only. According to the Forest Department officials, the



female elephant died due to acute labour pain and other complications. The calf got stuck inside the body of the elephant causing it severe pain. Officials said that the pain started around 11.00 pm Wednesday night. The tusker delivered the stillborn calf around 9.00am Thursday

morning. "After giving birth to a stillborn calf, the animal failed to stand up and its condition deteriorated rapidly. At around 12.00 noon, the tusker breathed its last during treatment," divisional forest officer, Keonjhar division, Dhanraj HD said. "Further details about the

complications will only be available after the post-mortem report comes," he added. Both the tusker and the calf were buried in the forest later in the day. Sources said several measures have been adopted for protection of the elephants under Keonjhar forest division. However, the efforts have failed. Elephant squads and 'Gaja Sathis' have been deployed to track and monitor the movement of wild elephants and ascertain their health conditions, but they failed to track this tusker, they added.

## Beat the Heat : Dr. Jasmine Afroz's Sunstroke Insights for a Safe Summer in Odisha


**Bhubaneswar (KCN Bureau):** As Odisha grapples with relentless heat waves pushing daytime temperatures to a scorching 46 degrees Celsius, it's crucial to understand the profound impact of extreme heat on human health. Prolonged exposure not only poses immediate risks like sunstroke but also contributes to long-term health implications. Sunstroke, also known as heatstroke, is a serious medical condition that can occur due to prolonged exposure to high temperatures and inadequate hydration. Living in hot climates like Odisha demands a proactive approach to staying safe in the heat. Dr.



Jasmine Afroz, the Medical Superintendent at CHC Gop in Puri district, shares valuable insights on both preventing and treating sunstroke. Dr. Afroz sheds light on critical aspects of coping with extreme heat, emphasizing both immediate effects on the body and long-term health implications. In the immediate realm, she underscores the risks of heat exhaustion, where the

body struggles to cool down leading to symptoms like heavy sweating, fatigue and nausea. Sunstroke, a more severe condition can emerge with symptoms such as high body temperature and confusion necessitating urgent medical attention. Dehydration is another concern as high temperatures expedite fluid loss, potentially leading to organ failure and electrolyte imbalances. Looking at the long-term effects, Dr. Afroz points out how prolonged heat exposure strains the cardiovascular system, raising concerns about heart-related illnesses. Respiratory conditions like asthma worsen during heat waves due to the hot, dry air irritating airways.

Additionally, existing heat-related illnesses like heat edema and cramps can intensify in such conditions. To combat these challenges, Dr. Afroz recommends proactive measures. Staying hydrated is paramount, alongside avoiding peak sun hours and wearing appropriate clothing for sun protection. In cases of sunstroke, swift actions like moving to cooler areas, hydrating and employing cooling measures are crucial with medical attention being imperative if symptoms persist. Dr. Afroz's insights stress the significance of prevention and informed action, ensuring safety in hot climates like Odisha through prudent measures and awareness of sunstroke symptoms.



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## CUO will produce research-based documentary film on Bonda Tribe under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat



**Koraput, (KCN):** The Central University of Odisha organized a preparatory meeting to produce a documentary film on Bonda Tribe under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, a flagship programme of the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The meeting was chaired by Prof Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble V-C, CUO in the presence of Prof N C Panda, Registrar (I/C), Prof B C Barik, Former V-C, Sambalpur University & Former Tagore National Fellow,

Ministry of Culture, Government of India AND Shri Girish Kuber of Vanavasi Kalyan Ashram. Prof N C Panda welcomed all the guests and committee members and said that the documentary film may be supplemented with research based publications. Dr Sourav Gupta, Assistant Professor, Dep't of Journalism & Mass Communication delivered the introductory note and explained that Prof Barik has submitted his study report on the Bonda Tribe

as the Tagore National Fellow and based on his research the CUO will produce an authentic documentary film on Bonda. Prof B C Barik presented a brief outline of the research and explained the various socio cultural aspects and transformations in Bonda way of Life. Shri Girish Kuber emphasized on dewesternizing the way of viewing tribal people and their practices. Prof Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble V-C, CUO stated that the CUO will take all steps necessary to ensure a good quality film and also

explore the use of tribal dialect in Odia literature. Prof Tripathi also said that the film will be made in three languages-Odia, English and Hindi. Prof V C Jha, Consultant, Academic & Admin. lauded the plan of CUO and said that it will be an important documentation for the region. The committee members further deliberated on various technical aspects

of the film like budget, script, visuals and presentation style. It was decided to visit Bonda Hills later in the year for a shooting schedule.

The committee members present in the meeting were Dr Chakradhar Padhan, Associate Professor, Hindi, Dr Kapila Khemendu, Associate Professor, Sociology, Dr Jayant Nayak, Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Dr. Prasenjit Sinha, Assistant Professor, English, Research Scholars and Alumni of Anthropology and JMC Department. On this occasion, Rutuparna Mohapatra, alumni of CUO from Anthropology Department and Research Assistant of Prof B C Barik was felicitated by V-C & Registrar of CUO.

## Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples – Bhubaneswar – celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar's 'Made of Artistic Flair' edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Exemplifying the region's signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha's distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group – from the small Odisha town of Berhampur – widely lauded for their artistry. The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The "Made of Artistic Flair" edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

Taking us on a 'Jatra' – The Journey of a Young Woman – the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. Truly encapsulating the spirit of 'Made of Pride', the designer made use of Odisha weave, which is sustainable, hand-woven, organic and a homegrown initiative of design, painstakingly woven by the weavers of Odisha. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer. The evening was attended by the city's A-listers & influencers. The fashion walk truly left the guests mesmerized and engaged.

Through this unique showcase of Pride encompassing diverse talent across creative fields, Blenders Pride Fashion Nights 2022, encourages everyone, especially youth at large to celebrate & take pride in their authentic and individual journeys. The evening spotlighted individuals who take Pride in their choices, are comfortable in their skin and, most importantly, embrace their authentic selves – truly living a life that is 'Made of Pride'.

## "Preyashee Katha" unique Dance composition of rich cultural facets of Odia community presented at ICCR Kolkata



**Kolkata (PARTHA ROY):** "Preyashee Katha" unique composition of rich cultural facets of Odia community presented through Odissi dance form at ICCR Kolkata on 2nd May 2024.

Guru Sutapa Talukdar (Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee) and Gurukul repertory members presented the dance compositions. Preyashee Katha - the production consists of two themes:

Nayika Bheda that talks about the classification of men and women on the basis of their behavioural patterns - Uttama, Madhyama and Adhama, as written by Sage Bharata in his book Natya Sastra. Performers used three poems to delineate the qualities of these three types of nayikas: Uttama, Madhyama and Adhama.

Chautisha is an early form of Odia poetry written by Kavi Bhakta Das. The verse is a beautiful eulogy to the two Yadava brothers Krishna and Balaram who have set off on a journey to defeat Kamsa the King of Mathura. The

description of their valour and beauty is hyperbolic as is the description of the grief of the villagers, Gops and Gopinis.

Guru Sutapa Talukdar enthralled the audience through her spell bound performance. Her expressions touched heart of the large section of the audience.

Guru Ramhari Das 's music composition for this production is one of the finest music composition in recent time.

Guru Dhaneshwar Swain brought in innovation in rhythm composition and enriched the presentation.

Young dancers of Gukukul repertory mesmerized the audience through their performance. The composition celebrated unique human relationship between divinely figures and ordinary human figures in Odia mythological narratives.

The composition presented unique, prolific, inclusive side of Hinduism.

The audience gave standing ovation to Guru Sutapa Talukdar and Gurukul repertory

members on conclusion as a part of deep appreciation of the presentation. Narration was given by Smt. Sunita Chaudhury

The program was anchored by acclaimed Kathak dancer Ms. Tanni Choudhary.

The program was attended by members of diplomatic community in the city, large no. of art and culture aficionados, artists, celebrities.

Swami Vamanananda of Ramakrishna Mission Barahanagar Kolkata attended the presentation.

Preyashee Katha project is a brainchild of three Sangeet Natak Academy awardees -

Guru Ramhari Das (music composer), Guru Dhaneshwar Swain (rhythm composer) and

Guru Sutapa Talukdar (dance choreographer). Overall artistic direction and choreography: Guru

Sutapa Talukdar. Others who enriched the production &

presentation: Lights design: Shri Uttiya Jena; Sound: Shri Hashi Panchal; Set and props:

Shri Umesh Chandra Bera.

## Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

Bhubaneswar : Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic services like CCD Imager cleaning and

firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help customers to register their in-warranty products on Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail

free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, "By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touch-points to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations."

## ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY FEATURE

Mumbai: Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the Atlas of Affluence (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian fashion, design, crafts and retail, AOA 2022, is the

first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury.

A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned study

across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

## NSDL launches "Market ka Eklavya- Express" in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

Mumbai: India's largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) launched 'Market ka Eklavya- Express', an online investment awareness program for students that will be conducted in 8 different languages including Hindi. The program would serve as a beginner's guide for investing for the youth.

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness 'Market Ka Eklavya - Express' across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally,

look for avenues of investment.

Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL.

On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by our Prime Minister to

celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country. In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of Atmanirbhar

Bharat."

Students across India will benefit from this program as it does not restrict to just an area of the population. The program will be conducted for 1 hour and mainly educate the students on demystifying the jargons, 3I's – types of Income; Inflation and its impact, types of Investment; 3S – Start early- Power of Compounding, Spread wide, Stay long etc.

## Jindal Stainless signs MoU with SCTEVT, Odisha to train future-ready stainless steel professionals

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's State Council for Technical Education & Vocational Training (SCTEVT) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jindal Stainless to promote technical education in the field of stainless steel and its various applications. Under this MoU, stainless steel courses will be introduced in all the Polytechnic colleges in Odisha from June 2022. The MoU was signed by Vice Chairman,

SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident Director, JSL, Mr SS

Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana.

Commending the development, Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry."



# 'I was detached from the result' - Bhuvneshwar after last-over heroics

**New Delhi:** Veteran India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar admitted that the final result was not on his mind when he was handed a difficult task of defending 12 runs in the final over against Rajasthan Royals on Thursday (May 2). SRH, who were put under the pump in the run chase, managed to turn the tide around to clinch a thrilling one-run win in Hyderabad. "I told everyone process is very important," Bhuvneshwar said after the game. "I was literally thoughtless, I was not thinking about the result. I was just trying to do what I can do." With Rovman Powell facing strike for the

major part of that final over, Bhuvneshwar's task was indeed difficult especially with SRH forced to bring in an extra fielder due to a slow over rate. With two runs needed off the final ball, the seamer bowled a low full toss that was missed by the batter completely as he got trapped lbw. "I knew if I could bowl just two good balls, and if it went to the last ball, anything could happen," he said. "It was a full toss, I know, but he missed it. "I was not thinking about the one extra fielder up, or whatever the restriction was there, I was so detached from the result. I wasn't thinking about where the fielder is, where he is going to hit, where I'm gonna bowl, I

was so focused on the process, that was the only thing I was doing." Bhuvneshwar also made the new ball talk in the game that put the Royals on the backfoot very early. The 34-year-old got the ball to swing, like he used to do so often in his prime, to get rid of both Jos Buttler and Sanju Samson for ducks. "It was the first match the ball swung so much," he pointed out. "I can't really pinpoint where the ball swung last, but the way it swung I literally enjoyed it. When it swings, you are always on top of the game, you try to take wickets and luckily, I got wickets." Meanwhile, RR's batting allrounder Riyan Parag dismissed suggestions that some of the batters,



including himself, threw their wickets away especially with his side comfortably heading towards another win at one stage. Parag and Yashasvi Jaiswal added 134 for the third wicket and were

cruising before getting dismissed. "I don't think any one of us threw our wickets," he noted. "Jaiswal tried that scoop because Natarajan was bowling good slow bouncers and hence he

predicted a yorker and went with that shot. I tried to muscle it for a six, probably an error in execution but I don't really think we threw our wickets. It would have been nice to stay till the end, it was the

plan for both of us." Parag also admitted that the home team bowled a lot better in the slog overs compared to Royals. Despite needing only 21 from 17, Royals lost their way as Pat Cummins, T Natarajan and Bhuvneshwar delivered in unison. "I was pretty confident but you have to give credit to how they bowled," he said. "It's their home ground, they bowled like they knew how the wicket was playing. You got to give credit to Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Natarajan and Cummins. Cummins especially bowling that 19th over, going for 8 runs or something like that, they bowled better than us in the slog overs." Parag himself has been in very good form this season

after going through a horror run last year where he got to play only seven games. While his name was thrown into contention by many for a spot in the national squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup, the youngster was practical enough. "Last year I wasn't even in contention to play the IPL," he admitted. "Now I've heard a few rumours, I'm not on social media anymore, I've heard a few noises here and there. I'm glad they are taking my name for the right reasons now. I wasn't really thinking about anything. I'm really really happy for the boys in our team, Sanju bhaiyya (Sanju Samson) especially getting the call-up. It is going to be great for our country and we can hopefully bring the World Cup home."

## Worcestershire spinner Josh Baker passes away aged 20



**New Delhi:** Worcestershire spinner Josh Baker has passed away aged 20, the club confirmed the tragic news in a statement. While no cause of death was specified, the county's chief executive Ashley Giles said the news of Baker's passing 'has left all of us devastated.' "Josh was much more than a team-mate; he was an integral part of our cricket family," the former England spinner said. "We will all miss him terribly. All our love and prayers go out to Josh's

family and friends." Baker, who represented England at the Under-19 level, featured in a County second XI fixture earlier this week against Somerset at Bromsgrove School. He had signed a three-year contract with the club last year and played in five County Championship games to help Worcestershire win promotion to Division One. He made two appearances this season, the last one coming against Durham. "More than his skills as a spin bowler, it was his

vibrant spirit and infectious enthusiasm that endeared him to everyone he met," the club statement said. "His warmth, kindness, and professionalism were remarkable, making him a true credit to his family and a loved member of our team." In his tribute, the Professional Cricketers' Association CEO Paul Lynch said: "Everybody at the PCA is heartbroken to hear of Josh's passing and we offer our sincere condolences to all his family, friends and teammates. "Josh was a cricketer with his full career and life ahead of him and this news is impossible to comprehend. The PCA and the Professional Cricketers' Trust are working to support Josh's family, his team-mates and all PCA members who are affected."

**New Delhi:** Devon Thomas, the 34-year-old West Indian wicketkeeper-batter, has been handed a five-year ban on all cricket, the International Cricket Council announced on Thursday. Thomas accepted breaching seven counts of the anti-corruption codes of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) and the Caribbean Premier League (CPL). Thomas, who made his international debut in 2009, has played 1 Test, 21 ODIs and 12 T20Is, with his last international appearance coming in August 2022. Alex Marshall, the ICC General Manager - Integrity Unit, said: "Having played both international and professional domestic/franchise cricket, Devon attended numerous anti-corruption education sessions. He therefore knew what his obligations

were under the Anti-Corruption Codes but failed to meet these obligations across three different franchise leagues. "This ban is apt and should send a strong message to players and corrupters that attempts to corrupt our sport will be dealt with firmly." The last 18 months of the period of ineligibility would be suspended. The period of ineligibility is backdated to 23 May 2023, the date he was provisionally suspended. The agreed sanctions on him are for violating the following codes of conduct: Article 2.1.1 of the SLC Code - contriving or being party to an agreement to fix or attempt to fix, contrive or influence improperly the result, progress, conduct or other aspects of matches in the Lanka Premier League 2021. Article 2.4.4 of the SLC



Code - failing to disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official, without unnecessary delay, full details of an approach or invitations received to engage in Corrupt Conduct in the Lanka Premier League 2021. Article 2.4.6 of the SLC Code - failing or refusing, without compelling justification, to cooperate with the Designated Anti-Corruption Official's investigation by failing to provide accurately and completely any information and/or documentation requested

by the Designated Anti-Corruption Official. Article 2.4.7 of the SLC Code - obstructing or delaying the Designated Anti-Corruption Official's investigation into Corrupt Conduct, including (without limitation) concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to that investigation and/or that may be evidence of or may lead to the discovery of evidence of Corrupt Conduct. Article 2.4.4 of the ECB

Code - failing to disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official, without unnecessary delay, full details of an approach or invitations received to engage in Corrupt Conduct at the Abu Dhabi T10 2021. Article 2.4.4 of the CPL Code - failing to disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official, without unnecessary delay, full details of an approach or invitations received to engage in Corrupt Conduct in relation to the CPL 2021. Article 2.4.2 of the CPL Code - failing to disclose to the Designated Anti-Corruption Official (without unnecessary delay) the receipt of any gift, payment, hospitality or benefit (a) that he knew or should have known was made in order to procure a breach of the CPL Code, or (b) could have brought the player or the game of cricket into disrepute.

## Rohit Sharma's chat with Rinku Singh after presser praised by Moody: 'Great leadership'

**New Delhi:** Former Australia cricketer Tom Moody praised Indian captain Rohit Sharma for his honest chat with Rinku Singh after the T20 World Cup press conference in Mumbai on May 2, Thursday. Rohit was seen talking to Rinku at the Wankhede stadium ahead of the KKR vs MI clash on May 3. Rinku's exclusion from the T20 World Cup squad has raised quite a few eyebrows, with many slamming the call. Chief selector Ajit Agarkar would explain the reason behind the call and insisted it had nothing to do with the batter and was just down to combinations. Rohit's interaction with Rinku was praised by Moody, who called it great leadership from the Indian skipper. Moody



said that Rohit has good soft skills and is highly regarded amongst the players. "That's great leadership right there. Making sure you're upfront and honest. It's easier to speak to someone when

they're included in the squad, it's always hard to speak to someone who has been left out." "That's why Rohit Sharma is so highly-regarded around the playing group. He is a very good leader. He's got those soft skills,

which is so important around communication," said Moody. Moody also said that it wasn't Rinku's fault that he was left out of the T20 World Cup squad as India just wanted to get in an extra all-

rounder in the form of Axar Patel to give them more flexibility at the No.7 spot and play 3 spinners. "For Rinku Singh, it doesn't matter how many runs he gets in the rest of the IPL, it has to do with the balance of the side and Ajit Agarkar was actually clear in the way he explained it." "Rinku Singh has been left out because they want the extra all-rounder in Axar Patel to give them the flexibility around that No.7 spot and also the option of playing 3 spinners. It has nothing else to do with Rinku," said Moody. Despite not being a part of the main squad, Rinku would be travelling with to the USA and the Caribbean as a reserve player.

## Rohit Sharma, Ajit Agarkar explain T20 World Cup selection: Why no Rinku, why 4 spinners?



**New Delhi:** Captain Rohit Sharma and chairman of the senior men's team selection committee, Ajit Agarkar, addressed a press conference in Mumbai on Thursday, May 2, explaining the calls taken while selecting their T20 World Cup 2024 squad. While the BCCI announced their 15-man squad along with 4 travelling reserves on Tuesday, the two decision-makers faced

the press after Rohit Sharma arrived in Mumbai on the eve of MI's IPL 2024 match against the Knight Riders. Both Rohit Sharma and Ajit Agarkar answered some tough questions from the press, not swaying away from the line of bouncers directed at them. From Rinku Singh's omission to Virat Kohli's strike rate, Rohit and Agarkar shed light on

the rationale behind selections and exclusions. India named Hardik Pandya as the vice-captain of the World Cup, backing the under-fire MI captain. Ajit Agarkar went on to say that India don't have any replacements at the moment for the all-round skill that Hardik possesses and the balance he lends to the team.