

Opposition again rakes up mango kernel deaths in Odisha Assembly

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Opposition Wednesday again raised the issue in Odisha Assembly regarding the recent deaths of three tribal women in Kandhamal district, allegedly caused by consuming mango kernel gruel.

The opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday moved an adjournment motion over the status of the National Food Security Act in the state and the alleged starvation deaths of tribals in Mandipanka village of Kandhamal district.

While responding to the motion, Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra declined the allegations saying that the deceased tribals died due to food poisoning.

“According to the medical report, the unfortunate incident did not occur due to the lack of food but because of food poisoning. The government has taken all steps to provide necessary medical treatment to family members of the deceased persons,” said Patra.

He added that rice for the



months of July, August, and September has been provided to the beneficiaries in Mandipanka village under the NFSA. The Food Supplies minister also

stated that steps were already initiated to provide the rice for the months of October, November and December. He said that the

government had also given 12 kg millet each to the families of deceased Runu Majhi, Ramita Majhi and Jeeta Majhi September 26 and 27.

The scrutiny of the eKYC

verification process of ration card holders is not affecting the public distribution system and the beneficiaries are getting their monthly quota of ration without any hassle. The Food Supplies minister noted that as many as 3,26,33,097 members of 93,23,079 families have been enrolled under the NFSA while 10,03,719 members of 3,15,024 families are covered under the State Food Security Scheme. He asserted that around 80 per cent of the state's population is getting free rice under both NFSA and SFSS.

Meanwhile, the Opposition Wednesday demanded the resignation of the minister alleging that the tribals died as the government failed to provide free ration to the deceased families.

The Food Supplies minister noted that as many as 3,26,33,097 members of 93,23,079 families have been enrolled under the NFSA while 10,03,719 members of 3,15,024 families are covered under the State Food Security Scheme. He asserted that around 80 per cent of the state's population is getting free rice under both NFSA and SFSS.

Notably, eight women from Mandipanka consumed mango kernel gruel October 30. They were taken to Brahmanigaon hospital later after they complained of vomiting and abdominal pain. Two of the women, Runu Majhi and Ramita Majhi died November 1 after being referred to MKCG Medical College in Berhampur. Another victim Jeeta Majhi succumbed while undergoing treatment at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack November 18.

Odisha govt says no plans for bauxite mining in Gandhamardan hills



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha government Wednesday said it has no intention of allowing Adani Group or any other company to conduct bauxite mining in Gandhamardan hills spread over Bolangir and Bargarh districts.

The assertion was made by both Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo and Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari on the floor of the Assembly in Bhubaneswar.

Both the ministers claimed that the allegations of the government planning to allow Adani Group to conduct mining activities in Gandhamardan were false.

Dismissing opposition

members' allegations, Singh Deo, on the other hand, claimed that the previous BJD government headed by Naveen Patnaik had allowed the Adani Group to purchase land for compensatory afforestation in the foothills of Gandhamardan.

“Before levelling allegations that the BJP government allowed Adani Group to purchase land near Gandhamardan hills, the BJD leaders should verify which government gave permission to the company to purchase land. “It was the BJD government, and not the BJP, which had given permission to the Adani Group to take land for compensatory afforestation in Bolangir

district for loss of forest cover due to the company's coal mining project in Sundargarh district,” the deputy CM said.

Reiterating the BJD government's commitment to protecting the sacred Gandhamardan hills, he said, “Gandhamardan will not be allowed to be destroyed. I will also join the protest if any mining operation is allowed in Gandhamardan hills.”

Pujari, who hails from Bargarh district, also said that the state government would not allow any company to set up its plant in Gandhamardan hills by hurting the religious sentiments of the local people. “There was an attempt to start mining in Gandhamardan hills in the 1980s which we all had protested. The agreement was later cancelled due to strong public protest,” Pujari said, adding that as per the present agreement, Adani has acquired land for undertaking compensatory afforestation.

New Delhi(KCN): In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court has said religious conversions undertaken solely to avail reservation benefits without genuine belief amounted to a “fraud on the Constitution”.

Justices Pankaj Mital and R Mahadevan passed the verdict November 26 in a case filed by one C Selvarani and upheld a Madras High Court decision of January 24 denying a scheduled caste certificate to a woman who converted to Christianity but later claimed to be a Hindu to secure employment benefits.

Justice Mahadevan, who wrote the 21-page verdict for the bench, further underscored that one converted to a different religion, when they were genuinely inspired by its principles, tenets and spiritual thoughts.

“However, if the purpose

of conversion is largely to derive the benefits of reservation but not with any actual belief in the other religion, the same cannot be permitted, as the extension of benefits of reservation to people with such ulterior motives will only defeat the social ethos of the policy of reservation,” he noted.

The evidence presented before the bench was found to have clearly demonstrated that the appellant professed Christianity and actively practiced the faith by attending church regularly. “Despite the same, she claims to be a Hindu and seeks for a SC community certificate for the purpose of employment,” it noted.

“Such a dual claim made by her,” said the bench

“was untenable and she cannot continue to identify herself as a Hindu after baptism”.

The top court, therefore, held the conferment of scheduled caste communal status to the



woman, who was a Christian by faith, but claimed to be still embracing Hinduism only for the purpose of availing reservation in employment, “would go against the very object of reservation and would amount to fraud on the Constitution”.

The top court underlined a religious conversion solely to access reservation benefits, without genuine belief in the adopted religion, undermined the fundamental social objectives of the quota policy and her actions were contrary to the spirit of reservation policies aimed at uplifting the marginalised communities.

seen by the regular church attendance, making her claim of being a Hindu untenable.

The bench noted individuals converting to Christianity lose their caste identity and must provide compelling evidence of reconversion and acceptance by their original caste to claim SC benefits.

The judgement said there was no substantial evidence of the appellant's reconversion to Hinduism or acceptance by the Valluvan caste.

Her claims lacked public declarations, ceremonies, or credible documentation to substantiate her assertions, it pointed out. “One converts to a different religion when genuinely inspired by its principles. Conversion purely for reservation benefits, devoid of belief, is impermissible,” the bench held.

Internal security, JK, cyber crimes to be discussed at DGP/IGP conference in Bhubaneswar

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar(KCN): Issues related to internal security, Jammu and Kashmir, pro-Khalistani elements and cyber crimes are likely to be discussed at the three-day conference of top police officers in the country beginning Friday in Bhubaneswar, officials said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval among others will attend the Directors General of Police (DGP) and Inspectors General of Police (IGP) conference where Maoist menace, challenges posed by AI tools and threats emanating from drones are also expected to be discussed.

About 250 officers of DGP and IGP ranks will physically attend the conference while more

than 200 others will participate in it virtually. Many officers have been tasked with delivering presentations on specific subjects such as counter-terrorism, online fraud, cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, activities of pro-Khalistani groups and left wing extremism (LWE) among others, an official said.

There will be detailed deliberations on how to face all these emerging internal security challenges.

While the Home Minister will inaugurate the conference, the Prime Minister will be present on the remaining two days and deliver the concluding address Sunday.

The conference also provides an opportunity to identify tangible action points and monitor their progress, which is also presented before the Prime Minister every

year. The conference is the culmination of extensive deliberations involving police and intelligence officers from district, state and national levels on identified themes, the official said.

Best practices from states and Union territories under each of the themes will be presented at the conference so that the states can learn from each other. Since 2014, the Prime Minister has taken a keen interest in the DGP

conference. Free-flowing thematic discussions over breakfast, lunch and dinner have also been planned in this year's conference. This will provide an opportunity to the senior police officials to share their views and recommendations with the prime minister on key policing and internal security issues affecting the country.

Till 2013, the annual meet was held in New Delhi. The following year, after

the Modi government came to power, it was decided to hold the event, organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Intelligence Bureau (IB), outside the national capital. Accordingly, the conference was organised at Guwahati in 2014, Dhordo in Rann of Kutch in 2015, National Police Academy, Hyderabad in 2016; BSF Academy, Tekanpur in 2017; Kevadiya in 2018; IISER, Pune in 2019; Police Headquarters, Lucknow in 2021; National Agricultural

Science Complex in Pusa, Delhi in 2023 and Jaipur in 2024.

Continuing with this tradition, the conference is being organised in Bhubaneswar this time.

The number of business sessions and topics have increased significantly, with a focus on improving policing in the service of the people.

Before 2014, the deliberations largely focused on national security matters. Since 2014, these conferences have a twin focus on national security as well as core policing issues, including prevention and detection of crime, community policing, law and order and improving the police's image, among others, another official said.

Earlier, the conference was Delhi-centric with officers coming together only for the meet.

As a result, all presentations are now

broad-based, content-intensive and carry a set of cogent and actionable recommendations.

Since 2015, detailed follow-up of recommendations of past conferences has become the norm and is the topic of the first business session which is attended by the prime minister and the home minister, the official said.

Recommendations are tracked closely by the conference secretariat, led by the IB with the help of nodal officers in the states.

Decisions made in the past few conferences brought in significant policy changes, leading to improvement of policing, including setting higher standards for effective policing in rural and urban areas and improved methods of modern policing based on smart parameters, the official added.



premises over two to three days has served to build a heightened sense of unity among officers of all cadres and organisations since 2014, the official added.

Direct interaction of the police's top brass with the head of government has resulted in a convergence of views on crucial challenges faced by the country and the emergence of doable recommendations, the official further said.

In the past few years, the topics have been selected after detailed discussions with the highest echelons of the police service.

Once selected, several interactions on presentations are held before committees of DGPs to encourage participation and incorporate ideas from the field and from younger officers.

Residing on the same

Remembering Two Stalwarts

Prof. MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA



When I joined NBT way back in 1990, we didn't have our own building. NBT was functioning those days in a rented building at Green Park. One day I met the famous authors Kamleshwar and Rajendra Yadav there. They came to meet Ramesh Bakshi, our Hindi Editor there.

Later, I understood that they were once the pioneers of Nayee Kahani Movement in Hindi Literature. Ramesh Bakshi authored the story of Devyani Ka Kahna Hai and the film 37 Down and he was one of the major authors of India those days. Unfortunately, he suffered an untimely death.

Why such trendsetter creative artists didn't reach a higher position in any government controlled cultural organization like NBT and Sahitya Akademi later, I don't understand. I was a known author when I joined NBT, but couldn't reach the top.

Today I fondly recollect my days with Ramesh Bakshi. He was a great person, but didn't have a sound conjugal life. He was from Madhya Pradesh and had his MA degree in Hindi Literature and Language from Sagar University.

During his early days as an editor at Calcutta, he came in contact with Subhas Mukhopadhyay and Bishnu Dey, his contemporaries in Bangla literature. Later, he came to Allahabad and from there to Delhi to join NBT as an editor on the invitation of

the then Chairman of NBT, retired ICS AL Dais who knew him during his tenure as Governor, West Bengal.

It is difficult to serve both your art and your bosses. Ramesh Bakshi became Chief Editor of NBT, but was soon reverted to the position of an editor. But he also began the historical series of books under the name Adan Pradan.

He also began another new series of books Young India Library in NBT in late 1960s. Nehru Bal Pustakalay, the most popular children's books series also began at the same time with Mohini Rao as its Editor who came from CBT, the first children's book publisher in India.

Copy Editing became a profession in the world in the mid of nineteenth century when publishing houses began in London and Paris. In India, Rabindranath Tagore and Premchand were the first copy editors, but copy editing was not their profession. Ramesh Bakshi was the first professional copy editor of India from his days at Calcutta, the hub of professional Indian Publishing in the post-independence period.

Ramesh Bakshi was also the first Sponsoring Editor in a government controlled publishing house in India. He got many modern classics from Indian languages translated into Hindi including Atmajeevan Charit of Fakir Mohan Senapati.

The manuscript was discovered after the death of Ramesh Bakshi and I had it copy edited it with support from Bakshi's disciple Prithviraj Monga, who succeeded him as Hindi Editor of

NBT for publication.

In fact, I learnt the skill of copy editing from Ramesh Bakshi and Arun Chakraborty, then Bangla Editor of NBT. But, I couldn't continue as a Language Editor cum Copy Editor in NBT. That's another story which I will narrate sometime.

National Book Trust, India (NBT) was not known in Odisha in 1990 until I took over as its Odia Language Editor. At one point, my name and NBT were synonymous in Odisha. People still contact me for some work in NBT even after two years of my retirement. This is a great honour than any monetary gain.

I often carry the sea hills, mountains, lakes, streams and rivers, big and small in my tiny heart.. Don't know if they remember me.

Gradually I am losing all my old connections. Poet Jayanta Mahapatra, with whom I had the association of over four decades, left for his heavenly abode last year. I have not recovered from that hang over. Now, poet Harihar Mishra is also dead.

After the demise of Prof. Manoj Das three years ago, Prof. Jayanta Mahapatra was possibly the only prominent living major author from Odisha in Indian English known worldwide. He was also a major translator from Odia to English. The state government of Odisha didn't bother to bring him to the state capital for better regular treatment in a super specialty hospital.

I first met poet Jayanta Mahapatra in 1981 when I was a beginner working journalist at Cuttack. Later, on a Sunday morning in 1988 December in my NCERT days, Jayanta Mahapatra and I met at Konark.

It was the first ever All India Poets' Meet organized by Sanibar Sahitya Sandhya. Poet Anubhav Tulasi was also with us. Most probably, the late Subhendu Mund, the then-president of Sanibar Sahitya Sandhya was also there with us.

Jayanta Mahapatra was a popular person among youth, especially girls, maybe for his sense of humor or say, he was very lively in his approach. He has written some stories too. Some of his stories like 'The Bottom Pincher' have been popular among youth. His poems in Odia are not as impressive as his works in English. He was possibly the first poet from Odisha with an international reputation as a poet writing in English.

Two of the living stalwarts in Odia Literature, Ramakanta and Sitakant Mahapatra were like his students at one point in time. There may be many more to whom I know, but my focus of this post is not to make a list of his students but to appreciate him as a teacher, poet, and human being. My interaction with Jayanta Mahapatra continued. I visited him with Sumatheendra Nadig and Varsha Das sometime in 1999. We were together in another All India Poets' Meet organized by Odisha Sahitya Akademi and NBT at Konark, most possibly in 2006-07. Pravat Tripathy, Chandrakant Deotale, and Sameer Tanti were there. In fact, it was his greatness that he gladly received me at Bhubaneswar. I was thrilled. We went to Konark together, gossiping. He also enjoyed the dance of Poets Kajal Chakraborty, Anupam Kumar, Jayaprabha, and a few others at the Pantha Nivas lawn the next evening. Some of them are no more.

I was new at Shillong as Director, Art and

Culture of North Eastern Region. It was in 2016. I got the news that Jayanta Mahapatra is there as a Sahitya Akademi programmer. I did not have a proper invitation, but I rushed. So refreshing...but the organizers from the University had not contacted the right people. The attendance was poor. I called some of my friends in the teaching departments of the University. Some of them turned up. But the speech of Jayanta Mahapatra on contemporary literature and what a writer is supposed to do was thought-provoking.

A simple man, unusual as a Professor, a person of international reputation Jayanta Mahapatra didn't have a mobile phone. I am not sure if he had a car. He had not got any major civilian honours too. The saving grace is, he always lived life as King Size.

When I got the news that Sahitya Akademi has decided to confer on him its coveted fellowship I murmured, 'But it is too late...especially to combine him with lesser-known writers like VP Tiwari, he should have been a solo choice'. But Sahitya Akademi has its own way of functioning.

Ramesh Bunshi and Jayanta Mahapatra are no more there, but Indian Literature is incomplete without these stalwarts.

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

Medi Facials for Inner Glow

Shahnaz Husain



replenishing the skin's moisture levels, MediFacials enhance its natural radiance and restore a youthful glow. Moreover, treatments such as microdermabrasion or derma planing can exfoliate dead skin cells, allowing for better absorption of hydrating products and revealing a fresher, healthier complexion.

2---- Skin Rejuvenations ----
MediFacials involve the use of microdermabrasion and mild food based peels to remove the dead



facial, Classic facial, Microdermabrasion etc. Though all these facials give an instant glow to your skin, it doesn't last long as they don't reach much deeper in the skin. Facials only pamper the skin and don't improve it. The best way to improve your skin and have a smooth and glowing texture for a longer period is by opting for a MediFacial. MediFacials or medical-grade facials is new-age skincare that

use advanced technologies and techniques to treat a range of issues like dull, dry, and loose skin. MediFacial is gaining popularity because it is safe and effective and deeply cleanses, exfoliates, and nourishes the skin.

It slows down ageing, reduces pigmentation, rosacea, cleans out blackheads, whiteheads, clogged pores and more. Firstly, Cleansing of the skin is done gently with a mild PH balanced cleanser. Special care is taken so that the natural barrier of the skin that contains essential oil, lipids, and pH level is not disrupted, for maintaining natural skin health.

A thoroughly cleansed skin is less likely to break out and less likely to get fine lines. This deep cleansing facial also helps prevent further build-ups under the skin. This is a great facial for people bothered by oily and congested skin. Skip the make up after the MediFacial to allow the deep cleaning to penetrate within the deeper layers of your skin, give it time to breathe and space to allow your pores to close.

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Use cleansers that won't alter the pH levels of your skin. Alkaline cleansers harm the protective layer of your skin, eventually causing moisture and essential oils to escape from your skin. Avoid exfoliation after the MediFacial. Deep cleaning and scrubbing techniques used in facials will keep your skin supple and free of dead skin cells for several days.

Skip the make up after the MediFacial to allow the deep cleaning to penetrate within the deeper layers of your skin, give it time to breathe and space to allow your pores to close.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

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Sonakshi Sinha, Zaheer Iqbal share romantic moments from Milan

Star couple Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal are currently enjoying their romantic holiday in Milan, Italy.

Sonakshi took to Instagram, where she shared a string of pictures from their holiday as they celebrate five months of marital bliss. The first image had the actress posing in front of the iconic Milan Cathedral, where they posed with pigeons. In one clip, the actress was seen laughing as a bird ate out of her hand.

Another video showed the two praying inside the cathedral. A photograph had Sonakshi softly giving a peck on her husband's cheek while Zaheer closed his eyes. Another image had the two hugging and the actress kissing her husband.

They also shared a glimpse of the luxury hotel they were staying in. In one clip, the couple is seen walking the streets of Milan all dressed to the T. In some photographs, the Bollywood couple were joined by a few friends. For the caption, she wrote: "Milano Nov, 2024" along with a heart



emoji.

The couple were earlier in Tuscany and shared their moments from their getaway on social media. Zaheer was all praise for his ladylove Sonakshi Sinha as he called her the "hottest". He had shared a picture of his wife sitting next to a heater. Sonakshi is seen dressed in an oversized white hoodie as she posed while her husband took the picture. Comparing her to the heater, he encircled it and tagged

it as hot. He drew an arrow over Sonakshi's head and wrote "hottest". Sonakshi and Zaheer tied the knot June 23 in Mumbai after 7 years of dating. They first met at a party hosted by superstar Salman Khan. Interestingly, both Sonakshi and Zaheer started their careers with Salman.

While Sonakshi made her debut opposite Salman in the box-office phenomenon Dabangg, Zaheer made his debut

with Salman Khan's home production Notebook. The couple reportedly dated for 7 years, and lived together for a year before tying the knot.

Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress is set to share the screen with her husband in Tu Hai Meri Kiran. The two have previously worked together in the film Double XL, which also starred Huma Qureshi, and a music video titled, Blockbuster.

Amid rumours of divorce between Aishwarya-Abhishek, Shweta makes kind gesture

Shweta Bachchan seems to have put an end to the rumours of a spat with Aishwarya Rai with her recent kind gesture towards the actress' sister-in-law, Shrima Rai. This gesture comes amid reports claiming trouble in Aishwarya and Abhishek's marriage. Recently, Shrima Rai shared an Instagram story dedicated to Abhishek's sister, Shweta, and her husband, Nikhil Nanda. In the photo, Shrima thanked both Shweta and her husband for sending a surprise bouquet of flowers to her house. The photo quickly went viral, with many expressing



surprise at the unexpected interaction between the families. Sharing the photo, Shrima wrote in the caption, "Thank you, Nikhil Nanda and Shweta. This is stunning...". The reason behind the gesture remains unclear. Abhishek and Aishwarya are frequently making headlines, with rumours about their divorce continuing to gain momentum. Despite persistent gossip suggesting that things may not be going well between the two, Abhishek has firmly denied all such claims. The Dasi actor recently emphasized that even in challenging times, one should always cling to the smallest "ray of hope." He shared that it's easy to be overwhelmed by darkness and negativity, but holding on to hope is essential. A few days ago, Amitabh Bachchan broke his silence over the ongoing rumours. In a blog post, Big B addressed his concerns about "information ending with question marks" and the negative impact it has on those involved.

Kartik Aaryan sets screen on fire in collab with Pitbull and Diljit Dosanjh



HD VIDEO

The makers just dropped the much anticipated Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 title track, Kartik Aaryan, and it's surely going to rule the charts and hearts. The track is nothing short of a visual spectacle, with Kartik setting the screen on fire with his infectious 'spooky slide' dance moves. What makes this track truly stand out is how international sensation Pitbull masterfully blends his rap with the iconic 'Hare Ram—Hare Krishna' chant, while Punjabi powerhouse Diljit Dosanjh brings his unique

flair and Neeraj Shridhar holds down the Hindi vocals. Together, they manage to retain the essence of the Bhool Bhulaiyaa franchise, while pushing the boundaries with a modern, international

twist. With music maestros Pritam and Tanishk Bagchi at the helm, and the unmistakable vocals of Neeraj Shridhar returning to add his signature touch, this track is a melting pot of cultures, blending global beats with desi flair. Producer Bhushan Kumar has made a one-of-its-kind unique collaboration for Indian cinema. Talking about this milestone, he shared, "We're beyond excited to

present this special musical collaboration for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. Bringing together Pitbull, Diljit Dosanjh, and Neeraj Shridhar is something that's never been done before in Indian cinema. With Pritam and Tanishk Bagchi crafting the beats, we're pushing the boundaries of what Bollywood music can achieve. And to top it off, the track features everyone's favourite Kartik Aaryan at his best, showcasing slick gliding dance moves that are sure to get everyone on their feet. This collaboration is a milestone moment, and we can't wait for the fans worldwide to experience it." Directed by Anees Bazmee, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 promises to carry forward the legacy of Bollywood's favourite horror-comedy franchise, taking it to new heights with this groundbreaking title track. The film also stars Madhuri Dixit, Sanjay Mishra, Tripti Dimri and Rajpal Yadav, among others. It will hit theatres November 1, 2024.

'Tauba Tauba' fever: Revisiting Bollywood songs that left internet groovy

Here's a look at how and why the internet embraces the viral Bollywood dance numbers like Vicky Kaushal's 'Tauba Tauba', Katrina Kaif's 'Kala Chashma', and others.

What makes a song go viral on the internet? There's no formula to make a song go viral. It's about this whole package - of music, lyrics, dance, who's performing it and how it's being presented.

Like everything else in the creative business, a good video has to click with the audience. For it to go viral, it has to appeal to all kinds of audience - even those who usually don't consume that kind of content. 'Tauba Tauba', a new song from the Bollywood film 'Bad Newz' has done just the same.

It has instantly crawled up the top chartbusters' list and even though it is just all about the glam, with a very sexualised Vicky Kaushal, it's a hit among the audience. So much so that he has got newfound popularity among the heartland audience, known for never holding back their craze for a scintillating dance number. 'Tauba Tauba' has music by Punjabi singer Karan Aujla, and it is choreographed by Bosco Martis. Interestingly, it does a great deal of glorifying a woman's beauty, referring to Tripti Dimri in the video, but ends up highlighting Vicky as the very definition of 'tall, dark, handsome'. Vicky's tryst with Punjabi music and his casual dance moves have made

many videos go viral on Instagram before, but this time, he seems almost unstoppable. The choreography does justice in utilising the actor's full potential as a dancer in a never-seen-before fashion. While the popularity of 'Tauba Tauba' can be largely attributed to the actor's ever-growing charm, it is also the vibe that it exudes. When a trend rises on

social media, it breaks down into many forms of entertainment, but the vibe remains the same. You could be a failure at dancing, nowhere near to Vicky's smooth-like-butter-moves, but if you could still manage to match the mood of the song, your job is done. 'Tauba Tauba' is also one of those dance numbers which is brilliantly made to

please the female gaze, as opposed to your regular dance numbers where the 'Chikni Chameli' and the 'Sheelas' of the world are objectified to satisfy the male gaze. It puts the onus of glamourising the screen on a man's shoulder, and he never disappoints. Every time a Bollywood song has taken the internet by storm, it hasn't just been done casually. It was back in 2015 when it all began. Salman Khan decided to give his audience a double dose of 'Prem' on-screen. It was Sonam Kapoor's graceful moves on the song 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo' which made everyone sit up, take notice, and try it again and again till they got them right. So, we didn't just get influencers, but also the brides, the bridesmaids and everyone who could keep their timidity at bay, grooving to the song with their waist out hands up. The popularity of the song made the singer, Palak Muchhal, an overnight star, and Sonam, who was not known for her dance until then, a quintessential demure Bollywood heroine.



The Silent Language of Signs



Since the dawn of civilization, signs have been a silent yet powerful force shaping human interaction. From ancient carvings on cave walls to the dynamic displays of modern cities, signs have evolved as a universal language that transcends barriers. They guide, inform, and inspire, acting as bridges between cultures, communities, and individuals. Beyond communication, signs have played a profound role in education, accessibility, and emotional expression—making them an enduring testament to humanity's creativity and resilience. This journey of signs reveals their adaptability and significance, from ancient symbols to tools for learning and inclusion.

The Dawn of Signs: The earliest forms of signs were simple marks or

symbols used for navigation or to communicate information. These signs, found in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, often took the form of pictographs or hieroglyphics. They served as a visual language, with symbols representing objects, animals, or natural elements, effectively bridging the gap between spoken language and written records. This early visual communication laid the foundation for more complex forms of signage.

Signs in Ancient Civilizations: As societies grew more complex, so did the need for communication. In ancient Greece and Rome, signs were commonly used in markets, public forums, and along roads. These civilizations introduced the concept of using signs to advertise goods, direct people, and inform the public of important announcements. Roman shops, for example, displayed pictorial signs to indicate the nature of their business, as literacy rates varied among the population.

The Influence of the Printing Press: The 15th-century invention of the printing press revolutionized how signs were created and distributed. Printed signs could now reach a much broader audience, and the development of typography allowed for clearer, more consistent messaging. This era also saw the emergence of public notices, posters, and early forms of billboards. The printing press enabled signs to become an essential part of political, cultural, and commercial communication, marking a pivotal moment in their evolution.

Calligraphy as a Sign of Emotions: Calligraphy, the art of beautiful writing, has played a significant role in the history of signs, particularly in conveying emotions and personal expression. Throughout history, different cultures have embraced calligraphy not just as a method of communication but as a way to infuse emotion and elegance into the written word. In regions like China, Japan, and the Islamic world, calligraphy became a revered art form, with its fluidity and

stylistic flourishes capable of expressing the personality, mood, or emotion of the writer. The intricate strokes of Arabic and Chinese calligraphy, for example, turned simple signs into profound visual art, transcending mere functionality to evoke beauty and emotion.

Signs as a Lifeline for the Deaf and Mute: For individuals in the deaf and mute communities, signs are more than just tools for information—they are a vital form of language. Sign language has enabled millions to communicate in ways that transcend the barriers of speech. Much like early pictorial signs, modern sign language uses gestures, facial expressions, and body movements to convey complex thoughts and emotions. This visual language allows for rich communication that is understood universally within the community.

The development of formalized sign languages like American Sign Language (ASL) and British Sign Language (BSL) has given structure to this form of communication,

allowing for educational progress and greater inclusion for those who are deaf or mute. Signage in public places, such as visual cues for emergency exits, alarms, and other important information, has also become crucial for making spaces accessible to everyone. In this sense, signs serve not only as a means of public communication but as an enabler of equality and accessibility for all.

Signs as Educational Tools in Early Childhood: In early childhood education, signs serve as an invaluable tool for helping children understand objects and concepts while boosting their memory retention. Young children often find visual symbols easier to comprehend than written or spoken words. By using signs, pictures, and symbols in classrooms, educators can help children make connections between objects and their meanings, laying a foundation for language development and cognitive growth.

For instance, using visual aids like picture

cards or labeled images can enhance children's ability to recognize shapes, letters, colors, and numbers. These signs not only aid in understanding but also help strengthen memory through repetition and association. By introducing symbols and signs early, children develop essential cognitive skills that prepare them for more advanced learning stages. In this way, signs act as building blocks for literacy, communication, and problem-solving in young minds.

Modern Signage: The industrial revolution and urbanization led to the explosion of signs in public spaces. As cities expanded, the need for clear and visible signage became paramount. The invention of electric lighting in the late 19th century paved the way for neon signs, which began illuminating urban landscapes across the world. By the 20th century, billboards, traffic signs, and commercial signage had become ubiquitous.

The digital revolution further transformed signs, introducing LED displays, electronic

billboards, and interactive digital signage. Today, signs are not only functional but often double as works of art, merging aesthetics with practicality in public and commercial spaces. Signs in the modern world have evolved from static to dynamic, adapting to new technologies and allowing for real-time updates and interactive features.

From Calligraphy to Emojis: In recent times, communication through signs has taken a new form with the rise of digital platforms. Emojis, for example, serve as a modern-day extension of calligraphy, allowing individuals to express emotions through visual symbols. Just as calligraphy allowed writers to convey emotions through the style of their script, emojis offer a shorthand to express feelings, thoughts, and moods in a way that is universally understood. This transition from calligraphy to digital symbols underscores the enduring power of visual communication in human interaction.

Bottom line: From ancient pictographs to modern digital displays, signs have continuously evolved, adapting to the changing needs of society. For deaf and mute communities, signs hold an even deeper significance, serving as the cornerstone of language and interaction. Additionally, signs are invaluable in early childhood education, where they help children comprehend their surroundings and enhance memory development. Whether through the fluid elegance of calligraphy, the gestures of sign language, or the dynamic brilliance of LED screens, signs remain a vital tool for bridging gaps in understanding, connecting people, and reflecting the evolution of our collective experience.

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Delhi's persistent air pollution crisis



Why has India failed to clean up its toxic smog? State officials promote a pilot plan that involves stimulating clouds to produce rain, but scientists are skeptical. Despite technological advances and policy interventions, Delhi is often ranked among the most polluted cities worldwide, experiencing a serious deterioration in air quality. In November 2024, the Air Quality Index crossed the critical level, reaching 500 in some areas, far above the "severe" threshold of 400. This dire situation underscores the urgent need for effective, long-term solutions to tackle the city's growing pollution crisis. General air pollution is linked to India burning coal to generate more than half of its electricity. In Delhi, it combines with emissions from

millions of cars and smoke from the construction industry, where there are no pollution controls.

Some also blame the widespread use of firecrackers during Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights in late October. Authorities banned the use of conventional firecrackers in 2017 and allowed people to use only eco-friendly lights, but the rule was not properly enforced. PM2.5, fine particulate matter in polluted air, penetrates deep into the lungs and causes health problems, especially for children, the elderly, and people with respiratory or heart conditions. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people die from respiratory diseases in India. The 2021 World Air Quality Report found that no city in India meets the updated World Health Organization safety standard of 5 micrograms of PM2.5 per cubic meter of air. Nearly half of India's states exceed this limit by more than 10 times.

Rapid urbanization and the increasing number of private vehicles contribute significantly to particulate matter emissions. The SAFAR Index shows that vehicles are the primary pollutants, contributing about 40 percent of PM2.5 emissions and 81 percent of nitrogen oxides. Industries in and around Delhi release toxic gases due to outdated technology and a lack of proper emission controls. The NGT has directed the closure of all brick kilns, including those with zigzag technology, based on the capacity report submitted by the CPCB. Burning of crop residue in Punjab and Haryana releases a large amount of smoke and particulate matter into Delhi's air. Construction projects underway in the NCR generate large amounts of dust due to inadequate control measures. Construction of highways and metro lines has led to an increase in PM10 levels during project execution. Delhi's location in the Indo-Gangetic plain and low wind speed during

winters trap pollutants, leading to a thick smoke layer. Preventive measures to address Delhi's air pollution are to promote clean fuels like CNG and electric vehicles, and switching to clean fuels like hydrogen can reduce vehicular emissions to a great extent. Under Delhi's electric vehicle policy, all delivery service providers will have to convert 50% of their fleet to electric vehicles by 2023 and 100% by 2025. Encouraging farmers to adopt biodecomposers and no-burn technology can reduce stubble burning. Saguna rice technology in Maharashtra reduces stubble burning. Increasing the public

transport system can reduce dependence on private vehicles, thereby curbing emissions. The expansion of Delhi Metro Phase IV aims to improve connectivity and reduce traffic-related pollution. The use of biodecomposer developed by Pusa is one of the important options for stubble management. Mandating the use of dust suppressants such as water sprinkling and anti-smog guns at construction sites. During the winter of 2021, the Commission for Air Quality Management initiated a series of emergency measures, banning construction and implementing intense dust control measures. Expanding green spaces and planting trees along roads can act as natural air purifiers. Nagar Van Yojana is an opportunity for greening in NCR sub-regions. Remedial measures to address Delhi's air pollution. Installing smog towers in strategic areas can help reduce pollutant levels locally. The smog tower at Connaught Place has shown local improvement in air quality during peak pollution hours. Advanced monitoring tools, such as real-time pollution monitoring sensors, can provide accurate data for targeted interventions. The Commission for Air Quality Management promotes inter-state collaboration to address Delhi's air quality crisis. Educating the public on environmentally friendly practices, such as idling vehicles, can significantly impact pollution levels. Campaigns such as "Red Light On, Gaadi Off" encourage behavioral change to reduce emissions. General air pollution is linked to the burning of coal in India, which produces more than half of its electricity. In Delhi, this is coupled with emissions from millions of cars and smoke from the construction industry, which has no

pollution controls. The crisis worsens from October to January, when cold weather is accompanied by massive stubble burning. The smoke comes from the neighboring states of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana, as thousands of farmers burn agricultural waste after the harvest season. However, the heavy winter air traps pollutants close to the ground, making the smog even worse. Poet, journalist and columnist, radio and TV panelist, 333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani, Haryana – 127045, Mobile: 9466526148, 01255281381

'We the People' phrase in the Preamble of the Constitution is a testament to Unity and Integrity: Haryana CM

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), November 27 – Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday, while extending greetings for Constitution Day and the Amrit Mahotsav of the Constitution, said that November 26 is a proud day for every citizen. On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India. Constitution Day serves to promote respect and awareness of constitutional values among citizens, he said. The Chief Minister was attending the State-Level Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations organised on Constitution Day at Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. On this occasion, he also inaugurated an exhibition organized by the Information, Public Relations, Languages, and Culture Department. Addressing the gathering

the Chief Minister said that the state government is actively advancing democratic principles through its progressive social and economic policies, guided by the core values of the Constitution. Haryana is committed to realizing the vision of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's Integral Humanism and Antyodaya while adhering to the philosophy of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, and Sabka Vishwas', said Nayab Singh Saini. The Chief Minister paid homage to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other visionaries who played a key role in drafting and framing the Constitution of India. While emphasizing the significance of the 'We the People' in the Preamble of the Constitution, he said that this phrase is a testament to Unity and Integrity.

He said that these three words represent India's collective voice, a pledge of unity and integrity, and a manifestation of people's trust in the Republic, which is known as the 'Mother of Democracy.' The Chief Minister said that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's historic decision to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A has fulfilled the dream of an Akhand Bharat. He said that this move is a true tribute to the architects of the Constitution, including Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee. The abrogation symbolizes the realization of 'One Nation, One Constitution, One Flag, and One Leader,' said Saini. The Chief Minister said that the Constitution has woven a nation of diverse cultures into a thread of unity. India's



ancient tradition of self-governance was realized through the adoption of the Constitution in 1949. It established a republic founded on equality, justice, and high ideals while ensuring freedom of thought and equal opportunities for all. C M Saini called on institutions and individuals to reaffirm their commitment to the Constitution, stating that the celebration of Constitution Day began in 2015 under the

leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, marking the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He said that Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar made a significant contribution to the challenging task of drafting the Constitution. While the Constitution gives us rights, it also emphasizes the importance of duties. We must strike a balance between duties

and rights, he added. The Chief Minister said that Mahatma Gandhi used to say that our rights are essentially our duties, which we must fulfil with true honesty and dedication. Today, in the Amrit Mahotsav of the Constitution, this principle of Gandhi Ji is becoming a pledge for the nation. He urged everyone to introspect and ensure adherence to constitutional values and expectations. The Constitution's Amrit Mahotsav provides an opportunity to reflect, understand, and adopt its values in daily life, demonstrating true citizenship and reverence for the Constitution, said the Chief Minister.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister also felicitated the students who won various competitions held during the celebrations

of Constitution Day. Apart from this, the Chief Minister also made the attendees present in the function read out the Preamble of Constitution. Speaking on the occasion, Kashmire Lal who was the chief speaker during the event said that India's Constitution is the world's largest written constitution. In India, whether a tribal person or a wealthy individual, the value of their vote is the same, and this is only because of the Constitution. The constitutions of 17 countries were framed and drafted after India's Constitution, and all of them have faced constitutional difficulties multiple times, but only India's Constitution has not faced such a difficulty. He said that in 2015, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi decided to observe Constitution

Day for the first time, and since then, this day has been celebrated every year. He urged that on this day, students should take an oath to protect the Constitution and the country. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Kurukshetra University, Professor Som Nath Sachdeva, said that the Indian Constitution is not only the foundation of governance but also a unique symbol of India's cultural, historical, mythological heritage, and artistic legacy. He said that it is not just a document, but the soul of our nation. It symbolizes the fundamental rights and duties that grant every citizen the rights to freedom, equality, and justice. It is the largest written constitution in the world, said Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva.

GOI training GST officials for healthy business friendly interaction with Industry

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): CII Eastern Region, facilitated an interactive session with Mr Shrawan Kumar, IRS, Chief Commissioner, CGST & Central Excise Kolkata and Mr Manoj Kumar Kedia, IRS, P R I N C I P A L Commissioner, CGST & Excise Kolkata, with various Industry Stakeholders in Kolkata on 27th November 2024. Mr Shrawan Kumar broadly discussed few sections, which have been introduced in GST recently, namely sec 11A, 16(5), 74A and 128A, which are now operationalised, and the process and procedures are set in place so that the actual benefits of the changes can be implemented. He further stated that even in the recent Union Budget presented by Union



Finance Minister, several key updates have been addressed to simplify EODB, dispute resolutions and past demand of the industry. Furthermore, Mr Shrawan Kumar highlighted that there are issues with 2 to 3 percent of GST tax payers, which are generally selected to verify the compliances with their submitted data. He also said that the IMS (Invoice Management Service) is the new feature by

GSTN, inside GST portal, which will simplify the process of assessing every inward invoice and take individual action on them. IMS helps recipient taxpayers efficiently manage decisions on each inward invoice from a single interface.

Mr Sanjay Budhia, Chairman, CII National Committee on EXIM and Managing Director, Patton International Ltd, asserted that GST, as a tool, has played a pivotal role in making Indian businesses more competitive in the international trade. Aligning India's tax system with global best practices has improved the ease of doing business. Many of the trading partners, such as the European Union and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), have similar VAT-based tax structures, making it easier for Indian businesses to engage in cross-border

transactions. Mr Sumit Goyal, Chairman, CII ER International Trade Subcommittee pointed out that the implementation of GST has played a crucial role in creating a more equitable competitive environment for industries in the Eastern region of India. The unified tax structure has eliminated inter-state barriers, facilitating smoother movement of goods across state lines. This is particularly beneficial for industries such as manufacturing and textiles, which are present in this region. By lowering transportation costs and reducing delays, GST has enabled these industries to enhance their competitiveness both domestically and internationally.

Training for Fish Farmers of Madhepura District, Bihar was inaugurated by former Vice Chancellor of ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai



Mumbai (KCN): A training program on "Inland Fisheries Management" was organized by ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (ICAR-CIFRI), Barrackpore, from 19th to 25th November 2024, with the objective of enhancing knowledge and disseminating technology to fish farmers of Madhepura District, Bihar. As an inland state, Bihar recognizes inland fisheries and the freshwater aquaculture sector as key contributors to economic development, with the government actively promoting the sustainable utilization of its fishery resources.

A total of 27 farmers, along with an accompanying Fisheries Development Officer, participated in the training, which focused on improving management strategies to enhance fish yields sustainably from inland waters. The inaugural

SAMBALPUR DIVISION OBSERVED CONSTITUTION DAY



Sambalpur (KCN): Constitution Day was observed in Sambalpur Division on 26th November 2024. Shri Anand Singh,

Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Sambalpur administered the pledge of preamble of Indian constitution to all the Railway officers and staffs. Shri Pramod Behera, Divisional Personnel Officer coordinated the function.

ZSI Unveils Groundbreaking Study Identifying Key Soil Bioindicators for Bengal's Wildlife Sanctuaries

Kolkata (KCN): Earthworms, key soil organisms, play a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems. They contribute to nutrient cycling, soil aeration, and structure, enhancing soil fertility and supporting plant growth. By studying soil quality, researchers aim to understand how to sustainably manage ecosystems and ensure their long-term health. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), initiated a study to assess the spatial distribution of earthworm species across several West Bengal Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Dr. Shakoor Ahmed, a ZSI Researcher, identified 22 species with Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary hosting the highest diversity. Indicator Species Analysis, conducted by Dr. N. Marimuthu, revealed nine significant indicator species.

Notably, all sanctuaries except Raiganj harboured at least one exotic species as an indicator. In contrast, Raiganj, a prime bird nesting site, uniquely featured the endemic species *Eutyphoeus nicholsoni* as an indicator. These findings, published in *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, contribute to our understanding of earthworm diversity and its ecological significance in these protected areas. Earthworms consume decaying organic matter, digesting it and excreting nutrient-rich vermicast. This natural fertiliser, rich in nutrients and beneficial microbes, enhances soil health, promotes plant growth, and offers a sustainable alternative to chemical fertilisers. Vermicomposting leverages earthworms to accelerate organic waste decomposition. ZSI conducted a study to analyse the spatial

distribution of earthworm species across several wildlife sanctuaries, namely Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary, Bibhutibhushan Wildlife Sanctuary, Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary/Kulick Bird Sanctuary and Rammabagan Wildlife Sanctuary. A total of 22 species belonging to 12 genera and six families were identified by a ZSI researcher, Dr. Shakoor Ahmed. The highest number of species were recorded at Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary (n=15) followed by Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary (n=14), Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary (n=11), Bibhutibhushan Wildlife Sanctuary (n=10) and Rammabagan Wildlife Sanctuary (n=8). Indicator Species Analysis (ISA), a valuable tool in multivariate analysis

identified nine out of 22 species as significant indicators ($P < 0.05$) assessed by Dr. N. Marimuthu, the Scientist and sectional in-charge of General Non-Chordata section of ZSI. It included three species in Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary, two species each in Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary and Rammabagan Wildlife Sanctuary and one species each in Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary and Bibhutibhushan Wildlife Sanctuary (Fig. 1).

With the exception of Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary, all other sanctuaries harbour at least one exotic species as an indicator; namely: Bibhutibhushan Wildlife Sanctuary, *Metaphire posthuma*; Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary, *Amynthas alexandri*; Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary, *Dichogaster affinis*; Rammabagan Wildlife Sanctuary, *Pontoscolex corethrurus*. Interestingly,

Central Team Lauds 'Dana' Handling

Bhubaneswar (KCN): Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has urged the Union Government to build disaster-resistant sustainable infrastructure in the state for its overall development. Chief Minister Shri Majhi held a meeting with members of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team, which wound up its three-day visit to the state to assess the damage caused by Cyclone 'Dana'. The seven-member Central Team headed by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, P K Rai, during the tour, visited the worst-hit

Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Balasore districts to assess the cyclone and flood damage.

During the discussion, CM Shri Majhi emphasized the development of sustainable infrastructure for disaster management along with assistance for restoration following Cyclone 'Dana'.

Chief Minister said that Odisha has been facing various natural disasters such as cyclones and floods every year.

"While the government is successful in saving the lives of the people, various infrastructures are extensively damaged and a huge amount of

money has to be invested for reconstruction", informed CM. Therefore, there is a need to develop disaster-resistant sustainable

infrastructure, Shri Majhi underscored the requirement.

CM also stressed on the measures such as laying underground electricity

cables in coastal districts, construction of embankments along

the coast and large-scale afforestation.

Chief Minister also proposed the setting up of a modern disaster management center in Bhubaneswar and that the Union government provide necessary support in this direction. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said that the economic development of Odisha can be accelerated only if a sustainable infrastructure is created.

Central Team Chief Shri Rai praised the state government for good management of Cyclone 'Dana'.

Constitution Day celebrated at Heritage Law College



KOLKATA (KCN): On 26th November, Constitution Day was celebrated at Heritage Law College Kolkata. Earlier in the previous week, 39 students from the Institute accompanied by faculty members visited the Supreme

Court of India which also included a visit to the Judge's library. Today, the Institute organized a talk on the essence of Constitution of India which was addressed by Prof. Soumya Saha, Head, Department of Political Science, Sister

Nivedita University, Kolkata. The event was also contributed by Prof. S.S. Chatterji, Director, Heritage Law College, Prof. Santanu Mitra, Teacher-in-charge, Heritage Law College and other faculty and staff of the Institute.

"India is marking 75 years since the adoption of its Constitution with a year-long celebration starting today. It is a proud moment for the entire Country," said Shri P.K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions.

Rajwar Youth Club and Army Camp Zachaldara Organize Cricket Match to Boost Local Engagement

Handwara, (KCN): In a bid to promote sports and engage local youth in positive activities, the Rajwar Youth Club, in collaboration with the 21RR Camp, organized an exciting cricket match at Zachaldara on Tuesday.

The event attracted enthusiastic participation from the local community, bringing together players from various age groups and backgrounds. The match not only provided a platform for the youth to showcase their skills but also highlighted the importance of sports in fostering unity and community spirit. To



encourage healthy competition and recognize outstanding performances, cash prizes were awarded to the top players as a token of appreciation. This initiative aimed to involve the youth in constructive engagements, steering them away from negative influences and illegal activities. By providing such opportunities, the organizers hope to guide young minds toward more productive pursuits and contribute to the overall development of the area.

Events like these play a crucial role in shaping the future of youth, promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and leadership while also reinforcing the significance of community-based activities in creating a positive impact.

Demonstration before the office of the DM-com-Collector, Sambalpur against the anti-farmer, anti-labor, corporate exploitation & anti-labour policies.

Sambalpur (KCN): Sambalpur District Krushak Suraksha Sangathan jointly with United Kisan Morcha and West Odisha Farmer Organisation Coordination Committee jointly demonstrated before the office of the DM-com-Collector, Sambalpur, against the central government's anti-farmer, anti-labor, corporate exploitation & anti-labour policies, by demanding the implementation of Swaminathan recommendation, MSP at C2+50 rate and legal



status to MSP. To abolish the Agriculture loan and give pension to the farmers. To recognize the District Purchase Committee. For the

remove Tata Power. To reduce per unit price. For the withdrawal of smart meter, Electricity fee-free irrigation system, Implementation of National Food Insurance Scheme. To recognize part-time farmers and women farmers. For the withdrawal of labor code.

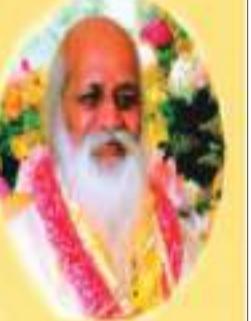
Reduction of taxes and rates on petrol, diesel, Agricultural equipment, essential commodities and medicines and to Stop privatization of public properties.

compensation and permanent solution regarding drought. To protect farm land from illegal industrialization and industrial pollution. To



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Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India forays into Electric Mobility Segment

Bengaluru, (KCN): Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) today ushered into the next era of mobility with the introduction of 'ACTIVA e:' and 'QC1' in the electric vehicle segment. The unveiling of the iconic Activabrand in an all-new electrified avatar along with the QC1 marks a pivotal moment in the brand's commitment to sustainable mobility in India. The debut of

HMSI's first-ever EVs took place in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Bookings for the same will begin on January 1, 2025, and deliveries will commence from February 2025 onwards. Introducing Honda's maiden EVs for the Indian market, Mr. Tsutsumu Otani, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, said, "Today is a very

EX-DIRECTOR, M/S GHANTESWARI FLOUR MILL PVT. LTD., SAMBALPUR, ARRESTED BY ODISHA VIGILANCE

Sambalpur, (KCN): Anil Kumar Beriwal, Ex-Director, M/s Ghanteswari Flour Mill Pvt. Ltd., Sambalpur who was charged with misappropriation of Govt. money over Rs. 4.48 crore was arrested today in connection with the case and forwarded to judicial custody. The case relates to a criminal conspiracy by four officials of Sambalpur District Cooperative Central Bank Ltd. (SDCC) Bank) with M/s Ghanteswari Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd. by abusing their respective official position, showing undue official favour to M/s Ghanteswari Flour Mill Pvt. Ltd., Sambalpur in sanctioning and disbursing of loan, and thereby causing a pecuniary loss of Rs. 4,48,14,358/- to the Bank as well as to the public exchequer. For this, all the four officials of SDCC Bank with M/s Ghanteswari Flour Mills Pvt. Ltd. represented by

the Director Anil Kumar Beriwal were charged by Odisha Vigilance U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) PC Act, 1988/420/120-B IPC. However, as accused Anil Kumar Beriwal repeatedly evaded attending the court during trial, an NBW was issued by Hon'ble Spl. Judge Vigilance, Sambalpur on 19.11.2024 and today Anil Kumar Beriwal was arrested and forwarded to the Court of Hon'ble Spl. Judge Vigilance, Sambalpur.

Ashok Leyland launches industry first 8-wheel 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 Appkileet, HamariJeet."

Central University of Odisha Observes Constitution Day



Koraput, (KCN): The Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput, commemorated Constitution Day and concluded the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Bhagaban Birsa Munda on its campus at Sunabeda on 26 November 2024. The event marked the adoption of the Indian Constitution and paid homage to its architect, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Prof. N. C. Patnaik, Dean of Faculty of Legal Studies at Berhampur University and Principal of Lingaraj Law College, graced the occasion as the Chief Speaker, while Smt. Usharani Das, Principal of Government Women's College, Sunabeda, was the Guest of Honour. The program was inaugurated and presided over by Prof. N. C. Panda, Vice-Chancellor (I/c) and Registrar (I/c) of CUO. Dr. Anjaneyulu Thotapally, NSS Coordinator, delivered the welcome address.

Floral tributes were offered to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Bhagaban Birsa Munda to honor their contributions to the nation. In his address, Prof. Panda emphasized the visionary role of Dr. Ambedkar in drafting the Indian Constitution. Highlighting its roots in ancient Indian texts like the Vedas and Upanishads, he described the Constitution as a guiding document that upholds equality, truth, and justice. He urged everyone to study the

Constitution and follow the path of great leaders like Dr. Ambedkar to contribute to national progress. Prof. Panda also led the attendees in reading the Preamble, reaffirming their commitment to its values. Prof. Patnaik delivered a thought-provoking lecture titled "My Constitution, My Pride" (Mera Samvidhan, Mera Swabhiman), praising the Constitution as a living document that upholds equality, truth, and justice. He urged everyone to study the

significant features, including Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles, and the principles of liberty and social justice. He highlighted the Constitution's role in fostering a strong bond between the state and its citizens. Smt. Usharani Das underscored the importance of the Constitution in governance, noting that India, as the world's largest democracy, relies on its robust framework. She encouraged everyone to delve deeper into

understanding the Constitution's values and features.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer of CUO. Organising Committee members including Dr. Kapila Khemundi, Dr. Ashok Erigala, Dr. Srinivas B. Kotnak, Dr. Sumit Paswan, Dr. Anjaneyulu Thotapally and Dr. Phagunath Bhoi coordinated and NSS volunteers compeered the program. Faculty members, staff and students were present at large on the occasion.

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 branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI."

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

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.

Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE

Bhubaneswar: Unacademy, India's largest learning platform*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gamini Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to \$7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by 2050. 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 developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives.

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ICC likely to propose hybrid model for CT25

New Delhi: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has convened a meeting of its board of directors to address the impasse surrounding the Champions Trophy, which has faced uncertainty following India's decision not to travel to Pakistan. The meeting, scheduled to be held online on Friday (November 29), is expected to come up with a conclusive decision that will be binding on all member boards.

Although the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has consistently maintained that a hybrid model for the February 19-March 9, 15-game competition is unacceptable, it appears the ICC may have limited alternatives. A hybrid model, featuring 10 games in Pakistan and five in another country - including one semifinal

and the final - is expected to be proposed during discussions.

As a potential compromise, the ICC may strive to minimise the impact of the hybrid model and may agree to host one semifinal and the final in Pakistan itself in the unlikely scenario of India failing to qualify for the last four or last two stages. While such an arrangement would pose serious operational and logistical challenges, this concession might be offered to the PCB given the extraordinary circumstances. For one semifinal and the final, the venues will be kept ready in advance with all required hotel and travel bookings.

At this stage, the ICC is believed to be still undecided about where to host the India games. Though UAE - with venues in Dubai and Abu

Dhabi - is a potential and convenient alternative venue, South Africa also remains a strong contender due to favorable weather conditions during that period of the year. Both the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) and Cricket South Africa (CSA) are expected to be approached for discussions soon, if they have not been already.

It is unlikely that the PCB will immediately accept the ICC's potential decision in favour of a hybrid model. However, with an overwhelming majority of the ICC board - possibly a vote also would be taken among the 14 board members - supporting the proposal, the PCB may have little choice but to comply. The ICC board could also propose relocating the entire tournament away from Pakistan if the hybrid

model is rejected by it. The situation may eventually pan out this way. There is every chance that the PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi could seek time to consult the Pakistan government and ask for 24-48 hours time. He then would bare the facts about its minority position at the ICC



meeting and the overwhelming majority in favour of the hybrid model. The general thinking here is that the PCB and the Pakistan government may eventually relent since they will be explained that a Champions Trophy without India will be untenable not only for the ICC but to the entire cricket ecosystem. It could be a loss-loss situation for the PCB as it will lose millions of dollars if the tournament is taken away from the country.

The decision could have immediate consequences, with Pakistan potentially

opting out of tournaments to be hosted in India, including the Women's World Cup and men's Asia Cup next year, as well as the T20 World Cup later in 2026. However, such decisions may unfold at a later stage.

The impact of Pakistan's withdrawal from the Women's World Cup remains uncertain. But the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), which recently sold the broadcast rights to Sony for \$170 million, may consider swapping next year's Asia Cup host from India to Sri Lanka or Bangladesh to balance the situation. The scheduling of the meeting comes on a day when Sri Lanka A team withdrew from their ongoing A series against Shaheens due to political unrest in Pakistan. The Sri Lanka A team had arrived in Islamabad on

Marnus, at his best, is the player we need: Andrew McDonald

New Delhi: Acknowledging that Marnus Labuschagne is going through "one of those patches" in his career, Australia's head coach Andrew McDonald has called for more "intent at the crease" from his No. 3 batter.

In the lead-up to the series, Labuschagne spoke about playing the "long game," emulating the role Cheteshwar Pujara successfully played for India on their last two tours Down Under. However, Labuschagne's recent form has hindered those plans. In the Perth Test, he managed just 2 runs off 52 balls in the first innings and 3 runs off 5 in the second.

Lately, Labuschagne has struggled in Test cricket, averaging just under 35 across 13 matches in 2023 and 24.5 across six matches this year. His last Test hundred came in July 2023 in

Manchester, but it's not just the lack of runs that's concerning; his scrambled mindset at the crease has also raised questions.

"It's always a combination of factors, isn't it, with the mindset?" McDonald said. "There are technical aspects to that as well, but we're really confident he can turn it around."

"When we've seen him at his best, he's shown great intent at the crease," McDonald added. "That's an ongoing discussion. It ebbs and flows throughout players' careers. At the moment, he's in one of those patches, and no doubt he'll be critiqued externally. Internally, we're really confident that, at his best, he's the player we need."

A significant hurdle for Labuschagne in the remaining four Tests against India will be overcoming Jasprit



Bumrah, who took eight wickets in the first Test in Perth. Bumrah had Labuschagne edging early in the first innings, only for Virat Kohli to drop a sitter. In the second innings, Bumrah didn't need any help, trapping Labuschagne lbw with a sharp incoming delivery.

"To me, it's about how you're going to score runs off Jasprit," McDonald explained. "It's one thing to sit there and think, 'How am I going to defend the good balls?'

But the real art is putting pressure back on him and knowing where you can score."

McDonald emphasized the importance of maintaining clarity under pressure. "The boys were clear coming in... but it's one thing to be clear in your plans and another to maintain that mindset in the heat of battle. That's going to be our challenge."

The head coach also backed Australia's bowling attack, which

struggled to match Bumrah's brilliance in Perth, despite conditions favouring their tall, homegrown bowlers. "He was good," McDonald said of Bumrah, "but I've seen our bowlers be equally good... we've got some really strong stocks in our changing room as well. So while the focus will be on their performance, it's remiss not to mention how good our attack is. They'll be looking to rebound in Adelaide and throughout the series."

For now, Labuschagne will remain in the squad for Adelaide, though Australia faces a decision on whether to play him or give an opportunity to Josh Inglis, who is in red-hot form with two centuries in his last four Sheffield Shield games.

"We'll assess that as we go along," McDonald said. "But the squad that's in Perth will also be there in Adelaide."

New Delhi: West Indies took very little time to complete their big win over Bangladesh in the opening Test. The home side were always favourites after 17 wickets fell on Day 3 that put Bangladesh under the pump. Once play got underway on the fourth morning, Jaker Ali found the boundary once in the first over but Alzarri Joseph made a breakthrough in the next. Hasan Mahmud had no choice other than playing a

delivery that was bowled on a good channel just outside and he ended up nicking it behind. Jaker Ali continued to fetch boundaries at one end but Joseph put an end to his stay as well by trapping him lbw as the ball kept a touch low to breach the batter's defence. Shoriful Islam then got hit on the shoulder first ball and carried on only for one more over before deciding to not risk it further with the result being a foregone conclusion. Even though Bangladesh were poor with the bat in the Test match, the win was set up by the West Indies batters who put up 450 on the board in the first innings.

Brief scores: West Indies 450/9d (Justin Greaves 115*, Mikyle Louis 97; Hasan Mahmud 3/87) & 152 (Alick Athanaze 42; Taskin Ahmed 6/64) beat Bangladesh 269/9d (Jaker Ali 53; Alzarri Joseph 3/69) & 132 (Mehidy Hasan 45; Kemar Roach 3/20) by 201 runs

Saim Ayub ton powers Pakistan to dominant series levelling win

New Delhi: Led by Saim Ayub's blazing unbeaten 62-ball 113, Pakistan cruised to a convincing series-levelling 10-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the second ODI in Bulawayo. Chasing 146 for victory, Pakistan overhauled the target in only 18.2 overs.

Electing to bat, Zimbabwe lost their openers early, with both Joylord Gumbie and Tadiwanashe Marumani departing within the first four overs. Dion Myers made a brisk start to his innings with a couple of boundaries against

Abrar Ahmad, but couldn't continue the innings for too long, getting trapped legbefore off Agha Salman.

Zimbabwe struggled to find momentum in their innings as Pakistan kept chipping away with wickets even as middle order batters kept getting starts. Craig Ervine, Sean Williams, Sikandar Raza and Brian Bennett all departed after getting starts, with Abrar striking four times and Salman picking three wickets. Zimbabwe were eventually bundled out for 145 in the 33rd



over. Pakistan, who had messed up in the chase of a low-scoring total in the first ODI, didn't wait too long to go on the offensive. Ayub pulled Blessing Muzarabani for a boundary in the opening over and never went back. The attack continued against Richard Ngarava, who kept getting driven for boundaries. Against Trevor Gwanda, he put his pull shots to good effect, smashing the bowler for a six to bring up his half-century in the 10th over of the innings. Brandon Mavuta, who was smashed for a six down the ground, was later smashed for three successive boundaries, as his innings kept picking pace. Abdullah Shafique, who was dropped early in his innings, continued to play the second fiddle as Pakistan chased down the target without much trouble.

Brief Scores: Zimbabwe 145 in 32.3 overs (Dion Myers 33, Sean Williams 31; Abrar Ahmad 4-33, Agha Salman 3-26) lost to Pakistan 148 for no loss in 18.2 overs (Saim Ayub 113*, Abdullah Shafique 32*) by 10 wickets