

PRESIDENT OF INDIA Meets President of Malawi; leads delegation level-talks

Witnesses signing of MoUs on Arts & Culture, Youth Matters, Sports and Pharmaceutical cooperation

New Delhi, (KCN): On the second day (October 18, 2024) of her visit to Malawi, the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, visited the State House, Lilongwe where she was warmly received by H.E. Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, the President of the Republic of Malawi. Both leaders held productive discussions on a wide range of issues to further deepen the India-Malawi relationship. The President witnessed the signing of MoUs on

Arts & Culture, Youth Matters, Sports and Pharmaceutical cooperation. She also witnessed the symbolic handing over of 1000 MT of rice as humanitarian assistance from India to Malawi and the handing over of the Bhabhatron cancer treating machine to Malawi. She announced the Government of India's support in setting up of a permanent Artificial Limb Fitment Centre (Jaipur Foot) in Malawi.



of the Indian Community in Malawi at a Reception hosted by the High Commissioner of India to Malawi.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that India values its partnership with Africa based on the principles of mutual trust, equality, and mutual benefit. The main pillars of our cooperation are development, capacity building, trade and economic cooperation, defence and security,

and people-to-people contacts. Each pillar is important to India-Africa relations.

The President said that India had played an important role in making the African Union a permanent member of the G20 organization. As a leading member of the Global South, India would continue to share its experiences and capabilities with countries of the Global South. The President said that our diaspora is an integral

part of the transformational journey of India. She urged the members of the Indian community to join this journey and take forward the development agenda of India.

Tomorrow (October 19, 2024), the President will perform Arati and Puja at Shree Radha Krishna Mandir in Lilongwe as well as visit Lake Malawi before leaving for New Delhi on the completion of three-nation State visits to Algeria, Mauritania and Malawi.

Odisha well-positioned to play key role in meeting global demand for chemicals: CM



The Chief Minister said the chemicals and petrochemicals sector in Odisha is ready for exponential growth. "At the same time, we are diversifying into further high-potential areas," he said. The eastern state is also

actively promoting investments in technical textiles and recycling of by-products, plastics and packaging, and speciality chemicals, which are seeing increased demand from domestic and international markets, the CM said.

Majhi said these opportunities are backed by Odisha's "rich natural resources, extensive connectivity, and robust industrial ecosystem", making it an attractive destination for new investments.

"As global demand for chemicals continues to rise, Odisha is well-positioned to play a key role in meeting this demand, not just for India, but for the world. I invite you all to explore the opportunities that Odisha offers and become a part of our growth story. Together, we can unlock new possibilities and contribute to the shared vision of a Viksit Odisha," he said.

Earlier this month, the RBI continued to maintain the status quo in the short-term lending interest rate (repo), citing inflationary concerns, though it changed the monetary policy stance to neutral.

Participating at the India Credit Forum hosted by Bloomberg, Das said the September inflation was high and

the next print too is expected to remain elevated before moderating.

"So therefore, rate cut at this stage will be very premature and can be very, very risky when your inflation is five and a half and next print is also expected to be high," Das said.

Refusing to give any indications about rate

cuts in future, the governor said the central bank would take action on the basis of the incoming data and outlook.

Das also said the Reserve Bank does not act like a policeman, but it maintains tight vigil on the financial market and takes regulatory action whenever necessary.

The remark came a day

after the central bank directed Sachin Bansal's Navi Finserv and three other NBFCs to cease and desist from sanctioning and disbursing loans effective from the close of business of October 21 on material supervisory concerns, including usurious pricing.

"No...we are not policemen. We are watching. We are watching very closely. We maintain vigil over the credit markets and...when it becomes necessary, we take action," he said at the India Credit Forum.

Observing that this is India's moment, Das said the country's growth story is intact.

Interest rate cut at this stage could be premature, risky: RBI Gov Das



New Delhi (KCN): Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das Friday said that this stage would have been "premature" and "very very risky" as the retail inflation is still high, and future monetary policy action would depend upon the income data and outlook.

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CM Majhi Orders Immediate Action to Address Habisyalis' Plight



Senapati, Director (Human Resources) of Nalco, Mr. Radhasham Mohapatra, General Manager (Personnel) Rourkela

Steel plant Mr. Gyanaranjan Das, Dr. Jayanti Behera of Model Hospital Rourkela, Dr. Parimal Majhi, ESIC Hospital Angul., ESI Hospital Bhubaneswar, Srikanth Debata, Deputy Central Labor Commissioner Shri S. Mr. Sampatkumar, General Manager (Human Resource) of Paradip Phosphates Ltd. Mr. Jagannath Khuntia, Mr. Bishnucharan Mohanty, General Manager of SITU, Mr. Madanmohan Dhal, Vice President of INTUC, Mr. A. Srinivas Rao, from HMG along with Mr. Brajkinkar Nayak gave thoughtful suggestions regarding the various problems observed in the Employees State Insurance Corporation General Manager (Human Resources) Mr. Rajendra Kumar

Regional Board meeting, a proposal is to be sent to the Union Labour Minister to give in principle approval for establishment of a Medical College on the already allotted land of 25 acres at Andharua, Bhubaneswar in the next meeting of the Corporation, Minister hoped.

Among others in the meeting were Mr. Vijay Amrit Kulange, Labor Commissioner, Mr. Ashok Kumar Panda, Director, ESI Scheme, Mr. Rajesh Agarwal, Additional Secretary, Department of Labor and Employees State Insurance, Odisha Power Generation Corporation General Manager (Human Resources) Mr. Rajendra Kumar

concerned officers, Srimandir administration, and the district Collector to take all kinds of measures to ensure the well-being of the Habisyalis," he wrote on 'X'.

Supreme Court Lifts Stay on 2015 Sacilege Cases Against Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh

The Chief Minister's intervention aims to provide relief to the pilgrims and ensure they can observe their rituals without further distress. The district administration, led by Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain, has already initiated discussions with the agitating Habisyalis to resolve their grievances. Efforts are being made to provide temporary accommodation and improve the registration process for future pilgrims.

ESIC will continue to benefit the poor workers of Odisha: Labour Minister



Central Government through the Corporation. The Scheme has already been implemented in 29 districts and the proposal for implementation in Boudh district has already been sent.

Now, we are to provide medical benefit to poor workers working in each and every corner of the State. We also require to provide cash benefit such as death pension (DB), accidental pension (PDB), Maternity Benefit, Sickness Benefit etc. to them.

The medical benefit (primary treatment, secondary treatment, super specialty treatment) is the prime need of every worker. Our focus will be to provide hassle free treatments in ESI Dispensaries and ESI Hospitals run by the

Directorate and also in ESI Model Hospital, Rourkela and ESIC Hospital, Angul. Proper treatment, supply of medicines, swachhaata in Dispensaries and Hospitals to be our aim. The Super Speciality treatments to IPs will not be a problem for us now as declared by the Hon'ble Union Labour Minister, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. Now ESIC beneficiaries will get medical care under convergence programme of ESIC with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

Union Labour Minister, Dr. Mandaviya in 194th meeting of the Corporation held on 8th October, 2024 has approved in principle for the establishment of 10 new ESIC Medical Colleges in different states. As approved by this

Jain was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on May 30, 2022, on the charge of laundering money through four companies allegedly linked to him. He is currently in judicial custody.

NIA agrees to let Engineer Rashid take oath as MP, court to give order tomorrow

J&K govt seeking restoration of statehood, not Article 370 'very painful': Engineer Rashid

5 hours ago
"Considering the delay in trial and long incarceration of 18 months, and the fact that trial will take long to start, let alone conclude, accused is favourably suited for the relief," said Special Judge Vishal Gogte.

Presiding over the 85th Regional Board meeting of Employees State Insurance Corporation, Labour & ESI Minister and Chairman, ESIC, Sri Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia expressed that the success of ESI scheme depends on coordinated work of the State Government and the

Metro Railway Celebrates 40 Years of its Journey in City

Kolkata, (KCN): The Metro Railway has completed 40 years of its journey in Kolkata and to mark the occasion, the General Manager, Metro Railway, Shri P. Uday Kumar Reddy today provided the glimpses of the future plans of the organisation including expansion till Kolkata Airport by December 2025 to make travelling to Kolkata Airport more convenient by connecting it from two directions - Kavi Subhash to Airport and Noapara to Airport. Shri Reddy was very much optimistic to point out to the media



correspondents today that once completed, the Metro system will encircle Kolkata and Howrah, providing seamless and efficient connectivity across the entire metropolitan area. He said the comprehensive Metro coverage will bring unprecedented ease for daily commuters, reduce traffic congestion and make the city's transport infrastructure more sustainable.

Metro Railway in the city started its journey on October 24, 1984, when India's first Metro ran between Esplanade and Bhowanipore (now Netaji Bhavan),

covering a 3.4 km stretch and touching three stations in between. From that point, the Metro has expanded its reach, playing a crucial role in improving the way of transportation. Today,

the network spans nearly 60 kms connecting not only the heart of the city but also ferrying the commuters of the adjoining districts - Kolkata, Howrah, North and South 24

Parganas together and has turned out to be 'Amar Metro'. According to the Metro Railway General Manager, by the end of 2025, the Metro network will further expand to 90 kms and

by 2027, it is set to reach an impressive 130 kms, continuing to enhance the connectivity across the city and its suburbs. A week-long celebration from October 18 to October 24, 2024 comprises heritage walk, walkathon, exhibition and cultural performances. Running of Old Non-AC Rake has been planned in order to make it a memorable occasion. Special films have also been made where daily commuters

to celebrities have shared their thoughts about 'Our Own Metro'. In the exhibition, rare photographs, Old Tickets, Smart Cards and Philately items will be on display. A special cover and stamp will also be released during the celebrations. Shri Reddy, on this occasion extended his deepest gratitude to the dedicated workforce and innumerable commuters for their unwavering support and trust and pledged to shape an even brighter future.

On this occasion, the General Manager also released a commemorative Smart Card of Metro Railway. This card will be available at the counters very soon. Shri Reddy also released three short films to make this occasion memorable. In one film celebrities like Rituparna Sengupta, Goutam Ghosh, Harsh Neotia, Jhulan Goswami and others have shared their thoughts about Metro Railway and how it has transformed Kolkata's transport system. In another film historical nuances and the gradual expansion of Metro has been highlighted. Daily commuters and the first Motorman Shri Tapan Nath have shared their thoughts about this unique Metro system in the third film which has been appreciated by all.

Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) participates in India Chem Exhibition, Mumbai

Mumbai, (KCN): Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) has participated in this exhibition, held in Mumbai.

The India Chem, 2024 organised for the Chemical and Petrochemical industries is being held at the local Mumbai Exhibition Centre.

Minister of State for Fertilizers and Chemicals, Government of India Anupriya Patel, inaugurated the PPL stall at the India Chem on 17th of this month.

PPL Chief Financial Officer, Bijay Kumar Biswal, and Head of Corporate Affairs, Sudhi Ranjan Mishra were present on the occasion. This is the thirteenth edition of the India Chamber and this international exhibition and conference is being held every two years. Notably, the PPL is the only organisation from Odisha showcasing its presence at this international exhibition.



Chief Minister of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi and the Minister of State for Industries and Skill Development, Sampad Charan Swain were present on the occasion. India Chem 2024 is being organized by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India in collaboration with FIKI from 17th to 19th October this year.

It is the largest exhibition in the Asia Pacific region, featuring both an exhibition as well as an international conference. India Chem 2024 highlights the significant potential of the sector and the supportive government policies that promote long-term growth. It helps domestic and international investors and other partners to form alliances with each other and thereby offers great potential for trade and investment. A roundtable of global CEOs on various industries such as chemicals, petrochemicals, agrochemicals, processing and machinery etc. is being organized on the occasion of the conference. As with these, there are also regional exchange initiatives connecting India with other countries.

Formulation developed by SOA researchers set for commercial production



Bhubaneswar, (KCN): An economic and innovative formulation developed by researchers at the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOA) here, for which the university had signed technology licensing agreement with the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) last year, is set for commercial production. The technology transfer agreement on the product, 'Re-Dispersible Mucoadhesive Gargle Composition' was signed by NRDC and the Gujarat-based Suyaash Pharmaceuticals here on Friday in the presence of SOA Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda.

The formulation had been developed by a team of researchers headed by Prof. Goutam Rath of the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences

(SPS), faculty of pharmaceutical sciences of SOA.

This is the first time that a formulation developed by researchers in Odisha is set for commercial production, Prof. Rath said.

A two-day training and demonstration program was organised for the benefit of the licensee, Suyaash Pharmaceuticals represented by its Director Mr. Raju Sharadchandra Shah and Chief Executive Officer Kapil Shah. NRDC representative Amitabh Mishra was also present. Explaining the formulation, Prof. Rath said gargle medicines presently being prescribed for throat infections had limited impact for about 15 to 30 minutes requiring multiple use to alleviate discomfort. The research team had developed a

mucoadhesive extended release gargle formulation which offered long term effect of about four hours upon a single use. The formulation would not only reduce the doses but also improve the drug efficacy, he said.

Raju Sharadchandra Shah, who evinced keen interest in the nanofiber-based technology developed by the SOA research team, said nanofibers had the potential to deliver significant benefits to patients worldwide. He said that this technology could revolutionise treatment by raising the highest dose that might be given in a single administration while lowering the possibility of drug resistance. Mishra also offered his insight into opportunities for optimizing the process while effectively scaling it for commercial manufacturing.

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Festivals and Economic Celebrations Craving for Celebration

Vijay Garg



India is a festive country. The fusion of different traditions and regional culture here creates many new colorful occasions when countrymen can be seen celebrating. In this festive country, the economic benefit is that even an ordinary person spends beyond his financial limits. The gloom of recession does not spread in the markets during festival days. Since this keeps happening in such a big country, today when the whole world is in the grip of economic recession and falling demand. It is stuck, India's economic growth rate is ahead of all the countries. But we could not reach the growth rate of eight percent. Last year we had reached close to this growth rate, at the end of this year it seems to go below seven percent, but still lack of demand is not a problem for India. Yes, there may be a problem of increasing production appropriately to meet this demand. As economist and former Reserve Bank Governor Raghuram Rajan also said, Rajan has also said that the country should pay attention towards manufacturing and agricultural

development. He says that lastAs a result of the development of basic industries which we paid attention to in the last few years, today we are setting milestones of progress. Today we are the fifth economic superpower of the world, we are dreaming of becoming the third economic superpower and hope that when we celebrate the centenary of independence in 2047, our country will have developed and if it becomes the most powerful economic power in the world. Even if it does not happen, it will be the vanguard of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which will emerge this time from the East and the Third World. your cultural values ??By force, he will become the Guru of the whole world and will also show it the path. Talking about the coming days, at this time the news coming about India's economy is good. Policy makers also want to take some steps which can benefit the public. There should be some discussion on this. Even though it is being claimed that employment is being created in the environment of development dedicated to new duties, but where is this employment being created? A strange employment situation is arising. For those who have education and training in the technology of this changing world. There are queues

from the sector of tied bank FDs towards shares and mutual funds, which started providing stability to new investments. Here, in view of the international situation, the people of India hope that they will also get the benefit of the falling price of crude oil, because till now they are struggling with the problem of inflation. If there is a slight reduction in the prices of petrol and diesel after such a long time, then it will help them. There will be scope for controlling inflation and these festive days will get a new colour. At this time the earnings of petroleum companies have increased. That's why every expert says that there is scope for reducing the prices of petrol and diesel for the common people. Our import payment bill also reduced, because we import eighty-five percent of the oil we need, so maybe the benefit of this can be passed on to the public in the form of some reduction during the festive days. Meanwhile, petroleum prices were reduced only once by two rupees, but this was also compensated by the state. These governments achieved this by increasing their respective VAT. Punjab also increased VAT rates recently. In March its price was 84-85 dollars per barrel, then the price was reduced by two rupees, then why not reduce it now and give this gift to the people

during festive days. The meeting of the Group of Ministers for GST on health and life insurance is going to be held on October 19. It is reported that consideration may be given to reducing GST on many items for festivals. Rates on life insurance should be reduced. This is the demand not only of the opposition but also of some leaders of the ruling party. Is. The long-pending consideration of reducing medical insurance rates for individuals, groups and senior citizens, people suffering from mental illness and various other categories of people is before the Committee. Now if the public gets this gift of reduction in insurance rates, then what could be a bigger celebration than this. To control the prices of petrol and diesel, the idea of ??bringing them under the ambit of GST has been going on for a long time. , Why go? Irrespective of whether the Center brings it under GST rates, the state can raise its tax rates. Will start 'tax-evasion'. The days of festivals have started. If the public sees these few welfare steps being taken, then perhaps it could be a prelude to a big economic celebration for them. Anyway, it is said that India is committed to a democratic society and is more concerned about the poor than the rich countries.

Retired Principal
Educational
Columnist Street
Kaur Chand MHR
Malout Punjab

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor

Our secondary and tertiary education systems across the country has been stagnant, regressive and based on archaic and colonial-minded 'comit and vomit' strategy. It does not help to prepare an individual for becoming a successful and responsible citizen. Our education system is geared towards producing mechanized robots; but, not towards developing an humanitarian individual with necessary life and professional skills. Various interactive programs in the form of comprehensive seminars, symposium, colloquiums, workshops that could be run in secondary and higher secondary schools, degree and diploma colleges and universities by different government and not for profit, non-government organizations.

The audience should not only include the targeted students; but, also their guardians and/or teachers and faculty members (in some instances) for better dissemination of education and for efficient awareness purposes, percolating successfully among the participants such as:

- Workshops on basic aspects of financial management, teaching basic operation process and purposes of banks, post offices, local police stations, district and civil courts, panchayats, corporations and municipalities.
- How to write formal applications/ letters and filling up forms for the purposes of registration, admission, filing claims or complaints, identification of local plants and animals, biodiversity conservation, the importance and need for conservation of natural pollinators and local medicinal plants, short surveys and field visits for nature exploration.
- How to establish kitchen gardens, roof gardens or pollinator gardens within school and college campuses, running short educational documentary films and/or interactive lectures on sex education, general and genital hygiene, knowledge about diabetes, obesity, thalassemia, thyroid problems, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD), snake bite treatments.
- Awareness about local superstitions, taboos, scientific awareness, sensitization regarding good touch and bad touch, molestation and harassment at work place, first aid, preparedness regarding unexpected medical emergencies, food and nutrition, balanced diet, healthy, sustainable and responsible life style practices, dealing with smoking, alcoholism, drug abuses.
- Inappropriate uses of mobile phones and social media platforms, awareness about laws for the protection of children, girls and women, encouraging creative writing, essay, poster or slogan competitions on pertinent social, cultural, academic and environmental issues.

f) Promoting the monumental lives of legendary social reformers, freedom fighters, politicians, scientists, musicians, dancers, artists, writers, poet, filmmakers doctors and engineers, academies, journalists, sports personnel and their struggles and achievements for inspiration and encouragement of the students, promoting better engagement, communication, listening and writing skills for students.

Workshop topics need to be selected based on the specific needs and sentiments of the rural and urban students and/or participants. Both private and government institutions could be screened for locating suitable venues to hold the workshops both from the perspectives of good cooperation and support as well as logistics.

Thanking you

Sincerely yours

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Gender Equality crusaders Two Academia

Dr. Ravi Chaturvedi



The advocacy of political, economic, and social equality of the sexes" is a definition that, while informative, does not capture the full essence of feminism. Feminism is a movement that transcends mere equality, emphasizing intersectionality to seek liberation for individuals of all genders and races. It demands equal access to healthcare, economic and educational opportunities, and social power, while also striving for the elimination of harm, violence, and discrimination based on gender. Graca Machel, a Mozambican advocate for women's and children's rights, articulated this issue eloquently, stating, "Gender equality is the goal that will help abolish poverty and create more equal economies, fairer societies, and happier men, women, and children." Gender equality is not about erasing the differences between

genders; rather, it is about ensuring fundamental human rights and benefits for all. For decades, gender inequality has persisted like a parasitic presence, affecting individuals across all strata of society, from royalty to the impoverished. The time has come for the global community to unite in the fight against gender inequality, a challenge that has endured throughout history. Emma Watson, the English actress, succinctly captured the issue surrounding women's rights when she stated, "It is time that we all see gender as a spectrum instead of two sets of opposing ideals." Historically, the issue of gender has been viewed through a narrow lens and has often remained a topic of mere conversation. However, in recent years, it has gained significant support within society. Two notable advocates, Professor Bijayalaxmi Nanda, Principal of Miranda House, University of Delhi, and Dr. Nupur Ray, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi have taken the initiative to



Gender equality at grassroot level



Prof. Bijayalaxmi Nanda, Principal Miranda House, Delhi University. Dr. Nupur Ray, Associate Professor Kamala Nehru College, Delhi University

address the pressing issue of gender inequality. This duo has been raising awareness among women regarding their rights and the challenges they face. Professors Nanda and Ray are leaving no stone unturned in their efforts to promote gender equality. The two Academia have been actively organizing seminars, community-level meetings, traveling to villages and urban slums to enlighten women about their rights and the importance of gender equality. Their focus encompasses issues such as differential wages,

inadequate healthcare facilities, safety, and exploitation. Their mission is echoed in the words of Gloria Steinem, a prominent advocate of the women's liberation movement, who stated, "Culture does not make people. People make culture. If it is true that the full humanity of women is not our culture, then we can and must make it our culture." Professors Nanda and Ray have articulated the problem of gender inequality within a broader context,

emphasizing, "Gender equality, with a focus on women's safety, workforce participation, and health and nutritional security, is a crucial factor for achieving sustainable economic growth, social equity, and democratic governance. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seek to achieve gender equality by empowering both women and girls." Ban Ki-moon, the South Korean diplomat and eighth Secretary-General of the United

Nations, aptly remarked, "It is everyone's responsibility." In alignment with the centenary celebrations of Delhi University, Professors Nanda and Ray have fervently advocated for gender equality to be recognized as a national priority. They stress that issues such as women's nutritional security, reproductive health, protection from violence, and maternal health necessitate heightened levels of community engagement to raise awareness. There is an urgent need to leverage the grassroots reach of non-governmental organizations alongside the government's resources, policy framework, and institutional capacity. Together, they can create a more effective and coordinated

response to the multifaceted health needs of women, particularly those from marginalized communities. Maya Angelou, the American civil rights activist, resonated with this sentiment lightly when she remarked, "How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and sheroes!"

Additionally, the SUKARYA project addresses healthcare and nutrition services, encompassing reproductive health, maternal care, and education. It includes programs designed to provide adolescent girls with fundamental knowledge and awareness regarding reproductive and sexual health, as well as to enhance their knowledge and skills related to family life. Frances Wright, the Scottish social reformer, captured the essence of gender equality with her insightful observation: "Equality is the soul of liberty; there is, in fact, no liberty without it."

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Disappearing of Pottery Diwali Diyas



Diwali is a vibrant and joyous celebration. The festival of lights reliably inspires a sense of nostalgia. In the days preceding Diwali, the dedicated potter community in the villages of Punjab would produce exquisite earthen lamps and a variety of crafts. It is concerning to observe the decline of these traditional arts in numerous regions. With the market increasingly saturated with imitation lamps and electric chains produced in China, along with various other lighting options, the allure of earthen lamps seems to be waning. Individuals committed to supporting their families through the art of clay are currently facing a notable economic downturn.

The tradition of crafting pottery during Diwali is diminishing, as it is increasingly overshadowed by the prevalence of electronic and mechanized products. Illuminating clay lamps during Diwali has been a valued

tradition in our culture. Although certain individuals persist in maintaining this practice, they need our assistance to sustain it.

Clay lamps, often known as 'Diya', have been a significant part of Diwali celebrations for many years. They provide light and carry significant cultural and spiritual value. Lamps, generally powered by oil and cotton wicks, represent the conquest of light over darkness and the success of good over evil. Lighting a Diya creates a distinctive ambience; the flickering flames foster a warm atmosphere enriched with treasured memories. My grandmother frequently noted that the illumination from a lamp infuses warmth and positive energy into the home.

Recently, electric lights have experienced a notable increase in popularity. These options provide increased convenience, superior safety, and enhanced energy efficiency in comparison to traditional lamps. Ultimately, regardless of whether one chooses clay lamps or LED lights, the essence of Diwali is found in the celebration of light, joy, and unity. Your Diwali celebration ought to embody the elements that genuinely evoke joy and warmth in your spirit

of individuals are choosing LED lights to improve the exterior of their homes, likely

and environment. It is a fact that in today's world, the potters responsible for crafting the significant

merely a celebration; it functioned as an essential source of income. Recently, there has been a significant

words 'Deep' and 'Avali'. Deepavali refers to a series of lamps, as 'Avali' denotes a row. The presence of the

and the impact of modernity, the advancements of today have eclipsed the artisans who once expertly shaped the earth.

The brilliance of Chinese chains in the bazaars is beginning to eclipse the glow of the clay lamp. For centuries, Diwali has been celebrated with the lighting of clay lamps in our homes; however, the emergence of Chinese lamps in the market has significantly reduced the significance of our traditional clay lamps. The potters are encountering considerable challenges. The impact of modernity has extended to the residences of potters, who have historically brightened their environments with lamps during Diwali. The lamp manufacturers are currently facing challenges, resulting in a sense of undervaluation among the inexperienced. The lamp-making craftsman indicated that his children are not inclined to follow this career path because of its demanding nature. Consequently, they are not obtaining adequate compensation.

In our rapidly evolving world, there appears to be a disconnection from our rich cultural heritage. It is crucial to implement measures for the preservation of traditional arts, and the public is encouraged to actively support these initiatives by acquiring their creations.

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because of their durability and ability to withstand various weather conditions. The use of clay lamps in the ritual of puja prayer continues to provide a vital element of tradition and authenticity to the practice. Ultimately, regardless of whether one chooses clay lamps or LED lights, the essence of Diwali is found in the celebration of light, joy, and unity. Your Diwali celebration ought to embody the elements that genuinely evoke joy and warmth in your spirit

lamps and idols for Diwali are lacking proper lighting in their homes and are distancing themselves from their traditional art and trade. The artisans convey that they invest significant effort in the creation of pottery and lamps; however, they perceive a lack of recognition for their hard work, which discourages the next generation from engaging in this craft. For the potters, Diwali represented more than

trend as individuals start to transition from Chinese lamps and re-embrace the appeal of traditional lamps. In contrast, these artisans contend that the Punjab government should, akin to the Himachal government, provide them with complimentary tools to aid in the revival of this diminishing heritage. Diwali represents a collection of radiant lights. Deepavali is derived from the combination of the

potter's wheel and utensils is essential for a complete celebration, whether it be Karva Chauth, Ashtami, Deepavali, or any other festival. In the villages, lamps played an important role during Diwali, with clay lamps being the customary selection for residences. Nonetheless, the impact of modernity appears to have affected this valued heritage. Historically, planting was a prevalent practice; however, with the evolution of lifestyle

must be vigilant about the voices we listen to in life. Not every opportunity, desire, or pleasure is as harmless as it seems. Some, like the sirens' song, are traps that can lead to our downfall if we are not careful. Wisdom comes from recognizing these illusions and staying the course, even when the path seems difficult or less alluring. Just as the sailor was lured away from his intended course, so too can we lose our way if we follow the call of temptations without considering the consequences. The world may sing sweetly to us, offering promises of fulfillment, but true happiness comes not from chasing after fleeting pleasures, but from staying true to our values, our purpose, and the

deeper meaning of life. In the end, the sailor's fate is a reminder that not all that glitters is gold, and not every sweet song leads to paradise. The choices we make determine whether we will navigate safely through life's waters or be pulled into the depths by illusions we failed to see for what they truly were. Let us, then, listen carefully, and choose our path with wisdom and discernment, knowing that the sweetest songs are often the most dangerous traps.

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Speaker, and
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The Siren's Song: A Story of Worldly Temptations and Eternal Consequences



"Beware the call of the sirens," the old mariner cautioned. "Their voices are sweet and tempting, but they lead only to destruction. Many sailors before you have heard their song, lost themselves to it, and crashed upon the jagged rocks of their island."

The young sailor laughed. "Old man, those are just tales meant to frighten the weak. I am strong and wise enough to resist any temptation. I will return with riches beyond measure while you stay here in fear of old legends."

Ignoring the warning, the sailor set off, the thrill of the open sea filling his sails. For days, the voyage was smooth, the sea calm, and the winds favorable. But as the sailor ventured farther into the

unknown, he began to hear it—soft, melodious voices drifting across the water. The sound was enchanting, promising fulfillment of every desire, every ambition. The closer he sailed, the more irresistible the voices became.

Entranced by the song, the sailor altered his course, forgetting the old mariner's warning. In his mind, he imagined the sirens were calling him to a paradise of endless pleasure and riches. His eyes were fixed on the distant island, where the voices grew stronger, sweeter.

But as he neared the island, the truth revealed itself. What he had thought were smooth shores of gold and silver were jagged rocks hidden just beneath the surface. The closer he came, the more

perilous the waters became. Yet, the sirens' song was so intoxicating, so alluring, that the sailor pressed on, convinced that just a little farther ahead, he would find what he sought.

Then, with a violent crash, his ship struck the rocks. The hull shattered, and the sailor was thrown into the cold, unforgiving sea. The voices that had once promised him everything now laughed cruelly as the waves pulled him under. The sailor realized too late that he had been deceived by an illusion—a deadly trick that had led him to ruin.

This ancient tale of the sirens is more than just a story of one man's journey; it is a metaphor for the temptations that lure us all in life. The old mariner, much like the wise elders, prophets, or spiritual teachers throughout history,

PALLAVI CHATTERJEE'S ILLUSTRIOS LAKSHMI PUJA ENTERS ITS 25TH YEAR, WITH BOBBY CHAKRABORTY'S 21ST

Kolkata, (KCN): Celebrated senior actress Pallavi Chatterjee has been celebrating her ancestral Lakshmi Puja for 25 years now, which has now become the talk of the town too.

Let us have a first hand account of this very famous Puja 2024, through the eyes of actor/activist/ teacher of method acting Bobby Chakraborty, who has been a regular, in the illustrious guest list for 2 decades now.

Here's what Bobby had to say :-

"I know Pallavi Di or my dearest Maku Di for exactly 22 years, since I



auditioned for the the Hindi daily soap 'Saeb Biwi aur Ghulam' which she and Bumba Da (Prosenjit Chatterjee) we're co-producing under the banner of 'Golden Moments' for 'Sahara Manoranjan' Channel. Later on I have worked with them as my co-actors too, but beyond the professional arena, I have developed a deep bond by heart, with Maku Di. I feel that among all in the industry who are the real well wishers of mine, she would definitely top the list. I have always been touched by her warmth and affection as a producer, as my co-actor and as my elder

sister too.

Maku Di's Lakshmi Puja

is an event I haven't missed for the last 21 years, except for one year when I was in USA. Maku Di has been single

handedly organising this Puja, exactly the same way, her mother, Late Ratna Chatterjee would execute it. Her mother was everything for her as she says. That's the reason you would see the photo of respected Ratna Aunty, beside the singhasan of Ma Lakshmi.

This was the first Durga Puja in my life without Baba, who passed away on May 31st this year. There was no Lakshmi Puja celebrations too, for the first time in our house, since my birth. Hence Maku Di's Puja became my own Puja, all the more this year.

It's a regular event in my

calendar, where a small reunion of sort happens between all my colleagues from the entertainment industry too, which always leads to a heart-to-heart adda and a whole lot of fun like this year with Shankar Da, Monami, Biswanath(Poltu), Sudeshna Di, Arijit Da, Imran Bhai, Kaushik Da, Labani (Labu)Di, Manali, Sayantani, Biswajit Da and many more.

I pray to Ma Lakshmi that She blesses Maku Di with the best of health, wealth and prosperity forever. She is special...she is someone very near to my heart "

Autorelli Nissan brings new Magnite to Kolkata

Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH):

Nissan Motor India has officially launched the New Nissan Magnite, bringing bold aesthetics, enhanced safety features, and advanced technology to the highly competitive compact SUV segment. Priced at an introductory INR 5.99 lakhs, the Magnite continues Nissan's 'Make-in-India, Make for the World' vision, having already crossed 150,000 cumulative sales since its debut in December 2020. This refreshed model underscores Nissan's commitment to delivering innovation and customer-centric design, making a significant impact both in India and international markets, with exports now spanning over 65 countries, including Left-Hand Drive markets. The

New Nissan Magnite stands out with its tougher, more robust exterior, designed to enhance road presence. It features sleek LED headlamps, stylish alloy wheels, and an all-new dual-tone design, giving it a modern yet bold appeal. The interior has been upgraded with premium leatherette finishes, spacious seating, and a suite of advanced features like a 360-degree camera, 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system, and wireless connectivity options. In Kolkata, the Magnite is available through Autorelli Nissan, one of the city's leading Nissan dealerships, with five showrooms and three workshops strategically located for customer convenience. Autorelli Nissan has earned accolades, including the

President's Award and a Global Award from Nissan, demonstrating its excellence in service. Mr. Ashutosh Chopra, Managing Director of Autorelli Nissan, expressed optimism about the new model's reception: "We already have 3,000+ happy customers in Kolkata, and we expect that number to grow significantly with the new Magnite. The car sold in India is the same world-class vehicle exported to over 65 countries, offering Indian customers a truly global product." With its modern design, luxurious interiors, advanced safety suite, and powerful turbo engines, the New Nissan Magnite is poised to be a strong contender in the B-SUV segment, making waves in Kolkata and beyond.

To make the day a

significantly remarkable one, the ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute

their ecosystems, which are in jeopardy because of pollution, dam construction, and climate change. On this occasion, more than 100 personnel, including active fishermen, social activists, and students residing on the banks of the river Hooghly under the Namamangal Program. This special day highlights the importance of conservation efforts aimed at protecting these beautiful species and

more than thirty distinct species of marine mammals, including river dolphins, can be found in Indian waters. Only the Ganga-Brahmaputra systems are home to the Gangetic River dolphin (Platanistaganggetica). Furthermore, he underscored the importance of the Gangetic dolphin as an indicator species for the Ganga ecosystem. This is because the dolphin's vulnerability to fluctuations in water quality and flow generates information on the general well-being of the ecosystem and its constituent species. Given the numerous challenges dolphins face in India, it is imperative that information about them be spread. Thanks

Durga Parade on river Thames in London to promote Tourism in West Bengal

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Heritage Bengal Global, a London, UK based cultural heritage promotion organisation is organising Durga Parade on river Thames on 26th of October 2024 to spread awareness about Durga Puja festival of West Bengal as one of the world's largest public art festival.

Durga Puja is most important festival of Bengali Hindu community around the world. Members of Indian diaspora started Durga Puja in London in 1963 with the support of legendary Indian journalist late Shri Tushar Kanti Ghosh.

British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata Dr. Andrew Fleming shared his experience of attending Durga Puja in H y d e r a b a d , participation in Durga Parade on Thames last year in London and his visit to over 40 Durga Puja pandals in Kolkata this year. Dr. Fleming indicated need for more planned promotional activities to attract foreign tourist



during Durga Puja in West Bengal.

"Durga Puja in Kolkata is not just a religious festival; it is the biggest Outdoor Art Festival in the world and is also cultural melting pot. The potential to attract foreign tourists is huge, hence our effort is to create awareness around the Lalbaba Rice Thames Durga Parade," said Anirban Mukhopadhyay, President of Heritage Bengal Global. "With the Parade 2024, we aim to promote this magnificent festival as a must-visit global tourism destination. We

want the world to witness and experience the rich cultural tapestry of Bengal through this international event. Several Bengal-based businesses have stepped forward as supporters of the parade, underscoring their commitment to Bengal's cultural and economic identity globally. Mr Partha Sarathi Nandy Promoters and Directors of Lalbaba Rice, who is sponsoring the Durga Parade on Thames. One of the major highlights of this year's Durga Parade on

about Bengali Hindu culture and Indian tradition amongst younger generations who are based abroad as well as sensitise younger generations about their roots and rich cultural heritage of Bengal.

Shri Meghdut Roy Chowdhury of Techno India Group and Techno India University gave eco-friendly paper idol which is airlifted to London to be showcased during Durga Parade on Thames. One of the major highlights of this year's Durga Parade on

Thames is participation of three Rowing clubs namely Calcutta Rowing Club, London Rowing Club and Molesay Boat Club. About 12-15 rowers will be rowing beside main boat of Durga Parade on Thames. Shri Chandan Roy Chowdhury, Secretary of Calcutta Rowing Club coordinated the participation of rowing clubs & rowers. Rowers of London Rowing Club will be rowing on two of their bigger boats of 4 persons rowing next to the main boat. Shri Kaushik Roy & Dr. Debanjali Roy of Roadseye travelling from Kolkata to London by road crossing 23 countries to join the Durga Parade on Thames program.

Durga Parade on Thames initiative will facilitate strengthening of Bengali - British shared cultural heritage over several centuries as well as will create new understanding & bonhomie between people of Bharat and United Kingdom in time ahead.

MK Stalin Asks Centre To Recall Tamil Nadu Governor In Row Over Anthem

Chennai (KCN):

Tensions between the Tamil Nadu government and governor rose significantly on Friday after Chief Minister MK Stalin said a line with the word 'Dravida' was skipped when the Tamil anthem was sung at an event attended by Governor RN Ravi. Asking the Centre to recall the governor, Mr Stalin accused him of insulting national unity and Mr Ravi hit back, claiming that the chief minister had made a racist remark against him. The skipping of the line added fuel to a raging fire over the Centre

celebrating the culmination of the Hindu month along with the golden jubilee celebrations of Chennai Doordarshan - the event attended by Mr Ravi. Chief Minister Stalin had objected to this and said celebrating Hindi in a non-Hindi-speaking state is seen as an attempt to belittle other languages. The Tamil anthem, the Tamil Thaai Vazhthu, is sung at the beginning of every government programme and the word 'Dravida' largely refers to the racial identity of the people in the southern

states. The group from Doordarshan, while singing the anthem, left out the line which has the word in it.

Doordarshan Tamil has apologised for the line being skipped and blamed the mistake on the singers being distracted.

Hitting out at the governor, Mr Stalin, who is also the president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), said Mr Ravi is "unfit" for his post and asked whether he would call for 'Dravida' being skipped in the national anthem.

Pointing out that skipping the word in the Tamil anthem violates the state's law, Mr Stalin accused the governor of insulting national unity and the people of many races in the guise of celebrating Hindi.

"Will the governor who suffers from a Dravidian allergy ask them to leave

out 'Dravida' in the national anthem? The Union Government should immediately recall the Governor who is deliberately insulting Tamil Nadu and the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu," Mr Stalin wrote in Tamil in a post on X.

In a strong rejoinder to the chief minister, Mr Ravi said "making a racist remark" against the governor is "unfortunately cheap".

"Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. @mkstalin has issued a regrettable tweet this evening in which he made a racist remark against me and levelled false allegation of showing disrespect to Tamizh Thaai Vaazhthu. He knows it well that I recite full Tamizh Thaai Vaazhthu at every function and do so with reverence, pride and precision," the governor said in a post on X.



Man held for murder of wife, mom-in-law

Basudevpur(KCN): Twenty days after two women went missing after leaving their homes to apply for Subhadra Yojana at Panchageria village under this block in Bhadrak district, police Thursday arrested the husband of one of the women during the investigation. The breakthrough came after the recovery of two human skulls from a sack near a water body in the village indicative of a double murder. The victims were identified as Jamuna Samal, 55, and his married daughter Kaushalya Gayan, 35, in the village. The accused was identified as Kaushalya's husband Gurupad Gayan, 40. Police after arresting

Gurupad took him to the crime spot and recreated the crime scene. The accused confessed to having killed his wife and mother-in-law and later chopped up the bodies for disposal. He buried some of the body parts and threw away the rest in a stream. The investigation suggested that the murder took place over a bitter quarrel between the couple over the misappropriation of money. Police said both Jamuna and his daughter Kaushalya lived nearby in the same village. The mother-daughter duo left home 20 days back to apply for the Subhadra Yojana but failed to return to their respective homes by night.



Jamuna's other daughter, Kakeli Gayan, searched for them unsuccessfully and later lodged a missing complaint at Nayakanidhi police station. Police registered a case and launched an

investigation. However, villagers Wednesday spotted a dog feasting on human skulls from a sack lying near a water body in the village. They suspected that the skeletal remains might be

of the mother-daughter duo and informed the Nayakanidhi police. Police intensified the investigation and detained Gurupada along with one of his brothers for questioning.

The interrogation revealed a premeditated murder of the two women as Gurupada admitted to having killed them. He admitted that after killing his wife and mother-in-law, he

chopped their bodies and dumped the parts in a large fish tank in the village and also buried some of the body parts near another water body. Police along with a scientific team and Gurupada recreated the crime scene, Thursday. The accused demonstrated how he killed his wife and mother-in-law and later chopped their bodies into various parts. He also demonstrated how he buried some of the body parts near the water body and dumped the rest parts in the fish tank. The probe indicated that Gurupada was not on good terms with his wife and mother-in-law for the

past few months and always quarrelled with them at the slightest pretexts. His wife had deserted him and was living outside the state. The incident occurred when she had come home to apply for Subhadra Yojana. The dispute between Gurupada, his wife and his mother-in-law over domestic issues and the misappropriation of money took an explosive turn, September 27. Kasuhalya and his mother Jamuna were returning home after applying for Subhadra Yojana when Gurupada waylaid and attacked them with sharp-edged weapons, SDPO Saurav Otta said

Ragging slur on JNV Hadagarh



Hatadihi(KCN): Ragging of students continues to plague educational institutions in the state as a Class IX student has allegedly been beaten up on a daily basis for years by his seniors at PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Hadagarh under this block in Keonjhar district, sources said Thursday. According to the complaint lodged by the student's father at the Soso police station, the survivor, a male student of Class IX in the school, was beaten by his seniors daily. Police registered a case (171/2024) and launched an investigation.

According to the complaint, Mandardhar Tout of Balia village

under Soso police limits had alleged that some senior students of the institute have been beating his son since he joined the school in Class VI. Rout complained with the school authorities but the latter never addressed his pleas. Recently, the boy was beaten up by some senior students March 29, and sustained swelling on his face and cheek. The school authorities allegedly tried to suppress the incident again without taking any action against the accused students. The matter came to the fore when Mandardhar and his daughter Manoja went to the school after learning about the visit of the additional commissioner from Bhopal to the school, this regard. The boy's

September 4. He saw some students assaulting his son inside the classroom when he entered the school premises to meet the additional commissioner. He immediately lodged a written complaint at the Soso police station. Police registered a case Wednesday against three students. Soso IIC Bijay Kumar Bihari visited the school and conducted an inquiry, Thursday. When contacted, principal P Manikanthan rejected the charges while additional commissioner P Munirameya from Bhopal office assured to conduct a probe and take suitable action in this regard. The boy's

sister Manoja said that the school principal misbehaved with her and asked her to leave the school premises when she visited the school with the police for an inquiry, Thursday. On the other hand, the parents' association, principal P Manikanthan, a additional commissioner P Munirameya, vice-principal Pramod Barik of the JNV and principal Ramraj Singh of JNV, Cuttack conducted a meeting and proposed to the boy's father to shift his son to a separate Navodaya Vidyalaya. However, the boy's father has refused to the proposal.

implemented in RSP will significantly reduce the carbon footprint," Bhowmik said. Bhowmik was quick to point out that RSP is fully committed to tackle the dengue menace that has hit the town. He also added that the number of dengue cases have reduced considerably in the past few days. He pointed out that the Ispat General Hospital (IGH) is fully geared up to tackle the disease. Talking about the development of the captive township Bhowmik said, "This is in the planning stage and you will see results very soon. We will also repair the roads that are in bad condition.

RSP modernisation on the cards



Rourkela(KCN): Director in Charge (DIC) of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) Atanu Bhowmick, had an interaction with the local media here at the Indo German Club where he discussed modernisation plans and other issues related to the steel behemoth. Bhowmick informed that SAIL chairman Amarendu Prakash had

recently met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and the two had discussed ways and means to make RSP more competitive in the steel industry. "The chief minister has agreed to our modernisation proposals for RSP," stated Bhowmick. The DIC was asked about resettlement plans for families that will be displaced due to RSP's



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They made it look like a pretty good wicket - McGrath on South Africa's chase

New Delhi: Tahlia McGrath, Australia's stand-in captain, felt they were a few runs short as the six-time champions crashed out of the 2024 T20 World Cup following an 8-wicket loss to South Africa in the first semifinal in Dubai on Thursday (October 17). After losing Grace Harris and Georgia Wareham, Australia got into consolidation mode as Beth Mooney and McGrath built a watchful partnership. Mooney scored 44 off 42 while McGrath got 27 off 33 and between them, they scored only five boundaries and took 55 balls for their 50-run stand for the third wicket. Australia could only manage 35 in the powerplay and 53 at the

halfway stage of their innings, and McGrath credited South Africa's disciplined bowling for keeping her side in check.

"Early on batting we thought it was a pretty tricky wicket. South Africa bowled really well and sort of worked it out and attacked the stumps and took the pace off and made it hard for us to, or just made us take risks really. So probably a few short with the bat and then still thought we were in the game though. Still thought if we bowled well enough that was a competitive enough total. But yeah, they made it look like a pretty good wicket when they batted and we were just slightly off with our plan. So just slightly off all round and

In contrast, South Africa

came up against a team who executed everything really well," said McGrath.

"We found the ball was not quite coming on as nice as we would have liked. South Africa took the pace off really well and like I said, they bowled very straight to us. We felt like consolidate a little bit, try, and rotate the strike, get into innings, and then take the game on. But they bowled really well. And we were certainly trying. We tried almost everything. And we're constantly communicating, constantly trying to come up with a plan. Just, yeah, it didn't go our way. And yeah, probably left a few out there."

In contrast, South Africa

raced away in the chase thanks to Anneke Bosch's blistering innings of 74* off 48, with Laura Wolvaardt playing the supporting role in a 96-run second wicket stand that effectively sealed the game in the Proteas' favour.

"We started reasonable with the ball. Then they really took it to us and tried to put pressure on the first couple of balls of all our bowlers and yeah, they played really well. We just kept saying a

combination of the two," McGrath said.

Shelley Nitschke, Australia's head coach, said they were aiming for a total around the 160 mark initially and then recalibrated it to 140-150, but couldn't get there, finishing with 134/5. Nitschke still thought it was a defendable total but South Africa chased it down with 2.4 overs to spare. "I guess, (it was) not a matter of going out there and trying to blast everything from the start. I thought it would be difficult to do that, but it's still a matter of having some really good intent and knowing where you can find your boundaries. And then we were just waiting for the message back from the batters to see how they

been in amazing form across every format in the past year or more, as we saw with his brilliant 154 not out off 129 balls in the ODI against England recently."

It has been a phenomenal 2024 for Head thus far, tallying 539 runs from 15 innings at an astounding strike rate of 178.47 with four fifties. It is the second successive year that Head has managed to strike at over 175 but unlike last year, 2024 has seen Head bridge the gap between ultra-aggression and consistency, thereby creating devastating impact at the top of the order for Australia.

The most recent example of this was seen during Australia's tour of Scotland and England, where the left-hander was unstoppable, particularly in the powerplay. Since achieving BBL glory in 2017-18, they have qualified for the playoffs in four of the next six seasons but haven't made it to the final thereafter. Former Australian captain Paine, now the head coach for the Strikers' men's side, sounded upbeat about Head's retention.

"We understand 'Trav' has a hectic international schedule, but we also know how much he loves getting back in the blue whenever the chance arises," Paine said. "He's

been in amazing form across every format in the past year or more, as we saw with his brilliant 154 not out off 129 balls in the ODI against England recently."

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Ghosh, Vastrakar and Sobhana not picked for New Zealand ODIs

New Delhi, (KCN):

Ghosh, Pooja Vastrakar and Asha Sobhana.

Keeper-bat Ghosh was unavailable for selection owing to her Grade 12 board exams. Legspinner Sobhana, who missed out on India's T20 World Cup game against Australia after suffering a knee injury right after the toss, will continue to be monitored by BCCI's medical team. Meanwhile, fast bowler

Vastrakar, who also picked up a niggle early in India's World Cup campaign, has been granted a rest from the series. Among other changes to the side that beat South Africa 3-0 in its last ODI assignment in July is the return of keeper-bat Yastika Bhatia, who returned from injury at the T20 World Cup. Priya Punya, Saika Ishaque and Shabnam Shakil are the others to make way from the last ODI squad. The selection committee has instead rewarded Maharashtra's Tejal Hasabnis following her strong returns for India A in Australia where she hit three half-centuries. Gujarat Giants' Sayali Satgare and Priya Mishra and UP Warriorz seamer Saima Thakor are the others handed call-ups to the squad.

Injured Rishabh Pant fails to take field on Day 3, BCCI to monitor fitness

New Delhi: Injured

Rishabh Pant did not take the field on Day 3 of the Bengaluru Test match between India and New Zealand. The Board of Control for Cricket in India appraised the situation at the start of play on Friday and said that the BCCI medical team were monitoring the wicketkeeper-batter. The development comes after Rishabh Pant had to be carried off the field due to a left knee injury on

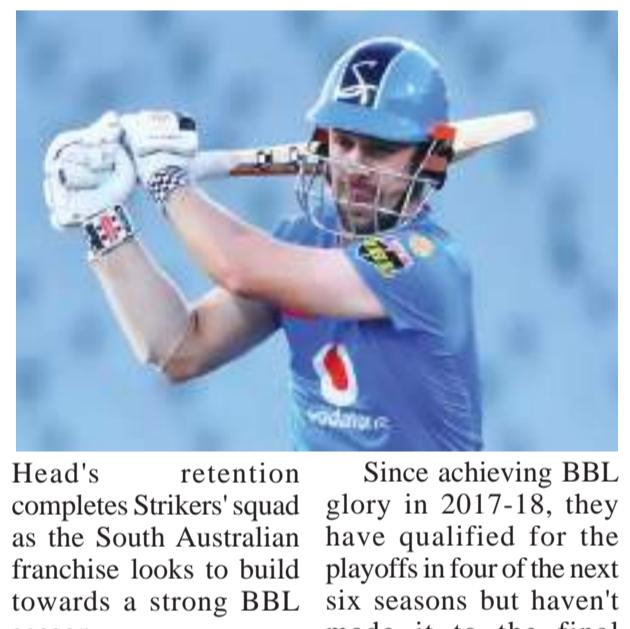
Day 2 of the Test match on Thursday, October 17. The incident occurred during New Zealand's innings when Pant appeared to injure his left knee while attempting to collect a delivery in the 37th over. He was seen in visible discomfort, prompting India's physios to rush onto the field. Despite their efforts, Pant had to be carried off and was replaced by substitute wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel. At the end of

Travis Head signs new deal with Adelaide Strikers

New Delhi: Top-ranked T20I batter Travis Head has signed a fresh one-year contract with Adelaide Strikers. The left-hander was unavailable for the entire 2023-24 season owing to national commitments and the extent of his participation for the upcoming season is also not definite at this juncture.

Australia have a high-profile five-match Test series at home against India and while the Strikers still have three games after that series, the availability of Australia's national team players is unknown, given their immediate tour of Sri Lanka in February.

Head's retention adds to Strikers' batting roster that already boasts of firepower in the form of Matt Short, Chris Lynn and Alex Carey alongside England's Ollie Pope.



Head's retention completes Strikers' squad as the South Australian franchise looks to build towards a strong BBL season.

"I'm thrilled to sign for another year with the Strikers and can't wait to get back amongst the group under our new coach Tim Paine," Head said. "I love pulling on the blue every chance I get and look forward to helping the boys go one step further after their fantastic late season run to the finals last summer."

"We understand 'Trav' has a hectic international schedule, but we also know how much he loves getting back in the blue whenever the chance arises," Paine said. "He's

been in amazing form across every format in the past year or more, as we saw with his brilliant 154 not out off 129 balls in the ODI against England recently."

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The most recent example of this was seen during Australia's tour of Scotland and England, where the left-hander was unstoppable, particularly in the powerplay.

Only had one game in me and probably took the wrong risk - Healy on foot injury

New Delhi, (KCN): Australia skipper Alyssa Healy revealed that rupturing her plantar fasciitis in both feet mid-tournament meant she "only had one game in her" for the rest of the Women's T20 World Cup 2024, and probably took the wrong punt by deciding to sit out Thursday's semifinal against South Africa. Australia's T20 reign, that dates back to 2018 title victory in the Caribbean, came to an screeching halt with the 8-wicket defeat at the hands of last edition's runners-up South Africa in the first semifinal in Dubai on Thursday (October 17).

"I ruptured my plantar fascia - completely ruptured one and partially ruptured the other," Healy said of her injury.

"It was just a matter of function and pain and what I could handle and ultimately, probably, only had one game in me. Probably took the wrong risk at the end of the day," the 34-year-old noted after South Africa made their second successive World Cup final, at the expense of Australia. As the teams' arrived in the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Thursday for essentially a re-match of the 2023 World Cup final, Healy was the first one to walk out the Australian dressing room for a pitch inspection in full playing kit and spikes - the absence of the moon boot garnering keen interest. However, as more of her Australian teammates stepped out the dugout it became abundantly clear that the

captain had only suited up for the team picture ahead of the knockout game.

After hobbling off the field retired hurt, and in excruciating pain, during Australia's chase of 83 against Pakistan in their only group game in Dubai on Friday, the Australian skipper was walking on crutches and in a moon-boot on her right foot as a precautionary measure in Sharjah, where the defending champions beat India by 9 runs to effectively knock them out of the semis race on Sunday.

Pacer Tayla Vlaminck, who dislocated her shoulder earlier in the same game as Healy, had already been replaced by Heather Graham in Australia's World Cup squad by then. Despite not revealing the exact

nature or extent of Healy's injury, the fact that Australia didn't seek the captain's replacement was indication enough that the management

remained hopeful of her return for the knockouts.

Healy did not train with the team on the semifinal eve with stand-in vice-captain Ellyse Perry noting that the team was willing to take a late call on her availability.

Healy said she herself wasn't sure exactly how close she was to feeling fully match-ready yet. "I don't really know - it's a hard one to answer, but hopefully I don't regret giving it a crack. But, you never know what was going to unfold out there."

Tahlia McGrath led the team once again in an unchanged XI from Sharjah, potentially to allow Healy more time to be as close to 100 per cent fitness as she could for what would have been Australia's eighth successive final in nine editions if not for South

Africa. "It was a really hard decision to make last night as to whether or not we were going to give it a punt or not. I tried to make the team decision and sat myself down instead of taking the risk.

"It was hard to watch knowing that you can't really go out there and help, but like I said, it was good to see so many positives throughout the tournament. It hasn't ended the way we wanted, but I think we've done some amazing cricket throughout this tournament."

A proper assessment to determine the extent of damage and the rehab course ahead is due one the team returns to Australia ahead of the 10th edition of the WBL that kicks off next Sunday (October 27).



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