

## Indian community's skills, expertise and experience matter for India's progress: PRESIDENT MURMU

**New Delhi(KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, was in Mauritania yesterday (October 16, 2024), on the second leg of her State Visits to Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi. On her arrival at Nouakchott-Oumtounsy Airport, President Droupadi Murmu was warmly received by the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, H.E. Mr Mohamed Ould Ghazouani and accorded a ceremonial welcome. The Prime Minister and cabinet ministers of Mauritania

were also present on the occasion.

This is the first visit by an Indian President to Mauritania. The President was accompanied by the Minister of State, Shri Sukanata Majumdar, and Members of Parliament, Shri Mukesh Kumar Dalal and Shri Atul Garg. The President addressed the members of the Indian Community in Mauritania at a Reception hosted by the Ambassador of India to Mauritania.

Addressing the small but vibrant gathering of the Indian community, the President commended



the Indian community for contributing significantly

to the socio-economic development of

Mauritania. She said that their skills, expertise and experience are also important for India's

progress.

The President appreciated the Government and people of Mauritania for supporting the Indian community. She said that because of their inclusive and welcoming spirit, the Indian community in Mauritania is prospering. After the community reception event, the President visited the Presidential Palace where she held a meeting with President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani of Mauritania. Both leaders discussed ways to further strengthen the relationship between

India and Mauritania. Subsequently, they led the delegation-level talk and witnessed the signing and exchange of four MoUs in the areas of training of diplomats, cultural exchange, visa exemption and Foreign Office consultations.

Earlier, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritanians Abroad of Mauritania, H.E. Mr Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug called on the President in a separate engagement.

The President left for Malawi – the final leg of her three-nation visit.

## Habisyalis Express Dissatisfaction with Arrangements for 'Habisha Ritual' in Puri



**Puri(KCN):** Some habisyali women who have come to observe the month-long habisha ritual expressed their dissatisfaction with the arrangements at Brundavati Niwas on Thursday.

The unrest began when unregistered habisyali women demanded the same facilities as those registered, leading to protests at Brundabati Niwas as well. Confusion

has arisen regarding the cancellation of registrations. Dissatisfaction stems from the fact that while some individuals have successfully registered, others have not.

The Sub-Collector is attempting to pacify the protesters by assuring that registered women will be prioritized for facilities, and space permitting, unregistered women may also be

accommodated. With the sacred Kartika Brata commencing tomorrow, habisyali women from across the state are gathering in Puri to partake in the Habisha Brata rituals for a month. The government, under district administration oversight, has arranged for daily Mahaprasad, Lord Jagannath temple darshan, Radha Damodar puja, and month-long accommodation for 2,500 habisyali women.

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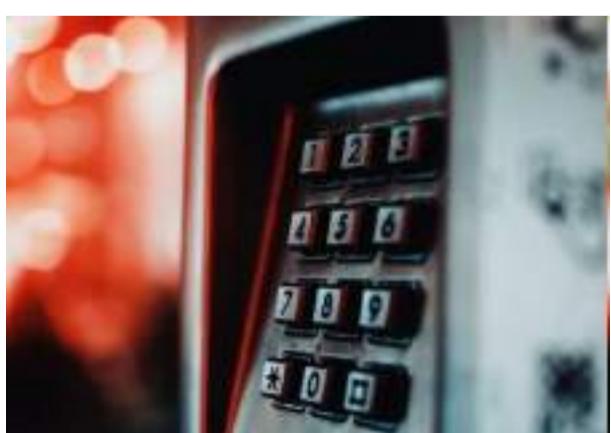
likely to form over the Central Bay of Bengal around October 22, thereafter, it is likely to move northwestwards and intensify further," the

IMD's press release stated. IMD, Director, Bhubaneswar, Manorama Mohanty said, "There are chances of rainfall in a few

Odisha districts under the influence of the low pressure during October 23 and 24." Similarly, weather expert Sarat Sahu said, "The

fresh upper air cyclonic circulation is moving fast and is very close to making landfall either in Odisha, West Bengal, or Bangladesh on October 23 or 24. By the time it makes landfall, it will turn into a deep depression or marginal cyclone." "Under the impact, there are chances of rainfall in coastal districts of Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Balasore, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, and Dhenkanal," he added.

## Fake call centre: Odisha police seeks five-day remand of six accused



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Bhubaneswar cyber police have sought a five-day remand of the six accused who were arrested Wednesday for allegedly running a fake call centre here to cheat people, a police officer said.

Police said all the accused were produced in a local court Thursday which sent them to judicial custody for 14 days.

The accused, all from West Bengal, have been identified as Sameer Mobin (26), Md Javed Hussain (26), Md Tosif (23), Faizan Alam (24), Shaib Raza (22) and Md Haider Ali (34), police said.

Six laptops, 11 mobile phones, routers and cables were seized from their possession during a raid by Bhubaneswar cyber police. Briefing reporters, Bhubaneswar DCP Pinak Mishra said, "We have requested the court to allow us five-day

remand of the accused to get more details from them. Some investigation agencies have also contacted us to interrogate them."

Police are currently working to identify the local contacts in Odisha who helped the accused to operate a fake call

centre. Investigations are also underway to determine how many people have fallen victim to the gang and the extent of the fraudulent activities involved, he said.

The seized electronic devices have been sent for forensic analysis and a police team will be dispatched to Kolkata to verify the suspects' details.

During interrogation, Haider Ali, the leader of the fake call centre, disclosed that his team was involved in sending fraudulent emails to clients, impersonating as customer care agents and providing fake phone numbers to induce customers into making fraudulent transactions. This operation reportedly generated a monthly income of Rs 1 lakh for the gang," another police officer said.

"Strengthening of range staff will provide much-needed capacity for protection of our wildlife," Nanda said on

social responsibility (CSR) initiative. Sahu said such patrolling vehicles will also be rolled out in other wildlife sanctuaries like Debrigarh in the coming days. According to officials, 12 vehicles have been rolled out for patrolling in Satkosia Tiger Reserve and three for Kapilas, Balukhanda and Chandaka-Dampada wildlife sanctuaries.

## India Criticizes Canada for Inaction Against Lawrence Bishnoi Gang

**New Delhi(KCN):** The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has expressed strong disapproval over Canada's failure to act on India's requests to arrest members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Despite multiple appeals, the Canadian authorities have not addressed New Delhi's core concerns regarding the gang's activities. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that India had shared detailed information and requests with Canada, urging the

arrest of key gang members involved in various criminal activities. However, no significant action has been taken by the Canadian government.

"We had shared some requests with the Canadian side for the arrest of those from Lawrence Bishnoi's gang. They haven't taken any action on our core concerns. There is a political motive also behind this," Jaiswal remarked.

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## Odisha govt rolls out 15 vehicles for patrolling in wildlife sanctuaries

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha government Thursday rolled out 15 customised four-wheelers for patrolling different wildlife sanctuaries, including the Satkosia Tiger Reserve in Angul district, an official said. Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Forest, Environment and Climate Change (FE&CC) Department, Satyabrata Sahu, flagged off the vehicles here in the presence of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) (Wildlife) Susanta Nanda.

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# Sans local body, 8 villages left in lurch

**Rourkela(KCN):** In a glaring example of administrative apathy, the non-inclusion of eight villages into any local body in Sundargarh district has deprived their residents of constitutional recognition and democratic right of self-governance. The eight revenue villages — Tumkela, Hamirpur, Luakera, Tangarpali, Rengadi, Badasuna Parbat, Jharmunda, and Bankia — come under Rourkela and Raghunathpali Assembly constituencies but have not been included in any panchayat or the Rourkela Municipal



Corporation (RMC). Election after election, the villagers cast their valuable votes and elect representatives with the hope of receiving constitutional recognition and benefits. However, they have been left in the lurch for many decades in the absence of local self-government. The tribal communities residing in these villages have repeatedly demonstrated in front of the offices of Rourkela SubCollector, RMC, and also the Rourkela Additional District Magistrate pressing for their demands, but there has been no progress in

this regard. Residents say they have been living in the eight villages since pre-Independence times. The tribal population has been the original inhabitants of these villages. However, neither the administration nor the elected representatives have paid

any attention to their demands for inclusion in a local body. Their votes in every election go to waste, they lamented. Moreover, the state's Panchayati Raj department has not extended any kind of grants or benefits to these villages owing to the non-

inclusion. The tribal villagers met the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) in Delhi, September 26, 2018 to bring their issues to its attention. The NCST then ordered a ground survey and asked the Panchayati Raj department and the district administration to submit a report on the matter. As per the order, a boundary survey of these eight villages was conducted August 20 in 2022. The survey

showed that Tangarpali, Rengadi, Badasuna Parbat, and Jharmunda are closer to Suidi panchayat in Lathikata block, while Bankia, Luakera, Tumkela, and Hamirpur are near Jhirpani panchayat under Bisra block. However, even after the survey, these villages have not been included in the panchayats. Frustrated with the situation, the tribals are now planning to resort to protests if their demands are not met.

On the other hand,

efforts are being made to bring these villages under the RMC, despite

Gajendra Tanti, Sonu Madek, Pyari Kerketa, and Jashenta.

Questioned in this regard, Additional District Magistrate, Rourkela Ashutosh Kulkarni said all the necessary reports regarding these eight villages have already been submitted to the Odisha Panchayati Raj department. The MLA of Raghunathpali has also taken considerable initiative in bringing these issues to the attention of the department. The decision is expected to come after a hearing, he added.

## Three-Month Long Vigilance Awareness Campaign in East Coast Railway



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** East Coast Railway (ECoR) has launched a three-month long Vigilance Awareness Campaign starting from August 16, 2024. This initiative is in alignment with the Central Vigilance Commission's (CVC) directives and is centered around the theme, "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity." The campaign aims to foster a culture of integrity among railway employees and the public, with a variety of engaging activities planned across the ECoR zone.

**Competitions for Students:** Essay Writing, Art & Painting, and Slogan Writing competitions are being conducted for school and

college students, as well as the wards of railway employees. These events are being held at key locations including Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Puri, with a focus on promoting integrity values from a young age. **Vigilance Seminars & Workshops:** The Vigilance Department of ECoR has organized seminars and workshops at various locations, aimed at educating railway officials on the importance of vigilance and transparency. These initiatives are intended to raise awareness and reinforce ethical practices across the workforce.

**Community Engagement:** The campaign utilizes platforms like social media, bulk SMS, and

more to reach a wider audience. Nukkad Nataks (street plays) highlighting the importance of integrity are being performed at major railway stations such as Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Koraput, Balugaon, Bhadrak, Angul, Balangir, Titlagarh, Vizianagaram, and Visakhapatnam, helping to spread the message at the grassroots level.

**Upcoming Events:** A debate competition for students is scheduled for October 23, 2024, at Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, where young minds will discuss the importance of integrity in national development.

Additional activities include the administering of the Integrity Pledge, vendor and stakeholder

meetings, and the display of banners and posters at railway stations and offices to promote vigilance awareness.

**Vigilance Awareness Week:** From October 28 to November 3, 2024, ECoR will observe Vigilance Awareness Week. Activities planned during this week include a Walkathon and various outreach efforts designed to involve both railway staff and the general public in the integrity-building initiative.

Under the guidance of Sr.

Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Bijay Kumar Mishra, East Coast Railway remains committed to fostering an ethical and transparent work culture, ensuring that the principles of integrity are upheld for the prosperity of the Nation.

## Prof Chakradhar Tripathi, CUO Vice Chancellor, Graces 'Vivibha' Certificate Ceremony in Kolkata



**Koraput, (KCN):** Prof Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Odisha participated in the Certificate Distribution Ceremony 'Vivibha', Research Paper Writing Competition, organized by Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal Dakshinbanga Prant as the Chief Guest which was held on 16 October 2024 at

the Babasaheb Ambedkar Education University, Kolkata. The session was chaired by Prof Soma Bandyopadhyay, Vice Chancellor of the host University. The dais also featured Shri Jayanta Sharma, Prof Ravi Tekchandani, Prof Suparna Moitra and Prof Nrisingha Prasad Bhaduri among others.

Prof Tripathi hailed the Punyabumi of Bengal and her great sons. He recollected India's glorious past and lamented that presently the academia is only concerned about degrees and promotions. He called upon the agriculturists to provide a solution to cancer. He hoped that the Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal would initiate

revival of Bharatiya

ethos by supporting the national education policy.

Prof Soma Bandyopadhyay asserted on inquisitiveness and archival study for better research. Certificates were awarded to all participants and jury members of Vivibha. The programme was well attended by students, university & college teachers and researchers.



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



## HD VIDEO

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

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

twist. With music maestros Pritam and Tanishk Bagchi at the helm, and the unmistakable vocals of Neeraj Shridhar returning to add his signature touch, this track is a melting pot of cultures, blending global beats with desi flair.

Producer Bhushan Kumar has made a one-of-its-kind unique collaboration for Indian cinema. Talking about this milestone, he shared, "We're beyond excited to present this special musical collaboration for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. Bringing together Pitbull, Diljit Dosanjh, and Neeraj Shridhar is something that's never been done before in Indian cinema. With Pritam and Tanishk Bagchi crafting the beats, we're pushing the boundaries of what Bollywood music can achieve. And to top it off, the track features everyone's favourite Kartik Aaryan at his best, showcasing slick gliding dance moves that are

sure to get everyone on their feet. This collaboration is a milestone moment, and we can't wait for the fans worldwide to experience it." Directed by Anees Bazmee, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 promises to carry forward the legacy of Bollywood's favourite horror-comedy franchise, taking it to new heights with this groundbreaking title track. The film also stars Madhuri Dixit, Sanjay Mishra, Tripti Dimri and Rajpal Yadav, among others. It will hit theatres November 1, 2024.

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



Here's a look at how and why the internet embraces the viral Bollywood dance numbers like Vicky Kaushal's 'Tauba Tauba', Katrina Kaif's 'Kala Chashma', and others. What makes a song go viral on the internet? There's no formula to make a song go viral. It's about this whole package - of music, lyrics, dance, who's performing it and how it's being presented. Like everything else in the creative business, a good video has to click with the audience. For it to go viral, it has to appeal to all kinds of audience - even those who usually don't consume that kind of content. 'Tauba Tauba', a new song from the Bollywood film 'Bad Newz' has done just the same.

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

many videos go viral on Instagram before, but this time, he seems almost unstoppable. The choreography does justice in utilising the actor's full potential as a dancer in a never-seen-before fashion. While the popularity of 'Tauba Tauba' can be largely attributed to the actor's ever-growing charm, it is also the vibe that it exudes. When a trend rises on social media, it breaks down into many forms of entertainment, but the vibe remains the same. You could be a failure at dancing, nowhere near to Vicky's smooth-like-butter-moves, but if you could still manage to match the mood of the song, your job is done. 'Tauba Tauba' is also one of those dance numbers which is brilliantly made to

please the female gaze, as opposed to your regular dance numbers where the 'Chikni Chameli' and the 'Sheelas' of the world are objectified to satisfy the male gaze. It puts the onus of glamourising the screen on a man's shoulder, and he never disappoints. Every time a Bollywood song has taken the internet by storm, it hasn't just

## 'Maidaan' Review: Ajay Devgn strikes a goal, yet again



Ajay Devgn's 'Maidaan' is a biopic on the life of pioneering football coach, Syed Abdul Rahim. The film immortalises the unsung hero, says our review. Listen to Story India celebrated its 'golden era' in football, even earning the moniker of 'Brazil of Asia' in the 1950s. During this time, with players like Chuni Goswami, P K Banerjee, Peter Thangaraj, Tulsidas Balaram, Jarnail Singh, and Pradyut Barman, the team ended in fourth place at the 1956 Olympics and won gold at the Asian Games in 1951 and 1962. While they played hard on the turf, Syed Abdul Rahim was the man who created and coached this team.

'Maidaan', starring Ajay Devgn, aces the job of celebrating the passion and love of 'Rahim saab' towards the sport and how he put India on the world map. However, the film is not jingoistic or only highlights his big feats - it's more about the roadblocks he faced during his stint. It's about how he fought politics, media animosity, and regional biases to build a team that could

fight against the best. 'Maidaan' is about a family that stands by this man's deep passion, asking him to choose football rather than spend his last few months with them. It is about how 'jazbaa' (enthusiasm) is all that you need to fight the toughest opponents on any field. And when you are 'that' good at what you do, you do win over your naysayers one day. Director Amit Ravindernath Sharma is used to making 30-second advertisements, and 'Maidaan' gives him a chance to helm something more than 300 times longer. He did falter in the first half of the 180-minute film, as the slow pace tests your patience. However, in the second half, he headbutts it out of the park with an engaging screenplay and some delightful camera work. Special mention to sports directors of photography, Fyodor Lyass, Tassaduq Hussain, and Christopher Reed. Given football is a sport of movement, probably for the first time, go-pro cameras have been used in a feature film, adding to the nail-biting experience. The matches are gripping and make you cheer for the players and even shed a tear at their failure. Also, the best biopic or period film is the one that makes you want to Google more about it. 'Maidaan' scores full points with that, as many

in the audience were slyly searching more about the players or even the tournaments that Syed Abdul Rahim coached, while in the theatre. After '83', this film has also struck gold when it comes to casting. The team not only got actors who looked like the original players but also trained them to play like professionals. Chaitanya Sharma aka Slow Cheeta and Amartya Ray stand out as P K Banerjee and Chuni Goswami. So do Davinder Gill and Tejas Ravishankar as Jarnail Singh and Peter Thangaraj, respectively. Priyamani, as Rahim's wife, may have just a few scenes, but her pleasant screen presence and highly expressive face do leave an impact.

Coming to Ajay Devgn, the superstar is on a roll after 'Shaista' emerged as a sleeper hit earlier this year. He sheds his 'Singham' personality and embodies the part of the coach so naturally. He is known to emote through his eyes, and he does that in 'Maidaan' so well. Even with a quiet demeanour and subtle personality, he stands his ground with his players and the authorities. The film also allowed him to tap into many shades of a human personality, as Rahim tries to perfect the part of a husband, father, and coach. He is also marvellous in the emotional scenes, especially when he sees the love of his life - football - slipping away from him. However, we would have to give a yellow card to the dialogue and music department of the film. Apart from the 'Team India' song, none of the AR Rahman compositions really stand out in the film. Given that sports films are high on adrenaline, we also expected some more dialogue baazi that could pump things up. There is an SRK-esque '70-minute' coach diktat

been done casually. It was back in 2015 when it all began. Salman Khan decided to give his audience a double dose of 'Prem' on-screen. It was Sonam Kapoor's graceful moves on the song 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo' which made everyone sit up, take notice, and try it again and again till they got them right. So, we didn't just get influencers, but also the brides, the bridesmaids and everyone who could keep their timidity at bay, grooving to the song with their waist out hands up. The popularity of the song made the singer, Palak Muchhal, an overnight star, and Sonam, who was not known for her dance until then, a quintessential demure Bollywood heroine.

like 'Chak De', as Rahim talks about the power of 'one' as a team and position in the game. But given Rahim's soft personality, the makers may have chosen to underplay it, keeping things quite non-dramatic. However, one of the sequences where Ajay's character calls out a senior sports journalist, Roy Choudhury (played brilliantly by Gajraj Rao), and uses Elvis Presley's statement - 'Don't criticise what you don't understand. You never walked in that man's shoes' - did have the theatre whistling. 'Maidaan' is not only a treat for football enthusiasts but also quite a delight for movie lovers. It immortalises the unsung hero, after whom India never qualified for the Olympics. Rahim, in one scene, says 'Kismat haathon se nahi, pairon se likhi jaati hai (destiny is written by foot, not hands)'. While it was the truth back then, you realise in reality, luck favours the brave, and SA Rahim was truly Indian football's Braveheart.

# Why should I vote?

(A call of an unemployed youth under creamy layer for justice)



At 30 years old, I find myself grappling with unemployment and the restrictions imposed by the "creamy layer" classification. As the son of a central government employee, I am excluded from various benefits, making it difficult to secure a job, access healthcare, pursue further education, or even start my own business. While I am deemed privileged by the government's standards, the reality is starkly different. My frustration lies not just in my personal struggles but in the systemic failure that denies me opportunities and support, leading me to question: Why should I vote?

Under the current

system, families earning more than Rs.8 lakh annually, or where parents hold government jobs at certain levels, are categorized as creamy layer. According to government data, more than 27% of the Indian population belongs to the OBC category. However, out of this, roughly 10% of the families fall under the creamy layer, rendering them ineligible for key benefits. This 10% comprises many individuals like me who, despite having a relatively stable family income, are far from wealthy. We are excluded from crucial opportunities for social mobility, such as reservations in government jobs, which significantly reduces our employment prospects. Statistically, youth unemployment in India stands at approximately 23.75% for those between the ages of 20 and 34. Without the cushion of age relaxation

or reserved categories, my chances of securing a government job have been dramatically reduced, leaving me to fend for myself in an oversaturated private job market. This is a significant issue in a country where the public sector is still one of the most sought-after career paths for job security. India's healthcare system is already strained, with over 63 million people falling into poverty due to healthcare costs annually. Programs like the Ayushman Bharat Yojana aim to alleviate this burden by providing health insurance to vulnerable families, covering up to Rs.5 lakh per family per year. However, as someone from the creamy layer, I am automatically ineligible for this scheme. A significant portion of healthcare costs in India, approximately 62.4%, is borne out-of-pocket by individuals. My family is no exception to this, and despite my father's

governement background, the Central Government Health Scheme provides limited coverage for dependents once the employee is no longer in active service. With medical expenses rising sharply—hospitalization costs have increased by over 300% in the last decade—I am left vulnerable to financial strain without access to government healthcare schemes.

Education is often the key to overcoming socioeconomic barriers, but even this avenue is largely closed to me due to my creamy layer status. India's higher education system offers several scholarship schemes, such as the Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC Students and the National Fellowship for OBC candidates, which provide financial assistance for further studies. These programs have a significant impact, as they support nearly 40 lakh students annually. However, the creamy layer classification

renders me ineligible for these scholarships. Additionally, the All India Survey on Higher Education reports that only 26.3% of Indian youth are enrolled in higher education. Financial constraints are a significant barrier for many aspiring students, and for those like me, pursuing higher education without government support becomes a difficult proposition. Private institutions charge exorbitant fees, with professional courses such as engineering or management costing upwards of Rs.10–15 lakh. This leaves me with limited options to upgrade my qualifications and improve my employability.

In recent years, the government has launched several initiatives to promote entrepreneurship among the youth. Schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana provide loans of up to Rs.10 lakh

for small enterprises, and the Stand-Up India scheme offers loans to SC/ST and women entrepreneurs. However, as a male member of the creamy layer, I do not qualify for targeted schemes that offer concessional loans or financial backing for new businesses. Data shows that only about 17% of Indian startups are able to secure financial support in their initial stages, highlighting the difficulty of starting a business without access to funding. Without financial support, many potential entrepreneurs, like me, find their business ideas stifled before they even take off.

The arbitrary income cap of Rs. 8 lakh per year to classify families as creamy layer fails to take into account inflation, regional variations in living costs, or individual family expenses rendering the classification out of touch with the economic realities many families face. Additionally, while my father's central government job might seem like a ticket to financial stability, the actual disposable income we have is far less than what the government assumes. The assumption that being part of the creamy layer equates to financial privilege overlooks the many hidden costs and financial responsibilities that families like mine bear. As I stand at this crossroads, I find myself asking: why should I vote? What have I gained from this government or any previous one? Despite numerous schemes promising support for health, education, employment, and entrepreneurship, I find myself excluded from them due to my creamy layer status. The system has failed me, and many others like me, by creating an arbitrary classification that denies opportunities to those who genuinely need them. Voting is meant to be a way to effect change, but when the

## Bruhaspati Samal

system is designed to exclude people like me, the very act of voting feels futile. Why should I vote for a government that has continually overlooked my struggles and failed to provide me with the opportunities I need to secure a better future? The creamy layer classification, while well-intentioned, has become a barrier to opportunity for many individuals who fall under its purview. It is time for the government to reassess this policy and create more inclusive solutions that reflect the economic realities faced by its citizens. Until then, the question remains: why should I vote for a system that has left me behind?

General Secretary  
Confederation of Central  
Govt. Employees and  
Workers  
Odisha State  
Coordination Committee,  
Bhubaneswar  
eMail:  
samalbruhaspati@gmail.com,  
Mobile: 9437022669

## Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: The Peacemaker in India's Multi-ethnic Society.



Syed Ahmad Taqvi bin Syed Muhammad Muttaqi, well known as Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, was born on (17 Oct, 1817, Delhi) died on 27 March, 1898, Aligarh) into a devoted Nawabi family. During the foundation period, he studied the Quran and many other sciences. His mother, Aziz un Nisa, had a significant influence in his early years, instilling in him a strong sense of discipline and a stronger focus on contemporary education. In contemporary Indian history, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan marks a unique and distinctive moment. Despite his wide range of interests and his well-known prowess in the fields of history, theology, jurisprudence, and social and educational reforms, his political beliefs, thoughts, and deeds have caused historians and political analysts of subsequent times to have differing views. He saw a period of historical change from the fall of the medieval government to the establishment of the contemporary colonial government. He embraced modernity and promoted contemporary western scientific education for the Muslims who were then living in medieval times, rejecting the revivalist impulses that

were common among a persecuted and devastated Muslim population. This had a significant impact on his political beliefs and behavior as well. It is widely acknowledged that Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was a remarkable visionary, educator, philosopher, social reformer, and thinker. His numerous works include Asar Us Sanadid, Ain-e-Akbari, Risala-e-Asbab-e-Bagawat-e-Hind (The Causes of the Indian Mutiny of 1857), Hayat-e-Javed, Tarikh-e-Firoz Shahi, Tuzk-e-Jahangiri, Jam-i-jum, Silsilat-ul-Mulk, Khatubat-e-Ahmadiya (A Series of Essays on the Life of Prophet Muhammad PBUH) as a response to William Muir's book The Life of Prophet, Kalmat-e-Haq, Tafsir-al-Quran and The Loyal Muhammadans of India. His writings made it apparent that he was a social reformer who wished to do away with customs and rituals that were unworkable. His use of logic and reasoning served as the foundation for his views. He personally stayed away from the society's irrational and unworkable customs and sought to keep its members at bay. He also expressed his opinions on the negative social practices, especially among Muslims who were falling behind. In addition to advocating for Hindu-Muslim harmony, Sir Syed was a pioneer of interfaith communication on the subcontinent. He was a supporter, promoter, and ambassador of peace

activities from Muslim society, in an effort to persuade the Muslims to embrace modern education. Regarding the Shia and Sunni dispute, he also addressed it in his Urdu-translated work Tuhfa-i-Isna Ashriya. In the 1850s, he was very interested in seeing education progress. He saw the value of a contemporary education—which at the time was only offered in English-speaking schools nationwide—while researching a number of subjects, including European law. He was charged with British influence because he opposed religious dogma and outdated ideologies, but this did not stop him from being passionate about empowering and changing the country.

The nation's ultimate aims of wealth, peace, harmony, and political stability can only be attained via education, according to Sir Syed Ahmad, who highlighted the value of modern education. "Look forward, pick up fresh knowledge, and don't waste time learning boring old things." Although he did not undermine Muslims' identity, he did support the modernization and reformation of society, especially among Muslims who were falling behind. In addition to advocating for Hindu-Muslim harmony, Sir Syed was a pioneer of interfaith communication on the subcontinent. He was a supporter, promoter, and ambassador of peace

among India's major communities rather than someone who was hostile to the local population. His sayings, which focused heavily on compassion and peaceful cohabitation among diverse religion followers, demonstrate his vision of not just peaceful coexistence in a heterogeneous society but also cooperation and social harmony. He once said, "We (Hindus and Muslims) eat the exact same food, drink water from the same rivers, and breathe the same air; we are the two eyes of the exquisite bride that is Hindustan; weakness in either one of them will spoil the beauty of the bride (Dulhan)" in reference to maintaining peaceful communal harmony amongst interreligious groups, particularly Hindus and Muslims in the late 1980s. The unity, fraternity, and cooperation of society's many elements are necessary for a pluralistic and developing society, as Sir Syed recognized. In order to implement the principle, he kept the college's doors open to all students, and in 1898, there were 64 Hindu and 285 Muslim students enrolled, along with seven Hindu staff members.

He once said in front of a crowd, "Remember that the labels Hindu and Muslim should only be used for religious differentiation; otherwise, all people who reside in this country belong to the same nation." He emphasized to his fellow citizens that "fighting for the welfare of all people, regardless of caste or religion, is the first and essential task of all well-wishers of the country." He is said to have emphasized that if we ignore the portion of ourselves that we owe to God, then we are both basically one nation since we are both citizens of India, and collaboration between us is the only way for our country to develop. Additionally, he emphasized that social interactions, mutual respect, love, and compassion between Muslims and Hindus should not be hampered by religious differences between them, which should also not be hampered by political difficulties. At another point, he said, Muslims and Hindus should work to make their hearts and souls one in line with this ethic. Only by sticking together will we be able to live; otherwise, we will soon perish. He held that all faith adherents should be united and live in harmony with one another in order to cooperate and struggle for the betterment of society as a whole. Through his prose, literature, and poetry, he frequently emphasized the value of Hindu-Muslim unity and urged Muslims and Hindus to stand firm and cooperate even in the face of the colonial forces' post-1857 uprising. Sir Syed emphasized the importance of employing modern education to achieve intellectual advancement for people of all religions, but especially for Muslims. In

actuality, he was the first Muslim from India to progress to the institutional and scientific foundations of Muslim modernity in South Asia. Despite great challenges and criticism from all quarters, including his own people, he persisted because of his love for his country and his strong conviction that modern education is essential. He tried to use a thread of rich and complex cultural diversity to bring the populace together. He articulated his views on culture in the first edition of his journal Tehzeeb-ul-Akhlaq, writing, "The objective of building this complete degree of civilization, meaning culture, so that the hate with which the civilised (cultured) countries look them should fade away, and they may likewise be called to be (one of the) elevated and cultured nations of the earth." He went into further detail about this in two lengthy articles named "Culture and its Definition" and "Civilization or Sophistication and Culture" that were published in Tehzeeb-ul-Akhlaq. According to Sir Syed, promoting harmonious society, engagement, and peaceful coexistence all depend on education and related learning objectives. To illustrate his point, Sir Syed used the metaphor of an eye that weeps for the agony and suffering of every part of the body: the same metaphor used by Hakeemul Ummat Alama Iqbal in below couplet "Mubtalay Dard Koi Uzoo Ho, Roti Hai Aankh"

Kis Qadar Hamdard Saray Jism Ki Hoti Hai Aankh." He had so sworn to reform, educate, and empower communities outside the boundaries of religion, caste, and creed, and the hardships of all civilizations would make him unhappy. The greatest example still in existence is AMU (Aligarh Muslim University), whose first graduate was a Hindu named Ishwari Prasad. Its accomplishments are spreading around the world and cutting across religious boundaries. Being a multi-religious, multi-cultural, and multilingual country, India is currently going through a very challenging time. The ideas of the Muslim reformers must be immediately remembered as intolerance spreads not just in India but all across the world at this crucial juncture, when hate crimes are on the increase, mostly between Muslims and Hindus, and certain fringe elements with their own small-scale political agendas are purposefully sowing hatred and animosity among all segments of society. There is something for everyone, including hate speech, racial violence, mob lynching, intolerance for minorities, anti-immigrant sentiments, and more. The best way to combat all forms of violence and prejudice both within and between people is to engage in intra and inter-religious discussion, find and promote the commonalities found in all religions, communicate with the masses in a language they understand, and provide them with educational opportunities that they can grasp. Sir Syed's message of religious peace offers a rejuvenating, welcoming location to start the process of developing harmony, unity, and compassion in society. In fact, his final words, which are inscribed on a large sandstone pillar in one of the University Circles, perfectly capture his philosophy and the goals he pursued during his life, which were primarily to elevate Muslim Qaum by transferring knowledge, morals, and discipline for a successful Qaum; read as: "Oh my dear children, you have reached a particular stage, and remember one thing that when I undertook the task, there was criticism all around against me, abuses were hurled upon me, life had become so difficult for me that I aged before my age, I lost my hair, my eyesight, but not my vision. My vision never dimmed, my determination never failed, I built this institution for you and I am sure, you will carry the light of this institution far and wide, darkness will disappear from all around". Sham dar sham jalenge Teri yaadon ke Chiragh, Nasl dar nasl Tera dard numaya hoga ! Happy 207th Birthday Sir Syed Ahmad Khan! May Almighty elevate your rank in Jannah...Aameen!

asikashmir001@gmail.com  
Post Graduate in  
Political Science from  
Aligarh Muslim  
University

## Sarveshwar Foods Ltd. Achieves Landmark 500 Crore Sales in first half of the current fiscal year

**Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE):** Sarveshwar Foods Limited, announced a remarkable achievement, surpassing 500 crores in sales during the first half of the current fiscal year. This significant milestone reflects the increasing popularity of SFL's premium offerings and is largely attributed to the growing recognition of its organic products sold under the brand name 'Nimbark'.

With a legacy spanning over 130 years, SFL has earned a reputation for excellence in rice, catering to both domestic and international markets.

The company specializes in manufacturing, trading, processing, and marketing a wide array of branded and unbranded basmati and non-in manufacturing, trading, processing, and marketing. Each product embodies the philosophy of a 'SATVIK' lifestyle, derived from rice cultivated in the fertile,

mineral-rich soils of the Himalayas, nurtured with organic manure and the pure waters of the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir. A notable shift in consumer preferences has emerged, characterized by a growing health consciousness and an increasing demand for quality packaged and organic products. This trend resonates particularly among youth globally, who are more inclined towards sustainable and health-focused choices. SFL is swiftly aligning its sales strategy to maximize the benefits from this evolving market landscape.

"This outstanding achievement is a testament to the trust our customers place in us and our business strategy. This outstanding achievement is a testament to the trust our customers place in us", Rohit Gupta, Chairman, Sarveshwar Group said.

## Madhya Pradesh's Gandhisagar Forest Retreat attracting tourists

**Kolkata (AMBAR MUKHERJEE):** The third edition of the Gandhi Sagar Forest Retreat inaugurated in Mandsaur, offering a unique blend of adventure, entertainment, and cultural experiences. Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary Tourism and Culture department and Managing Director Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board said Gandhisagar forest retreat situated on the banks of Gandhi Sagar's backwaters, is emerging as a popular MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) and wedding destination. The retreat is a haven for adventure seekers as visitors can enjoy luxurious stays in an all-weather tent city and indulge in a variety of thrilling activities, including hot air ballooning, Para motoring, jet skiing, kayaking, and motor boating.

An official of the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board said the inauguration ceremony was marked by colorful folk songs and dances, followed by a performance by the NYASA music band.

Gandhi Sagar Forest Retreat has been kick started with the aim of

attracting adventure loving tourists and establish Gandhi Sagar as the top tourist destination of India. The wonderful event is introducing tourists to a beautiful amalgamation of nature, adventure and culture. After two successful editions, this year the third edition of Gandhi Sagar Forest Retreat is receiving immense praise and response from the entire country and even foreign tourists, the official said. Gandhi Sagar Forest Retreat is offering all season tents with premium amenities, designed for every weather and maximum comfort. The luxurious tents are set to turn nights spent at Gandhi Sagar even more memorable for the tourists. Guests are adding to their excitement by participating in various indoor sports activities along with enjoying delicious local and desi cuisine.

At Gandhi Sagar forest retreat every evening famous artists of the country are spreading the magic of their melodious voices in live music performances. The thrilling performances in various musical styles are captivating music lovers. The sweet melodies of the tunes, the

## ADVANCE RESERVATION PERIOD FOR TRAIN JOURNEY, REDUCED TO 60 DAYS

**Kolkata, (KCN):** So long, there was a confusion in the minds of passengers regarding "when the reservation will be done" in 120 days, but Indian Railways has removed the puzzle and introduced reservation in 60 days instead of 120 days, which is good news for passengers.

There are many passengers who find it difficult to plan their journey long in advance due to several limitations. The Railways has

reduced the Advanced Reservation Period (ARP) for train journeys from 120 days to 60 days. The revised new ARP will be effective as follows:

- With effect from November 1, 2024, the ARP will be 60 days (excluding the day of journey) and booking will be done accordingly. However, all the bookings done up to October 31, 2024 under ARP of 120 days will remain intact.
- Cancellation of the earlier booking made



The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Health and Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav attends the inauguration of the International Conference on Advancements in Research & Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda - AROHA 2024 under All Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) at Sarita Vihar, in New Delhi

## 'Need Justice, My Family Needs Justice': MLA Zeeshan Siddique On Father's Murder

**Mumbai (KCN):** In his first reaction after his father and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique was shot dead last week, Bandra East MLA Zeeshan Siddique has said he and his family want justice. Mr Siddique also made an appeal that his father's death should not be politicised and nor should it go in vain.

In a post on X on Thursday, Zeeshan Siddique wrote: "My father lost his life protecting and saving the lives and homes of poor innocent people. Today, my family is broken but his death must not be politicised and definitely not go in vain. I NEED JUSTICE, MY FAMILY NEEDS JUSTICE!"

Baba Siddique, 66, was shot dead by three men outside Zeeshan's Bandra East office around 9.30 pm on Dussehra, October 13. Police had said six bullets were fired at him, four of which hit him and another hit an aide in the leg. Siddique was rushed to the Lilavati Hospital, where he was declared dead.

Two of the shooters, Gurmail Baljit Singh



from Haryana and Dharamraj Kashyap from Uttar Pradesh, were arrested soon after the murder while Shiv Kumar Gautam, who is also from Uttar Pradesh, is on the run. On Sunday, Kashyap had claimed in a Mumbai court that his age was 17 despite his Aadhar card stating that he was 19, and a bone ossification test had been ordered. On Monday, the results of the test proved that he is not a minor. Police sources said the suspects have claimed that they work for gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who is lodged in Gujarat's Sabarmati jail, and the same claim was

made in a social media post on Sunday. The alleged handler of the three shooters, Mohammad Zeeshan Akhtar, is also on the run.

Baba Siddique, who was a three-time MLA from Bandra West, was associated with the Congress for 48 years. He had quit the party in February and joined Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

Zeeshan Siddique was expelled from the Congress in August.

The NCP leader was murdered ahead of the Assembly elections in Maharashtra and the opposition has attacked the Eknath Shinde-led ruling BJP-NCP-Shiv Sena coalition over the

law-and-order situation in the state.

After the killing, NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) President Sharad Pawar had said people in the government should take responsibility and step down from their posts.

"The deteriorating law and order situation in the state is a matter of concern. It is sad that former state minister Baba Siddique was shot dead in the country's financial capital, Mumbai. If the Home minister and the rulers will take the state's vehicle forward with such leniency, it can be a warning sign for the common people. This not only needs to be investigated, the rulers need to accept responsibility and step down from their posts. My heartfelt tribute to Baba Siddique and condolences to his family," he wrote in Marathi on X.

Chief Minister Shinde said law and order had deteriorated under the alliance led by the opposition coalition, which is known as the Maha Vikas Aghadi, and promised that the people responsible for Siddique's killing would not be spared.

## 25 Lakh Contract For Salman Khan Hit, AK-47 From Pak: Chargesheet



**New Delhi (KCN):** A contract of 25 lakh was taken out to kill actor Salman Khan near his farmhouse in Maharashtra's Panvel, a chargesheet filed by the Navi Mumbai Police stated. In the chargesheet that named five people, police stated that the contract was taken out by the gang led by jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. The accused were preparing to buy state-of-the-art weapons AK 47, AK 92 and M 16 from Pakistan and the Turkish-made Zigna weapon, with which Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala was killed. The accused had hired boys below 18 years of age to kill Salman Khan, all of whom are hiding in Pune, Raigad, Navi Mumbai, Thane and Gujarat. About 60 to 70 people were keeping track of Salman Khan's movement, especially at his Bandra house, Panvel farmhouse and Goregaon Film City. Further, the plan to kill Salman Khan was hatched between August 2023 and April 2024, as per the chargesheet. Investigation revealed that Sukkha, who was arrested from Haryana's Panipat on Thursday, assigned the hit to the designated shooter Ajay Kashyap alias AK and four others involved in the conspiracy. A recce by Kashyap and his team led to the conclusion that owing to the actor's tight security and bulletproof vehicles, high-end weapons would be required to carry out the murder.

## 2 Months On, Former Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina Still In India

**New Delhi (KCN):** Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who came to India in early August, is still in the country, the foreign ministry said today after a court in Bangladesh ordered her arrest.

"On the stay of the former Prime Minister I had earlier mentioned that she had come here at a short notice and she continues to be here," a spokesperson said.

Sheikh Hasina had arrived in India on August 5, as an uprising led by students against her turned violent.

The government had not mentioned how long she would stay and there was much speculation about her final destination. A number of names have come up, including US, UK and even Finland.

"At very short notice, she requested approval to come for the moment to India. We simultaneously received a request for flight clearance from the Bangladesh authorities. She arrived yesterday

evening in Delhi," foreign minister S Jaishankar said a day after she landed at the Hindon airport, near Delhi. Her son Sajeeb Wazed, who is based in Washington, had said the 76-year-old was contemplating retirement and is likely to divide her time between her family members.

Asked about multiple reports about UK's "silence" her request for asylum and revocation of her visa by the US, he had said that she has not requested asylum "anywhere".

Today, Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal issued arrest warrants against the former Prime Minister and 45 others -- including her party Awami League's top leaders -- for alleged crimes against humanity. The warrants came on the first day of the judicial proceedings started by the re-constituted tribunal, Dhaka Tribune newspaper said. So far more than 60 complaints of enforced disappearance, murder and mass killings have been filed at the ICT against Hasina, other leaders of her Awami League party and the 14-party alliance, journalists and former top officials of law enforcement agencies.



# Malnutrition strikes again in two Jajpur villages

**Jajpur(KCN):** The death of 19 children in July 2016 due to malnutrition in the three Nagada villages in this district grabbed international attention. However, it seems that neither the district administration nor the state government has learnt from that tragedy. Eight years on hunger and malnutrition continue to plague other areas. Sources informed here Tuesday that 10 cases of malnutrition have been reported from villages adjacent to Nagada. Six cases including two who are suffering from acute malnutrition, have been reported from Tumuni

village which is to the left of Nagada. Four more cases of acute malnutrition have been reported from Taladiha village which is to the right of Nagada. In all the 10 cases, those affected are kids. Chief district medical officer (CDMO), Shibashis Moharana on getting the news directed the medical officer of Sukinda CHC to rescue the malnutrition-afflicted kids from Tumuni and Taladiha villages and admit them for treatment in a nutrition rehabilitation centre. He also asked him to rush a medical team to the villages, Tuesday. However, no medical team visited these two

villages when reports last came. A six-member team only visited Nagada and returned. They avoided visiting Tumuni and Taladiha as there are no pucca roads to the villages. The members of the team refused to walk through forests, fearing attacks by wild animals. Lack of connectivity to many villages in this district is one of the main causes of malnutrition among kids, locals pointed out. Both children and adults have always been deprived of proper food and treatment facilities as they stay in remote areas.

Despite the presence of

many prominent industries in Kalina g ana g ar, Sukinda, Danagadi and Dharmasala of this district, the poverty that exists in many villages is a huge cause of worry. Locals pointed out that many mining

units and companies earn revenue in crores by using forest, land and water in the district but they do not come to aid of those suffering from hunger malnutrition and other diseases. The death of the 19 kids due to malnutrition was sort of

an eye-opener. The Odisha government constructed a road through the hills to the Nagada villages spending over Rs 13 crore. The state government also ensured education, healthcare, power supply, drinking water facilities and

wishing to buy salt, leaves home in the morning and returns only the next day. As the area is forested, there is always the chance of animal attacks. Several residents of Tumuni village have lost their lives to bear attacks in the past. The village does not have electricity. The situation in Taladiha village is similar to that of Tumuni. Here also road connectivity is an issue. When contacted, Moharana said that every Thursday a medical team is visiting the two villages. However, the residents of the two villages are not ready to follow the advice given to them due to which they suffer from malnutrition, he added.



## Villagers attack police team in Binika; 22 held



**Sonepur / Binika(KCN):** Binika police Wednesday arrested 22 persons from Papi (Anandnagar) village in Subarnapur district on charge of attacking and injuring three police personnel while they were trying to rescue three minor boys held captive by the villagers since Tuesday night. According to reports, three minor boys from Rampur village allegedly attacked a villager and attempted to loot his mobile and bike near SinghijubaKhairamal road Tuesday night. However, they were caught, brutally thrashed and held hostage by the

villagers inside the clubhouse. When police Wednesday morning tried to take the trio into their custody, they were opposed by the villagers. Binika police then sought the help of Rampur police and deployed a platoon of force in front of the clubhouse. While a discussion was going on between the police and the villagers, police tried to rescue the accused from the clubhouse which irked the villagers. The angry villagers attacked the accused along with the police team injuring Sub Inspector Sujata Budek, ASI Trinath Sahu and constable Gopinath Sahu

of Binika PS. The villagers also ransacked the police van, broke its windshields and punctured its tyres. Later, more police personnel rushed to the spot and rescued the minors. They were detained at the Binika PS after a medical examination. Following a complaint lodged by the villagers, police registered a case against the three accused and arrested them. Similarly, Binika police also registered a case (357/24) against the villagers for attacking police personnel as per a written complaint lodged by injured SI Sujata Budek, ASI Trinath Sahu and constable Gopinath Sahu

Police arrested 22 villagers and forwarded them to the court. The number of arrests may increase, informed the police. On the other hand, hundreds of villagers from Singhijuba, Papi and Anandnagar area gathered in front of Binika police station. Meanwhile, Northern Range IG Himansu Kumar Lal reached the police station and took stock of the situation. Subarnapur SP Ram Prasad Sahu, Sonepur SDPO Pratap Tripathy and IIC Sarangadhar Panigrahi along with a police team rushed to the spot and launched an investigation.

## Bereaved Father Donates Son's Organs through KIMS, Saves Three Lives

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 17(KCN):** Displaying extraordinary compassion, Kailash Chandra Sahoo, a grieving father from Aripada village in Kendrapada district, has donated the organs of his 23-year-old son, Manoj Kumar Sahoo, who was declared brain dead following an accident here.

Manoj, who worked at a private firm, met with the accident four days ago and was admitted to KIMS. He received serious injuries on his neck from the mishap and was declared brain dead.

Speaking about his decision, Kailash Chandra Sahoo, a driver by profession, said, "I decided to donate my



son's organs so that three other lives could be saved." Prof (Dr) Dr. R.C. Das, Medical Superintendent, KIMS, commended the father's selflessness. "Organ donation is a regular process governed by strict guidelines. Every brain-dead case is assessed to ensure the possibility of

organ donation as per the government mandate. In this instance, the father himself came forward, expressing his willingness to donate his son's organs. His realisation of the value of organ donation is truly inspiring." The two kidneys and one liver will be transplanted

in separate hospitals in Bhubaneswar. "Three lives will be saved because of this generous act," Dr. Das added, expressing deep gratitude to Kailash for his courageous decision.

Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS has expressed his deepest gratitude to the father for his act of Kindness.

25% reservation as per RTE Act (2009)

MAHARISHI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Baghara Road, Baripada

For details

Contact :

Call-9438102188, 06792-255227

Time : 8.00 A.M. to 12.00 noon

E-mail- mps.bpd@gmail.com

Find us on  
Facebook.com/Mps, Baripada

## 'UnserHaus' by BSH Home Appliances - Kolkata's new luxury address

**Bhubaneswar:** BSH Home Appliances Group, one of the world's leading home appliances companies today launched its first 'UnserHaus' in Kolkata. This is BSH's only experience center in India to house all its three brands – Bosch, Siemens and Gaggenau under one roof. Located at Salt Lake city's Adventz Infinity @ 5, this new experience center is all set to welcome customers as well as Kolkata's strong architecture & design community. The company already has two other stores in Kolkata – a multi-channel Bosch & Siemens Brand Store in Dhakuria and a Bosch Studio in Shakespeare Sarani. UnserHaus is the German name for "Our House". It is a place where comfort,

convenience, inspiration, and memories reside in every corner. The philosophy and core ethos of BSH's UnserHaus are focused on building long-lasting trust with all customers & business partners. Keeping this in mind, the space is designed to ensure that all visitors feel at home when they visit, helping them experience the products as if they were in their own house.

Commenting on the launch of UnserHaus, Kolkata, Neeraj Bahl, MD & CEO, BSH Home Appliances (India & SAARC) said, "Kolkata is one of our high performing markets and we're thrilled to further expand our presence here by opening doors to our 101st retail space\*.

The new-age Indian consumer continues to look for offline

\*The company now has six experience centers across Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata, and an India-wide retail network of 95 brand shops (80 brand stores for Bosch and 15 brand stores for Siemens).

## Mahagram offers door to door banking services through Kirana stores

**Bhubaneswar:** Mahagram is a social enterprise focusing on Financial Inclusion that has enabled banking from the mom-and-pop store around the corner through fintech solutions. The company's mission is to enable rural women to save money at the local Kirana (or grocery) stores, instead of traveling miles to the nearest bank branch.

Recently, Mahagram has tied up with a public sector bank – the Bank of Maharashtra to roll out the 'Bank Sakhi' project in Odisha. The fintech would provide financial technology

and infrastructure support to augment rural financial inclusion. As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail themselves of basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores.

Mahagram aims to increase the ratio and habit of household savings in rural India. "At Mahagram, we are indulged in offering basic banking services

## Amazon.in launches 'Back to School' store

**Bhubaneswar:** With the opening of schools and resuming of offline classes, Amazon.in announced the launch of 'Back to school' store – a one stop destination to simplify the shopping needs of children. The specially curated store offers deals on a wide range of products across study essentials like stationery, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, PCs, headsets & speakers, printers, Amazon devices, home furnishing among others

to help parents, teachers and students with school supplies and to create an effective learning and productive environment. The offers and deals will be available till 12th June 2022. Here are some popular products customers can choose from the 'Back to school' store on Amazon.in. All offers & deals are from participating sellers. HONOR MagicBook X 15, Intel Core i3 Anti-Glare Thin and Light Laptop – It has stylish

appearance with premium aluminum metal body with 16.9MM thickness, 5.3 MM narrow bezels and the weight of the laptop is only 1.56kg, which allows you to carry it easily, making it very convenient for school, travel, and work. It is available for starting INR 37,990 on Amazon.in.

Lenovo Tab M10 FHD Plus Tablet, Platinum Grey - Make way for the stylish 8.1 mm Tab M10 FHD Plus.

## OSL Group founder bags 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping Shipping & Logistics scenario in Eastern India



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** On the August occasion of the 4th Edition of prestigious Times Business Awards Odisha 2023, Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL) founder Sri Mahimananda

(Mahima) Mishra was conferred with the coveted 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for reshaping the shipping and logistics scenario in eastern India.

The OSL Group founder received the honour at a glittering event organized by the TIMES Group at the Central Hall, Mayfair Convention here in the state capital city.

Notably, the TIMES Group organizes such a glorious event in a bid to celebrate and honour outstanding business houses and business leaders who have made significant contributions to their respective fields and communities as decided by a renowned research agency.

# NTPC Bongaigaon's GEM Initiative Inspires Through Fire Safety and Security Demonstration



**Kolkata (KCN):** NTPC Bongaigaon's Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM) initiative continues to inspire and educate, with a recent visit to the CISF Fire Wing offering the young participants a profound learning experience in fire safety, security measures, and the responsible handling of arms and ammunition. The event was spearheaded by Shri M.S. Kandari, Assistant Commandant of CISF Fire Wing, who provided the GEM girls with a comprehensive demonstration on fire precautions, safety protocols, and the use of various safety equipment. This

interactive session was designed to equip the girls with vital knowledge that could be crucial in both domestic and industrial settings. Joining the session were Smt. Sangeeta Singh, President of Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club, NTPC Bongaigaon, and other office bearers of the club. Their presence underscored the community's commitment to supporting the holistic development of the GEM girls.

Shri M.S. Kandari, Asst. Commandant, CISF Fire Wing, stated, "Empowering these young girls with knowledge about fire

safety and security measures is essential. It not only equips them with practical skills but also instills a sense of confidence and preparedness."

The CISF team walked the GEM girls through various scenarios involving fire incidents, demonstrating how to effectively use a fire extinguisher and other safety tools. The session was designed to be interactive, with the girls actively participating and practicing the safety measures demonstrated.

Smt. Sangeeta Singh, President of Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club, NTPC Bongaigaon, expressed her enthusiasm, "This initiative is about more than just safety; it's about empowering these girls to take charge of their own security and well-being."

The session also included an introduction to arms and ammunition, highlighting the importance of handling these tools with care and responsibility. The GEM girls were given an overview of various firearms used by the CISF for security purposes, with a focus on safety protocols and the significance of these weapons in maintaining public safety.

Smt. Vani Reddy, Senior Member of Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club, added, "Understanding safety measures, whether for fire incidents or security, is crucial for these girls. It's about building a foundation of knowledge that will serve them throughout their lives, she added."

The day concluded with a group photo and heartfelt expressions of gratitude from the GEM girls to the CISF Fire Wing team and the Bardwi Shikla Ladies Club, marking the event as a memorable and impactful experience in their journey of empowerment.

## Annual General Meeting of Vitesco Technologies

**Regensburg:** Vitesco Technologies, a leading international developer and manufacturer of cutting-edge drive systems for sustainable mobility, held its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) today. The AGM was held virtually due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

All current members of the Supervisory Board representing the shareholders who were up for election were re-elected to office. The members of the Supervisory Board who represent the employees will be elected separately. A complete list of all Supervisory Board members and the results of the voting at the AGM are available on the Vitesco Technologies website under 'Annual General Meeting'.

We regard this outcome as a clear mandate to continue the successful collaboration and positioning of Vitesco Technologies as a supplier of sustainable drive solutions with a clear goal," said CEO Andreas Wolf.

development &

Commenting on the appointment of a new member in the leadership team, Mr. Mehl Nanavati, Managing Director, Raj Petro Specialties Pvt Ltd., a Brenntag Group company. He will lead the comprehensive lubricants business units, including Speciality, Industrial and Automotive lubricant businesses.

taking on the important hat of managing Raj Petro's Lubricants Business, and we wish him all the best for his journey! With his knowledge and extensive experience, we are confident that Prasad will assist Raj Petro in reaching new heights."

On his appointment

Mr. Prasad Vaze said, "I am very thrilled to take on this new role. My vision is to create a world class experience for our consumers and channel partners. Our aim is to leverage Kyros, Onwo and Zoomol brands, explore

humongous potential that India and international markets offer and grow the Lubricant business profitability."

Ms. Archana Ghate - Head HR said, "We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Prasad Vaze, our newest member to the LT team. He will be

## Raj Petro Specialities strengthens its leadership team with Prasad Vaze's appointment

**Bhubaneswar:** Mr. Prasad Vaze has been appointed as the Senior Director – Lubricants Business at Raj Petro Specialities Pvt Ltd., a Brenntag Group company. He will lead the comprehensive lubricants business units, including Speciality, Industrial and Automotive lubricant businesses.

Mr. Prasad Vaze is a result-oriented business leader with more than 25 years of extensive experience in customer-centric roles. Mr. Vaze has served in numerous senior leadership roles, including leading retail operations, profit centre management, developing business strategy and channel

momentum. His unique domain expertise will further help strengthen Raj Petro's market position and expand footprint across markets."

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## LV Prasad Eye Institute Organizes a Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk

**Vijayawada:** Celebrity actor, Mr. Sabyasachi Mishra, will be flagging off the walk.

Whitathon is LV Prasad Eye Institute's annual cause-related event focusing on raising awareness and funds for early diagnosis and treatment of Retinoblastoma – a life and vision-threatening Eye Cancer in Children. One of the most common

symptoms of Retinoblastoma is White Reflex (white glow) in a child's eye. Through this walk, LVPEI aims to raise awareness among the public that if they spot a 'White Reflex' in a child's eye, it could be a sign of eye cancer that needs immediate medical intervention. Hence, the event is named 'Whitathon'.

Dr. Devyoti Tripathy, Ocular Oncologist, Mithu Tulsi Chanrai Campus, Bhubaneswar, L V Prasad Eye Institute, said, "Our aim is to raise awareness about early detection and treatment of Retinoblastoma eye cancer in children. No child should die of eye cancer because of lack of awareness and treatment. We extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Sabyasachi Mishra for joining us for the Retinoblastoma Awareness Walk and spreading awareness about Retinoblastoma. We also acknowledge the support received from Aroh – Giving Hope, an NGO working for children with Cancer and their families."

Dr. Tripathy further added that it is time to make detailed eye check-ups a part of mandatory paediatric examinations.



## Venugopal Rao, Hemang Badani to headline Delhi support staff

**New Delhi, (KCN):** Both Venugopal (left) and Badani have been involved with the franchise's subsidiaries elsewhere - mainly in the ILT20 in UAE and Major League Cricket (MLC) in the US (Photo credit - Dubai Capitals)

Both Venugopal (left) and Badani have been involved with the franchise's subsidiaries elsewhere - mainly in the ILT20 in UAE and Major League Cricket (MLC) in the US (Photo credit - Dubai Capitals) © Cricbuzz

The Delhi Capitals' search for new support staff appears to have concluded, with the franchise finalising its team for the next two IPL seasons. While there remains some element of uncertainty over Rishabh Pant's future with the team, it is confirmed that Hemang Badani will take charge as head coach for the upcoming two seasons. Additionally, Badani's former India teammate, Venugopal Rao, will serve as the



team's director of cricket.

The two, who have long played together for MRF in the Chennai league, are known for their strong association and professional understanding, and the Delhi Capitals management has granted them the freedom to select the rest of the coaching staff. Replacing the likes of Ricky Ponting, who served as the franchise's head coach for the past seven years may not be easy but the management has apparently made a conscious decision to not

go for big names. Venugopal (42) played 16 ODIs and represented three sides, including Delhi Capitals. Badani (47) represented India in four Tests and 40 ODIs. Both Venugopal and Badani have been involved with the franchise's subsidiaries elsewhere - mainly in the ILT20 in UAE and Major League Cricket (MLC) in the US. Incidentally, both those sides - Dubai Capitals and Seattle Orcas - are owned by Delhi Capitals co-owner Kiran Kumar Grandhi of the GMR Group. The JSW group is the other

co-owner of the Delhi side and as reported previously, the GMR group currently holds the reins of the franchise management that alternates between the partners every two years. As for Pant, whose midnight post on October 12 sparked a wave of curiosity in IPL circles, he is understood to be set to continue with the team. Currently occupied with a Test assignment, the management is refraining from disturbing him, but they expect him to confirm his commitment after the series. For the record, the franchise has

time until October 31 to announce their player retentions. Meanwhile, a major talking point in the IPL is that several players, some big names at that, are opting not to be retained, choosing instead to test their market value in the auction. They are emboldened by the new Right to Match (RTM) rule, which allows the highest bidder one final chance to lift their bid to the amount of their choice before the RTM is exercised. Although the new clause has faced opposition from some franchises, it has empowered player agents - especially those representing foreign players - to start negotiations with teams for better deals. While a new franchise may not always secure the player, the auction can drive up the player's value to the desired amount. Some player managers, it is learnt, have opened up back channel discussions for their clients.

## Dale Steyn confirms exit as Sunrisers Hyderabad bowling coach

**New Delhi:** Dale Steyn, the former South Africa pacer, announced that he won't return as the bowling coach of Sunrisers Hyderabad for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Steyn, however, added that he will continue in a coaching capacity with Sunrisers Eastern Cape in the SA20 league.

"A big thank you to Sunrisers Hyderabad for my few years with them as bowling coach at the IPL, unfortunately, I won't be returning for IPL 2025," Steyn stated in a post on X. "However, I will continue to work with Sunrisers Eastern Cape in the SA20 here in South Africa."

Earlier this year, Steyn had made himself unavailable for IPL 2024 due to personal reasons and Sunrisers brought in former New Zealand cricketer James Franklin as their bowling coach to work alongside head coach Daniel Vettori.



The 41-year old Steyn had represented Deccan Chargers (now defunct), Royal Challengers Bangalore, Sunrisers and Gujarat Lions (now defunct) in the IPL during his playing days. He last played for RCB in IPL 2020 before being named bowling coach of Sunrisers ahead of the 2022 season. He is credited with playing a significant role in the development of Umran Malik and several other pacers in the Sunrisers ranks.

Sunrisers reached the final of IPL 2024 before losing to KKR. This was their first appearance in an IPL final since finishing runners up in 2018. Sunrisers could look at retaining their coaching staff considering their success under the Vettori-Franklin combo last year.

## Paul Pogba keeps World Cup 2026 dream with France after doping ban reduction

**New Delhi:** Paul Pogba has claimed that he still keeps the World Cup 2026 dream alive and is eager to make a return to the playing field with Juventus. Pogba last played a match almost a year ago. Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba is keen to make his football comeback after his doping ban was reduced from four years to 18 months and is dreaming about playing in the 2026 World Cup. Pogba had been provisionally suspended by Italy's National Anti-Doping Agency (NADO Italia) in September 2023 after testing positive for DHEA, a banned substance known to enhance testosterone. Earlier this month, the Court of Arbitration for

Sport (CAS) reduced the 31-year-old's ban. Pogba maintained that the consumption of DHEA was unintentional. He is set to return to action for Juventus in March. Speaking to Gazzetta dello Sport, the French midfielder said that while national coach Didier Deschamps hasn't kept the door for anyone it is up to him to work and take the chance. "The dream of the World Cup is there, but Deschamps hasn't opened the doors for anyone. It's up to me to open them he told me to work," the midfielder said.

Pogba said that he is ready to return to normal in 2025 and his desire is to play football. The midfi

elder also said that he remains a player for Juventus for the moment. Pogba said he is ready to give up money to be back for Juve on the field. "I am ready to return to normal in 2025. I only have one desire, to play football. The reality is that I am a Juve player and I am preparing to play for Juve," "I don't have to speak, the pitch will speak and then (coach) Thiago Motta will judge with his own eyes, based on what he sees. I'm ready to give up even money to play for Juve again. I want to come back," said Pogba.

The French midfielder said that getting the initial ban was the most toughest moment in his life. The 31-year-old said that his former and current teammates was a constant support for him during this period.

eight-hour drive from his hometown of Peshawar to Multan. It was not as controversial as the others, but Sajid had not played competitive red-ball cricket since the first week of January, when he opened the bowling for Pakistan at Sydney in the second innings and accounted for Usman Khawaja in the first over to give his side some bleak hope of defending 130. That he was playing in Sydney was because Abrar Ahmed and Noman Ali - who Pakistan have placed ahead of him in the pecking order over the last two years - were unavailable. Sajid had last played in the format almost two years ago against the same opposition on the pitches that the Pakistan Cricket Board had specifically got designed to make sure his brethren - Nathan Lyon - was put

through the proverbial ringer. Before that, Sajid had picked up eight wickets in an innings in Bangladesh. That spell promised a new dawn for a country running out of spin-bowling stocks, but Pakistan, after the home series against Australia, axed Sajid rather than taking him to Sri Lanka, one of the countries with the most hospitable conditions for finger spinners. Pakistan had solid grounds

imminent as Duckett and Root showcased their towering credentials against spin bowling. As Duckett brushed away the close catch-in fielders with his audacious sweeps and scoops, Root's elegant drives off long strides drives and punches off the backfoot had the Pakistan spinners toiling on a pitch that - as data would say - continued to get difficult to bat on. CricViz suggested that the ball was turning at 4.79 degree on average - the most across the six sessions. But, such was the batters' class that they brought back the memories of last week's dead surface where England batted with ease and comfort. Pakistan needed the odds to go in their favour and there was Sajid, with 'a little luck'.

## Too soon, but not soon enough for another Australia-South Africa epic



**New Delhi:** With apologies to Prince and Sinead O'Connor, it's been one year, seven months and 21 days. Or 599 days. Or 14,376 hours. Or 862,560 minutes. Or 51,753,600 seconds. At least, it will be when the first ball is bowled in the women's T20 World Cup semifinal between Australia and South Africa in Dubai on Thursday.

In other words, it's too soon. Not enough time has passed, for South Africans, to take the raw edge off the events of February 26 last year at Newlands.

For the Australians, it was another World Cup final - their 16th across both formats. For the South Africans, it was their first final - any senior team

from their country.

For the Australians, it was another triumph - by 19 runs to clinch their 13th white-ball title. For the South Africans on the field, in the stands, and watching from afar, it was hope crushed. The women had gone one step further than the men's team had then been. To be pushed back from where they had come hurt more than could be imagined. It still does.

Africa's reply.

Shabnim Ismail was all but ablaze with effing and blinding incandescence when she roared in to bowl in her 241st and last international. Laura Wolvaardt's bat looked like it was carving ice as she held her nerve and with it her compatriots' dreams in an innings that might have realised the unthinkable. Until it didn't. Midway through the 17th over with 48 needed off 22, Megan Schutt went full and straight and had Wolvaardt bang to rights lbw. No such passion was discernible in any of the Australians. When they needed to go up a gear, they did. You could almost hear and see the clicking and movement of the gears. They were a machine, and not in a

complimentary way. It was as if AI stood for Australian Indifference. Even when, hours after the match, they emerged from the dressing room and sat around the pitch for a few minutes, there were no obvious signs of happiness. Maybe that's what happens when you've been there, done that, and got so many trophies.

Had that been the South Africans, they wouldn't have left the field in the first place. There would have been too many laps of honour to take, too many bows to make, too many tears of joy to shed, too many smiles to smile, too many other South Africans to wave at and hug and share the moment and the selfies and the gleam of the trophy with

There would have been a fear that, if they went to the dressing room, they would wake up and discover it was all only a dream. So it was heartening to see that their spirit has survived last year's blow. They were training at the ICC academy in Dubai on Tuesday when their place in the semi was confirmed by what had happened two kilometres away at the main stadium.

England batted first

against West Indies, and their 141/7 meant South Africa had sealed second place in group A because their net runrate was 0.291 better than England's. The top spot would go to the winners of that game - the Windies, as it would transpire.

04.10.2014 by the General Manager of Odisha Agricultural Marketing Board (OSAM Board) <https://osamb.odisha.gov.in/> and <https://coop.odisha.gov.in/> the tender proposal was published. There is a major flaw in the rules for the selection of the tender, which requires the investor to have a registered office in Odisha. The recognition of the GST certificate document is problematic, because a GST certificate provides proof of tax registration but does not confirm the location of a registered office. Normally, a certificate of establishment is required to make it valid, secondly the tenderer must have a minimum of 5,000 employees on their payroll, this requirement is met. No company in Odisha can fulfill it, as per Odisha IT policy, 25 percent of such services must be sourced from local bidders, so it is very necessary to change these rules and the board authorities have to consider canceling it and issuing new tenders, otherwise, in the coming days. There is a risk that the situation will arise, raising questions about the transparency of the authorities and causing intense public discontent.

(Advertorial)