

## Cabinet Clears IISER BMP

**New Delhi (KCN):** The Union Cabinet today gave ex-post facto approval for formation of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Berhampur.

It accorded approval to the establishment and operationalisation of the premier institute in a transit or temporary campus from the current academic Year at a cost of Rs 152.79 crore for the initial three years (2016-19).

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi accorded ex-post facto approval of starting the aca-

demical session of 2016-17 from 1 August, 2016

It approved accepting land free of cost from the State Government, cre-



ation of the post of Director of the Institute in the Pay Scale of Rs 80,000

(Fixed) and introduction of a Bill, namely, the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second

Amendment) Bill, 2016 (Appendix-III) in Parliament for inclusion of IISER,

Tirupati and IISER, Berhampur in the Second Schedule of National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (NITSER) Act, 2007.

Notably, the IISERs have been declared as Institutes of National Importance under the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education & Research (NITSER) Act, 2012.

These Institutes are envisaged to carry out research in frontier areas of science and to provide quality science education at the Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate level.

Earlier there were five IISERs at Kolkata, Pune, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram. After coming to power this Government started an IISER at Tirupati in 2015.

To increase the presence of IISERs in various States/geographical locations to cater to the need for quality education in science and research, the Union Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech (2015) had announced setting up of an IISER in the State of Odisha.

The student strength intake for this year in the BS-

MS course is 60 which will progressively go up and the cumulative student strength is envisaged as 665 in the third year, including MS Degree, MS-Ph.D, Ph.D and Post-Doctoral Fellowships.

The total cost of the project for temporary campus is Rs. 152.79 crores. EdCIL, a PSU of Ministry of HRD, Government of India has been asked to submit a proposal for preparation of detailed Project Report for the permanent campuses. Thereafter the process for setting up of the campus would start.

## State faces 40K CR burden

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Around Rs 4,000 crore additional burdens will be put on the State Exchequer if the Supreme Court's recent directive on 'equal pay for equal work' will be implemented in the state.

Bringing charges against the Government of Punjab about exploitation of work, several employees have moved the Supreme Court of India for Justice. Hearing the cases together, a Bench of the Apex Court said, "Equal pay for equal work is an unambiguous constitutional right vested in every

employee—whether engaged on a regular or temporary basis".

If the contractual and temporary employees are doing the same work as the permanent employees are assigned to do, why the state government is discriminating their wages? Why the contractual workers will not be paid equal salaries for equal work?, asked the Court.

"It is fallacious to determine artificial parameters to deny fruits of labour. An employee engaged for the same work, cannot be paid less See Page-7

## IOCL faces tough stand

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Odisha Government appears to be mulling tough stand against the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) over non-payment of Value Added Tax (VAT) as the Central PSU is in no mood share information with it or depositing the VAT.

Sources in Government said that "the IOCL's continued stance of not depositing VAT as per the tax collection mechanism appears to be completely inappropriate".

Though it was decided in the last Working Group Meeting held in last 28 July, chaired by Union Petroleum Secretary, who requested both the State Government and IOCL to recalculate their minimum requirement -- up to what extent fiscal incentives can be borne by the State Government and up to what extent fiscal incentives are necessary to make the project viable -- IOCL is not responding to the State Government not sharing any information on the viability of the Paradeep Refinery Project, said the sources.

The State Government has pointed out that at the time of signing the Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) in 2004, the total financial loss to State Government was estimated at Rs.6,666 crore and the project completion scheduled for 2009-10.

Due to delay in

commissioning the project, the financial implication is now estimated at around Rs.69,900 crore for 11 years and the loss to the State at around Rs.24, 800 crore.

The State Government has pointed out that IOCL without its

drop, the State Government said that there should be re-negotiation of fiscal incentives and a fresh MoU signed between the two parties.

It has also sought that the IOCL should continue payment of VAT till consensus is ar-



consent enhanced the capacity of Paradeep Refinery from 9 million metric ton per annum (MMPTA) to 15 MMPTA with an estimated investment of over Rs.25,600 crore.

The State Government has brought to the notice of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas that IOCL has not shared any information on viability of the Paradeep Refinery Project though officials feel that viability has improved in a big way due to enhanced capacity and reduction in crude oil prices, deregulation in prices of refinery products and other several factors.

Under this back-

rived at over the matter, said the sources.

While IOCL is not sharing the information for review and re-negotiation of the terms and conditions of MoU in the changed circumstances, the Central PSU has unilaterally withheld VAT amount of Rs.585 crore due to the State Government for tax period of December 2015 to June, 2016.

The State Government has termed this action of IOCL as "Inappropriate" and had brought it to the notice of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas though the Centre is yet to take action in this regard, officials admit.



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## Priyanka Chopra excited to collaborate with Vasu Bhagnani

MUMBAI: Internationally acclaimed actress Priyanka Chopra, who has forayed into production, is now collaborating with producer Vasu Bhagnani for Punjabi film 'Sarvann' and is 'excited'. We're honoured and excited to collaborate with Vasuji. We have had such an amazing response to our regional film ventures and now looking forward to our Punjabi debut, which has now been further strengthened by the support and experience of Vasuji. We have a great team that is making a very special film and we can't wait to share it with the world," said the 'Quantico' star and founder of Purple Pebble Pictures in a statement. Produced by

Priyanka's mother, Madhu Chopra and Bhagnani, 'Sarvann' is the coming-of-age story of a young boy who un-

knowingly discovers his identity. "Sarvann' is a beautiful and heart-touching narrative of a



young NRI returning to India to find his roots," said Madhu Chopra. Bhagnani said: "It's wonderful to collaborate with

we now got the opportunity to work together and are making our debut as producers in Punjabi films together. 'Sarvann' is a wonderful heart-warming film and the audience is going to love the script." 'Sarvann' is part of the exciting line-up of regional films announced by PPP earlier this year as part of its vision to create a platform for great stories, irrespective of their genre and language. While the first schedule of 'Sarvann' has been completed in Canada, the second marathon schedule began on September 5 in Chandigarh. Directed by Karaan Guliani, the movie stars Amrinder Gill, Ranjit Bawa and Simi Chehail.

## Ahaan Panday, the new star kid on the block

MUMBAI: Bollywood actor Chunky Pandey's nephew Ahaan Panday is the new star kid on the block. Born to Atul Panday and Deanne Panday,



the 18-year-old bears a striking resemblance to Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan. Ahaan is a social media celebrity in his own right; his social media is filled with funny videos and lots of drool-worthy pictures. Not just that, Ahaan has even acted in a few short films that have been made along with his friends, titled 'Fifty' and 'Jollywood.' The Panday lad made his runway debut at designer Nandita Mahtani's fashion show in Mumbai. Wearing a white suit, a bare-chested Ahaan looked smokin' hot on the ramp. With such good looks and personality, looks like Ahaan Panday is going to be the next big thing.

## Salman and Riteish to collaborate again after 'Lai Bhaari'?

MUMBAI: Riteish Deshmukh's last Marathi release, 'Lai Bhaari' broke box office records and was an out-and-out commercial masala entertainer that saw the actor essaying double role for the first time which became the USP of the film. However, another talking point in the film was Salman Khan's cameo in the movie. And if all goes well, Salman would be seen in a pivotal role in Riteish's next, which is said to be a biopic on the greatest Maratha King and warrior, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The movie will be directed by Ravi Jadhav who has also directed Riteish's latest flick 'Banjo' apart from

making some path-breaking, National Award-winning movies in Marathi cinema. As per latest reports, Salman asked Riteish to cast him in the film and in fact said that he would love to play a role in the film without even knowing what role Riteish would offer him. In a statement to a web portal, Riteish said that it was gracious of Salman to offer to play a part in the film without even knowing what part he will play. He further said he respects the faith Salman has in him and his friendship. However, the actor refused to divulge any details about the film saying it was too early to comment anything on the film right now.

## Banjo Movie Review

MUMBAI: STORY - The quintessential Mumbaiyya music of a few Banjo players, led by Taraat (Riteish Deshmukh) catches the fancy of a budding American singer Chris (Nargis Fakhri). She travels to Mumbai all the way from New York to hunt for Taraat and his quirky coterie, hoping to take their music international. But given their social and financial background, can the men live up to Chris' expectations?

REVIEW: Director Ravi Jadhav, who has some outstanding Marathi films to his name (like Natarang), captures the pulse of Mumbai and the city's buzzing chawl culture in Banjo with simplicity and a dash of humour. His characters exude the quintessential middle-class values, which are bound to resonate with many. The underprivileged are not conditioned to dream big, so even their wishes are realistic. One of the characters innocently asks a

waiter at a posh club, if he could take some champagne home for his father. Though commer-

cial in approach, Jadhav keeps things unpretentious and thus relatable. While the story is pretty formulaic (a bunch of street musicians making it big by winning against all odds), the execution and supporting performances are heartfelt. The music could have been better though. Addition of unnecessary drama and random events in the second half



slows down the pace considerably, also making the film a tad cliched. The gorgeous Nargis over-

does the American accent but grows on you eventually. And last but not the least, it's time we play the dhol, tasha, tutari, lejhim and banjo for apla Riteish. Sporting a stylish man bun, it's refreshing to see him break away from the usual multistarrers and play a slice-of-life, lead character in a Hindi film. A small-time extortionist cum musician, Taraat is all heart. Riteish

given the right opportunity. The film's cinematography is splendid as well. If you are familiar with Mumbai's working-class neighbourhoods, where the hearts of the poor are bigger than the pay packages of those residing in the mushrooming high-rises, you'll be able to notice the beauty of Banjo. It also makes you respect the street musicians a little more.

## Kristen Stewart, St Vincent go public with romance

LOS ANGELES: Actress Kristen Stewart and musician St Vincent have made their first red carpet appearance as a couple.

The "Twilight" star was first linked to Cara Delevingne's musician ex in August, when they attended a screening of Stewart's movie Certain Women together.

However, the new pair chose the CFDA/Vogue Fash-

ion Fund Show and Tea event at the Chateau Marmont in West Hollywood as the perfect occasion to officially debut their fledgling romance, reported Vogue.

Stewart looked chic in a black blazer and baggy Phillip Lim joggers with black loafers, while St Vincent opted for a cropped red and black jacket with high-waisted black trou-

sers. Stewart, who previously dated her "Twilight" co-star

Robert Pattinson, was most recently been linked to French singer Soko and her

former assistant Alicia Cargile, who she was last pictured with in August.

St Vincent, real name Annie Clark, split from model/actress Delevingne over the summer after more than a year together.

The relationship news comes just days after Stewart opened up about her love life in a candid interview with a magazine for its Women in Hollywood issue, insisting she isn't "ashamed" or "confused" about her sexuality.



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**From Page-1**  
than another, who performs the same

oppressive, suppressive and coercive, as it compels involun-

Odisha are in a hope to get equal wage for their work.



duties and responsibilities. Certainly not in a welfare state; such an action besides being demeaning, strikes at the very foundation of human dignity," the Court said.

The Apex Court said any one, compelled to work at a lesser wage, does not do so voluntarily as he has to provide food and shelter to his family "at the cost of his self respect and dignity, self worth, and his integrity."

"Any act, of paying less wages, as compared to others similarly situate, constitutes an act of exploitative enslavement, emerging out of a domineering position. Undoubtedly, the action is

tary subjugation," the Bench said.

This is a planned exploitation of the official system; the Court noted mentioning that the discrimination is violating the constitution's right to equality and right to live. The apex court directed to implement 'equal pay for equal work' to all the temporary and contractual employees.

According to the 141 article of Indian Constitution, all the High Courts, Tribunals and other Courts are bound to obey the Supreme Court's ruling. It cannot be violated by the states too. Following the verdict, the temporary and contractual employees under Groups B, C, D in

However, the implementation of the Supreme Court ruling will be difficult and it will need monitoring and inspections of company records and premises. If directive will be implemented in the state, over Rs 4,000 crore additional burdens will be on the State exchequer, a senior official said.

Notably, out of 5,65,029 sanctioned posts in 41 Departments of the Government, 1,38,355 posts were lying vacant by end of March and 4,26,674 employees are currently working in the Departments, out of which over a lakh are working on Contractual and Temporary basis.

## Behera; new OERC boss

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Top Bureaucrat Upendra Nath Behera was today named as the Chairman of the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC).

Mr. Behera, a 1983 batch IAS officer, was appointed as the Chairman of the OERC on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, official sources said.

The Selection Committee headed by Justice of Odisha High Court, Justice Vinod Prasad along with the Members as Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi and the Chairman of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission Gireesh B Pradhan recommended the names for selection of OERC Chairman and Member.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on 27 October accepting the recommendations appointed U N Behera as Chairman and Sourji Kanta Parhi, former Air Vice Marshal, as a Member of the OERC.

Both the posts

are now lying vacant as the Chairman, S P Nanda's tenure ended on 8 October and earlier the Member Shivapada Swain

Regulatory Commissions of the country have limited themselves to fixing of Tariffs only, much more can be

holds.

There, OERC has a major responsibility to look into.

It is expected that with a strong technical background, and wide experience in different development sectors including Finance and Planning, Mr. Behera will give a new look to the Power Regulator and help in achieving broader objective of Commission, for which it has been constituted.

A lot needs to be done in the areas of cutting down transmission and distribution losses, improving on revenue collection and checking unauthorized tapping.

OERC, which is the first Regulatory Commission in the country was the pioneer in unbundling the electricity sector segregating the responsibilities of generation, transmission and distribution.

With the presence of a down to earth Mandarin at the helm of OERC a lot is expected, said a former Chairman of the Commission.



demitted office on 1 August.

So new Team headed by Mr. Behera will take charge of the Power Regulator Body very soon, once VRS of the serving Bureaucrat is accepted by the Government.

The scope of Electricity Regulatory Commission is much beyond fixing of Tariffs.

While most

## With Tata patriarch back as pilot, likely tailwind for airline ventures

**NEW DELHI (KCN):** As family patriarch Ratan Tata takes back the controls at his Indian conglomerate after a boardroom coup this week, one sector is cheering his, albeit interim, return: the group's airline ventures, both lagging competitors in India's cutthroat market.

Industry executives and analysts say they expect loss-making Vistara and AirAsia India, both part-owned by Tata, to enjoy fresh cash and expansion plans as low fuel prices and Indian government policy drive a boom in air travel.

"Now he's back, we'll see him taking aggressive steps," said Mark D Martin, chief executive at Martin Consulting, adding this could include growing other ventures such as Taj Air, a charter company also owned by the Tata group.

Vistara and AirAsia India declined to comment.

Tata Sons, the parent controlling

Tata's listed businesses, has said Ratan Tata's return from retirement is temporary, and denied the move would mean any extra focus on the airlines - other than for business reasons. "Both businesses are completely focused on enhancing their market positions," a spokesman said.

But analysts say the move will have a longer-term impact, with the family reasserting its influence in day-to-day operations.

Tata agreed to invest an estimated \$60 million into the two airlines when they launched, mostly into Vistara.

The two airlines have a combined India market share of around 5 percent - dwarfed by more established carriers like InterGlobe Aviation's budget air-

line IndiGo. ATODDS

The Tata family has a long history with aviation.

Ratan Tata's predecessor was India's first qualified pilot, and Tata's first airline was later nationalised as state carrier Air India. Ratan Tata, insiders said, fulfilled a long-held dream when he pulled the group back into the aviation sector in 2013.

Ousted chairman Cyrus Mistry, who replaced Tata in 2012, was less keen, however.

In a leaked letter to the Tata board earlier this week, Mistry said he had opposed Tata's 2013 partnership with Malaysia's AirAsia Bhd to launch AirAsia India.

More than a year later, Tata started a second airline,

Vistara, in partnership with Singapore Airlines.

"Tata Sons took a considered view that it makes business sense to take part in India's civil aviation industry," a spokesman for Tata Sons said.

Mistry's blistering letter portrayed Ratan Tata, 78, as a man who cast aside his advice and bulldozed through major decisions. Mistry considered the airlines to be proof that he had his hands tied as chairman, illustrating just how Tata still pulled the strings even after retiring.

"It is on his advice that the Tata Sons board has increased the capital infusion in the (aviation) sector at multiple levels of the initial commitment," Mistry wrote.

Tata has not de-

tailed its most recent capital infusion, but media reports have said it increased its stake in AirAsia India over time to 49 percent from 30 percent from an undisclosed sum.

In Vistara, 51 percent-owned by Tata, media reported last month Tata approved injecting an additional \$37 million alongside Singapore Airlines, which would bring the total equity by the joint-owners to around \$150 million.

Whoever's in charge, turning a profit in India's competitive environment will be tough. Analysts say two years is too short: budget airlines could take up to five years and full service carriers up to seven years to be profitable.



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