

CM Majhi inaugurates, lays foundation stone of projects worth Rs 890 crore in Bolangir

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated and laid foundation stone of several development projects worth Rs 890 crore in Bolangir district Saturday.

Among the projects inaugurated by Majhi included a Sub-Divisional Hospital (SDH) and a dialysis centre at Patnagarh and Titlagarh. He also laid the foundation stone of a bypass road for Patnagarh town. The chief minister also launched three mega and mini water supply projects in Patnagarh and Belpara. He also

inaugurated the newly built powerhouse at Bolangir.

A new circuit house building constructed at a cost of Rs 8.78 crore at Bolangir was inaugurated by the CM during his visit.

This apart, the chief minister laid the foundation stone for the upgradation of Tusura airfield to 2B category to be taken up at a cost of over Rs 66 crore.

He also laid the foundation stone of the Upper Lanth irrigation project in Belpara block of the district. The upper Lanth irrigation project is



proposed across River Lanth, a tributary of Tel river. The project after completion will provide irrigation for

189.07 sq km area. While addressing a public meeting at Belapada ground in Bolangir district, Majhi

came down heavily on the previous BJD government over the Lower Suktel irrigation project,

which he said was inaugurated "in a hurry". He said the foundation stone of the project was laid in

1998 and it was inaugurated in 2024. The project is yet to be fully functional and as a result, farmers are not getting any benefit out of it, the chief minister said.

"Are the farmers getting irrigation for their farmland? Where the money was spent meant for the construction of the Lower Suktel irrigation project?" Majhi asked and alleged that the funds were spent on purchase of buildings, flats, farmhouses and ornaments.

He alleged that Bolangir district has been neglected for the last 24 years during the

BJD government. He said though Bolangir gets less rainfall, still the previous government could not expand irrigation in this part of the state. Majhi said the district has less than 20 per cent irrigation facilities. The previous BJD government continuously neglected Bolangir during their tenure, Majhi alleged. Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, his MP wife Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling and district MLAs attended the chief minister's programme.

Odisha, Chhattisgarh will be cooler than Delhi, Rajasthan in first fortnight of Nov!

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The national capital is not only grappling with toxic air, the city is also recording its warmest ever October and November since 2011. Mercury usually takes a plunge in the national capital region in the last days of October. By November cooler clime set to dominate the atmosphere of Delhi.

As per the records, lowest minimum for Delhi was 14.3°C registered on 28th October. The data further shows the lowest temperature for the month over the last two decades was 12.5°C, which was measured on Oct 29, 2020. However, in the year 2024, October last week day and night temperatures were above normal by 5°C.

The national weather forecaster IMD has released the temperature outlook for the month of November on Saturday. On Delhi's current maximum and minimum temperature, the IMD

report said, "The Maximum and Minimum temperature over Delhi are in the range of 32-34 degC and 14-19 degC respectively. The maximum temperature was above normal by 2-3 deg C and minimum temperature was above normal by 1-2 degC over some places in the region."

However, as per IMD outlook, there will be a gradual fall in minimum temperature over Northwest & East India by 2-3 degC during November 3-7.

The IMD model data, however, suggests Delhi in northwestern Odisha, will not witness any

perceptible change in minimum temperature till Nov 11 as against a fall in 3 deg C in minimum temperature in Haryana, parts of Rajasthan, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Haryana.

Analysis of the model data of IMD and NOAA GFS reveal that on November 3 an anticyclone area will form over north Chhattisgarh and adjoining areas of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand. Due to development of this weather pattern, temperature in

Odisha will drop to around 18 deg C in November 3 onwards. Delhi and some parts in Rajasthan would be recording a minimum temperature of around 20/21 deg C. Therefore, after warmest October since 2011, Delhi may brace up for warmest November.

Another anti-cyclonic area over Odisha in the second week of November (from Nov 8) will bring the mercury down to 18-20 deg C in places like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Keonjhar, Berhampur. As per weather predictions, when the minimum temperature in Odisha will drop to around 18 deg C in November 3 onwards, Delhi and some parts in Rajasthan would be recording a minimum temperature of around 20/21 deg C. Therefore, after warmest October since 2011, Delhi may brace up for warmest November.

New Delhi, Nov 2(KCN): The Union Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) will organize the First Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) on 5th - 6th November in New Delhi. The theme of this summit is on 'Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia'. The President of India is

expected to grace the event as the chief guest. Through the summit, it shall bring together Sangha leaders, scholars, experts and practitioners from various Buddhist traditions across Asia to foster dialogue, promote understanding and address contemporary challenges faced by the Buddhist community. Buddhism holds a unique

position in the spiritual and cultural history of India and pan Asia. The teachings of the Buddha, His disciples and preachers have kept Asia united through a common outlook towards life, divinity, and social values. The Buddha Dhamma has emerged as a valuable component of India's culture, aiding the country in developing

Asian Buddhist Summit to be held in New Delhi on November 5-6

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The recent death of two women in Mandipaka village under Kandhamal district have been attributed to food poisoning, said Odisha Health Department.

The victims, part of the Gadapur panchayat in Daringbadi block, fell ill after consuming fermented rice ('pakhala') and mango kernel gruel, a part of their regular diet. The incident came to light on October 30.

On November 1, local

health and district officials launched an investigation and transferred all the affected individuals to nearby healthcare facilities.

While receiving treatment at MKCG Medical College in Berhampur, Ramita Patmajhi and Runu Majhi passed away.

Odisha government on Friday ordered a departmental probe into the death of two women due to suspected food poisoning after consuming mango kernel gruel, locally called 'takua jau', in Kandhamal district. The Health Department stated that all 69 families in Mandipaka village are

beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFS) and receive regular rice supplies. Anganwadi Centers and ASHA workers, routinely educate locals on health and hygiene, said official

In response to the

Odisha Congress Eyes New PCC Chief



Bhubaneswar, (KCN BUREAU/ Prasar khuntia): The Congress party in Odisha is abuzz with activity as senior party leaders, led by Chhattisgarh Opposition Leader Charan Das Mahanta & Former MP, Meenakshi Natarajan, close associate of Rahul Gandhi prepare to convene in Bhubaneswar on November 4 to deliberate on nominating the next President of the Pradesh

Congress Committee (PCC). "Both the Central leaders will meet with Odisha Congress leaders to finalize a candidate who can unite various factions and strengthen the organisational network. "Among the frontrunners is Dr. Ramachandra Khuntia, a seasoned leader and a longstanding member of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC). Serving as INTUC's Senior National Vice

President since 1993 and as President of its Odisha branch since 1986, Dr. Khuntia is well-versed in labour issues and has been instrumental in advancing workers' rights. His experience as an ex-MP, ex-MLA and involvement in various standing committees including a decade on the Indian Parliament Standing Committee on Labour makes him a compelling choice for PCC President. With his background in

public administration, law and human resource management Dr. Khuntia may be considered the consensus candidate as he has garnered substantial support across factions within the party. "Also under consideration is Bhakta Charan Das, a distinguished former MP known for his impressive parliamentary record and strong rapport with party workers. Another notable candidate is Jaydev Jena,

who has a solid political base in Odisha and remains a prominent figure within the Congress Party. "Prasad Harichandan, former PCC President and a highly respected leader is reportedly not interested in the position this term with sources suggesting he has set his sights on future electoral cycles, specifically the 2028-2029 period. His absence from the race opens up the field for other contenders

including Ananta Sethi, the former Bhadrak MP and senior Congress leader. However, some names have faced scrutiny; Md. Mukim is reportedly disqualified from consideration due to an ongoing vigilance case. Additionally, Jaydev Jena, MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati and Koraput MP Saptagiri Ulaka have thrown their hats in the ring while Srikant Jena's name has also been circulated although he has

publicly denied interest in the position. Sources close to the party suggest that Dr. Khuntia may emerge as the frontrunner due to his wide acceptance and ability to balance competing interests within the party. His reputation as a leader with a deep understanding of grassroots issues coupled with his advocacy for labour rights could make him a unifying force for Congress in Odisha as it looks to revitalize its presence ahead of the next electoral cycle. The final decision on the new PCC President is expected after Mahanta's discussions with key Odisha Congress leaders on November 4. This announcement will mark a critical moment for the Congress Party in the state as it works to regain its footing and prepare for future elections with a strengthened leadership.

Odisha Acts to Shield Olive Ridley Turtles : Seasonal Fishing Ban Enforced

Bhubaneswar, (Prasar Khuntia): In an ongoing effort to protect the endangered Olive Ridley turtles, the Odisha government has enforced a seasonal ban on sea fishing along the coast, effective from 1st November until 31st May. The ban aims to safeguard these remarkable sea turtles during their mating and nesting season ensuring their safe return to the beaches that serve as critical nesting grounds for the species. The Olive Ridley turtles, a species listed as vulnerable under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have been returning to Odisha's shores every year in one of the largest mass nesting events or "arribadas," recorded globally. To protect these

turtles, the Odisha government has identified several key nesting sites including the Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary, Devi mouth in Astarang (Puri district) and Rushikulya mouth (Ganjam district) where specific conservation measures will be strictly enforced. The fishing restrictions are part of a broader set of protections outlined in national and international conservation laws. Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, Olive Ridley turtles are protected as a Schedule I species, meaning any activities that endanger their lives or habitat are strictly prohibited. Additionally, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute along with local environmental agencies is actively involved in monitoring and patrolling

these critical nesting areas. The ban on sea fishing during the breeding season is essential in protecting the turtles from accidental capture often caused by trawling nets that can injure or drown the turtles. The Odisha Marine Police, the Forest Department, Coast guard and local wildlife authorities have joined forces to monitor the restricted areas. Regular patrolling and stringent action against illegal fishing practices will be in place during this period. Fishing vessels found violating the ban may face fines, impoundment and legal repercussions under the Wildlife (Protection) Act and other relevant marine regulations.

As part of a collaborative approach, authorities are



also working closely with local communities and fishermen to ensure compliance and raise awareness about the importance of this seasonal ban. To support affected fishermen the state government is exploring livelihood alternatives and compensation programs. Odisha's coastlines, particularly the Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary, are globally recognized as vital habitats for the Olive Ridley turtle population. Each year thousands of these turtles undertake long migrations from the Pacific and Indian Oceans to nest on Odisha's beaches drawn by natural instincts and geographical memory. By implementing protective measures during this sensitive time the Odisha government continues its commitment to preserving its ecological heritage. The state has been recognized internationally for its conservation efforts which serve as a model for other coastal regions in India and around the world. As the Olive Ridley turtles make their way to Odisha's shores the government's firm stance on fishing restrictions and community collaboration underscores a shared responsibility in protecting this extraordinary species. The success of these efforts will not only aid in the survival of the Olive Ridley turtles but also in sustaining Odisha's reputation as a beacon of conservation for these ancient mariners. //

SOA to organise national seminar on industrial and marine biotechnology

Bhubaneswar, Nov. 2 (KCN): A two-day national seminar on 'Research and Innovations in Industrial and Marine Biotechnology: A Circular Economy' will be held at the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) here on November 4 and 5.

Sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology's Science and Engineering Research Board (DST-SERB), it is being organised by SOA's Centre for Industrial Biotechnology Research (CIBR) in collaboration with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) and Biotechnology Research Society of India (BRSI), Thiruvananthapuram. The seminar, to be attended by researchers, industry experts and policy makers, would aim to foster discussions on innovative biotechnological solutions which align with circular economy principles. Prof. Hrudayanath Thatoi, Director of CIBR and Convenor of the national seminar, said.



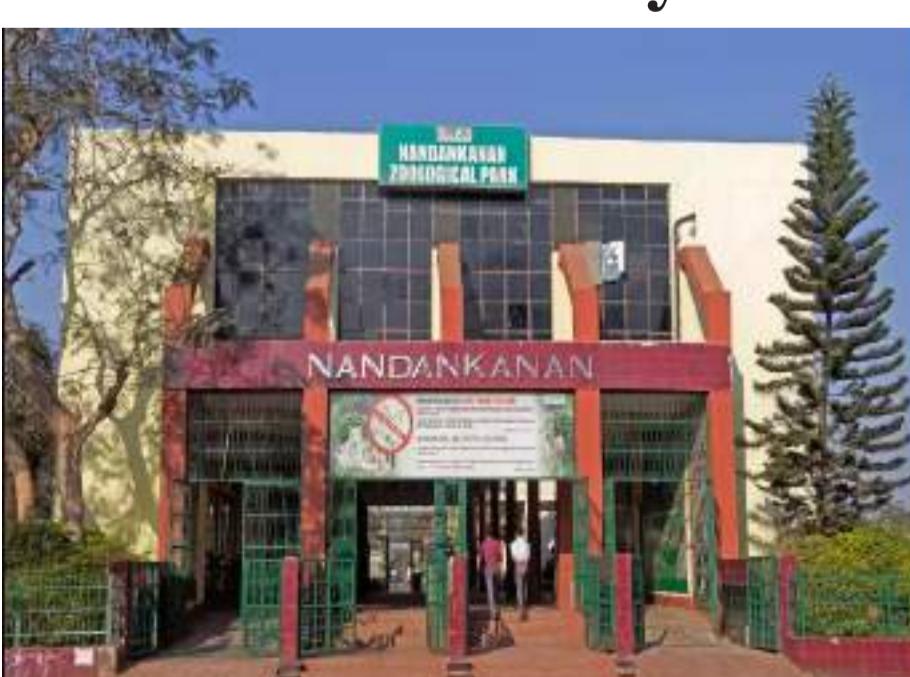
"The subject of the seminar is very important in the present scenario as industrial and marine biotechnology are poised to play critical roles in addressing contemporary global challenges such as resource scarcity, environmental degradation and climate change," he said. Prof. Thatoi said by leveraging biological processes for industrial applications these fields offered sustainable alternatives to traditional methods enhancing efficiency and reducing waste. Marine biotechnology, in particular, unlocks the vast potential of marine resources contributing to

food security, pharmaceuticals, and biofuels while promoting the conservation of marine ecosystems, he said. "The concept of a circular economy further amplifies these benefits by emphasizing the importance of reusing and recycling materials, thereby minimizing waste and promoting sustainability as against the traditional linear economy," he said adding the upcoming seminar would serve as a pivotal platform to explore these interconnections. Prof. Thatoi said the CIBR was established in SOA in 2023 with the objective of carrying out advance research in the

Joy at Nandankanan: White tigress Roopa welcomes four healthy cubs!

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2 (KCN): In a delightful turn of events for animal lovers and zoologists alike, Roopa, the white tigress at Nandankanan Zoological Park, has given birth to four healthy cubs. This joyful occasion marks Roopa's third time as a mother, further enriching the white tiger population at the zoo.

Zoo officials have confirmed that all four cubs are thriving and currently under constant CCTV surveillance to ensure their well-being. "With the birth of these four cubs, the white tiger population has now increased. It is a matter of happiness that



Nandankanan Zoological Park has been enriched by the addition of these big cats,"

said an official. While the exact genders of the cubs have yet to be determined,

the news has already sparked excitement among visitors and conservationists.



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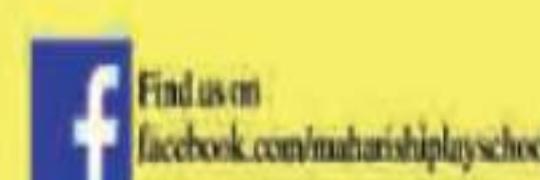
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Ayushmann Khurrana, Rashmika Mandanna came together for horror-comedy titled 'Thama'

A new film is joining Dinesh Vijan's horror-comedy universe. On Wednesday, the makers of the upcoming movie Thama took to social media to announce the film which is a blood-soaked romance.

The film stars Ayushmann Khurrana, Rashmika Mandanna, Paresh Rawal, and Nawazuddin Siddiqui. It is helmed by Aditya Sarotdar, and written by Niren Bhattacharya, Suresh Mathew and Arun Fulara. The announcement of Thama follows the massive success of the Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkummar Rao-starrer Street 2 and the surprise hit Munjya. With Munjya achieving huge box office success and Street 2 shattering all records, Dinesh Vijan Maddock Films is making waves, and is the most profitable



venture in current times. Actor Rajkummar Rao, who is having a great at the box-office in 2024, also took to his Instagram and gave a glimpse of the film to his followers.

Sharing the announcement, he wrote in the caption, "After #Street, #Bhediya, #Munjya... #Thama is joining our horror comedy universe, and

it's going to be wild! My brother Dinesh Vijan's Horror Comedy Universe needed a love story... unfortunately, it's a bloody one. Brace yourselves for #Thama - Diwali 2025".

Raj is an integral part of the horror-comedy universe as storylines of different films in the universe bleed into each other.

The team's unique

storytelling, often laced with humour and horror, has created a distinct cinematic universe that resonates with fans. This trend continues with their upcoming film, Thama which promises to introduce a gripping love story set against a bloody backdrop.

Produced by Dinesh Vijan and Amar Kaushik, Thama is set to arrive in theatres on Diwali 2025.

Birthday wishes pour in for Ananya Panday

Actress Ananya Panday is celebrating her 26th birthday on Wednesday, and on her special day, she is receiving heartfelt wishes from her family, friends, and celebrities on social media.

Stars like Kareena Kapoor Khan, Karisma Kapoor, Kiara Advani, Parineeti Chopra, and Athiya Shetty, among others, penned sweet birthday messages for Ananya.

The Singham Again actress posted a photo of the birthday girl and wrote, "Happy birthday to the brightest star, darling Ananya! Big hug."

Karisma shared a selfie with Ananya and wrote, "Happy birthday, bae! Keep shining." Showering birthday love on the Dream Girl 2 star.

Parineeti shared a stylish photo of Panday and sent her wishes, writing, "Happiest bday my dearest one. Do enjoy."

Ananya Panday's cousin, Alanna, also wished the actress in the sweetest way possible. She shared an image from the birthday celebration and wrote, "Happy birthday, baby sister! Love you."



Parineeti Chopra suddenly expresses her longing for Sushant Singh Rajput

Actress Parineeti Chopra Saturday took a moment to remember her late co-star Sushant Singh Rajput, reflecting on the cherished memories they made while filming Shuddh Desi Romance in Rajasthan. Taking to Instagram Stories, Parineeti, who has 44.1 million followers on the photo-sharing application, has re-shared a video posted by an Instagram user, which says 'Explore Jodhpur through the lens of Shuddh Desi Romance'. The video showcases the iconic locations where Parineeti and Sushant filmed the title song Shuddh Desi Romance. It highlights the majestic Mehrangarh Fort and the charming palaces and bylanes of Jodhpur, Rajasthan, which served as the backdrop for their vibrant performance.

The song, choreographed by Ganesh Acharya, remains a memorable part of the film, and the video beautifully captures the essence of those picturesque settings.

Parineeti wrote in the caption: "Love this! Miss you Sushant...what fun we had on this one". Shuddh Desi Romance was directed by Maneesh Sharma and produced by Aditya Chopra. It also featured Vaani Kapoor in the lead role. Set in Jaipur, Rajasthan, the movie explored the views of the younger generation on commitment, live-in relationships and

arranged marriages. On the work front, Parineeti had joined Yash Raj Films (YRF) as a public relations consultant. She then made her acting debut in 2011 YRF's romantic comedy Ladies vs Ricky Bahl starring Ranveer Singh and Anushka Sharma.

She has then been a part of movies like Shuddh Desi Romance, Hasee Toh Phasee, Jabariya Jodi, The Girl on the Train, Golmaal Again, Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar and Mission Raniganj.



Parineeti last featured as Amarjeet Kaur in the biographical musical drama Amar Singh Chamkila. Directed by Imtiaz Ali, the film stars Diljit Dosanjh in the titular role.

It charts the untold true story of Punjab's original rockstar of the masses, the highest record-selling artist of his time, Amar Singh Chamkila. The film is streaming on Netflix. On the personal front, Parineeti tied the knot with Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha September 24, 2023 in a private luxury hotel in Udaipur. Meanwhile, June 14, 2020, Sushant was found dead at his residence in Bandra, Mumbai. He had reportedly committed suicide.

'Maa Kaali' teaser: Raima Sen's film to shed light on partition's dark history

The upcoming film 'Maa Kaali' by Vijay Yelakanti, starring Raima Sen and Abhishek Singh, revisits the tragic events of Direct Action Day and the Naokhali Massacres, shedding light on the brutalities faced by Hindus in 1946 Bengal.

The makers of 'Karthikeya 2' and director Vijay Yelakanti are set to release 'Maa Kaali,' a film that delves into the tragic events of Direct Action Day* and the Naokhali Massacres*.

Starring Raima Sen and Abhishek Singh, the film's teaser takes viewers back to the events of August 16, 1946, revealing the communal turmoil in Bengal with a compelling storyline, impactful dialogues, and poignant visuals. Scenes such as the wiping of the tilak from young Hindu girls' foreheads and the desecration of Goddess Kaali's idol are designed to leave a

lasting impression on the audience.

Raima Sen, reflecting on her role, shares, "Being a Bengali, the story deeply resonates with the atrocities our people faced in the massacre. However, despite being a Bengali, even I was unaware of many details of the heart-rending event, hence when this film came to me, it

became a moral responsibility to narrate the truth of the Direct Action Day."

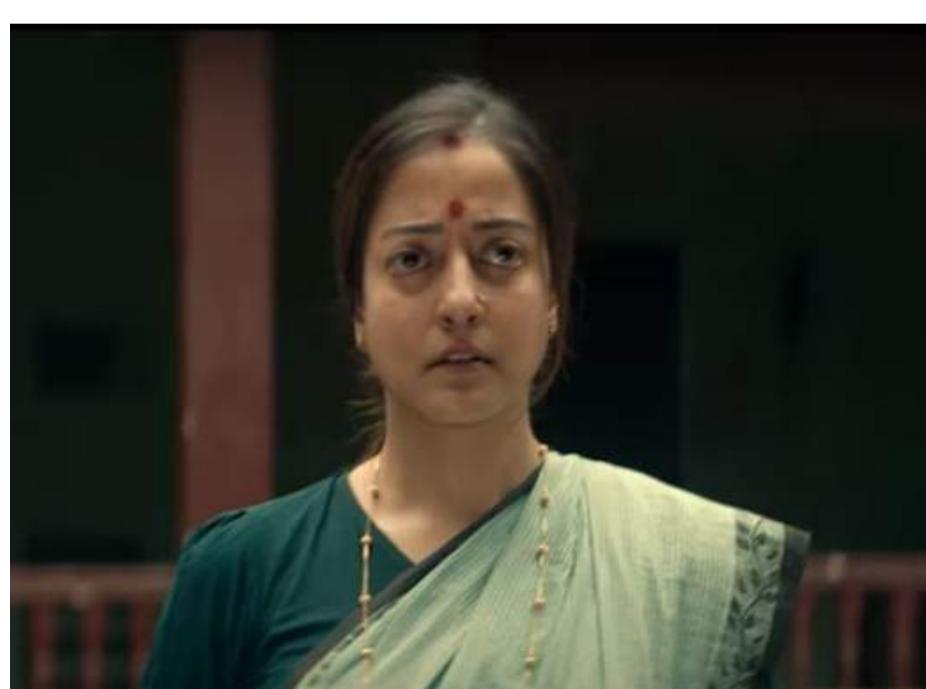
IAS-turned-actor Abhishek Singh adds, "Maa Kaali shares the ordeal of one of the most important and relevant events of our history, yet the details of the monstrous tragedy stay unknown to this film. With the film, we

aim to create awareness of the genocide that shook the nation."

Written and directed by Vijay Yelakanti, 'Maa Kaali' is produced by TG Vishwa Prasad, co-produced by Vivek Kuchibhotla, and presented by People Media Factory. The pan-Indian film, shot in Hindi, will also release in Bengali and Telugu in theaters in 2024.

(*Direct Action Day: Direct Action Day, observed on August 16, 1946, was a dark chapter in Indian history. It arose from the All-India Muslim League's demand for a separate Muslim homeland following British departure from India.)

(*Naokhali Massacres: The Naokhali riots, also referred to as massacres, were a horrific episode of communal violence in October 1946, targeting Hindus in the Naokhali district of Bengal (present-day Bangladesh). Incited by rumors and fueled by tensions surrounding the partition of India, Muslim mobs attacked Hindus, leading to thousands of deaths, forced conversions, and widespread property destruction.)



THE MARRIAGE THAT DEFIES TRADITIONS

Thailand is the first country in the South East Asia to legalise same-sex marriage on September 24, 2024. The King Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand issued an official Royal Gazette pertaining to this and called it marriage equality. Ever since Netherlands gave statutory recognition to the same-sex marriage in 2001, more than 30 countries around the world have come forward to legalise this type of unconventional relationship. It was the United States Supreme Court that gave a landmark verdict on June 26, 2015 in the famous case James Obergefell Vs. Richard Hodges legalizing same-sex marriage that brought to an end the long struggle and legal battle of the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) communities and fulfilled their long

cherished dream. Now in the US the same-sex marriage has got statutory recognition and has got a distinct social status like that of heterogeneous marriage. Anyway, religious pundits, theologians and scholars of ethics of almost all the religions have raised their eyebrows on this issue and are vocal in their objection to this type of deviation in the sacred marital relationship that is usually between a man and a woman. The term marriage connotes solemnization of ritualistic union between a man and a woman under oath taken by both in the name of God, sanctified by a priest according to Hindu-Christian rituals or as the case may be. Therefore, to think of a woman tying knots with a woman or a man doing the same to a man was blasphemous in the

ancient time. However, the willy-nilly society has to approve of something which is not acceptable to the majority of sane people. In the past homosexuality and lesbianism were considered to be an abomination to God and an aberration among the youths in human society. With the passage of time, human society gave up its trappings of conservatism and morality, and adapted itself to a liberal outlook. In the 20th century the concept of sexual liberation was the zeitgeist of the new generation. In the late 1960s radical social movements like Women Liberation and Gay Movements appeared on the American social landscape and made their deep impact on the people. The emergence of LGBTQ Movement is usually attributed to the Stonewall Riot in New York, USA in 1969 when a group of youths

fought with police that cracked down on them and intruded in their freedom at a club. This group initially disapproved of and opposed traditional marriage between a man and a woman that had got social sanction. In 1969 Carl Wittman of the Gay Community had compared marriage to "a rotten and oppressive institution" in the Gay Manifesto. But

gradually their demand for marriage equality or same-sex marriage entered into the public discourse as a theme of culture war in the final decade of 20th Century and in the first decade of 21st Century. Be that as it may, people of conservative attitude are still reluctant to accept the same-sex marriage as something normal. They

vehemently oppose it with the belief that this deviation in marital relationship is unethical, immoral and will profane the human relationship in our society. The question that baffles others as to the same-sex marriage are who would be identified as a wife in case of a marriage between two males and who would be known as the husband in case of a marriage between two women. Of course, it will be mutual understanding of the life partners that will be decisive. Other problems that come up are the question of inheritance of parental property, adoption of children and divorce or separation in case of dispute. Some others feel that the same-sex marriage will undermine the traditional nuclear family and will destroy the existing social fabric of human relationship. It will deliver a wrong

message to the members of the present generation and the posterity.

The LGBT communities constitute about 10% of the Indian population which accounts for about 135 million people as per the 2011 Census. In the Philippines, the US and Israel have the highest LGBT population with 11% each. Thailand and Canada account for 10%, Sweden, Brazil and Australia have 9% each and Romania has 3% as per available statistics. In 2019, totally 123 out of 193

countries legalized consensual same-sex sexual acts, but 68 countries criminalized this type of sexual behaviour. So far six countries have imposed death penalty for same-sex activities, where as 26 countries have imposed imprisonment ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment. Torah's Book of Leviticus (verse 18:22) declares, "You shall not lie with a male as with a

Retired College Principal and Columnist Kalinga Vihar, Bhubaneswar E-mail: pradeepkumar10@gmail.com



Dr. Pradeep Kumar Nayak

Bhai Dooj is a festival of brother-sister love, bonding, and togetherness.

Every woman in our country celebrates Bhai Dooj to show her support and compassion for her brother. On this day, all the sisters pray to God for the happiness of their brother's life. It is widely believed because Yamuna got a promise from her brother Yamraj that only by celebrating Bhai Dooj can one get rid of the fear of Yamraj and even increase the love or feeling between brother and sister. In return, brothers shower their sisters with gifts full of happiness. Like Raksha Bandhan, Bhai Dooj strengthens the brother-sister bond.

Priyanka Saurabh



Bhai Dooj or Yam Dwitiya is celebrated two days after Diwali. Sisters participate in the tika ceremony to pray for the long life of their brothers, while brothers give gifts to their sisters that honor the bond between siblings. Some other names for Bhai Dooj are Bhau Beej, Bhatri Dwitiya, Bhai Dwitiya, or Bhathru Dwitiya. This day is also called Yama Dwitiya, which falls here on the second day of Kartik month. On Yama Dwitiya, Yamaraja, the god of death, is worshipped along with Chitragupt and Yam-doot, followers of Lord Yamaraj. Bhai Dooj is a Hindu event. It is made up of two words: "bhai," which means "brother," along with "dooj," which refers to the second day after the new moon, which is also a day of celebration. This day is especially meaningful in the life of a brother and

sister. It is a joyous event to honor the intense relationship between siblings. Sisters invite their brothers to visit their home and cook their favorite dishes. Sisters also pray to God for their brothers' health, quality of life, and protection from all illnesses and misfortunes. In return, the brothers fulfill their obligations to care for and adore their sisters.

Bhai Dooj is an important festival celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm throughout India. The ceremony begins with inviting the brothers to a sumptuous feast of their favorite food or sweets. The whole event represents a brother's promise to protect his sister, while a sister prays to God and wishes for her brother's well-being. To conclude the ritual, traditionally, sisters make a seat for their brothers with rice flour. Here, on the brother's forehead, a holy tilak made of sindoor, curd, and rice is applied. The sister then places pumpkin flowers, betel leaves, betel nuts, or cash in her brother's palms and slowly chants shlokas while pouring

water. She then also performs the Aarti. A lamp facing the south direction is lit, and seeing a kite flying in the sky is a good omen of wish fulfillment. While savoring the treats, the brothers are given their favorite sweets and water to drink. The event also involves the exchange of Bhai Dooj gifts between brothers and sisters and seeking blessings from elders. According to Hindu scriptures, Goddess Yamuna was quite close to her brother, Lord Yama, the God of Death. She had a strong desire to see her brother, as they had not seen each other for a long time. When Lord Yama arrived to greet his sister two days after Diwali, Goddess Yamuna, overwhelmed with emotion, placed a tilak on his forehead. Bhai Dooj is compared to the Indian festival of Raksha Bandhan in that it commemorates the everlasting relationship that exists between a brother and a sister. In this special event, brothers visit their sisters to check on them and share gifts or sweets.

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Govardhan Puja: The Message of Mountain Conservation

Dr. Manmohan Prakash



Govardhan Puja is an important festival in Indian culture, celebrated the day after Diwali. This puja is linked to the story of Lord Krishna lifting the Govardhan Mountain on his little finger to protect the people of Braj from the wrath of Indra. In essence, the Govardhan Puja symbolically conveys that if we wish to protect ourselves from the wrath of nature and natural disasters, we must take care of all components of nature, both living and non-living—such as natural resources, especially mountains, trees, animals, rivers, and more. We must use them wisely and make efforts to conserve them. Mountains play a crucial role not only in preserving biodiversity but also as the source and protector of water bodies.

In today's time, when environmental issues like climate change and pollution are on the rise, the message of conserving all elements of nature through Govardhan Puja becomes even more significant. This means that we must prioritize the protection of mountains, planting and caring for trees, and preventing human-induced pollution,

activities, structural measures like retaining walls, slope stabilization netting, terracing, reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change, and adopting renewable energy sources. Additionally, establishing early warning systems for



landslides and promoting eco-friendly tourism are crucial. Thus, we can say that Govardhan Puja makes us more alert and responsible for the protection and conservation of mountains. It emphasizes maintaining natural balance, environmental conservation, and controlling human activities. The underlying spirit of Govardhan Puja will not only help in preventing natural disasters but also ensure a sustainable environment for future generations, preventing the recurrence of incidents like those in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

Independent Journalist

Will rebuild Haryana in line with PM Modi's Viksit Bharat-2047 vision: CM Haryana

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), November 1: Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini said the present state government is dedicated to realizing the vision of an empowered and progressive India, as envisioned by our revolutionary heroes. Emphasizing the importance of unity and collaborative effort, the Chief Minister affirmed the present government's resolve to rebuild Haryana in alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious Viksit Bharat goal by the year 2047.

The Chief Minister while addressing a gathering on Friday in Gohana, on the occasion of Haryana day, extended greetings of Vishwakarma Jayanti, Haryana Day, Diwali,

Bhai Dooj, and Gopashtami.

C M Saini said, "The present state government will lead a new era of development in Haryana. We will fulfil all the promises made in the election manifesto as pledged, advancing the state's 2.80 crore citizens along a path of inclusive growth."

The Chief Minister said that the BJP government in Haryana, elected for a third consecutive term, will work with commitment to meet the aspirations of 2.80 crore citizens under the guidance of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

He said that officers have been directed to expedite projects in line with the promises made in the election manifesto. As Haryana completes 58 years of progress, all



communities deserve congratulations for their contributions, said Nayab Singh Saini.

The Chief Minister said that he also acknowledges the role of

party workers and voters in reinforcing their trust in the BJP, leading to a historic victory. He said that under the robust system established by former Chief Minister,

Manohar Lal, his double-engine government will operate at full speed. He said that during the elections, Congress spread misleading information on unemployment and attempted to delay the recruitment of thousands of youth, revealing an anti-youth mindset. Through the efforts of our dedicated workers,

people understood that the BJP is committed to securing the future of young people without favouritism and parchikarchi, and the public, especially the youth, have shown their trust in our government.

On this occasion, BJP state president Mohan Lal Badoli said that under Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's leadership, the BJP government will aim to fulfil the promises made in the assembly manifesto.

With decisive actions such as providing permanent employment to 24,000 youth, implementing Supreme Court decisions on reservation for the Deprived Schedule Caste (DSC), and offering free dialysis services in hospitals, the

government has demonstrated an unstoppable momentum. The Chief Minister is advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies and working to build a new Haryana, said Sh. Mohan Lal Badoli.

Cooperation Minister, Dr. Arvind Sharma said that through schemes named after Bhagwan Vishwakarma, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has created a conducive environment for making youth self-reliant. With steps such as providing MSP for crops and measures to benefit the underprivileged, Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini has won the hearts of the people. Today, the trust of all 36 communities in the state is strong in this government.

India A "Cyber Adversary", Says Trudeau Government, New Delhi Shreds



New Delhi (KCN): The Justin Trudeau-led Canadian government's latest action suggests it has started treating India as an enemy country. India has been added to a list of enemy nations in terms of cyber security and has been labelled a 'cyber adversary'. New Delhi today called it another Canadian strategy to attack and malign India internationally.

In a press conference today, the Ministry of External Affairs also said that under Trudeau's administration, senior Canadian officials have openly confessed that Canada is seeking to manipulate global opinions against India. The foreign ministry also said that like other instances, these allegations in their cyber security report are made without a shred of evidence.

"We see this as another Canadian strategy to attack and malign India. Their senior officials have openly confessed that Canada is seeking to manipulate global opinions against India. As on other occasions, allegations are made repeatedly without a shred of evidence," Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said at a press conference in New Delhi today.

In its most recent report about cybersecurity, titled 'National Cyber Threat Assessment 2025-2026', the Government of Canada has called India a "cyber adversary".

In the report it claimed that, "India's leadership almost certainly aspires to build a modernized cyber program with domestic cyber capabilities. India very likely uses its cyber program to advance its

being intimidated routinely. In a move that highlights its double-standards, Justin Trudeau's administration, which harps on a "rules-based" order has itself not being following any established rules, diplomatic norms and practices.

India today called out Canada for indulging in such illegal activity to harass and intimidate Indian officials in diplomatic missions. New Delhi has called such surveillance activity a "flagrant violation of relevant diplomatic and consular conventions". The foreign ministry also said that by citing technicalities the Canadian government cannot justify that it is indulging in harassment and intimidation.

In its official statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said, "Some of our officials have recently been informed by the Canadian government that they have been, and continue to be under audio and visual surveillance. Their communications have also been intercepted." It added that "New Delhi has formally protested to the Indian government as we deem these actions to be a flagrant violation of relevant diplomatic and consular conventions",

The report also claimed that "countries that aspire to become new centres of power within the global system, such as India, are building cyber programs that present varying levels of threat to Canada."

Canada made these claims under 'Section 1' of its cyber security report titled 'Cyber Threat From State Adversaries' which it says "introduces the state cyber threat ecosystem and discusses the cyber threats to Canada."

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India has been added to the list of enemy countries which include China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

The Justin Trudeau-led Canada government has started violating all established international diplomatic norms in its hateful and spiteful pursuit to malign India in order to cater to its domestic political motives and objectives. Diplomats and other Indian mission staff are being kept under round-the-clock surveillance and are even



Annakut or Govardhan Puja at Naba Brindaban temple Bagbazar. Photo Arindam Bhattacharya

"Shows Mentality": Shaina NC On Sanjay Raut Defending Derogatory Remark

Mumbai (KCN): Hitting out at the opposition in Maharashtra after Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MP Arvind Sawant made a derogatory remark against her, Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) leader Shaina NC has said while the MP has apologised, another leader from the party, Sanjay Raut has justified the statement, revealing his "mentality".

A day after a case was registered against Mr Sawant on the complaint of Shaina NC, who is the Shiv Sena candidate from South Mumbai's Mumbadevi Assembly constituency, the MP apologised for the remark, saying it had been distorted.

Speaking on the same day, Sanjay Raut, who is also a Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader and a member of the Rajya Sabha, defended the statement, claiming the candidate from Mumbadevi had come from outside and was thus 'imported'. He also pointed out that Shaina NC had switched from

the BJP to the Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena.

Addressing a press conference on Saturday, Shaina NC said, "Arvind Sawant called me 'imported maal (goods)' and the Mumbadevi MLA, Amin Patel, was smiling. Would Amin Patel have made this remark for his sister or wife? I want to ask the Uddhav Sena about Sanjay Raut's statement that there is no need to apologise because I am imported. My family has been working in South Mumbai for three generations, I have also shown proof

that I campaigned for Arvind Sawant between 2014 and 2019. I was your 'Ladki Bahin' then and have become 'imported maal' now?"

"Mr Raut, if you don't have any objection to words like 'maal', it shows your mentality. It is surprising that Mr Sawant apologised after 30 hours but Mr Raut is saying nothing wrong was said. So, what is the official stand of the 'Maha Vinash Aghadi' (a play on the opposition coalition Maha Vikas Aghadi)? What is the stand of Congress Maharashtra chief Nana Patole, NCP



Eknath Shinde. Earlier in the day, Arvind Sawant had said, "I have always been at the forefront of giving women their due respect. My remarks were distorted and I was deliberately targeted. This hurt me. Still, if my comments hurt anybody's sentiments, I regret them and apologise. In my 55 years of public life, I have never insulted women".

Sanjay Raut, however, defended the remark. "There has been no insult. Arvind Sawant is our senior MP. He just said that the BJP candidate from Mumbadevi (Shaina NC) has come from outside... If she is an 'imported maal', how is this an insult to women... What did you say about Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi? You should go through history once... If a person from outside contests elections, people say that they have come from outside... There is no need to create such a big issue," he was quoted as saying by news agency ANI.

Admin launches effort to trace water sources on hills

Daringbadi(KCN): In a bid to make water available for irrigation, the Kandhamal district administration has launched efforts to identify water sources in the hills under this block. Farmers have welcomed the move as the administration recently made water supply available from a hill to Muchudipanka villagers in Sonepur panchayat of the block. Sources said only 10 per cent of the farmlands are irrigated in the hilly and densely forested Daringbadi block.

As a result, many farmers depend on rainwater to irrigate their crops. The hilly areas under the block have water sources but

farmers fail to irrigate their farmlands due to a lack of water supply systems. Irrigation woes seriously affect the cultivation of paddy crops, pulses, oilseeds and organic crops like turmeric and gingers as well as horticulture. In this backdrop, the District Collector Amrit Ruturaj has been taking steps to augment the irrigation facilities and launched efforts to trace the water sources in the hills after he joined office in the district. He is frequently visiting the remote regions of Daringbadi block on a scooter and planning to better the irrigation facilities. He has also directed the local administration to find out water sources and take

necessary steps in this regard. The matter came to the fore when Daringbadi BDO Gadadhar Patra visited the remote Kekerkebadi

village in Partamaha panchayat under the block recently. Accompanied by the officials, Patra climbed the Slaska hill in the

village and took stock of the Kalangjidi water source on the hill. Officials said that the administration will make arrangements to draw

water from Kalangjidi water source and supply it through pipes to Kekerkebadi village. This will help irrigate hundreds of hectares of farmlands in the area. The BDO also held discussions with block chairman Susant Kumar Patra, APO Kedar Chandra Panda, junior engineer Dhiren



Woman killed over refusal to serve 'handia'



Ghashipura(KCN): A man dragged a woman out of her house and hacked her to death allegedly for not serving him 'handia' a local country brew at Nialijharan village under this police limits in Keonjhar district, late Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Salke Hembram, wife of Mohan Hembram in the village. Speculations were rife that the murder might have taken place over suspected witchcraft

and sorcery as the family members have remained tightlipped and are yet to complain to the local police station. The villagers also refused to comment on the issue. Police rushed to the spot and launched an investigation after the deceased's brother Ghanashyam visited Ghashipura police station and complained, Monday. Police said the villagers attended a mass feast, Sunday. The incident occurred when Mohan and his family members

had gone to attend the feast leaving the woman and her elderly mother-in-law at house. Meanwhile, a person visited their house and asked the woman to bring her 'handia' from a local vendor. When she denied it, the man flew into rage and dragged her out of the house. There he hacked her to death with sharp weapons, her mother-in-law Sumi said. Despite being aware of his wife's murder, Mohan did not inform the police.

Containers of sunken ship wash ashore at Satabhaya



officials rushed to the beach and cordoned off the area and warned people to keep a safe distance from the containers. The authorities were still investigating what items were in the containers. Most of the items in the containers were washed

away as doors were opened due to the impact of waves, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Bhitarkanika National Park, Sudrashan Gopinath Yadav, said. All the containers of the sunken ship contained household materials. The ship was sailing from

Sethi and the villagers on facilitating water supply to the area. Locals and voluntary outfits are assisting the officials in tracing the water sources on the hills during their visit. Officials said that as many as 177 water sources have been identified in 25 panchayats of the block and the district administration is taking steps to make all of them functional. If all the identified water sources are made operational, agriculture and horticulture in the tribal-dominated block will get a big boost. This will also lead to growth and development of the block and people here will no more depend on other districts for vegetables.



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CFA Institute in India Expands Student Accessibility with a New Exam Center in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : CFA Institute, the professional body for excellence and thought leadership in finance, has opened registrations for their upcoming February 2023 intake. Additionally, with the rising demand to increase candidate accessibility and convenience, the institute will have 4 new exam centers in Kochi, Chhadrighat, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati for the CFA Program. These centers will take the total number of test center cities for the CFA exam to 16 across India and over 400 worldwide.

The recent CFA Institute Investor Trust survey showed that Indians place a high level of trust on the potential growth in job opportunities in the financial services sector. However, in the post-pandemic era, students as

well as professionals are prioritizing safety, accessibility and ease of travel while accomplishing their life and career goals. Ease of accessibility to exam centers is expected to improve a candidate journey through the program and reduce costs associated with travelling to take exams.

The CFA Charter continues to be the global gold standard for professionals aspiring to work in the investment management industry. We constantly work to make the CFA Program affordable, accessible, meritocratic and relevant. During the pandemic we moved our examinations to Computer Based Testing from Paper Based Exams and started offering examinations four times in a year. By expanding our test

SBI now offers Real Time Xpress Credit on YONO app

Mumbai : With an aim to digitally empower customers and offer additional convenience, the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the introduction of Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) on YONO. The bank's flagship personal loan product for salaried customers – Xpress Credit has a Digital Avatar now. Customers can now avail RTXC from the comfort of their homes through YONO – which is going to be 100% paperless and digital. The end-to-end 8 step journey would be easy and instant for the customers.

Under Real Time Xpress Credit, Central/ State Government and Defence salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch for availing a personal loan. The credit checks, eligibility, sanction & documentation will now be done digitally in real-time.

Shri Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI said, "We are pleased to introduce Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) Loan facility for our eligible salaried customers on YONO. The Xpress Credit product will enable our customers to experience a digital, hassle-free, and paperless loan process. We at SBI constantly endeavour to offer technology-led enhanced digital banking experience to the customers in order to simplify banking." The digitalization of Xpress Credit delivery will also help the bank to do away with the need to handle and store enormous paperwork.

Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

firmware updates and 220+ collection centers pan India.

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

free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

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

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

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

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

across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks.

This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

Mivi Unveils SuperPods Opera: The First Indian Brand to get Hi-Res Certification by the Japan Audio Society



Mivi, a leading innovator in wireless audio solutions, is proud to announce the launch of its latest True Wireless Stereo (TWS) earbuds Opera, the third generation of SuperPods series that set a new benchmark for high-fidelity sound. SuperPods Opera marks a significant milestone for the brand as Mivi is now the first Indian brand to receive certification for Hi-Res Wireless Audio by the Japan Audio Society.

We are thrilled to bring

Japan Audio Society. No other Indian brand has been able to achieve this yet. Our commitment to innovation and quality has resulted in a product that truly redefines the boundaries of wireless sound. Mivi's SuperPods Opera series is a testament to the brand's commitment to innovation and delivering exceptional audio products. With its impressive features and superior sound quality, the Opera series is set to redefine how we experience music.

realme launches the Stylish realmenarzo 60 Series 5G and the revolutionary realme Buds Wireless 3

Bhubaneswar(KCN) : realme, the Most Reliable Smartphone Service Provider in India, unveiled its latest offerings today, the realmenarzo 60 Series 5G and realme Buds Wireless 3.

storage variants: 8GB + 128GB which will be priced at INR 23999, 12GB + 256GB priced at INR 26999 and 12GB + 1TB priced at INR 29999.

realmenarzo 60 5G also showcases a Premium Vegan Leather and Martian Horizon design. The device offers a remarkable 90Hz Super AMOLED Display with 20,000-level auto brightness adjustment. The 64MP Street Photography Camera, equipped with 2X in-sensor zoom, DIS Snapshot, and 20X digital zoom, capturing stunning images with ease. Powered by the Dimensity 6020 5G Chipset, the realmenarzo 60 5G gives you a worthwhile experience. The narzo 60 5G comes in two stunning colors: Mars Orange, Cosmic Black and two storage variants: The 8GB + 128GB is priced at INR 17999 and the 8GB + 256GB is priced at INR 19999.

Buyers can avail bank offers of INR 1500 on the realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G with 1TB of ROM storage. It runs on the Dimensity 7050 5G chipset and boasts a massive 5000mAh battery with 67W SUPERVOOC charging support. The realmenarzo 60 Pro 5G comes in two stunning colors: Mars Orange, Cosmic Black and three

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

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

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

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

look for avenues of investment. Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the hon'ble Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL. On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by our Prime Minister to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country. In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Students across India will benefit from this program as it does not restrict to just an area of the population. The program will be conducted for 1 hour and mainly educate the students on demystifying the jargons, 31's – types of Income; Inflation and its impact, types of Investment; 3S – Start early- Power of Compounding, Spread wide, Stay long etc.

SCTE&VT, Shri Reghu G (IAS) and Unit Head, Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL), Shri Deepak Agrawal. Dignitaries present at the ceremony included Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS); Additional Secretary, SDTE, Govt of Odisha, Shri Tapan Satpathy (OAS); Resident Director, JSL, Mr SS Upadhyay, and General Manager, Sales & Distribution, Mr Ranit Rana. Commending the development, Chairman, SCTE&VT and Principal Secretary to Government, SDTE and Industries Departments, Shri Hemant Sharma (IAS) said, "This collaboration with Jindal Stainless will enhance the learning experience for students and faculty both, as it will give them insights about and practical exposure to the stainless steel industry."



Jadeja, Ashwin combine to keep India marginally in front

NEW DELHI: Ravindra Jadeja (4-52) and Ravichandran Ashwin (3-63) weaved their magic to give India a slender advantage on the second day of the final Test against New Zealand in Mumbai. At Stumps, New Zealand were 171 for 9 with a lead of 143. It could still be a fighting total on a crumbling surface but for now, India will believe that they are marginally in front. For the second straight day, bowlers called the shots as 15 wickets fell, one more than the number on the opening day with Ajaz Patel (5-103) being the star in the first half of the day.

The final session started with New Zealand shakily placed at 26 for 1. With the surface getting increasingly

difficult to bat, every run was bound to be paramount. Will Young (51) continued to impress for the tourists with a battling fifty but he didn't get the desired support from the other end. Daryl Mitchell (21) and Devon Conway (22) both got starts but weren't able to kick on. It also didn't help that the surface had started to play extravagant tricks from the spinners and Conway fell to a fizzing off break that just took off after pitching to find the edge. While that dismissal was unfortunate on the batter, Rachin Ravindra's dismissal was inexplicable as he stepped out for a wild slog against a sharp spinning off break, only to be stumped by a country mile. Young watched all this at the other end,

even as he got into his work with appreciable dexterity. Mitchell combined for a 50-run stand with him and it was the best period of the day for New Zealand in their batting performance. It seemed like the game was starting to slip away from India before Jadeja struck. Mitchell's intent to keep the scoreboard rapidly ticking got the better of him as he miscued a loft, taken brilliantly by Ashwin at mid-on.

On these kind of pitches, one wicket generally brings two or more and that was the case for the second day in a row. Tom Blundell's horror series continued as he got cleaned up by Jadeja. In came Glenn Phillips (26) whose only plan was to take the bowling on. With the pitch being as it is, the

idea wasn't bad as runs were at a premium. Phillips struck three sixes and a four in his 14-ball 26 before being castled by Ashwin's carrom ball. Jadeja was at his menacing best as he sliced through the New Zealand lower order with pinpoint accuracy.



Matt Henry and Ajaz Patel hit a six apiece to add some useful runs before the former became Jadeja's fourth wicket at the fag end of the day. New Zealand finished the day, having lost a bit of momentum but as seen already, batting last could be a

very dicey affair, which means that the lead of 143 that New Zealand have right now, could be a tricky chase. The visitors will want to scrap a bit more to stretch the total past 150-155 if they can. Despite the strong bowling performance,

India will rue that their batting unit saw another collapse in the series. Shubman Gill (90) and Rishabh Pant (60) counterpunched for a brilliant 96-run stand but apart from the duo's efforts, India's batting cut a sorry figure. After having endured a disappointing couple of Tests, Ajaz found his mojo with a relentless spell of spin bowling as he utilised the conditions to optimum effect. Ish Sodhi and Phillips gave him good support with the former striking the big blow of Pant just when the partnership was beginning to take the game completely away from the visitors. One of India's strong points at home over the last decade or so has been the lower order rearguard that has seen them seal

games aplenty. This series, however, that hasn't been the case at all. Ashwin and Jadeja were unable to click with the bat as Gill ran out of partners before perishing himself to Ajaz's guile. If not for a powerful cameo from Washington Sundar (38*), India may have struggled to take the first innings lead. The home side then bowled well for most parts to ensure that they had their noses in front by the end of the day, even if the margin of dominance is negligible.

Brief scores: New Zealand 235 and 171/9 (Will Young 51; Ravindra Jadeja 4-52, Ravichandran Ashwin 3-63) lead India 263 (Shubman Gill 90, Rishabh Pant 60; Ajaz Patel 5-103) by 143 runs

Smith, Clarkson earn maiden NZC central contracts



New Delhi: New Zealand Cricket have handed out maiden contracts to allrounders Nathan Smith and Josh Clarkson. The duo will effectively replace Devon Conway and Finn Allen, who had earlier opted out of a central contract to pursue franchise cricket opportunities.

Smith, 26, was named the Men's Domestic Player of the Year at the NZC Awards in March after finishing the Plunket Shield as the leading wicket-taker with 33 scalps at just 17, including his career-best first-class figures of 6 for 36 against Canterbury. Smith continued his run in the white-ball formats, taking 11 and 13 wickets

respectively in the Ford Trophy and Super Smash tournaments that followed. Meanwhile, 27-year-old Clarkson made his white-ball debut for New Zealand last December, and has featured in three ODIs and six T20Is since. He came into spotlight after a successful 2022-23 domestic season, helping Central Stags lift both the Plunket Shield and the Ford Trophy. Both Smith and Clarkson were a part of the New Zealand Under-19 World Cup side, played in Bangladesh, alongside Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra and Ben Sears. "Nathan's been on our radar for a while having been a significant

Sunrisers Eastern Cape to begin title defence at home against MI Cape Town
New Delhi: Defending champions and two-time winners Sunrisers Eastern Cape will get SA20, 2025 underway at their home ground of St. George's Park in Gqeberha with a clash against MI Cape Town on Thursday, January 9. The fixtures announced for the third season of South Africa's marquee T20 league also confirmed that the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg would host the final (on February 8) for the second time in the competition's short history. The runners-up in the

two seasons held so far, Pretoria Capitals and Durban Super Giants, will square off at Kingsmead on the second day of the competition. The first Saturday of the competition will see the season's first double header with Paarl Royals hosting the champions in the day game before Joburg Super Kings make their bow against MI Cape Town in the night game at Newlands. After 30 league games, the top-four teams in the standings will progress to the playoffs. Gqeberha will host Qualifier 1 on

February 4. The SuperSport Park in Centurion will then host post-league games for the first time in the league's history by serving as the venue for the Eliminator (February 5) and Qualifier 2 (February 6). The final will be played after a day's break.

The third season of the SA20 sees the addition of several big names including former New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, whose decision to play in the competition for the Durban Super Giants forced him to forgo a New Zealand Cricket central contract.

NEW DELHI: Leaving behind their recent disappointing performance, Bangladesh batter Towhid Hridoy has urged his teammates to stay in the 'present' as they begin preparations for next year's Champions Trophy 2025 with the upcoming three-match ODI series against Afghanistan. Bangladesh will play three more ODIs against West Indies following the three matches against Afghanistan, scheduled in UAE on November 6, 9 and 11 to conclude their preparation for the Champions Trophy. Bangladesh head into the nearly 50-day tour to play Afghanistan and West Indies where they are set to play two Tests and three T20Is alongwith the ODIs after series defeats to India (in two Tests and three T20Is), followed by home defeat to South Africa in two Tests.

"I think every cricketer is

respectful in domestic cricket for some time," said head coach Gary Stead. "He's been particularly impressive in red ball cricket and we think he has the skills to be successful in international cricket when he gets a chance. "Josh has been involved in both white ball squads over the past twelve months which shows the strides he's made in his game," he said of Clarkson. "He's a hard-hitting player with plenty of skills and has shown in his chances so far that he can offer a lot with bat and ball on the international stage. "Josh will provide depth and adds value given the volume of white ball cricket on the horizon."

NZC central contracts list:

Tom Blundell, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Josh Clarkson, Jacob Duffy, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Nathan Smith, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Will Young

there is no point thinking about the past. I think it will be good if we proceed match by match whether it is one match or a tournament. What we have done recently we cannot think about it and personally I feel how we want to start the next day is important and I want to stay in the present," Hridoy told reporters at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium before heading to UAE on Saturday.

"It is normal that people have high expectations

but every cricketer does not play well in every match," he said. "We play well in this format for most of the time and we want to start well (against Afghanistan as far as preparation for the Champions Trophy is concerned) and if we can play to our potential we hope to achieve something good," he said. Hridoy also expressed his willingness to play anywhere in the batting order, depending on the needs of the team. The right-hander might be

promoted up in the order in the absence of Litton Das and Shakib Al Hasan. "I don't want to talk about my [position in the] batting order and I have said this before that it is a matter of the team and from my side I am ready to bat anywhere. At the end of the day it's a team game and team is the biggest priority," Hridoy said. "The batting order is set as per requirement of the team and what would be good in that situation. Because they are not

there (Litton and Shakib), the batting order certainly can change," he said.

"I haven't played there (in Sharjah) and it will be my first series there. I don't think it will be tough for us because every cricketer played there and everyone has knowledge about the condition. I feel the condition will be the same (like here)," he said. "Their (Afghanistan's) major strength lies in their bowling especially their spinners and we know it and if you want to perform in international cricket you need to take up this challenge. We will plan according to our opponent and will try to handle them," he said, adding that he does not feel his off-side game is lacking. "I don't think I am lacking in that area (off-side game). When players from other countries score runs through one area there is no lacking, but if we score runs through one area there is lacking," he said.

Uruguay legend Luis Suarez announces retirement from international football



New Delhi: Luis Suarez, Uruguay's all-time top scorer, announced his retirement from international football, concluding a 17-year career filled with iconic moments, including his infamous 2010 World Cup handball.

Uruguay football legend Luis Suárez has announced his retirement from international football, marking the end of an iconic career that saw him become the country's all-time top scorer. Suárez revealed his decision during a press conference on Monday, September 2, stating that he would retire after Uruguay's FIFA World Cup qualifiers against

Paraguay on September 6. Suárez will conclude his international journey as Uruguay's most prolific scorer, with an impressive 69 goals in 142 appearances across 17 years. Suárez made his senior debut for Uruguay

on February 8, 2007, in a 3-1 victory over Colombia. He quickly became a vital part of the squad, playing a key role in securing Uruguay's spot in the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. By then, he had

already cemented his place in the team, featuring in 19 of the 20 World Cup qualifying matches. "There is no better pride in oneself than knowing when the right moment to retire is, and luckily I am now," Suárez added.

confident that I am retiring from the national team because I want to take a step aside... I am 37 years old, and I know that it is very difficult to get to the next World Cup. It comforts me a lot that I can retire and not for my injuries to retire me, or to stop being called up," Suárez said in the press conference. "For me individually, it is very helpful for me to want to take that step aside and feel ready. It is difficult because the decision was not easy. But I go with the peace of mind that until the last game I gave my all, and that the flame did not burn out slowly and that is why I made the decision that it should be now," Suárez added.