

PM Modi changed culture of politics, now all parties talk about development: Nadda



Bhubaneswar(KCN): BJP president JP Nadda Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has changed the culture of politics in India forcing all parties to talk about development. Nadda was addressing a programme in Bhubaneswar where the BJP's manifesto for the Odisha Assembly elections was released. "PM Modi has changed the culture of politics, as

a result of which all the parties are now forced to talk about development," he said. Nadda claimed that during the Congress regime, manifestos were just a formality before the elections. "But after Modi came to power in 2014, manifestos have gained importance. People are taking them as serious documents," he said. "Even those who released

the manifesto did not take them seriously earlier," Nadda said, stating that for the BJP, the promises made in the manifesto were commitments to the people. He said suggestions of lakhs of people from different parts of the state were taken into consideration for preparing the manifesto. He claimed that while

the BJP focuses on the commitments it makes in the manifesto, for its opponents, the focus is on the politics of casteism, regionalism and nepotism. He said India had become the fifth largest economy in the world and would climb to the third spot "under PM Modi's leadership in the NDA's third term". This is Nadda's second visit to the state in the last

eight days. He had addressed an election meeting in Berhampur April 28. PM Modi is scheduled to arrive in Bhubaneswar in the night. He will address election rallies in Berhampur and Nabarangpur Monday. Odisha will vote for its 147-member Assembly and 21 Lok Sabha seats simultaneously, in four phases, starting May 13.

Odisha Elections 2024: Congress Changes Candidates In These Assembly Seats

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In the upcoming Odisha Elections, the Indian National Congress (INC) have changed candidates in the five assembly seats in Odisha on Sunday. The Congress fielded Debasish Nayak for the Bari assembly seat. Yesterday, Nayak had joined the Congress after quitting BJD party. Earlier, he had joined BJD after quitting BJD. The Congress has given ticket to Sudarshan Das in place of Debi Prasanna Chand in Jaleswar, Akshaya Acharya from Nilagiri, Himanshu Chaulia from Athamalik, Uma Bhallav Rath from Puri and Sudarshan Sahoo from Athagarh assembly seat in place of Maheboob Ahmed Khan.

Rajnath Singh To Visit Odisha On May 8, Amit Shah On May 12



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to visit Odisha on May 8. He will hold a public meeting in Rayagada. Similarly, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will tour to Odisha again on May 12, BJP's State Election in-charge Vijaypal Singh

FSSAI terms reports of allowing 10x more MRL in herbs, spices 'baseless'



New Delhi(KCN): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Sunday denied reports in a section of media, claiming that it permitted higher pesticide residues in herbs and spices. In a press statement, the FSSAI called the reports "false and malicious" and emphasised that India has one of the most stringent Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) standards in the world. It also mentioned that the MRLs of pesticides are established differently for

various food commodities based on their risk assessments. The Centre's clarification comes after the Hong Kong food regulator banned particular spice blends from two prominent Indian brands -- MDH and Everest, due to reported residues of pesticide ethylene oxide in their samples.

Pesticide regulation in India is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, through the Central Insecticide Board and

Registration Committee. This organisation was established under the Insecticide Act of 1968 to supervise the manufacturing, import, transportation, and storage of pesticides, as well as their registration, banning, or restriction. The FSSAI's Scientific Panel on Pesticides Residues works closely with the Committee and conducts comprehensive risk assessments on data to recommend appropriate MRLs. The Committee have registered more than 295 pesticides to date, of which 139 are specifically approved for use in spices.

In today's scenario, foreign policy and India's identity in the world is a major subject. When you visit a polling booth and press a button, its impact will not only be on Assembly, Parliament, and India but also across the world, said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at a programme in Cuttack on Sunday.

Jaishankar is on a two-day visit to Odisha and met the intellectuals in Cuttack today.

While addressing the intellectuals' meet in Cuttack on the topic, 'Vishwa Bandhu Bharat', Jaishankar said, "It is a term used to refer to a country which has relevance and the world realises its contribution. The entire world believes that such a country will extend a helping hand and has maximum

friends with minimum problems."

According to Jaishankar, if we look at today's India and the reasons why we are liked and respected, we will find that a lot of countries are keen to invest in India and share technology and other aspects, he said.

"Vishwa Bandhu takes everybody together and when this policy becomes diplomacy, it is beneficial. When the world says Vishwa Bandhu, it is a country and it is also an

individual. In the last 10 years, the PM Narendra Modi government has laid a strong foundation for the country, and on the basis of it the next 25 years' journey towards the goal Viksit Bharat can be achieved. Vishwa Bandhu is important for Viksit Bharat in order to achieve the goal and use the benefit of partnership with the world," said Jaishankar. Sharing more details on the connection between Vishwa Bandhu and Viksit Bharat, Jaishankar said, "Today there is a lot of scope to make the world a workplace owing to the dearth of human resources and extend benefits to our citizens. Though a lot of countries are keen to team up with India, connectivity issues since partition persist as we fell short of creating new ones post-

public rally in Berhampur and Nabarangpur on Monday. The Prime Minister will come to Odisha again on May 10 and 11. On May 10, he is scheduled to hold a roadshow in Bhubaneswar and address a public meeting in the next day in Balangir.

IAF convoy attack: Several detained amid search operation to trace terrorists in J&K's Poonch

New Delhi(KCN): Several people were detained on Sunday as security forces launched a massive search operation in J&K's Poonch district in the aftermath of a terrorist attack on two IAF vehicles that left one personnel dead.

Corporal Nikky Pahade of the Air Force was killed and 4 other air warriors were injured in the terrorist attack in the Bakrabal (Sanai) area of Surankote tehsil of Poonch.

The four injured air warriors were airlifted to the Northern Command Hospital in Udhampur. One was said to be in critical condition, while the other three were stable, according to doctors.

In the wake of the attack, security forces, including the local police, army and paramilitary forces, started a massive search operation Sunday morning in many areas of Poonch to trace the terrorists. The Army also conducted aerial surveillance using a



helicopter, and Para Commandos were also pressed into service in the search operation.

ADGP, Jammu, Anand Jain, and senior officers of the army and intelligence agencies visited the ambush spot in the Surankote area. Saturday's attack was the first in Poonch since December 21, 2023, when 4 army soldiers were killed in a terrorist ambush in the Dera Ki Gali area of Bafliaz in the district.

Intelligence agencies believe the attack was carried out by a group of terrorists led by Abu Hamza, a foreign terrorist believed to be operating in the densely forested area of Poonch and Rajouri districts.

Police have announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh to anyone whose information leads to the tracing of this foreign terrorist.

According to police, Abu Hamza is also responsible for the killing



The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Giani Zail Singh, former President of India on his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Niwas, Shimla

Vishwa Bandhu does 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' on global level: S Jaishankar



Independence. It is a challenge before us." Citing examples, Jaishankar said that three main projects are in the pipeline including creating connectivity from India to Europe via UAE which is known as India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. The second one is the International North-South Corridor via Iran and Russia. Similarly, another route is to reach Vietnam and the Indo-Pacific via Odisha coastline and North East region. "For connectivity, countries need to come together and contribute. But the main factor is trust. Hence, Vishwa Bandhu image comes to the rescue. Today, countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Russia, Singapore, Vietnam, and others want to work and partner with India.

Job fraud: Sarpanch's kin enlisted as labourers under MGNREGS

Naugaon (KCN): Irregularities continue to plague the implementation of Centre-sponsored Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) which aims to provide work to labourers in their own areas and check the migration problem.

As per sources, a woman sarpanch in Jagatsinghpur district was found to have enrolled the names of three of her family members as labourers under the scheme. Notably, job card holders can apply for work under this scheme, following which the administration provides 100 days of work to the

applicant labourers. The Centre has given additional charge of programme officers to the block development officers (BDOs) and appointed assistant programme officers to supervise the scheme's implementation. Moreover, Gram Rojgar Sevaks (GRS) and Gaon Sathis have also been appointed to ensure and oversee the proper implementation of the scheme at the panchayat level. The Centre has also made the use of NMMS app mandatory to bring transparency to the implementation of the scheme.

However, despite counter-measures, there have been irregularities galore in the

implementation of the scheme. Kabita Nayak, the sarpanch of Shikhar gram panchayat under Naugaon block in Jagatsinghpur district, enlisting three of her family members as labourers under the scheme is a case at this point.

According to the MGNREGS portal, three of Nayak's family members have worked as labourers under the scheme in 2022-23 FY. According to available reports, Nayak's husband Baikuntha Nayak, son Bikash Ranjan Nayak and daughter Subhasmita Nayak have been enrolled as labourers under the rural job scheme.

Reports said



Baikuntha and Subhasmita were allotted 14 work days in the renovation works of Amrut Sarovar at Pateni village in 2022-23 FY. They have also been paid Rs 3,108 as wages for 14 work days. Similarly, 25 work days

have been allotted in the name of Bikash Ranjan Nayak in the renovation of Hura pond and the village playground at Pateni. He has also been paid Rs 5,385 towards wages. Later, Baikuntha and

Subhasmita have been allotted 70 work days under various projects and Centre-sponsored Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Amrut Sarovar renovation work at Pateni village in 2023-24 FY.

As mentioned in the portal, they have been paid Rs 16,590 towards wages for working on the projects under the scheme. Tarai alleged the NMMS app has not been used properly to click the photographs of the enlisted labourers during implementation of various MGNREGS project works. Efforts to contact sarpanch Kabita Nayak over the phone for her comments on the issue proved unsuccessful as she did not respond to the questions and cut off the call.

When contacted, BDO Tapan Mohapatra said a probe will be conducted into the allegations and action will be taken after receiving the probe report.

Opposition Leaders Are Like Tourists During Elections, Says Kartik Pandian At Boudh Meeting



Boudh (KCN): Senior Biju Janata Dal leader and 5T Chairman Kartik Pandian has lashed out at the opposition saying that the opposition leaders are just like tourists during the elections and will not be seen after that. Addressing a public meeting at Boudh, Kartik Pandian said "I had come to Boudh in last July and received many

grievances. Today I will give an account of the resolutions. Our Chief Minister believes in accountability. He always asks us to solve the grievances of the people with respect. He asked the cheering crowd "Who made Puruna Cuttack an NAC? Who made Boudh a Municipality? Who gave Rs 4 Crore for transformation of Maa

Bhairabi Temple? Who gave Rs 3.5 Crore for the transformation of Chandrachud Temple? Kartik Pandian gave an account of the various welfare schemes brought out by the Naveen Patnaik government such as Mamata Yojana, Mission Shakti, Kalia Yojana, Nua O Scholarship. He appealed the people to

vote for development and bless for the BJD candidates Pradip Amata as Achyuta Samanta by casting the vote on the Sankha symbol. He also said that "we will come again to give you an account. Nobody else will come to you. Others will take grievance letters and forget. When elections come, the opposition comes as tourists, give big promises. After elections, you will search for them, but they will not be here. They will return again after five years."

He appealed the people to give a thumping majority to the Biju Janata Dal candidates so that they can win with more than 40 thousand majority in the constituency. He asked the people to come out in huge numbers and vote for the progress of the state.

Odisha: Nimapara BJD office bearers resign en masse supporting Samir Dash



Bhubaneswar, May 5 (KCN): In a surprising development in the Nimapara assembly segment of Puri district, office-bearers at the block, NAC, and GP levels of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) have collectively resigned from their positions.

Their dissatisfaction stems from the party's candidate selection process for the upcoming elections. They have issued an ultimatum to BJD supremo and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, demanding a change in the party's candidate by Sunday. Nimapara MLA and former Minister Samir Ranjan Dash is leading this revolt. He has declared that unless his wife, Sangeeta Dash, is granted a party ticket, he will be compelled to resign from the BJD and explore

other options. Speaking at a gathering in Nimapara, Dash has set a deadline for the party leadership to address their demands.

Jibanananda Mohapatra, the NAC president of BJD, expressed solidarity with Dash's cause. Despite prior representations made on April 20, 2024, the party has failed to address their

grievances. Interestingly, the ruling BJD has denied a party ticket to its incumbent MLA, Samir Ranjan Das, who has won from this seat consecutively since 2009. Instead, the party has given the ticket to Dilip Nayak, who recently joined BJD. Speculation is rife that Dash may be considering a switch to the saffron party.

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Sanjay Dutt was signed for another role in 'Munna Bhai...', SRK's exit changed things



Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt was so keen on working with Vidhu Vinod Chopra that he agreed to do any role in 'Munna Bhai MBBS'. It was only after Shah Rukh Khan dropped out from the film, that he got to essay the role of Munna Bhai.

Filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra recently narrated how actor Sanjay Dutt came on board 'Munna Bhai MBBS', the hit 2003 film which changed Dutt's life for good and revived his sinking career. The filmmaker said that after being released from jail, Dutt was desperate to work. He was ready to do any role and agreed to portray the role of cancer patient Zaheer, which Jimmy Sheirgill later essayed. However, after things with Shah Rukh Khan fell apart, Dutt got to play the lead role of Munna

Bhai and the rest is history. During a conversation at the Kellogg Management School, Chopra narrated that he never knew Sanjay Dutt. Still, he announced a film with him because the whole industry banned him after he was arrested for the possession of illegal weapons at the time of the Bombay blasts in 1992.

He said, "I didn't know him. Not at all. But I thought it was very wrong that the whole film industry banned him. I said, 'It's wrong because till he is proven guilty, he is innocent. How can you do that?' So, I went to Sunil Dutt and told him, 'I will announce a film with Sanjay.' He warned me that the Producers Guild would ban me, but I said, 'I don't care

because it is wrong what they are doing. So, I announced (the film).' So, after Dutt was released from jail, Chopra was the first person he contacted. The actor wanted to make his comeback to the movies with Chopra's film. But, Chopra was not ready yet. "But I told him, 'I will never make a film with you. I just announced it because it

was the right thing to do.' He is a very simple man. A good man, but a simple man. He thought the announcement meant that we were actually going to work together. I said, 'I cannot make a film with you unless the equation changes because I cannot exploit a good deed'. It's a terrible thing to do, that you do something good and exploit it," the filmmaker shared.

However, on Dutt's insistence, Chopra offered him the role of Zaheer in 'Munna Bhai MBBS'. Chopra said, "So, when I told him to do Jimmy Sheirgill's role, he agreed. He said, 'Anything'. Then, Shah Rukh, of course, came to me and he had a throat thing... So, I decided that Sanjay Dutt is the right guy. I told him, 'You're doing Munna Bhai'. And he's such a simple fellow, he said, 'I know'. I said, 'No, not that role, main Munna Bhai'. He said, 'Okay, if you say so, I'll do it'."

But Chopra said Sanjay Dutt never read the script of 'Munna Bhai MBBS', as shown in the film 'Sanju', which is based on Dutt's life. Also, he shared how the actor never turned up on the set on time, leaving the film's director Rajkumar Hirani annoyed. "Raju would keep calling me and saying, 'Sir, he hasn't come'. I'd call him up, and he wouldn't answer. The moment he used to reach the set, he'd call back and say, 'Yes, sir, you called?'" shared Chopra. 'Munna Bhai MBBS' was one of the biggest hits of 2003. The film's sequel, 'Lage Raho Munna Bhai' also starred Sanjay Dutt along with Vidya Balan and Arshad Warsi.

Did Vidhu Vinod Chopra pay Manoj Sharma for '12th Fail'? IPS officer answers



'Article 370' Day 1 box office: Yami Gautam's film collects Rs 5.75 crore

Yami Gautam and Priyamani's 'Article 370' was released in theatres on February 23. The film was even mentioned by PM Narendra Modi during one of his speeches and, needless to say, many must have been motivated to watch it just because of that. On Day 1, the film opened to decent numbers at the box office.

On its first day, the Yami Gautam-starrer collected Rs 5.75 crore in India. Reports suggest that while



the occupancy rate was low for the morning shows, it increased drastically by evening and the night shows registered most occupancy. Given the trend, the film might do well over the weekend, which are holidays. Our review of the film read, "Directed by Aditya Suhas Jambhale, 'Article 370' is a well-made film but will test your patience with its run-time of 2 hours and 40 minutes. The filmmaker could have easily chopped the first half that is wasted in setting up the premise. Crawling slower than a tortoise, the film wakes up only in the latter half and dashes like a hare towards the finish line with paced drama but with predictable twists. If there is a note of victory for the team, it definitely comes from the actors' performances. The two women in power and shouldering most of the job, Priya Mani and Yami Gautam make an impact."

'12th Fail' has emerged as one of the most successful films of 2023. The Vidhu Vinod Chopra film about the story of IPS officer Manoj Kumar Sharma, featuring Vikrant Massey in the lead, has earned praise from one and all. But did the IPS officer charge money for the film? At a recent summit, he opened up about it.

During a conversation at the ABP Ideas of India summit, Manoj Kumar Sharma revealed, "If you ask me personally, I didn't receive anything. It is so

because I don't take money from anyone or go in expecting any monetary benefits from anyone. I am a totally honest person about these matters, and I am as I was at the time of selection. My wife is also like that."

He then added, "What makes me happy is when school students send me letters saying that they want to be like me, and to be honest like me. That is my reward.

Through this movie, thanks to director Vidhu Vinod Chopra, people

came to know about my story, otherwise there are so many stories but no one really cares."

He further said, "How do you find someone like him to tell a story like this? This story is not special, it is a simple story about a kid that you'll find in every nook and corner in our country. In the future, even if a few people feel that they should work hard and be honest and not take shortcuts or become dishonest in their ways, then I don't feel there can be a bigger reward than that." The audience present cheered for him.

Earlier, Chopra had shared a heart-warming video in which both Manoj Sharma and his wife Shraddha Joshi can be seen weeping during the script reading session. The film released in theatres in October 2023, and was a hit at the box office. It found a new base of fans upon its OTT release. Vikrant Massey also bagged the Filmfare Award in the Best Actor category for his performance in the film.

Did You Find Shahid Kapoor-Kriti Sanon's 'Laal Peeli Akhiyaan' Similar To Ranbir-Deepika's 'Badtameez Dil'?



While Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon have set the stage on fire with a groovy track, 'Laal Peeli Akhiyaan', fans have been quick to draw similarities from

the iconic dance number 'Badtameez Dil'. Taking to the comment section of the song, fans compared it to Ranbir Kapoor and

Deepika Padukone's 'Badtameez Dil'. And one more fan wrote, "Recreate Badtameez Dil."

Marking Shahid's return to the dance floor after nearly a decade, the song also portrays the fresh chemistry between Shahid and Kriti. Taking to Instagram, Shahid treated fans to

the full song video. Sharing the video, he wrote, "Shake the whole world today... C a u s e #LaalPeeliAkhiyaan is out now." Sung by Romy and Tanishk, with lyrics by Neeraj Rajawat, the song is a perfect blend of rhythm and lyrics. The dance number has been choreographed by Shaik Jani Basha. The video captured Shahid and Kriti showcasing their impressive dancing skills. He looked dapper in a black shirt that he paired with black pants and shades while Kriti looked stunning in blue saree. Tanishk Bagchi, the music composer and singer, expresses his excitement, stating, "Laal Peeli Akhiyaan is an absolute banger! Its beats will make you hit the dance floor instantly. Shahid's infectious energy is definitely the highlight of the song... can't wait to see people groove to this one!" The trailer is all set to arrive on 18th January. The film 'Teri Baton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya' is written and directed by Amit Joshi and Aradhana Sah. Dinesh Vijan, Jyoti Deshpande, and Laxman Utekar have produced it. The film will be out in theatres on February 9.

Notice of Income Tax Demand under sec. 156



Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka

1. Provisions regarding issue of Notice of demand u/s 156: Section 156 of the Income Tax Act provides that when any tax, interest, penalty, fine or any other sum is payable in consequence of any order passed, the Assessing Officer shall serve upon the assessee a notice of demand in the prescribed form specifying the sum so payable. Notice of Demand has to be issued in Form No. 7 and the demand is generally payable within 30 days of the service of such notice.

However, the period of 30 days can be reduced by the AO if it is found that the period would be detrimental to the revenue -Farrukhabad Gramin Bank v. ACIT [2005] 277 ITR 320 (All); [2005] Sony India Ltd. v. CIT 276 ITR 278 (Del). It has been provided that where any sum is determined to be payable

being an eligible start-up referred to in section 80-IAC, the tax or interest on such income included in the notice of demand referred to in sub- section (1) shall be payable by the assessee within 14 days— (i) after the expiry of 48 months from the end of the relevant assessment year; or

(ii) from the date of the sale of such specified security or sweat equity share

by the assessee; or

(iii) from the date of the assessee ceasing to be the employee of the employer who allotted or transferred him such specified security or sweat equity share, whichever is the earliest.

3. Whether interest can be charged or levied u/s 156, if assessment order does not specify charging of interest: If assessment order does not specify charging of interest under a specific section, then it cannot be charged or levied u/s 156 – CIT v. Jagan & Co. [2014] 369 ITR 635 (All.), Uday Mistanna Bhandar and Complex v. CIT [1996] 222 ITR 44 (Patna) [Affirmed by Supreme Court in CIT v. Ranchi Club Ltd. [2001] 247 ITR 209 (SC); CIT v. Dehradun Club Ltd. [2013] 351 ITR 396 (Uttarakhand), CIT v.

Gold Tex Furnishing Industries [2005] 276 ITR 164 (Delhi). The Punjab & Haryana High Court has taken slightly lenient view in the case of Vinod Khurana v. CIT & Anr. [2002] 253 ITR 578 (P&H) wherein it has been held that though in the assessment order it is mentioned “charge interest as per law” but the assessment order and the demand notice is passed on the same date and by the same Officer, the demand notice specifies the section under which the interest is charged and the amount of interest. The amount due on account of interest had been determined by the A.O. himself. It was made known to the assessee. Thus, there was no infirmity in the order passed by the A.O. and the test laid down in the cases of Uday Mistanna Bhandar and Ranchi Club Ltd. are fully satisfied. Similarly, Lucknow Bench of ITAT in the case of Shadi Ram & Sons v. DCIT [2005] 92 ITD 22 (Luck.) has held that it will be sufficient if A.O. mentions that ‘charge interest as per law’. Similary Gauhati High Court in the case of CIT v. Assam Mineral

Development Corporation Ltd. [2010] 320 ITR 149 (Gau) held that if A.O. has charged interest in the computation sheet attached with the assessment order and has initialled or signed the same, it is sufficient compliance. 4. Failure to give credit of advance tax or other taxes paid: It is mandatory to give credit for advance tax, TDS, TCS and other taxes paid by the assessee. In case credit of such taxes are not given, the notice of demand shall be invalid and the assessee cannot be penalised under sec 221(1) for not complying with it -CIT v. Venilal Dwarkadas Mehta (1974) 93 ITR 140 (Ori).

5. Whether recovery proceedings can be initiated without serving the notice of demand: Recovery proceedings cannot be taken unless and until a notice of demand is

served on the assessee. The assessee includes a partner of an unregistered firm - Moti Lal v. ITO [1962] 44 ITR 454 (All), Padam Prakash v. CIT [1990] 187 ITR 272 (All). In case assessment is made on an amalgamating company which has become non-existent on the date of passing

assessment order, recovery proceeding cannot be initiated without issuing a demand notice on the amalgamated company - Modi Sugar Mills Ltd v. UOI (1983) 144 ITR 29 (All); Misri bai v. ITO [1964] 51 ITR 487 (AP); Mohan Wahi v. CIT 248 ITR 799 (SC). 6. Where assessment order is passed without following the procedure prescribed u/s 144C, that is in Transfer Pricing cases or assessment of non-residents, without passing draft assessment order: Assessment order passed without following the procedure laid down in sec. 144C itself is invalid and consequently the notice of demand is also invalid - Turner International India Pvt. Ltd. v. DCIT [2017] 398 ITR 177 (Delhi HC). 7. Consequences of non-payment of demand within the time mentioned in notice of demand u/s 156: If an assessee makes default in payment, proceedings may be taken under sec 222 to sec 228A for recovery, and he may be liable to penalty u/s 221 and to imprisonment and fine u/s 276C(2).

8. Revised demand notice on enhancement

or reduction of demand: Taxation Laws (Continuation and Validation of Recovery Proceedings) Act, 1964 provides that in case of reduction in appeal or other proceeding, no fresh notice of demand needs to be issued but the fact of reduction should be intimated to the assessee and to the TRO. Supreme Court in Vikrant Tyres Ltd. v. ITO [2001] 247 ITR 821 (SC), held that the section only revives the old demand notice which had never been satisfied by the assessee and which got quashed during some stage of the challenge and was finally restored by an order of a higher forum.

In such a situation section 3 of the Validation Act restores original demand notice. A notice of demand which is void ab initio is not saved by the Validation Act, and recovery proceedings cannot be taken on the basis of such invalid notice on the AO intimating the fact of reduction of tax to the TRO -Santosh Kumar Agarwal v. TRO [1978] 112 ITR 178 (All.). Also refer: Behari Lal Baldeo Prasad v. CIT [1967] 63 ITR 555 (All), Ram Swarup Gupta v. Beharilal Baldeo Prasad [1974] 95

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Why BJP Can't Afford to Neglect Brij Bhushan?

JAG MOHAN THAKEN

Despite the criticism from all corners, ultimately BJP has given ticket to Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's son for the current Lok Sabha election. Singh's son Karan Sharan Singh has been nominated as a BJP candidate in his father's Kaiser Ganj seat in Uttar Pradesh, a seat Brij Bhushan has previously won six times. Brij Bhushan Singh is accused of sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour during his tenure as the President of Wrestling Federation of India. Seven female wrestlers, including one minor, had filed complaints with the police accusing Mr Singh of molesting and groping them at training camps and tournaments, but Mr Singh had denied all the allegations, accusing the wrestlers of being "politically motivated."

Top Indian wrestlers, including Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, and Vinesh Phogat, among others protested at the Jantar Mantar in the national capital demanding action against Brij Bhushan, who they had accused of sexually harassing women grapplers. The

wrestlers got support from all strata including farmers' unions. But now it seems that BJP has kept its deaf ear towards all the public voices and messaged that it is not caring for any resentment, but why? Renowned Indian wrestlers, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, have slammed the ruling government party. Talking to the Indian Express, Bajrang said, "I don't know why the government is so scared of Brij Bhushan. His son getting the ticket also shows the 'Parivarvad' in the BJP. The BJP criticises other parties saying 'Parivarvad' exists, but they are no different." Expressing her anguish over extending Lok Sabha ticket to the son of Brij Bhushan's son, Sakshi Malik, the Indian woman Olympian medallist, writes on her tweeter (X) account in Hindi, "The daughters of the country lost, Brij Bhushan won. We all put our careers at stake, slept on the streets for many days in sun and rain. Till date Brij Bhushan has not been arrested. We were not demanding anything; we were only demanding justice. Leave the arrest, today by giving ticket to his son you have broken the morale of crores of daughters of the country. It is also a threat to the women of the country. BJP is no longer Bharatiya Janata Party, it has now become the Balatkari Janata Party, alleges Neel Garg. He is

not convicted of anything. If he was, you could have questioned our decision." She further questions, "How many people are there whose fathers, mothers or uncles have been accused of serious crimes, but they have still got tickets." Is BJP scared of Brij Bhushan Singh? Renowned Wrestler Bajrang Punia raises the question, "I don't know why the government is so scared of Brij Bhushan?"

It is pertinent to mention here that Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, a six-time MP, having a strong hold in Rajput community, has been victorious not only in his present Kaiserganj seat (in 2009, 2014, and 2019) but also in neighbouring constituencies including Gonda (in 1991 and 1999) and Balrampur (in 2004). He has a significant influence over half a dozen Lok Sabha seats in central UP due to his ownership of over 50 educational institutions in the region. News 18 on MAY 04, 2024 states Mr Singh as irreplacable or important factor in Uttar Pradesh's politics. While UP's strongmen politicians are gradually either fading away or being cut down to size by the government, Brij Bhushan seems to be an exception, with influence over the five Lok Sabha

constituencies of Kaiserganj, Gonda, Balrampur, Shrawasti, Ayodhya, and Bahraich through the 54 educational institutions he owns or is associated with." Business Line in its report dated April 18, 2024 had reported that a Rajput agitation is disturbing the BJP's calculations in the seats where the party had expected to sweep in alliance with the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD).

According to Business Line, the Rajputs believe they have been short-changed by the BJP's central leadership who they believe is "gunning for Yogi Adityanath". Other factors such as Union Minister Purushottam Rupala's comments that the Rajputs compromised with the British and denial of a ticket to General VK Singh from neighbouring Ghaziabad, have also fuelled the anger. The community has taken to organising large gatherings.

By giving ticket to Brijbhushan Sharan Singh's son Karan Singh, BJP has given the message that it has no qualms against those who play with the honor of the country's sisters and daughters. Because their aim is only to cross 400. It doesn't matter to him whether it is Ujjwal Revanna or Brij Bhushan Singh.

Indicating towards the

injustice with women wrestlers, a Delhi based senior journalist, K P Malik, says, "But the question is that the election chariot of the so-called RLD chief (without naming Jayant Chaudhary), who does politics of Jat community and farmers, will go to Kaiserganj to campaign for the son of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and make him win the election? Because RLD has been claiming that it is contesting elections on 80 out of 80 seats with BJP. So Kesarganj also comes in 80? Will RLD's claim of 80 be fruitful? Have politicians become so selfish and blind that they cannot even demand justice for women wrestlers?"

Malik further adds, "I am asking this question as a journalist, son of a farmer and a citizen of Western UP. Along with me, society and farmers should also ask this question? Do you know that you only take votes and donations in the name of society and caste, you have no accountability towards the society? Whether anyone asks or not, I will ask the question?" Why should BJP fear? It seems to have concluded that the most opposing force is the farmer community, which always remains divided as per their village system. A dissident Jan Nayak Janta Party (JJP) MLA Jogi Ram Sihag from Haryana defuses the

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The Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Rajiv Kumar in a group photograph at the Foreign Delegates meeting during International Visitors Programme, organised by the Election Commission of India for the General Election to Lok Sabha - 2024, in New Delhi

"Jagan Reddy Government Kept None Of Its Promises": Amit Shah In Andhra

Anantapur (KCN): Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the INDIA bloc has no candidate for the post of Prime Minister, adding that the country has decided to give Prime Minister Narendra Modi a third term.

Addressing an election rally at Dharmavaram in Sri Sathya Sai district along with Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president N. Chandrababu Naidu, he sought to know who was the prime ministerial candidate of the INDIA bloc.

"God forbid, if you were to come to power, who would you elect as your Prime Minister? Will Sharad Pawar be the PM? Will Mamata Banerjee become (the PM) or MK Stalin Or Udayav Thackeray? I will take another name. Please don't laugh. Can Rahul Baba become the



PM?" he wondered while addressing the rally.

Stating that two phases of the Lok Sabha elections were already over, he said with a century (of votes) in these two phases, PM Modi is ahead of the Opposition.

The Home Minister said that in the third phase, he will take a step further towards the target of crossing 400 seats. HM Amit Shah said that electing Narendra Modi as Prime Minister means making the country safe

and secure, eliminating terrorism and extremists, making India the third-largest economy in the world, making 3 crore 'Lakhpatti Didis', providing shelter to 4 crore homeless, giving 10 crore people free electricity with Surya Ghar Yojana and giving 11 core farmers 3 lakh crore in five years. He claimed that the BJP has entered an alliance with the TDP and the Jana Sena to end crime, goondaism, rampant corruption, land mafia from Andhra Pradesh, to

make Amaravati once again the capital of the state, to reinstate the power of God Tirupati Balaji and to protect Telugu language. HM Amit Shah alleged that the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy-led Andhra Pradesh government wants to end Telugu language to introduce English in primary education. He also criticised both Rahul Gandhi and Jagan Mohan Reddy for not attending the Pran Pratistha ceremony of Ram Mandir and asked people if they would vote for such people. The Union Minister appealed to the people of Andhra Pradesh to elect candidates of the National Democratic Alliance for all Lok Sabha seats and also give the alliance a two-thirds majority in the state Assembly.

'Pre-Poll Stunt': CS Channi On Terror Attack That Killed Air Force Jawan

Chandigarh (KCN): Former Punjab Chief Minister and Congress leader Charanjit Singh Channi has landed in a huge row with his comment that Saturday's Terror attack in Poonch, in which an Air Force soldier was killed and four others were injured, was a "pre-election stunt by the BJP". Amid the general election, it has provided the BJP a handle to attack the Congress, with Union Minister Anurag Thakur pointing at the 2019 Pulwama attack in which 40 CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) personnel died.

In the terror attack on two IAF vehicles in the Bakrabal (Sanai) area of Poonch, Corporal Vikky Pahade of the Indian Air Force was killed and four other soldiers injured.

"This is a poor statement. This reflects their mentality," said Union minister Anurag Thakur. "Instead of strengthening the army, they did brokerage for 10 years... After Pulwama we did surgical strike. These people held a hearing at 2:30 pm to stop the hanging of the Parliament attack accused... People will not forget that 1000 km has been taken away - the area of Aksai Chin, a part has been taken by Sri Lanka," he added.



Blue Corner Notice Issued To Track Down Rape-Accused MP Prajwal Revanna

Bengaluru (KCN): A Blue Corner notice, seeking information about Prajwal Revanna, the MP accused of rape and sexual harassment, has been issued by the Central Bureau of Information. Prajwal Revanna is said to be in Germany, where he went using a diplomatic passport, after obscene videos featuring him and multiple women started circulating online last week amid the general election.

Confirming the Blue Corner notice, Karnataka home minister G Parameshwara said the investigators will now locate him. "After that, the SIT will do the procedures and bring him here... Once it is all over, there will be further action," he told NDTV in an exclusive interview.

The grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, the MP holds the family turf of Hassan. The police case against Mr Revanna was filed on the complaint of a woman who claimed she had been abused for years by the MP and his father, HD Revanna.

Prajwal Revanna's lawyer has denied any wrongdoing on his part. He has also said the MP will be back in seven days.

The matter has morphed into a huge political row, with the BJP in alliance with Mr Devegowda's Janata Dal Secular in Karnataka. Leaders of the BJP have distanced themselves from the matter. Asked about JDS chief HD Kumaraswamy's comment that it is "all planned" by the Congress government, Mr Parameswara said, "It is not necessary for us. For the government it is not necessary. Somebody gives a complaint and police act accordingly".

The state, he added, has formed a Special Investigation Team "because of the seriousness of the case, and given them full freedom to do justice".

Don't Have Children Of My Own, Working For Yours, Says PM Modi In UP



Etawah (UP)(KCN): Prime Minister lashed out at the "dynastic politics" of the Samajwadi Party and the Congress on Sunday, saying while the opposition alliance partners work only to benefit their own families, he is building a better future for the nation's next generations.

Referring to himself and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, he said, "We don't have children. We are working for your children." The prime minister was addressing a Lok Sabha poll rally here in the home district of Samajwadi Party (SP) founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, who died in 2022.

The prime minister also said that he is laying the foundation to ensure that India remains a powerful nation for the next 1,000 years. "Modi is doing this because irrespective of whether Modi is there or not, the country will always remain and what are these SP-Congress

people doing? They are fighting elections for their future and the future of their children," he added. The prime minister also said that the slogans of both the SP and the Congress are "lies" and their "intentions are also not good". "They work only to benefit their families and their vote banks," he alleged. "Now they are trying their best to spread lies about our democracy and our Constitution because PM Modi has exposed their appeasement of vote banks," the prime minister alleged.

The SP and the Congress, both members of the opposition INDIA bloc, are contesting the polls in Uttar Pradesh as their fiefdom and some

come when you would say that there was a prime minister in the country... he was a tea seller and he broke a tradition, and now even a poor man's son can become a chief minister or a prime minister," PM Modi said. "Modi's legacy is the permanent homes for the poor, millions of women in the country have got toilets, Dalits and backward classes have got facilities like electricity, gas connection and tap

water," he added. The prime minister also attacked the Samajwadi Party on the issue of COVID-19 vaccines, alleging that its leaders had instigated people against the vaccines but got themselves inoculated in secret.

Attacking the SP and the Congress on the reservation issue, he said, "...the learned people who framed the Constitution had said there would be no reservation based on religion. But now SP and Congress want to snatch the reservation of SC, ST and OBCs and give it based on religion." "In Karnataka, they declared Muslims as OBCs overnight. They looted and stole the biggest part of the 27 per cent reservation that OBCs had. If this happens in Uttar Pradesh, what will happen to the rights of Yadavs, Mauryas, Pals, Jatavs, Shakyas, Kushwaha," PM Modi added.

Mentioning his visit to the Dwarkadish temple in Gujarat, he said the Congress 'shehzada' had a problem with his going into the sea to offer prayers to Lord Krishna. "I want to ask SP people... what type of Yaduvanshi are you that your friends criticise the PM who prays to Lord Krishna," PM Modi asked.

He also mentioned various schemes of his government to empower all sections of society.

Odisha Elections 2024: ECI in action mode, govt officials taken to task

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has recently taken action against some erring officials of the Odisha government on the basis of the allegations by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) ahead of the upcoming General Elections in the State. Many government officials including the Secretary of Mission Shakti Department, other IAS and IPS officials, police personnel and teachers have either been suspended or transferred following allegations of MCC violations. ECI has been in action mode ahead of the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections like never before. Following stern actions by the ECI

on the erring officials, some other officials remote-controlled by the State government are reportedly in a fix. A couple of days back, the ECI ordered the transfer of Sujata R. Karthikeyan, an IAS officer and wife of IAS-turned-BJD leader VK Pandian, from the post of Secretary to the Mission Shakti Department in Odisha. As per ECI sources, the action was taken based on complaints of alleged misuse of public office. As many as two police personnel were also transferred for MCC violation on Friday for joining an Iftar party at a stage in Cuttack under BJD leader Ranendra Pratap Swain's banner. The officials have been identified as Choudwar Police Station IIC

Biswaranjan Sahu and SI Saraswati. Apart from the transfer order, both have been barred from election duties. Earlier on April 22, two teachers in Nabarangpur identified as Goutam Charan Sahu and Manoj Bhatra were suspended over MCC violation. Similarly, Nayagarh Cooperative bank manager, Jugala Kishore Pradhan and Malasahi College lecturer Prashant Kumar Behera were suspended on April 17 for reportedly administering oaths to some people to vote for the BJD. Former BJD Minister and Atabira MLA Snehangini Chhuria's husband Durga Prasad Chhuria was transferred to another district on April 23 on the same charge.

Now, questions are being raised why so many

government officials are involved in the electioneering for the ruling party? Are they participating in the electioneering as per their own wish or they are being forced? Opposition BJP and Congress have slammed the ruling party over the development. "A bureaucratic system has been formed with few officials who are working for BJD. Many CRPs and MBKs have lost their jobs as BJD used them. Who is responsible for this? Top IAS officials are responsible for it as they are using the officials under them by issuing theatres," said Anil Biswal BJP spokesperson.

"Certain officials work as the agents of the BJD. It should not happen. Now, it's the duty of the ECI to conduct the

elections in a free and fair manner without any bias for any particular party," said Congress leader Biswa Ranjan Mohanty. However, BJD refuted the charges by the Opposition parties. "People of Odisha have made up their minds to vote for the BJD and our party will form the government again," said BJD leader Jhina Hikaka.

In the run-up to the 2024 elections, BJD's alleged strategy to grab and garner votes of women members of SHGs received a big jolt after ECI directed the transfer of Sujata Karthikeyan. She was relieved from the post over allegations that she was involved in influencing women's self-help groups to vote for the BJD.

Army(R) Guards For N'Kanan

Bhubaneswar,(KCN): Following a serious attack on senior forest officials inside the Nandankanan Zoological Park, the Forest Department has decided for deployment of retired army personnel inside the zoo.

Speaking to the media here, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Susanta Nanda today informed that retired army officials will be deployed immediately. The armed personnel will roam inside the zoo to provide security inside the campus, he said.

Apart from that the Forest Department will also request the State Government to deploy Odisha Industrial Security Force (OISF) inside the zoo so that no one will feel insecure in the zoological park. The Forest Department will bear the cost, the PCCF Shri Nanda said.



Besides, a plan is there to provide an alternative road to the inside village from Daruthenga, he informed. Soon after the incident in which two miscreants attacked the senior forest officials, Chief Secretary PK Jena and ACS Forest and Environment, Satyabrata Sahu visited Nandankanan and reviewed the situation. These visits have enhanced the confidence of the forest officials working there, PCCF Shri Nanda said.

Workers, villagers stage protest, restrict official's entry into plant premises

Keonjhar,(KCN): Irate workers and local residents of Banua and nearby villages under Sadar police station area staged a protest Friday morning in front of the MSP factory's main gate and restricted the Executive Director (ED) of the company to enter into the premises.

This situation has reportedly arisen after a few months of resentment among local people and workers over the company's arbitrary management. Denied entry by the demonstrators, the ED had to return from the gate of the factory.

Sources said the sponge iron unit, established in the year 2000, has turned into a steel factory with the help of locals and the efforts of the employees. The steel project includes a sponge iron factory, a rolling mill, and a pellet factory. Notably, the local residents account for about 80 per cent of a total of around 3,500 workers in this factory.



However, during the past several months there have been problems in the management of this factory creating dissatisfaction among the workers and locals. In particular, the dissatisfaction arises from the company's negligence in pollution control, development of the surrounding area, and social work in the locality with the participation of the people. It is alleged that the company, instead of providing ORS water during the scorching summer heat, gave water mixed with salt and sugar. It has been alleged that

no water kiosk has been opened, unlike earlier years. The company is also reportedly preparing a list to lay off the workers. Even the afforestation done earlier by the company has been destroyed due to improper irrigation. Roads go dark after sunset due to non-payment of electricity bills for street lights. Locals alleged that many developmental works taken up in the surrounding areas and districts during the time of the company's president Debabrat Swain have been stopped.

Fire breaks out in pine forest of Odisha's Kashmir



Bhubaneswar,(KCN):

A massive fire broke out in the pine forest of Daringibadi, which is dubbed Odisha's Kashmir.

The local residents woke up to a smoky atmosphere on Saturday morning. A thick smoke was noticed billowing from the pine forest of Shranketa Ambakhalia hill. Soon Fire Services department personnel

and Forest Department staff were engaged to bring the fire under control. They had a harrowing time in taming the flame as it was spreading from all four sides of the forest.

"As a part of their duties, our employees always move around the jungle. They first spotted the fire and sent out messages. Our forest staff, fire personnel and members of the ODRAF team have been pressed into service. Even after one hour, the fire has not been controlled as yet," said Fakir Nayak, forester, Daringibadi.

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Palak Tiwari appears in Kesh King anti-hairfall shampoo with Shilpa Shetty in new television commercial

Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE): Kesh King Anti-Hairfall Shampoo has brought together the youthful energy of Palak Tiwari, a rising star in tinsel town, with the timeless beauty of Shilpa Shetty. Shilpa has been the face of the brand since 2019 and also endorses Kesh King Ayurveda Oil—India's No.1 Hairfall Expert.

Made by Raju Hirani Films, the new Kesh King Anti-Hairfall Shampoo commercial features a captivating exchange between the two celebrities, blended with the nostalgic Bollywood number from yesteryears "Ude Jab Jab Zulfe Teri". The commercial will be on air in the month of May.

Speaking about this new development, Ms. Priti Sureka, Director, Emami limited, said, "Kesh King is a hair and scalp care solution brand with strong ayurvedic credentials. Over the years, the brand has effectively catered to its core TG with Shilpa Shetty as the brand ambassador. Shilpa, with her expertise in promoting healthy living through yoga, perfectly embodies the brand's commitment to natural solutions. In-addition,

we have also boarded the very talented Palak Tiwari to appeal to today's generation, who are seeking better hair solutions than what the current market offers, for their persistent hair fall woes. Palak Tiwari, an emerging young talent in Bollywood will supplement youthful freshness to the charming beauty of Shilpa, enhancing the brand's messaging with a contemporary edge." Palak Tiwari, the latest member joining the brand wagon of Kesh King said, "India's rich tradition of ayurveda offers holistic solutions for overall health and well-being. In today's fast-paced and demanding lifestyle, natural remedies are essential for combating everyday challenges like hair fall. I love my long tresses, which need regular care and attention. To maintain my hair's strength and vitality, I wholeheartedly trust authentic and reliable ayurvedic solutions like Kesh King. I am thrilled to be on board with Kesh King Anti - Hair fall Shampoo and it's an added privilege to share the screen with the talented and celebrated

Kesh King Anti-Hairfall Shampoo enriched with the goodness of 21 herbs is clinically proven to reduce hair fall up to 98% and nourishes the scalp for silky, shiny and smooth hair.

Ashok Leyland launches industry first 8-wheeler truck – AVTR 2620

Chennai: Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, launched the industry first 8 wheeler truck – AVTR 2620. With this launch of AVTR 2620, Ashok Leyland becomes the first and only player in the country to have a full range of trucks based on lift axle technology from GVW of 25.5 to 47.5T. This new product can be operated as 25.5 T (6x2) truck with the lift axle down (offering

payload closer to regular 6x2 MAV truck) and a 4x2 truck (18.5T GVW) with lift axle up (lower fuel and operating cost similar to 4x2) during light load/partial load/return empty. This new product thus offers an excellent operational flexibility to customers to choose the option based on their load, offering best-in-class Total Cost of Operation (TCO) benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head - M&HCV, Ashok Leyland, said, "Ashok

Leyland has a history of introducing products which have disrupted the CV industry. AVTR 2620 with its unique lift axle configuration offers higher TCO advantage to our customers operating in Ecom, Parcel & tanker. AVTR 2620 is a testament of Ashok Leyland's technological prudence & our commitment towards providing better logistical solutions to our customers, aligning with our philosophy of AppkiJeet, HamariJeet."

Surprise Inspection by Vigilance in the coal mines of MCL



Sambalpur, (KCN): Led by Shri PK Patel, Chief Vigilance Officer, Maha nadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), domain experts from survey, mining and IT disciplines of the company as well as Geologists and Survey officials from CMPDI's RI

7, Bhubaneswar have started inspecting various mining activities including coal stock verification at Bhubaneswari OCP in Talcher coalfields and Samleshwari OCP in Ib valley coalfields MCL from Friday. This surprise

inspection being carried out as a part of preventive vigilance is likely to bring more transparency and good governance in MCL. Similar exercises are being carried out across other subsidiaries of Coal India and are being directly monitored by the Coal Ministry.

Nuvoco Vistas Launches Its Second Ready-Mix Plant in Patna



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., India's fifth-largest cement group has widened its operational presence with the inauguration of its second state-of-the-art Ready-mix Concrete Plant (RMX) as Patna-II. Situated strategically at Ranipur Milki Chak,

Begampur,bypass, this plant marks Nuvoco's continued commitment for providing top-quality building materials to the Patna region. Strategically located approximately 24 kilometers from the first plant, Patna-II is positioned as Nuvoco's regional flagship plant. It

capitalizes on untapped market potential by providing quick access to Nuvoco's Cement Plant in the region. Its proximity to nearby Industrial, Commercial, and Residential developments guarantees high-quality concrete solutions on time.

Mr. Prashant Jha, Chief of the Ready-Mix (RMX) Concrete and Modern Building Materials business at Nuvoco Vistas expressed his excitement at the inauguration of this latest plant, stating, "The launch of the Patna-II plant underscores Nuvoco's dedication to providing

Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

Mumbai : Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution

engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint

identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP,

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

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

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

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population.

During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries. India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

Bhubaneswar: Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment to ambitious CO2 reduction targets.

The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Climate Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have

No power in Titans' PowerPlay

New Delhi: Twenty-four minutes into the Saturday night IPL fixture at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, the game had already appeared to have swung decisively in the direction of Royal Challengers Bengaluru. This may seem like a oversimplification, but at the end of the game's first PowerPlay, Gujarat Titans had plodded along to 23, having lost more wickets (3) than they'd hit boundaries (2) in the phase.

The home team's fast bowlers, Mohammed Siraj in particular, were quick on the uptake and expertly exploited the zip, movement as well as bounce accorded by the conditions. Even so, there was no credence to believe that the venue that reclaimed the record for the highest T20 score would also see the lowest

PowerPlay score of the season in its very next game. Unless one was paying close attention to the Titans' PowerPlay patterns.

Even before this game, they were the slowest scoring team in the first six overs and the only team in the competition with boundaries comprising less than 20 percent of their PowerPlay scores. These statistics were posed to Naeem Amin, the team's assistant coach, on the eve of the match. "It's not a huge concern for us," Amin said. "Having Wriddhi [Wriddhiman Saha], we all know the kind of player he is. I don't really need to, especially you guys, educate about Shubman [Gill]... we all know what his abilities are. It's just a matter of us really playing that

pace we're looking for. Hopefully, we'll make 300 as everybody is talking about. But we'll be there and thereabouts on a ground like this."

Now, there is no need for a member of the coaching staff to make a pre-match admission in the media about his team's specific weaknesses. But when the numbers offer a damning verdict as Titans' do, then there may be cause for concern, and even change: in approach and personnel. As it turned out, Saha retained his spot alongside his captain following a lengthy net session on the eve of the match. And the pair of them combined to start this game with six defensive responses in a one-run opening over of the match: the only one bowled by a spinner - Swapnil Singh - in the

PowerPlay. Saha fell midway through the next over, edging a Siraj delivery to the keeper. It has been that kind of an unforgiving season for the veteran, whose work ethic belies his 39-year-old frame but whose returns amplify the changing seasons narrative in the IPL. He



was here playing in IPL's debut game in 2008. He was here scoring an IPL final century in 2014. Ten years on a seven-ball 1 left him with a season batting average of 17.0. Of the 21 players who have opened in at least five matches this season, only Ajinkya Rahane (16.0) has a lower average.

Sunrisers Hyderabad side seeking a different balance to their overseas combination, has been to clear the in-field during the fielding restrictions, make a rapid beginning and pass on the baton to the power players.

In 2022, his signing by the Gujarat Titans seemed something like an afterthought by a first-time franchise that had left getting a wicket-keeper until very late. But as with their other moves, this too proved to be astute. Saha came in for Matthew Wade in the sixth game, allowed Titans to bring in another overseas bowler, and reprised his role as PowerPlay disruptor in a team laden with middle-order hitting might.

In a career marked by

waiting and being second-choice to MS Dhoni, Saha found himself in a somewhat strange situation of remaining Titans' first-choice in his 17th season. This was down to an injury to Robin Minz, the 'keeper Titans had signed for INR 3.6 crores at the 2024 auction. And as it turned out, Saha's downturn coincided with Gill's dip at the worst possible juncture for the Titans management, who have been busy plugging other gaping holes like the loss of their captain - an Indian seam-bowling all-rounder - and their ace fast bowler.

That IPL 2024 has seen the biggest batting leap in years has only served to magnify Titans' problems. While they've been going at a rate of 7.54 in the first six overs, the league's average for the season is up at 9.45. Where GT are scoring an average of 45 runs with the field up, SRH have pushed the bar up to a rate of 11.21 with an average score of 67.

Madrid Open: Iga Swiatek gets her revenge, beats Aryna Sabalenka in marathon final



New Delhi: Iga Swiatek won the women's singles title in the Madrid Open 2024 after beating Aryna Sabalenka in a humdinger of a final on Saturday. After over 3 years, Swiatek won the match 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (9-7) at Manolo Santana. The Pole also avenged her defeat to Sabalenka last year when she lost in another 3-setter.

The 25-year-old Sabalenka had the chance to equal Petra Kvitova's tally of 3 Madrid Open titles, but Swiatek did not let that happen. Swiatek also extended her lead to 7-3 against Sabalenka on the WTA level. It also happened to be Swiatek's 20th title in the WTA. The opening set turned

out to be an absolute thriller as both players earned a break apiece to make it 5-5. But then, Swiatek broke Sabalenka's serve to take the opening set. Sabalenka had a decent first serve, but a winning percentage of only 30.8 from her second serves let her down.

The excitement did not go down even in the second set. Sabalenka went 3-1 up with a break of serve after which Swiatek stormed back into the match. This time around, the Belarusian star held her nerve to take the match into the deciding third set.

In the decider, both players were just not willing to throw in the towel. Swiatek and

Sabalenka converted a break point apiece to make it 5-5. In the next game, Sabalenka fetched herself 2 championship points, but Swiatek saved both of them and took the contest into a tie-breaker. It was also the first tie-breaker between them in 10 meetings. This time, Swiatek had a championship point at 6-5, but Sabalenka did not give up the ghost. Sabalenka failed to convert a third championship point as the match kept the audience at the edge of their seats.

But at 8-7, Swiatek converted her second championship point as the curtains came down on the cliffhanger in Madrid.

Dhaka: Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan said on Saturday (May 4) that their forthcoming ICC T20 World Cup preparation is not 'ideal' as they are not preparing against the leading sides ahead of the showpiece event.

Bangladesh are preparing for the global event with the ongoing five-match T20I series against Zimbabwe and they are also scheduled to take on the USA in a three-match series after the conclusion of the home series. In the previous edition of the T20 World Cup in 2022, Bangladesh played a tri-nation series involving New Zealand and Pakistan as part of their preparation. Even though they couldn't win games in the series, they certainly put up a good fight.

Subsequently, Bangladesh earned their first win in the main phase of the tournament since defeating the West



Indies in the very first edition back in 2007 after beating Netherlands by nine runs in their opening game of the campaign. Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe by three runs to earn their second win in the main phase and were on course to reach the semi-final that was dashed by Pakistan, eventually.

"It will be wrong if we think about the World

Cup by considering our performance against Zimbabwe and USA. World Cup will be played in a different place and the more we can handle pressure, chances will be higher of doing well," Shakib told reporters in Dhaka on Saturday.

"In Australia (T20 World Cup in 2022) we went after playing against New Zealand and Pakistan and so certainly we went to the World Cup on the back of very good preparation and taking that into consideration this is not ideal. But this is the best

we can as far as preparation is concerned," he added. Shakib also pointed fingers at the decision makers of BCB as he felt it would have been better if they played the super league phase of the ongoing Dhaka Premier League, country's traditional List A tournament, in the shorter format version instead of completing it in usual manner.

Bangladesh is going through a heat wave and he felt playing 50 overs was inhuman. "It would have been better if the Super League (DPL) is played in T20 format. It is inhuman to be in the ground for the whole day under this heat," he noted. "It could be handled more responsibly. We have T20 World Cup ahead and in that case it would have been helpful for the national team. Somehow it did not happen," he added.

Mumbai City FC clinch their 2nd ISL title after beating Mohun Bagan 3-1 in final

Mumbai, (KCN): Mumbai City FC secured their second ISL title as they defeated Mohun Bagan SG 3-1 in the final played at the Salt Lake stadium on April 4, Saturday. Goals from Jorge Diaz, Bipin Singh and Jakub Vojtus completed the turnaround for Mumbai, who would silence the crowd in Kolkata to clinch the title.

Mohun Bagan had taken the lead in the dying moments of the first half through Jason Cummings before Mumbai City FC turned the game on its head in



the second 45 minutes. This forced Mohun Bagan to go on the offensive in the final moments of the game, which saw them concede late in the game as Vojtus made them pay.

The first ten minutes saw both teams match each other stride for stride before Mohun Bagan had the first big chance in the 13th minute. However, Tiri came in to the rescue to intercept the ball to Petros. Mumbai would respond immediately with a chance of their own

with a cross from Jayesh Rane, but the Bagan defence cleared the chance. The 29th minute saw Chhangte, who was through on goal but his shot went wide. The Mumbai star would then hit the crossbar two minutes later, and then in the 39th minute, he would do it again. Mohun Bagan would then break the deadlock in the 44th minute as Cummings put them ahead, as he capitalised on a rebound from the keeper.

The second half saw Mumbai City start on