

# State level open stage drama competition organized



**Begunia (KCN):** In Podidiha village under Begunia block of Khurda district, Hara Parvati Natya sansad organized a state-level free stage drama competition with the support of the villagers. It was presided over by the President of the organization Ramchandra Das and jointly coordinated by Karthik Jena and teacher Pathani Kumar Sahu. Begunia- Bolgarh

MLA Pradeep Kumar Sahu was the Chief Guest, National President of the RASHTRIYA PATRAKAAR MAHASANGHA, New delhi & Editor in chief of PARYABEKHYAK & THE KALINGA CHRONICLE Dr. Pabitra Mohan Samantray was the chief Speaker, Singer Shyam Sundar Tripathy, Educationist Vijay Samantaray,

Sarpacha Lata Sethi, Samiti member Alekh Behera, Local Seva Cooperative President Sudarshan Manik, Social Worker Prabhakar Mohanty and serial artist and social worker Laxmipriya Panda joined as the guest of honor and the guests expressed their opinion that the drama brings everyone together and carries the message of

brotherhood. On this occasion, individuals in various fields were honored with dozens of honours, while Bhubaneswar Utkal Natya Chetna and Patanibar Bauti Natya sansad were given 40,000 and 30,000 rupees in cash and silk cups and trophies by the guests. Finally, social worker smt Bauri Shri Chandan gave vote of thanks.

## Scientific and Technological Hub, Martyr Ihaddaden Abdelhafid University CONFERS Honorary Doctorate ON PRESIDENT

**New Delhi (KCN):** The Scientific and Technological Hub, Martyr Ihaddaden Abdelhafid University of Algeria conferred the Degree of Honorary Doctorate on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at a function held at Sidi Abdellah today (October 15, 2024). President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the degree of Honorary Doctorate in Political Science in recognition of her advocacy of science and knowledge for all social groups in India. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that it



is an honour for India more than for her as an individual. She thanked Scientific and Technological Hub for this honour.

The President said that education is a means not only for individual empowerment but for national development as well. With the objective

to develop students as enlightened citizens and to lead India into the 'Knowledge Economy', the Government of India has brought several reforms in the education sector. The goal of the new National Education Policy 2020 is to transform the education system at all levels. The policy also opens avenues for collaboration with foreign educational institutions.

The President said that India provides quality education at a fraction of the cost of Western institutions and also offers several scholarships and

fellowships to African students. She invited educational institutions, government departments and the youth of Algeria to take advantage of various initiatives of the Government of India. The President said that India-Algeria relations are a long way from reaching their potential. She expressed confidence that the youth of India and Algeria would achieve it and they will eventually become the bridgeheads for enhancing our robust people-to-people ties. Tomorrow, the President will leave for Mauritania.

## Odisha to seal borders when kharif paddy procurement begins

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** The Odisha government Tuesday said it will seal borders with neighbouring states when it begins paddy procurement for the kharif season next month. The decision was taken during a review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, attended by ministers and departmental secretaries.

The state

plans to procure paddy at Rs 3,100 per quintal, fulfilling a promise made by the BJP before the elections. With the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy set at Rs 2,300, the state will provide an additional Rs 800 per quintal as a bonus at government mandis, an official said.

"Advised to take necessary measures to make paddy procurement system more simple, smooth and transparent for the benefit of farmers," Majhi said.

Each minister will be assigned to oversee the procurement process in 2 to 3 districts, and there will be one authorised officer present at each mandi during grain purchases. Zones will be created with multiple paddy mandis, each supervised by a designated official.

Notably, 83.16 per cent of registered farmers in the state are small farmers.

Majhi

highlighted the importance of ensuring that these farmers can sell their paddy without issues and instructed officials to prioritise them during procurement.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister

tons of paddy this year, with the possibility of increasing that figure based on demand, the CM said and directed that the procurement system be streamlined and made more transparent for the benefit of farmers.

Suresh Pujari said paddy quality will now be assessed only once at the mandis, streamlining the process and reducing potential harassment of farmers over quality assessments.

District collectors have been given the authority to extend the token deadlines for paddy procurement without needing to notify the state government, he added.

Additionally, the government plans to construct godowns at mandis to facilitate proper storage of paddy, especially during rainy periods, allocating Rs 550 crore for the modernisation and development of these facilities.

Procurement will be overseen by officers from various departments, including supply, cooperatives, police, and district administration, with the Panchayati Raj department also involved as necessary.

All decisions regarding procurement tokens will be made by the district collector, officials said.

## Maharashtra elections scheduled Nov 20, Jharkhand polls in two phases; Nov 23 results day



Scrutiny will be held October 28 and 30 and the last date of withdrawal of nominations will be October 30 and November 1.

The meeting would be held soon on this issue. According to the poll panel, the total electorate of Maharashtra comprises 9.63 crore (4.77 crore men and 4.66 women), and in Jharkhand, the number of voters is 2.6 crore (1.31 crore men and 1.29 crore women).

The Election Commission said that a total of 1,00,186 polling stations would be set up at 25,789 locations in Maharashtra, and 29,562 polling stations at 20,281 locations in Jharkhand.

In Maharashtra, the

ruling Maha Yuti, comprising the BJP, the Shiv Sena, and the National Congress Party faces the Maha Vikas Aghadi comprising the Shiv Sena-UBT, the Congress, and the National Congress Party-Shardad Pawar. The contest in Jharkhand will be between the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and its allies, the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Congress, and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, which also comprises the Janata Dal-United, and the Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas, as well as the All Jharkhand Students Union.

The Election Commission said that a total of 1,00,186 polling stations would be set up at 25,789 locations in Maharashtra, and 29,562 polling stations at 20,281 locations in Jharkhand.

In Maharashtra, the

outskirts of Bhubaneswar, a police officer said. The deceased were identified as Subhashree Jena (13) and her brother Bhagirathi Jena (9), he said.

Villagers rushed to their help and rescued Subhashree. Later, police reached the spot and rescued Bhagirathi and took both of them to Capital Hospital, where the doctors declared the duo dead, the officer said. He said that a case of an unnatural death was registered at the Baliah police station and the bodies were sent for autopsy.

**Odisha CM asks woman IPS officer to meet rape survivor in Delhi, review probe**

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has asked a senior IPS officer to visit Delhi and review the progress of the probe into the rape of a woman from the state in the national capital, an official statement said. A 34-year-old woman from Odisha was allegedly raped in Sarai Kale Khan area of Delhi. She was found in a semi-conscious state October 11. Majhi, upon his return to Bhubaneswar from his home district Keonjhar Monday night, asked Odisha Police's Crime Against Women & Children Wing (CAW&CW) Inspector General S Shyti to meet the rape survivor at AIIMS Delhi, where she is being treated and enquire about her health condition, the statement said. The CM also asked the IPS officer to hold deliberations with Delhi Police regarding the probe to ensure justice for the victim.

Announcing the poll schedule for Maharashtra, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said that the notification for the polls would be issued October 22, nominations would open the same day, and the last date would be October 29. Scrutiny will be held October 30 and the last date of withdrawal would be November 4.

In Jharkhand, the notification for the two phases would be issued October 18 and October 22, and nominations would open that day only, and the last date for filing candidatures would be October 25 and 29.

The CEC, who was flanked by Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, said that the model code of conduct comes into place right away with the announcement of the poll schedule. Citing the preparations for the polls, the CEC said that they had chosen the middle of the week to deal with the issue of "urban apathy". He said a special

meeting would be held soon on this issue. According to the poll panel, the total electorate of Maharashtra comprises 9.63 crore (4.77 crore men and 4.66 women), and in Jharkhand, the number of voters is 2.6 crore (1.31 crore men and 1.29 crore women).

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# Sarat Kumar Kar's 4th death anniversary observed

**Bhubaneswar ( KCN )** : The 4th death anniversary of veteran politician, eminent orator, literary and spiritual speaker late Sarat Kumar Kar was celebrated yesterday evening at Jaydev Bhawan in the capital city of Bhubaneswar in the presence of many dignitaries.

Mr. Prasanna Kumar Acharya, the former MP and minister and recently the Dy leader of opposition party in Odisha Legislative Assembly, attended the memorial ceremony organized by Sarat Kar and Anima Kar Foundation as the chief guest and inaugurated the ceremony by lighting a lamp in front of Sri Jagannath's Statue.

The organizers, including

the distinguished guests, paid their respects by garlanding the effigy of Late Sarat Kumar Kar. At the beginning of the meeting, Bande Utkal Janni, the Odisha state song composed by Kantkabi Lakshmikant Mahapatra, was played on instrumental music. Mr. Prasad Harichandan, ex-minister and eloquent speaker, attended the memorial meeting of former speaker and popular politician Sarat Kar as the keynote speaker and delivered a memorial lecture on the theme "Role of Speaker in Current Polar Politics".

Mr. Sarat Kar and Anima Kar Foundation Chairman and former Income Tax Commissioner Mr. Shovan Kar presided



over the occasion. Mr. Abani Chandra Das, Foundation Coordinator and Editor of "Nirvik" magazine, coordinated the program and

delivered the welcome speech and introduced the guests. Speakers must be liberal, impartial and principled in a sacred house like the Parliament

or Legislative Assembly rather than being the mouthpiece of the government. In this context, the guests and the speakers were of the

opinion that principles & ideology of Sarat Kar should be emulated by all. On behalf of the foundation in the memory of renowned politician of

Odisha Late sri sarat kar ,his wife Distinguished academician anima kar & his distinguished elder brother Padmashri Rajat Kumar Kar, the chief guest felicitated Dr. Anup Martha, one of the wireless vocalists and singer Lipika Vivar, a prominent literary, researcher, lecturer respectively. Each promoted talent was presented with a garment, a standard plate, an apron, a bouquet of flowers and a check of Rs.20,000 each. However, since he could not be present in person at the ceremony to receive the memorial honor, Mr. Kikesh Singhdeo revealed in a video message that he is receiving it through his wife. Responding to

the promotion, the two other talents expressed their gratitude to the foundation's chairman and selectors. Three recently published books by the Foundation respectively: English book "As I Go Ahead" written by Mr. Manas Ranjan Mohapatra, poetry collection "Nishabda Ulam" by Ms. Sasmita Panda and "Kabita Pushpa" written by Mr. Abani Chandra Das were guest speakers at this grand ceremony. In addition to being unveiled by the authors, these creative writers were honored with awards, and bouquets. Finally, Mr. Suman Kar, Co Chairman of the Foundation gave vote of thanks.

## Naveen Patnaik's 79th birthday: BJD to organise blood donation camps today in Odisha

**Bhubaneswar, October 15(KCN):** As former Odisha Chief Minister and leader of opposition Naveen Patnaik will be celebrating his 79th birthday tomorrow, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has decided to organise 'Jiban Bindu programme' (blood donation camps) across the state.

BJD vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra said, "Naveen Patnaik is not only the president of the BJD, he is the leader of



Odisha. People from within and outside the state admire him. He has contributed significantly to Odisha's development, particularly in handling

natural disasters and promoting hockey. Even the United Nations has acknowledged Odisha's disaster management efforts. "He doesn't like

to celebrate his birthday, but our leaders will extend their wishes. Youth and students will voluntarily donate blood. Naveen Patnaik has always supported socially committed initiatives. On this special occasion, the BJD will organise 'Jiban Bindu' programmes at various locations, with party workers hosting blood donation camps. BJD leaders, MLAs, and MPs will also meet Naveen Patnaik to wish him a happy birthday," he added.

## SOA signs MoU with Hydenmet Solutions to enable farmers access to cutting edge farm solutions

**Bhubaneswar, Oct. 15(KCN):** Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bengaluru-based Hydenmet Solutions Private Limited for taking up joint programs to generate knowledge in agriculture and enable farmers to get affordable access to cutting edge precision farming solutions. The major aim of the collaboration is to generate knowledge in effective monitoring of various crops from seeding to harvest, compare real-time condition of crops with documented intelligence to derive the most accurate advisory for managing

water-stress, nutrition-stress, pests, diseases, insect and fungus attacks and ensure maximum yield of good quality produce. To achieve this objective, a number of research project proposals along with outreach activities including seminars and workshops would be conducted with clear goals, approach, deliverables, time-line and financial inputs to be jointly worked out between the two parties. The MoU was signed by SOA Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda and Bhaskaran Rangarajan, Chief Executive Officer of Hydenmet Solutions.

As per the MoU,

Hydenmet Solutions will install one automatic weather station and any other crop or soil Internet of Things (IoT) sensor as required in SOA's farm and roll out Hydenmet Solution's Smart Technology - Based Agriculture Enabler (STAGE) platform to monitor the same. It will also provide necessary technical manpower and facilities at its manufacturing plants for conducting trials relevant to the identified projects. Besides, experts from Hydenmet Solutions shall facilitate visits of faculty and students of SOA to its manufacturing plants in connection with the identified projects and participate in training of students. Both parties will also work for improvement

of the farming community of the state in association with Farmer Producers' Organisation (FPO). The signing of the MoU was coordinated by Ms. Girija Patel, Co-Founder and Chief Marketing Officer of Hydenmet Solutions.

Jeevan Sangram Dash, Chief Operating Officer of Hydenmet Solutions and Prof. Santosh Kumar Rout, Dean of Institute of Agricultural Sciences, SOA's faculty of agriculture, Prof. R.K. Panda, Director, SOA's Centre for Climate Smart Agriculture and Mr. Pramod Kumar Panda, SOA's Chief Administrative Officer, were present during the signing of the MoU.

## NTPC Kaniha Celebrates Dussehra with Grand Ravan Dahan, Thousands Witness the Spectacular Event



**Kaniha, (KCN):** NTPC Kaniha hosted a grand Dussehra celebration on October 13, 2024, at its township ground, bringing together thousands of people. The event was a magnificent spectacle, offering a memorable experience with the participation of a large number of people from

local rural communities. The event was a visual treat, adorned with dazzling fireworks display. The celebration saw enthusiastic participation from NTPC Kaniha employees and their families, alongside local residents.

Speaking at the event's

conclusion, NTPC Kaniha's Project Head, Shri Ashok Kumar Sehgal, said, "Dussehra is a celebration that symbolizes the victory of good over evil. It inspires us to abandon evil and walk the path of righteousness." He further added, "This celebration is not just an

occasion for entertainment, but also a symbol of unity, cultural diversity, and collective joy." Through the Dussehra celebration, NTPC Kaniha once again showcased its social responsibility and dedication to its local community.

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# Do Patti: Kriti Sanon auditioned with 10 actors before selecting Shaheer Sheikh

Writer Kanika Dhillon recently revealed that Kriti Sanon auditioned with ten actors before choosing Shaheer Sheikh for their upcoming film, Do Patti. The film's trailer was released on October 14.

Writer Kanika Dhillon shared a behind-the-scenes story about the casting process of her upcoming film Do Patti. At the trailer launch of the film, she revealed how, when auditioning for the role of the male protagonist, Kriti Sanon personally auditioned with the final 10 candidates to find the perfect fit. Actor Shaheer Sheikh ultimately secured the role.

Kanika recollects, "Kriti was like, 'For the last ten



rounds, I wanted to audition with ten people.' And those last 10 people left. Kriti herself went and auditioned with each of those 10 candidates,



did that scene over and over. Half of them were nervous because Kriti herself was auditioning them!"

Responding to Kanika's



comments, Kriti said, "To be honest, I think it was so important to find the current Dhruv. You know, because again, the character has so

many layers. And the chemistry has to work in a certain way. So, I was glad that we did the audition. I think while I was doing the audition

only with him, I felt in my head when we were seeing that the chemistry was working, also the shades of group that he has. I think he was pulling it off so well."

Starring Kajol, Kriti Sanon and Shaheer Sheikh in important roles, Do Patti is a mystery thriller set in the backdrop of a hill station. The catch in the story is Kriti playing a double role as twin sisters.

Do Patti is directed by Shashanka Chaturvedi, and written by Kanika Dhillon. Also starring Tanvi Azmi and Brijendra Kala in important roles, it is Kriti's maiden production and is slated to stream online from October 25.

## Suhana Khan's pull ups, push-ups, and deadlifts are the reason for her perfect svelte figure

Actress Suhana Khan, who is the daughter of superstar Shah Rukh Khan, has finally revealed the secret to her perfect svelte figure, which includes a combination of pull-ups and deadlifts.

Suhana took to Instagram, where she shared a video of her working out in the gym. In the clip, the actress, who made her debut with Zoya Akhtar's "The Archies", is seen doing several weighted workouts including pull-ups, hip thrusts, push-ups and deadlifts under the supervision of a personal trainer.

Talking about upcoming work, Suhana will soon be seen working with her father in the upcoming film "King", which is directed by Sujoy Ghosh and produced by Siddharth Anand. The movie is expected to go on floors later this year and might hit screens in 2025.



The film will also feature actor Abhishek Bachchan, who will be seen playing the



antagonist. Megastar Amitabh Bachchan in July almost confirmed Abhishek starring in the upcoming movie.

tweet spoke about Abhishek's side as an antagonist and shared that the actor will be seen in a negative role in "King".

The Internet user had written in his tweet: "Those Who have seen Abhishek Sir's in Breathe into the Shadows, Raavan and 'BB', Will know what level of Performance as a negative role he can give. Never ever doubt him. @juniorbachchan Abhishek Sir and Sujoy Ghosh. @iamsrk #SuhanaKhan #King #AbhishekBachchan #sujoy\_g".

Big B, wrote in his tweet, "All the best Abhishek .. It is TIME (sic)".

## Vicky Kaushal on perfecting 'Tauba Tauba' steps: Had 3-4 days to learn it

Vicky Kaushal spoke about the hard work and choreography behind the popular song 'Tauba Tauba' from 'Bad Newz'. The film releases on July 19.

Vicky Kaushal, who is in Delhi to promote 'Bad Newz', spoke about perfecting the steps of 'Tauba Tauba'. The actor said that he was given three-four days to learn

it. Vicky also credited choreographer Bosco-Caesar for the song's popularity and success. Vicky Kaushal's leg-work, swag in 'Bad Newz' song 'Tauba Tauba' is the talk of the town. Talking about what went behind the song's success, Vicky said, "We were very excited ki isko jama ke kuch karte hain (let's do a great job) and

the choreographers, Bosco-Caesar, they have been choreographing such songs for the past 20 years. And they have worked on such nice songs with Hrithik Roshan, Katrina Kaif, and others."

He continued, "We were very happy with the team that came together. We got 3-4 days to learn the 'Tauba Tauba' steps.

of my hard work and gave me so much love. Overall, we are very happy."

Vicky also said, "There are some songs which create a flow of their own. Nothing is bigger than a song that we drop on the highway and the audience takes it off from there and makes it their own. That is what happened with 'Tauba

Tauba'. It's there in the film as well and whoever wants to enjoy this song on the big screen, please do."

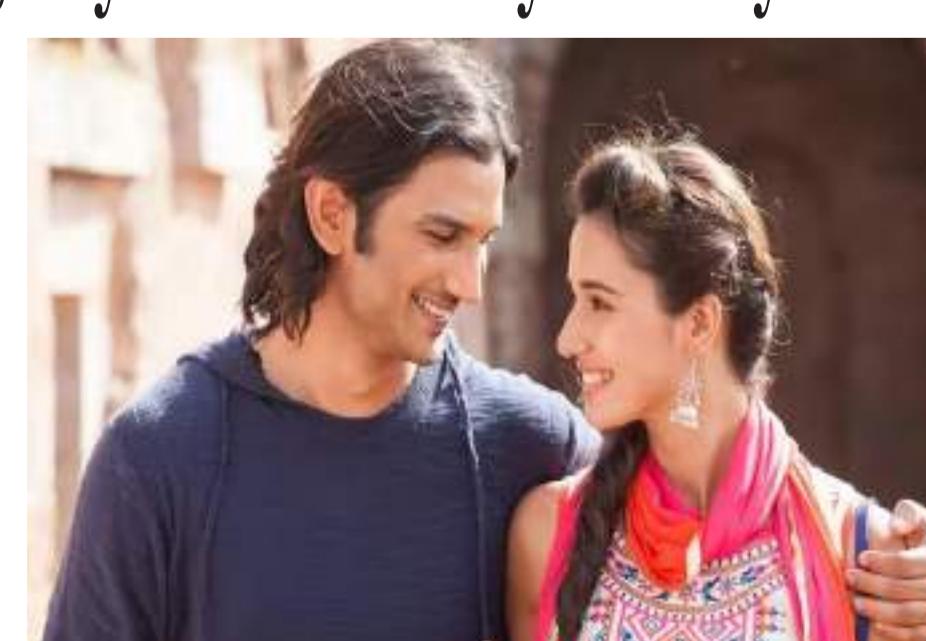
Vicky was accompanied by Tripti Dimri and Ammy Virk at the Delhi press conference. Also, watch 'Tauba Tauba' here:

'Bad Newz' was previously titled 'Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam'.

## Disha Patani Misses Sushant Singh Rajput As 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story' Clocks 7 Years, Says 'Couldn't Say Goodbye'

Actor Disha Patani remembered late actor Sushant Singh Rajput on the occasion of their film 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story' 7th anniversary. Taking to Instagram, Disha shared a clip from the movie featuring herself and Sushant. Sharing the video, she wrote, "Grateful for this beautiful journey and my first film in Hindi cinema Love whole heartedly and cherish the ones who make you happy safe and heard life's too short for regrets ! We couldn't say goodbye but i hope you're

happy and at peace" As soon as she shared the video, fans and industry friends chimed in the comment section. Actor Anil Kapoor wrote, "Phenomenal scene .. both of you are so good ..." One of the users wrote, "One of the finest scenes from this movie" Another commented, "Miss u SSR." Helmed by Neeraj Pandey, 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story' biopic is on one of the most celebrated cricketers in our country, Mahendra Singh Dhoni. The film



was released in 2016 and saw the late Sushant Singh Rajput essaying the role of Dhoni. It also starred Kiara Advani.

Disha, with her girl-next-door appeal and million-dollar smile, instantly became the talk of the town. Her chemistry with Sushant was widely appreciated. The biopic turned out to be one of the biggest hits of Sushant's career, who went on to receive several nominations in the Best Actor category at that year's awards ceremonies for his performance in the film.

# Ascent for Noel: Tata-Mistry families likely to come close

Vivek Shukla



and the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust in November 2022. Those were the days when Ratan Tata was all powerful in Tata Trusts. Mehli Mistry is the first cousin of the late Cyrus Mistry. It may be recalled that

Mehli Mistry was solidly behind Ratan Tata when he (Ratan Tata) removed Cyrus Mistry as chairman of Tata Sons in 2016. The acrimonious spat between Ratan Tata and Cyrus Mistry created a tremendous amount of media attention. Mehli Mistry's name also surfaced during the acrimonious dispute between Ratan Tata and Cyrus Mistry. Some say that Mehli Mistry allegedly played a behind-the-scenes role in orchestrating tensions that eventually led to Cyrus Mistry's removal from the Tata House. When Ratan Tata and Cyrus Mistry were on loggerheads, Mehli Mistry was supporting the cause of Ratan Tata. He was attacking Cyrus Mistry from all the possible fronts. That strengthened their ties.

According to Tata group watchers, Mehli Mistry's role within the Trusts has increased significantly in recent years. Therefore, his name was in the air to become head of Tata trusts. However, he lost the race.

Despite being a frontrunner to lead the Tata trusts, Mehli Mistry could not become the head of Tata Trusts. It is said that Noel Tata appointed to the top post on a unanimous decision. Noel Tata's formidable reputation as a successful and non-controversial businessman played a decisive role in his selection as the head of Tata Trusts. He began his career at Tata International, the Tata Group's arm for the products and services offered abroad. In June 1999, he became the managing director of the Group's retail arm Trent, which was founded by his mother. By this time, Trent had acquired the department store Littlewoods International and changed its name to Westside. Tata developed Westside, turning it into a profitable



venture. In 2003, he was appointed the director of Titan Industries and of Voltas. On the other hand, Mehli Mistry was facing even some serious allegations in the business dealings. One major controversy involves Mehli Mistry's business dealings with Tata Power with allegations being that his firm had been awarded lucrative long-term dredging and shipping contracts by Tata Power without going through the proper tender process. However, Mehli Mistry

has always denied these allegations. Even Tata Sons has refuted allegations that Mehli Mistry and associates benefited from contracts allegedly awarded to him by Tata Power without competitive bidding. Mehli Mistry has been a director of the Mahrji Pallonji Group. Mehli's mother and Cyrus's mother are sisters, while their fathers are also first cousins. Mehli Mistry, however, said that the allegation that he was behind the ouster of Cyrus Mistry from head of Tata Sons

was untrue. Mehli Mistry was accused of calling Cyrus Mistry a weak leader during the tumultuous boardroom battle that followed Cyrus's ousting. This comment reflected the deep animosity between Mehli and Cyrus. Cyrus Mistry's family, through their holding company Shapoorji Pallonji, owns an 18.37% stake in Tata Sons, making them the second largest shareholder after Tata Trusts. Well, the spat between Mehli Mistry and Cyrus Mistry was not just a personal fallout

despite his deep ties with Ratan Tata and experience within the Tata Trusts. As Ratan Tata is not around, there is a 'future tense' so far as Mehli Mistry's is considered. Tata group watchers say that while it is true that Mehli Mistry was very close to Ratan Tata, he was certainly not a material to head the Tata Trusts. If he was made the boss of Tata Trusts, it would have given a very bad message to

Mistry, a sworn enemy of Cyrus Mistry was made the head of Tata Trusts. Moreover, Mehli's appointment further alienated the

Mistry family from Tata group. It is a well-known fact that it is a key stakeholder in Tata group companies.

Finally, as Tata group would move forward under the watchful eyes of Noel Tata, one hopes that it would grow thick and fast.

**The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor**

# Ratan Tata: The Visionary Industrialist Who Revolutionised the Tata Group.



Source: Business History.

People widely regard Ratan Tata as one of the most influential and forward-thinking corporate leaders in modern India. Ratan, who passed away recently at the age of 86, made significant contributions to the world of business. He was also responsible for elevating the Tata company to a global level through highly exceptional accomplishments.

Ratan Tata, who was in charge of the Tata Group for 21 years, successfully transformed the company into the global powerhouse it is today by expanding into a variety of industries, including steel, automobiles, information technology, and telecommunication. He achieved this by acquiring a struggling British auto company and successfully transforming it. He also introduced the Nano, the most affordable passenger car.

It was during his tenure from 1991 to 2012 (and for a short period from 2016 to 2017) that the conglomerate with its headquarters in Mumbai made significant acquisitions, such as Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), Tetley, and Corus, which helped to establish the company as a major player on the global arena. He reimagined and redesigned the

organization in his own image, as a careful, clever, and kind entrepreneur who was nevertheless brave and audacious. For over three decades, he guided the organization with great respect. Through his leadership, he not only brought about a transition inside the Tata Group, but he also became the leader in India's industrial development in a variety of different ways.

Ratan Tata penned the Tata Tactical Proposal after replacing JRD as chairman of Tata Industries, more than a span before Ratan prospered him as chairman of the group holding company Tata Sons. This occurred following Ratan's assumption of the chairmanship of Tata Industries. In the times when Indian corporate and business were subject to the shackles of license sovereignty and the Tata Group, the dominant force in the country, was plodding along with its legacy industries, which mostly consisted of commodities, Ratan Tata's strategy would have seemed to be nothing more than a pipe dream.

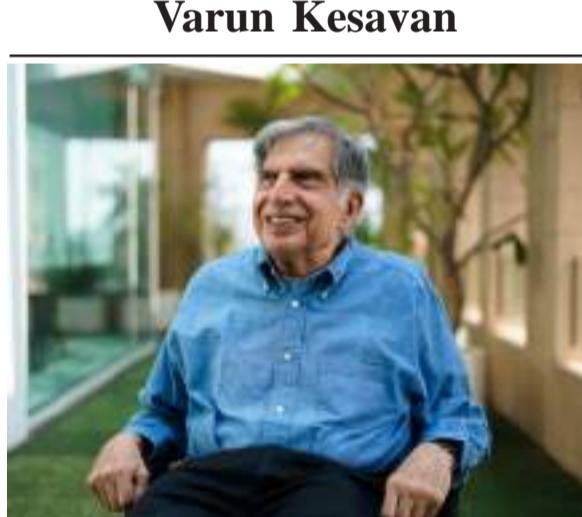
The most significant milestones achieved by Ratan Tata in the process of transitioning the Tata Group.

Ratan Tata assumed the control of the multinational in the year 1991, succeeding his uncle JRD Tata. This occurred at the same time that India was beginning to implement significant economic reforms that would open the nation up to the rest of the globe and usher in a period of rapid

economic expansion. Tata was the driving force behind the group's expansion outside the borders of India, which included the acquisition of a British tea company. Although the purchase of Tata may not be as significant as the acquisitions of JLR or Corus, it is without a doubt of more significance in the process of making Tata a worldwide brand. In the year 2020, Ratan Tata presided over the purchase of Tetley, which at the time was three times as large as Tata Tea, for a total of \$430 million. It was the transaction that laid the groundwork for a string of subsequent acquisitions on a worldwide scale.

Moreover, Tata also purchased Anglo-Dutch steelmaker Corus in 2007 for \$13 billion, which was the largest buyout of a foreign corporation by an Indian corporation at the time.

At this time, Tata Motors' passenger vehicle business in the country, was speedily charming a household brand due to the overwhelming accomplishment of the hatchback Indica, which made its debut in December 1998. In a short period of time, Tata Motors emerged as a formidable



Varun Kesavan

"touted as the world's cheapest car." He submitted the preliminary drawings for both models. He submitted preliminary drawings for both models.

Fast forward to 2007, when Tata Steel made headlines across the world with its purchase of the steel company Corus, which was located in the United Kingdom and cost \$12.9 billion. It continues to be one of the greatest purchases made by an Indian corporation, and Ratan Tata himself was the driving force behind it. This acquisition led Tata Steel to become one of the world's largest steel manufacturers, yet some refer to it as a venture that did not yield significant success for the company.

However, the purchase of Jaguar Land Rover from Ford Motor, which is located in the United States, in 2008 for a total price of \$2.3 billion was a significant factor in the conglomerate's success in establishing itself on the international scene. The amazing turnaround that JLR has seen has completed the brand a formidable competitor in around of the most

important markets for automobiles in the world, including the United States of America, China, and Europe. A limited American administrator ridiculed Ratan Tata's 1999 effort to sell Tata Motors' passenger vehicle sector to Ford, making the purchase and turnaround a personal success for him.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) went public in 2004, representing India's biggest and Asia's second-largest initial public offering (IPO) at the time. The company raised a total of \$1.17 billion. In detail, TCS was the individual large firm within the group to raise public capital.

Also, Ratan Tata was the driving force behind the ambitious Tata Nano automobile project, which he conceived of and led. Designed to provide a safe form of transportation within the typical Indian customer's budget, Nano was a huge hit when it first hit the market. However, in the years that followed, sales of the Nano decreased because customers began shifting their choices toward larger automobiles.

He was also responsible for overseeing the hospitality side of the firm and ensuring that the Taj variety of hotels remained among the most opulent accommodations in the world. Additionally, it was under his rule that Titan expanded into new product groups and converted one of the furthermost well-known shopping products in the nation.

In 2021, the Tata Group acquired the state-owned airline Air India. The company also established Vistara, a full-service airline, in collaboration with Singapore Airlines; however, it recently amalgamated with Air India.

In December 2012, Tata resigned, although he came back for a short period of time to serve as chairperson from October 2016 to February 2017 in order to address leadership difficulties within the organization. Despite the fact that Tata had retired, the organization continued to maintain the pioneering spirit that he had reintroduced in the community. Within less than a year, the organization has disclosed its intention to become the only provider of a sizeable portion of India's forthcoming high-tech engineering. It became the first Indian business to enter the Apple supply chain as an iPhone assembler when it purchased the India manufacturing plant of Taiwan's Wistron in November of the previous year. Two Tata semiconductor factories broke ground in March, four months later. The Tata Group plans to

develop the first of these plants, a semiconductor fab facility in Dholera, Gujarat, at a cost of eleven billion dollars, making it the first of its kind in the nation.

It is true that Tata made several mistakes on his quest for invention, particularly with the Nano, which is the smallest automobile. Nano is a testament to Tata's inventiveness, pioneering vision, and patriotic zeal, despite the fact that it was a failure throughout its production. Nano was an audacious industrialist's gift to the normal Indian at a time when India had declared its independence from the previous communist economy and was eager to go forward.

The fact that Tata dared to vision large at a time when the majority of his contemporaries shied away from taking risks and chose to stick to the tried-and-true path was a distinguishing characteristic of his personality. He has invested in over fifty new businesses in India, driven by his desire to vision and revolutionize. Every Indian entrepreneur with the courage to vision and transform will carry on Ratan Tata's legacy.

The contributions that Ratan Tata has made to the Tata group have been particularly noteworthy. With worldwide processes in 100 nations, the Tata Group has now extended its goods and services to approximately 150 countries throughout the world.

Ratan Tata's expertise and affectionate conduct. Ratan Tata gained recognition for his unpretentious and modest character during his

tenure as the head of TELCO. Later, Tata Motors strategically settled the workers strike in a tactical manner. Ratan Tata is renowned for his simplicity and humility. Tata visited each and every worker, listened to their complaints, and individually addressed the issues that they were experiencing. Furthermore, Tata assured the workers that they would handle the issues with utmost caution.

The outside world did not have a kind opinion of Ratan Tata. Additionally, Ratan had a strong interest in charitable work and never favored wearing a tie. Instead, Ratan Tata preferred to wear casual clothing. Ratan Tata was a very active member of the community. Moreover, Ratan Tata exhibited a demeanor deeply rooted in reality. During his spare time, Ratan Tata would spend time playing with the stray dogs that he had created just for them, providing them with food and shelter. Ratan Tata demonstrated immense compassion and care towards the creatures shunned by civilization.

Ratan Tata's aspirations and goals have always served as a stepping stone for aspiring businesspeople and members of the business community. Ratan Tata's compassion, sincerity, and the simplicity of his life will forever mark his legacy.

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# Pockets of Middle Class Being Looted to Fund AAP's Political Ambitions, Alleges PPCC Chief

**Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), Oct 15:** Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, President of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) has alleged that AAP is looting the pockets of the middle class to fund its political ambitions.

In a critique of the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab, Warring, PPCC chief and Member of Parliament from Ludhiana, has accused the Bhagwant Mann-led administration of betraying the people of Punjab and enforcing "GST-terrorism" to fill their political coffers. Warring lambasted the AAP for looting the state's middle class and small business owners to finance their lavish election campaigns and fund extravagant advertisement budgets, branding it as a total sell-out of the state's hard-earned resources.

"Aam Aadmi Party

claims to stand for the common man, but they are the biggest enemy of the very people they pledged to protect. They are emptying the pockets of middle-class families, misusing public funds to fuel their political ambitions and self-glorification," Warring remarked.

"This party has crossed all limits of excess, hiring a private jet to fly Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to a rally, while the state's helicopter followed empty, just for security reasons. It's an outright mockery of the taxpayer's money, a shameful waste of public resources, all while Punjab's people struggle under the burden of rising prices and economic hardships."

The PPCC Chief pointed out that the misuse of Punjab's resources doesn't stop with CM Bhagwant Mann. "Not only does Bhagwant Mann waste Punjab's

helicopter, but it has also been used to ferry Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on multiple occasions. Why are Punjab's assets being used? This is the clearest evidence that the AAP government is not for Punjabis, but for their party bosses."

Warring further highlighted the terror being unleashed on small business owners under what he termed as "GST-Terrorism." He pointed out that messages are being circulated across districts instructing government officials to conduct arbitrary raids on salons, beauty parlours, and cosmetic shops during the festive season, targeting them with undue pressure to check B2C invoicing.

"On the eve of Karva Chauth, when families are preparing to celebrate, AAP is sending terror squads to harass small businesses under the pretext of



GST enforcement. These shops, many of which are struggling to survive, are being targeted as part of AAP's revenue collection drive to fund their political adventures. This isn't governance—this is daylight robbery!"

The PPCC Chief expressed deep concern over the psychological

and financial strain AAP's policies are imposing on Punjab's middle class and business community. "Entrepreneurs in Punjab are living in fear, not just of criminals, but of their own government. The law-and-order situation is collapsing, corruption is rampant, and now

honest business owners are being terrorized by the AAP government's GST squads. How can anyone thrive in such an environment?"

Warring also slammed AAP for their failure to tackle issues like illegal sand mining and corruption, issues they had once vowed to eradicate. "Instead of

exploitation of the people to continue. "We will raise our voices and mobilize the public against this GST-terrorism! The Congress party will lead the charge in exposing the AAP government's blatant misuse of public money, and we will not let them get away with looting from the hardworking citizens of Punjab."

He concluded by calling on the public to hold the AAP government accountable for its actions. "This is not the governance Punjabis were promised. Bhagwant Mann and the Aam Aadmi Party have deceived the people of Punjab, and it is time for Punjabis to rise and demand justice. The robbery of Punjab's resources will not go unnoticed, and the AAP government will be held responsible for every single rupee they have siphoned from the state."

## Samsung Workers Call Off Strike, Ready To Resume Work: Tamil Nadu



**Chennai (KCN):** Over a month-long indefinite strike by the employees of Samsung India Electronics Ltd at its plant near here was called off on Tuesday and the workers have decided to resume work, the Tamil Nadu government said.

The state government in a statement said the strike at the factory of the

newly formed Samsung India Workers Union backed by CITU by the labour department.

The decision to call off the strike was taken at the conciliatory meeting which was held at the office of the Department of Labour Welfare here on Tuesday in which representatives from the Samsung India and the striking workers took part.

"All the striking workers will call off the agitation and return to work immediately. On returning to work the management will not victimise the workers for having participated in the protest," an official release said.

## Doctors Hold Protest Meet In Kolkata, Facing Off State's Puja Carnival



**Kolkata (KCN):** Protesting junior doctors in Kolkata launched their 'Droheri Carnival' (carnival of protest) today from city centre Esplanade - a short distance from the Red Road where the state government was hosting the Durga Puja Carnival. The puja carnival, showcasing award-winning idols, has been a high-point of the city's festive landscape since 2016. But today, most footfalls were at the adjacent protest site, where the citizens decided to show support to the doctors who are holding an indefinite

hunger strike. With several doctors indisposed, two more have joined their ranks. They are Rumelika Kumar from All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health and Spandan Chowdhury from Midnapore Medical College & Hospital.

The total number of junior doctors on hunger strike is now seven. The hunger strike had started on October 5, seeking justice for the young doctor raped and murdered at Kolkata's RG Kar hospital on August 9. So far, five of the doctors on hunger strike had to be

hospitalised as their health deteriorated. The rally started shortly after the Calcutta High Court set aside prohibitory orders in areas near the Durga Puja Carnival on Red Road.

"Our protests on the issue have been going on for the last 66 days. Many of our fellow junior doctors are on hunger strike. We want to send the message to the state government and the Chief Minister that our protests on this issue will continue," Spandan Chowdhury, one of the protesting doctors, was quoted as saying.

## Maharashtra Polls To Test Chemistry Among Allies Post Shiv Sena, NCP Split



splits within major parties and realignments in the last five years have led to a tectonic shift in political dynamics.

The MVA consists of the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) faction led by veteran politician Sharad Pawar. Both the MVA and the Mahayuti are yet to announce their seat-sharing deals.

The ensuing assembly polls, the first since the splits in the Shiv Sena in 2022 and the NCP a year later, will be a test of strength for the two major alliances and will also indicate the ability of their individual constituents to transfer votes to each other.

Even though the Lok Sabha elections saw the ruling alliance (which won 17 of 48 seats) suffering a jolt and the opposition MVA (30 seats) performing well, the assembly polls are going to be a different political ball game as state and local-level issues will dominate campaigning.

The Mahayuti (grand alliance) is in a direct fight with the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in a state where

six main parties vying for influence: BJP, Shiv Sena, NCP, Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (SP).

This fragmentation is a product of recent political upheavals, including the collapse of the MVA government and the emergence of new political factions. The last five years have been unprecedented in Maharashtra politics -- collapse of a pre-poll alliance, three regimes, including a three-day government, splits in two major parties with the

Election Commission recognizing the breakaway groups as "real".

The murder of former state minister and NCP leader Baba Siddique on Dussehra (October 12) raised concerns about law and order and came as an embarrassment for the Mahayuti government ahead of the polls.

In the last fortnight, the Shinde government has taken a staggering 1,500 decisions, including around 160 in state cabinet meetings. These include the toll waiver for light motor vehicles at all five entry points into Mumbai.

Despite reports that Ajit Pawar may walk out of the ruling alliance, he has stayed put.

Maharashtra saw a change in government mid-way in June 2022 when the MVA government led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray collapsed following a rebellion in his party Shiv Sena.

Shinde then succeeded Thackeray as Chief Minister with BJP support.

The 2019 assembly polls changed several dynamics. First, a pre-poll alliance between the Shiv Sena-BJP snapped over the issue of chief ministership. Later, Shiv Sena joined hands with its traditional rivals Congress and the NCP to form a government under Thackeray's leadership.

Congress leader Ratnakar Mahajan said the BJP is facing erosion

in its voter base, while the grand old party has gained people's trust by raising key issues like agrarian distress, unemployment and inflation.

Mahajan asserted the Congress is not complacent after its encouraging Lok Sabha poll show -- the party won 13 seats in Maharashtra -- and it continues to highlight pro-people issues.

He said the collapse of a Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue in Sindhudurg district, poor law and order situation, Maratha quota and agrarian distress were some of the issues the opposition is highlighting.

The Maratha quota demand, an issue which hurt the Mahayuti in the Lok Sabha polls, continues to resonate with a significant voter base, according to analysts.

In 2019, the BJP bagged 105 seats, emerging as the single largest party, while its then-ally Shiv Sena won 56. The Congress and its ally NCP contested 125 seats each and won 44 and 54, respectively.

# Aruha hill turns mound of misdeeds

**Jajpur(KCN):** Despite many efforts taken by the state government to contain rampant plunder of minor minerals, there has been no let-up in illegal quarrying and smuggling of black stone, murram and soil from Dharmasala tehsil area in Jajpur district. It has been over a year since the state government established the office of the deputy director of Minor Minerals department in Jajpur district as part of its move to curb the smuggling. However, this has failed to stop the illegal mining and smuggling of minor minerals. Instead, the illegal practice, depriving the state's exchequer of huge

earnings, has only flourished over the years. The Jajpur district administration has directed for deposit of penalty and closure of the quarries after mining of black stones beyond the permissible limit was proved at Aruha black stone mines under the Dharmasala tehsil. However, some unscrupulous miners continue to extract and smuggle murram from the area. The murram is being used for the establishment of a crusher unit named 'Mass', located about 300 metres from Tarakasuni Primary School in Aruha panchayat. Similarly, the Jajpur Road-Cuttack rail route lies at a distance of



200 metres from the under-construction crusher unit. Reports said that there are five black stone mines on Aruha hill and the state government has prepared a cluster mining plan for the area. However, it has comfortably ignored the presence of a school and the rail route near it

before preparing the cluster mining plan. This has left the local residents surprised as they questioned the wisdom of the district administration in permitting the establishment of a crusher unit which is likely to cause deafening noise and will lead to air pollution in the area.

Apprehending severe sound and air pollution, over 100 students and their guardians have sought the intervention of the district Collector, demanding to save them from the problem which is likely to impact their health and studies. Peeved over the development, locals have

written to the district Collector demanding closure of the illegal black stone quarry and crusher unit and necessary action for violation of norms. They have also forwarded copies of their complaints to the deputy director of Minor Minerals department, the secretary of Steel and Mines department and the regional officer of State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) at Kalinganagar in the district. According to the complaints, two of the quarries BSQ-2 quarry no-1/16-17 and 34/21-22 are situated at a distance of about 300 metres from the primary school. Moreover, three of the quarries BSQ no-1 quarry no-35/21-22 and quarry no-36/21-22 lie at a distance of about 200 metre from the railway line. The presence of the quarry might endanger

the railway line anytime as residents expressed concern over its security. This apart, four stone crushing units are in operation near these quarries on plot number 2733, 2594, 2704 and 2705 for which the students have been seriously affected by the deafening sound and air pollution emanating from the units. Residents Nirmal Nayak, Harihar Sahu, Pratap Rana, Anand Behera, Pramod Behera, Anam Behera, Sahadev Rana, Mohan Nayak, Chittaranjan Jena and over 100 others have demanded a proper probe into these irregularities and sought stringent action against the wrongdoers.

## Four killed, two injured in three separate road accidents in Odisha

**Jajpur / Bhubaneswar(KCN):** At least four persons were killed and two others injured in three separate road accidents in Odisha, police said Monday.

According to police, two persons riding a motorcycle were killed when a bus travelling to Bhubaneswar from Balasore hit their two-wheeler near Chhatia on NH-16 in Jajpur district and dragged it

for some distance Monday. The bus caught fire after the mishap, however, all the passengers aboard the bus managed to escape unharmed, as they quickly evacuated the vehicle before the fire could spread, a police officer said. Police have sent the bodies to the Barachana Community Health Centre for postmortem. Police have also seized

the bus and the bike after registering a case and further investigation is underway. Barachana police station inspector in charge Srikant Barik said efforts are on to ascertain the identity of the deceased. Two persons were injured in the Chandbali area of Bhadrak district when a speeding SUV hit two vehicles and a bicycle.

The SUV first hit an

autorickshaw, then a parked scooter and cycle. The auto driver and cyclist were injured in the mishap, the police said. In the third accident, two friends travelling on a bike were killed after being hit by another motorcycle Sunday night in Binka police station area in Subarnapur district. The Binka police have registered a case and started an investigation into the case.

## Gajalaxmi Puja 2024: Dhenkanal & Kendrapara set to celebrate puja with enthusiasm



Gajalaxmi Puja, set to kick off on Wednesday. Numerous pandals have been constructed in key locations, including Duhuria, Tini Muhan, Law College Chhak, and both the new and old bus stands.

The Gajalaxmi Puja will last for 11 days in Dhenkanal and seven days in Kendrapara, attracting participation from people of all religions, castes, and

tribes. This annual celebration has become a cherished tradition, drawing thousands from across the state to partake in the festivities. Dhenkanal's history of Laxmi Puja spans over 50 years, with around 38 puja pandals dedicated to the worship of Goddess Gajalaxmi. The city transforms into a cultural hub, showcasing dazzling decorations, food stalls, and vibrant

markets that highlight Odisha's rich cultural heritage. Visitors can also enjoy soulful music and dance performances, adding to the festive spirit.

As Kartik Purnima approaches, cultural shows featuring Odissi dance, lively folk performances, and traditional games like

Puchi Khela

will entertain devotees.

The celebrations will culminate on the Bisarjan or immersion day, marked by a spectacular display of fireworks, the blowing of conchs, and the beating of drums, accompanied by devotional songs. Devotees will then carry the Laxmi idols to a river for immersion, symbolizing her return to the heavenly realm.

## First batch of MBBS students inducted at Campus-2 of IMS and SUM Hospital

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** The first batch of 150 MBBS students of the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, Campus-2, at Phulnakhara on NH-16, the second medical college under the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) were welcomed at an inauguration ceremony held on Monday.

The students, from across the country, walked into the new academic building of the institute with eager steps as the university's Founder President Prof. (Dr.) Manojranjan Nayak congratulated them while wishing them a great future in the profession.

"Learn and study with purpose. You'll not only need to treat and heal patients but become a source of hope and comfort for those in pain," he said in a message which was read out during the ceremony. Prof. (Dr.) Nayak said the institution would go out of the way to ensure that the students didn't lack anything in their academic pursuit. The new institute at Phulnakhara which was operating with 700 beds had exceeded the guideline of the National Medical Commission by having in place 30 per cent more faculty members than the requirement, he said.

At a separate

inauguration program organised earlier in the day at IMS and SUM Hospital, Campus-1, at Kalinga Nagar, 250 new

MBBS students comprising the 18th batch were also inducted. At Phulnakhara, the program was also addressed by Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. (Dr.) Prasanjeet Mohanty, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. (Dr.) Gangadhar Sahoo, former

Dean of IMS and SUM Hospital, Prof. (Dr.) Arakha Swain, Dean of IMS and SUM Hospital, Campus-2, Prof. (Dr.) Rajesh Kumar Lenka, Medical Superintendent

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# Isuzu Motors India launches ISUZU D-MAX Ambulance

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Isuzu Motors India is proud to announce the launch of ISUZU D-MAX Ambulance, that is fully-built to AIS-125 Type C ambulance specifications. This pioneering ambulance is engineered to empower a faster response while providing unparalleled reliability, safety and comfort in patient transportation, setting a new standard in emergency medical care services. Designed for India, with ISUZU's proven technology and a deep understanding of the needs of healthcare providers, the new ISUZU D-MAX Ambulance comes with 14 'Best-in-Class' features ushering in a



new era in 'Basic Life Support' ambulances in the country.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Toru Kishimoto, Deputy Managing Director of

Isuzu Motors India, said, "We are excited to present the ISUZU D-MAX Ambulance, our unique product designed for the Indian market, with 14 'Best-in-Class' features. Isuzu has always been synonymous with trust and reliability. The new ISUZU D-MAX Ambulance carries

honourable Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar India, this collaboration with Plastic Legno's deep experience in world-class toy manufacturing coupled with our strong footing in the global toy retail industry would open new doors and unparalleled opportunities for toys manufactured in India. It is imperative for RBL to build design to shelf capability for a strategic advantage over the competition and to be an accelerator in building a robust toy manufacturing ecosystem in India not only for domestic consumption but also for global markets." said the spokesperson of Reliance Brands Limited.

RBL has a strong play in the Toy industry with its portfolio of Hamleys, the British toy retailer and homegrown toy brand – Rowan, making RBL one of the leading toy distributors. Hamleys currently has a global

## Aditya Birla Group formally launches TMRW – a Digital First 'House of Brands' venture in the Fashion & Lifestyle space

**Mumbai:** Aditya Birla Group today announced the formal launch of its new 'House of Brands' entity – TMRW. This move is in line with the group's strategy to launch and back new-age digital ventures. TMRW, an Aditya Birla Group venture, will create India's largest portfolio of disruptor brands in the fashion & lifestyle space and enable the next phase of direct to consumer (D2C) growth in India, which is poised to be a \$100bn market by 2025. Over the next 3 years, TMRW will acquire as well as incubate 30+ innovative, customer-obsessed brands. The venture will also enable multiple founders to operate within a synergistic 'house of brands' platform that share a common vision and shared capabilities. Aditya Birla Group has appointed ex Facebook & Bain executive, Prashanth Aluru, as the CEO & Co-Founder to lead the build out of this new venture. Prashanth will set-up a nimble and

agile founding team with the right skill sets and capabilities. Prashanth comes with extensive experience in Digital & Technology across strategy, growth and investing. He also brings to the fore rich entrepreneurial experience in helping build and scale new age ventures in Digital & E-Commerce.

Ashish Dikshit, MD of ABFRL said, "The formal launch of our D2C business, TMRW, is a key milestone for the company. This venture has the potential to become a significant growth engine by tapping into the new wave of entrepreneurial energy in India. Our aspiration is to build a portfolio of 30+ brands in the next 3 years. With the launch of this venture, we intend to double down on our ongoing program of strategically attracting new pools of capital that are seeking investment in high-growth businesses. We are confident that this

foray will successfully meet the aspirations of digitally native consumers and also create long-term value for investors and other stakeholders."

Prashanth Aluru, CEO and Co-Founder, TMRW said, "I am excited to embark on this journey to build TMRW - a long-term enduring platform that will be home to the leading disruptor brands that provide the new age digitally savvy consumer what she is looking for across Fashion & Lifestyle. With the backing of the Aditya Birla Group and the right profile of long-term investors we will bring in, we are confident of powering the growth of several brands that shape the next phase of digital commerce growth till 2030 and beyond. With a new age Digital first DNA, at TMRW, we will jointly create an ecosystem of the most-loved disruptor brands partnering closely with highly competent founders."

The shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of

forward these values, offering high-quality build and unmatched robustness, while conforming to the specifications defined under AIS-125 Type C ambulance. With this launch, Isuzu Motors India continues to strengthen its position as a game changer in the automotive industry, delivering quality products that are both innovative and tailored to the unique demands of the Indian market. We are confident that our 'ISUZU D-MAX Ambulance' will set a new benchmark in the 'Basic Life Support' ambulance category".

## Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3,53,188 unit sales

**Gurugram:** Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May'22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May'21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon."

## TVS Motor Company registers sales of 302,982 units

**Hosur:** TVS Motor Company sales was at 302,982 units in May 2022. The year-on-year growth is not comparable due to the low base of sales in May 2021 because of the localised lockdown imposed by the Government of India during that period.

Two-Wheeler

Total two-wheeler sales grew from 154,416 units in May 2021 to 287,058 units in May 2022. Domestic two-wheeler sales grew from 52,084 units in May 2021 to 191,482 units in May 2022.

Motorcycle sales grew from 125,188 units in May 2021 to 148,560 units in May 2022. Scooter sales of the Company grew from 19,627 units in May 2021 to 100,665 units in May 2022.

The shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of

premium two-wheeler. We are working aggressively with alternate sources and taking every effort to improve supplies at the earliest. Some improvement has been seen this month. We are optimistic that volumes will revive to normal levels once the semiconductor supplies improve.

The Company's total exports registered sales of 110,245 units in May 2022 as against 114,674 units in May 2021. Two-wheeler exports recorded sales of 95,576 units in May 2022 as against 102,332 units in May 2021.

Three-wheeler of the Company grew by 28% from 12,473 units in May 2021 to 15,924 units in May 2022.

The domestic two-wheeler sales include TVS iQube Electric sales of 2,637 units in May 2022.

## Spice Money to enable farmers to withdraw PM-KISAN subsidy through its 1 million Adhikari Network

**New Delhi:** The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each. Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pincodes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through AEPs at their doorstep Adhikari

## ITC's Sunfeast Dark Fantasy Launches "Big Fantasies" to ignite children's Imagination

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** ITC Sunfeast Dark Fantasy, one of India's most beloved cookie brands known for turning everyday moments into extraordinary experiences, proudly announces its latest innovation-driven initiative, "Big Fantasies: Give Wings to Your Imagination." With this initiative the brand aims to ignite creativity and imagination in children by blending art with technology.

This unique and forward-thinking initiative was

launched at St. Joseph's School, Bengaluru in the

presence of children, their

parents and esteemed

guests. The event also

witnessed a detailed panel discussion on the "Importance of Igniting a Child's Imagination" featuring prominent figures from the fields of space exploration, academia, psychology, and creative arts. Guest speakers for panel discussion included notable personalities like Ms. Mandira Bedi, Mr. Prakash Rao (ex-ISRO director), Dr. Megha Mahajan (DM-NIMHANS) and Rev. Fr. Rohan D'Almeida (Principal, St. Joseph's school). The Panel highlighted how imagination is a fundamental aspect of a child's holistic

development and how it fosters creativity & problem-solving skills, helping them ignite new ideas and overcome challenges. Mr. Prakash Rao, ex-ISRO director talked about the synergy between creativity & technology and the role of imagination in shaping future generations.

Commenting on the launch of the new initiative, Ali Harris Shere, COO, Biscuits and Cakes Cluster, Foods Division, ITC Limited shared "At ITC Sunfeast Dark Fantasy, we believe that the power of fantasy and imagination is critical for transforming kids' life from the ordinary to something truly extra-ordinary.

## 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

## Himalayan College of Nursing, Jolly Grant conducts an awareness campaign on 'Safe Motherhood Day'



**New Delhi (KCN Bureau):** The Himalayan College of Nursing, Jolly Grant, organized an awareness campaign at the CHC Doiwala on 'National Safe Motherhood Day'.

Three-wheeler of the Company grew by 28% from 12,473 units in May 2021 to 15,924 units in May 2022.

The domestic two-wheeler sales include TVS iQube Electric sales of 2,637 units in May 2022.

spread awareness about maternal health and care, provide high-quality health services to mothers, and promote safe childbirth.

Dr. Kamlesh Bharti from the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of Swami Rama Himalayan University (SRHU), Jolly Grant, hosted this awareness program.

During this time, Dr. KS Bhandari, the Chief Medical Superintendent at CHC Doiwala, mentioned that the objective of celebrating Safe Motherhood Day is to

Meanwhile, in Thano village, the Community Health Department of Himalayan College of Nursing conducted an awareness campaign on the occasion of World Health Day. MSC students informed people about a healthy lifestyle through plays and house-to-house visits. Additionally, a poster exhibition was organized in the college auditorium, displaying topics like healthy lifestyles, the importance of cleanliness, etc.

Present on the occasion were Principal Dr. Sanchita Pugazandi, Dr. Kamli Prakash, Atul Kumar, Shobha Masih, Chandan Kumar, John Davidson apart from many others.

# India, New Zealand, and the shades of transition

**New Delhi:** Tom Latham is no stranger to Test captaincy, being New Zealand's go-to for seamlessly slipping into big leadership boots as a stand-in. Yet, this latest trip to India should add a little more weight to his broad shoulders as he arrives with what is officially his New Zealand squad. The captain's seat is not for him to keep warm in the temporary absence of an incumbent anymore - it comes with his name in block letters and a sense of permanence. But this take over comes engulfed in a struggle with form, consistency and inevitable transition. There's enough evidence in the 137 years of its existence that progress for a Test side can't always be linear. Less than four years ago, Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor saw New Zealand through to the maiden WTC crown in

Southampton against an Indian team that made such rapid strides that it called into question the very format of the competition where the champion was crowned based on a one-off final. Since then the two teams have charted very different looking graphs in whites. In all these years, India have landed on their feet with more poise when faced with the difficult situation of phasing out a few regulars. Ishant Sharma's bowl-dry abilities and leadership within the bowling group was dispensed with by the start of 2022, and Umesh Yadav didn't play a game beyond last year's World Test Championship final. The altered bowling group has still kept up India's pace in each of the WTC cycles that followed.

The door, they say, is still not shut on Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya

Rahane but the middle-order make-up suggests otherwise. Shubman Gill turned the tide earlier this year in the series against England and scored a ton against Bangladesh at No.3 while KL Rahul too made a strong return from injury to reclaim his middle-order spot. Besides a win for their Test philosophy, the series against England gave India a glimpse of what the next attempt at transition would be like, with Sarfaraz and Dhruv Jurel making an instant impact. Jurel's 90 in Ranchi eased India's worry lines in the absence of a difference-maker in Rishabh Pant, who too has now made an astonishing recovery to return in mint condition to the longest format just in time for another big Australian tour. Filling the gaping void of Mohammed Shami has not been easy but Akash

Even with Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran

Deep brought some efficiency to the job of the third pacer in the side against Bangladesh - throwing his hat in the ring for an away gig to Australia this year. Even if Shami makes it back, Akash Deep has done well enough to warrant a spot as another pace option should India decide to line-up a fast bowling quartet.

Ashwin potentially in the last leg of their Test careers, India have the cushion of progressing with them until at least the next big checkpoint - the WTC final in 2025. Not having to hit reset in the middle of a cycle is a luxury that has eluded New Zealand. For instance, Kyle Jamieson, the bowling star of that 2021 final, has not been fit enough to play more than 11 of the 23 Tests the team has played since. Their best batter Kane Williamson too has missed six of those, while Trent Boult chose to give up on the NZC contract less than a year after the Test title triumph, and eventually retired from international cricket earlier this year. New Zealand also lost a tireless fast bowler in Neil Wagner, first to injury and then to retirement in 2024.

Tim Southee is only one of the three players who has featured in all 23 games in this phase, but touches down in India with dwindling form and relinquished captaincy. Latham himself has been middling with the bat - having scored a century last in December 2022. New Zealand have put up a fight in spurts through the likes of Daryl Mitchell and Devon Conway, but inconsistent resistance will almost always fall flat against a relentless force like India at home. As the last 12 years have shown, there's never a good time to tour India for Tests. It's a fact that New Zealand were acquainted with as recently as December 2021. They now arrive with the squad further along in transition, where a young pacer like William O'Rourke - all of four Tests old, will have to bowl alongside an out-of-sorts Southee against

a batting line-up that recently displayed their propensity to not adhere to Test match batting conventions. The last week of September showed how far apart the two teams were in their Test journeys despite crossing paths on that June evening of 2021 in Southampton. India did the unthinkable in what should've ended as a damp squib in Kanpur, while New Zealand - despite batting gains in the fourth innings - succumbed to an innings defeat in Galle. As England and Bangladesh found out this year, the experience of playing India in India can be harrowing at worst, and a learning curve, at best. Latham and his lukewarm New Zealand squad might have a mountain to move over the course of the next fortnight to sway towards the latter.

## Shakib joins Chittagong Kings for upcoming edition of BPL



**New Delhi:** Shakib Al Hasan has joined Chittagong Kings for the upcoming edition of Bangladesh Premier League. Last year, Shakib had signed a two-year deal with Rangpur Riders but later both parties parted ways on mutual understanding to help Kings bring him in as a direct signing. Fortune Barishal selected Rishad Hossain, but this was only after 40 other cricketers had already been picked by the franchises. Perhaps,

the franchises were hesitant to pick Rishad as his availability is slightly unclear after Hobart Hurricane picked him for this season's Big Bash League. Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto was also a late signing, with Barishal again bringing him in. Mashrafe Mortaza being placed in Group B led to a few raised eyebrows considering he did not perform well in the last edition. However, he was picked by Sylhet Strikers for whom he appeared in

the last two editions of BPL. There was a lot of uncertainty surrounding the player draft which eventually took place in Dhaka on Monday (October 14). BCB president Faruque Ahmed was pleased that the draft took place. "We were all in a lot of uncertainty. I wasn't even sure how many teams would participate. It took a lot of hard work. My BPL team also worked on it. Now, we've held the draft. With two

and a half months left until the main tournament, I'm confident the teams will be able to further strengthen their squads," said Faruque.

"Most teams still have some spots to fill. So far, we've conducted the draft as planned, though it was delayed once. Given that, I wouldn't say it's been too bad," he said. "There are seven teams. We are trying many new things. It won't be 100 percent perfect but it will be better than before."

Faruque also said the focus will be on providing good batting pitches for the BPL. "This time, our utmost effort will be to ensure good batting wickets where bowlers will be respected if they bowl well. I believe the wickets weren't too bad in the last tournament either. Runs were low in the daytime matches. This time, we will try to make T20 cricket more enjoyable."

**New Delhi:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has done away with the Impact Player rule from the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT), the national domestic T20 competition. While this move was largely anticipated, it is at odds with the BCCI's persistence with the rule in the IPL. Recently, the BCCI informed the IPL franchises that the rule will be retained for the upcoming season of the IPL.

The SMAT decision was confirmed to the state association by the BCCI through a communication on Monday evening. The Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament starts across the country on November 23 and will run till December 15. In a short communication, the BCCI has said, "Kindly note that the BCCI has decided to do away with the provision of 'Impact Player' for the ongoing season."



The Impact Player rule was introduced in the SMAT on an experimental basis a couple of seasons ago, subsequently and expectedly adopted in the IPL as well. While it added excitement for broadcasters, turning the league into a massive visual spectacle with high totals posted and chased, it did not exactly resonate as well with the players. Many captains and coaches felt the rule was not in the best interest of the competition. Additionally, it hindered the development of all-rounders, as teams began preferring specialist batters and bowlers over all-round players.

SMAT last season and subsequently in the IPL too. The relevant clause in the playing conditions states: "41.6.2 A bowler shall be limited to two fast short-pitched deliveries per over."

The two-bouncer per over rule is a novelty in the BCCI T20 matches. Globally, the International Cricket Council (ICC) permits only one bouncer per over. The extra bouncer was welcomed by the cricketer fraternity in the country, particularly in the IPL.

"It's an excellent move," Laxmipathy Balaji, a former India pacer and a former bowling coach of the Chennai Super Kings, had told Cricbuzz. "It will be a good addition to the armoury of fast bowlers and will provide bowlers, captains, and coaching staff with something to strategise and work with for a particular batter. It will also make the contest between bat and ball much more balanced."

## Women's T20 World Cup: India crash out in group stage, fail to reach semis after 8 years

**New Delhi:** Team India suffered a heart-breaking group-stage exit from the ongoing ICC tournament after New Zealand defeated Pakistan to storm into the semi-final. India's campaign in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 came to a heartbreaking end as the Women in Blue crashed out of the ICC tournament in the group stage for the first time in eight years. Harmanpreet Kaur's side faced an early exit after a dramatic nine-run defeat to Australia, followed by New

Zealand's subsequent victory over Pakistan, which officially sealed India's fate. India finished in third place in Group A with four points, having lost two matches — against New Zealand and Pakistan. Australia topped the group as it won all four games while New Zealand finished second with six points from four games. This marks India's earliest exit since their group-stage eliminations in 2012, 2014, and 2016. In the last three editions, India had consistently

reached the semifinals, including a memorable run to the final in 2020. However, the 2024 tournament highlighted areas of concern for the Indian team, sparking questions about their preparation and approach. New Zealand stormed into the semi-finals of the Women's T20 World Cup, eliminating both India and Pakistan in the process. Pakistan's bold attempt to chase down 111 in just 10.4 overs ended disastrously, as they were bowled out for a mere 56 runs. Fatima



Sana Khan and Muneeba Ali Siddiqi were the only players to reach double digits, as Pakistan crumbled under the pressure of an aggressive start. Their total stands as the second-lowest all-out score in the history of the tournament, a bitter ending to their campaign despite their effort to play outside their usual comfort zone. New Zealand's clinical performance, particularly in the field, sealed their spot in the semi-finals. They were sharp, pulling off two run-outs and catching everything that

came their way. Kerr led the bowling attack once again, with Carson taking two wickets, while Mairi, Jonas, and Tahuhu chipped in with one wicket each. This marks New Zealand's first semi-final appearance since 2016, and they'll be eyeing a spot in the final — a feat they haven't achieved since 2010. For Pakistan and India, it's the end of the road in this tournament, as New Zealand march on. India were eliminated from the Women's T20 World Cup after New Zealand stormed into the