

## Dama Embarrasses Naveen DeMo Marks New Economy

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha's senior-most Cabinet Minister and BJD Vice-President Damodar Rout has once again embarrassed the Governing Party.

While the regional party headed by Naveen Patnaik has been working hard to counter the BJP surge, particularly after the panchayat polls and ahead of the saffron party's national executive meeting on April 15 and 16, Dr.Rout has put the State Government in trouble.

The BJD which is trying to champion farmers causes, has said that it was seriously contemplating to waive farm loans on farmers.

Chief Minister and BJD President Naveen Patnaik himself also told Media that his Government was examining the proposal of waiving farm loans of farmers.

The BJD Presi-

dent said this aiming to disturb BJP's plan which was supposed to make announce-



ment in this regard at its National Executive meeting held in State Capital in a gap of 19 years.

BJP has already motivated the people of Uttar Pradesh by Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing loan waiver for farmers. The BJP was all set to make

similar announce-

ment in Odisha also. However, when there is a Damodar

Rout, the BJD does not need a BJP.

Dr.Rout was prompt to say that there is no point in waiving loans of farmers as most of them spent farm loan amount either in weeding function in their families or by consuming liquor. This has sparked

a statewide agitation against Rout and also against the State Government.

As the situation turned adverse to BJD, Naveen told reporters that he did not accept Dr.Rout's words.

"I do not think that (Rout's statement) is correct," Naveen said when the Media sought his view on Rout's reported statement in the media.

The Government, he said, was seriously considering the farm loan waiver issue.

Dr.Rout, the Co-operation Minister, had reportedly said yesterday that many defaulters of farm loans often spend the money on drinking alcohol or for family weddings instead of agricultural activities.

The Minister on the other hand denied that he had told the Media that farmers were buying liquor with their agriculture loans.

"Yesterday I had not said farmers were buying liquor with their agriculture loans. I said that the agriculture loans are misutilized by land owners, not farmers," he clarified.

Dr.Rout said he had in fact been demanding loan provision for sharecroppers and marginal farmers.

His reported statement has sparked a row in the state with BJP State President Basant Panda saying it was an insult to the state and the farming community.

"He (Rout) should tender unconditional apology and withdraw his statement," Mr.Panda said. Several leaders in the ruling BJD also did not subscribe to Dr.Rout's reported statement. Yesterday pan-chayat functionaries of Puri district had urged the Chief Minister to consider the waiver as farmers of Odisha are poor and often hit by natural calamities like floods, droughts and cyclones.

Mr. Patnaik today reviewed BJD's performance in Balsore besides Jagatsinghpur district from where Dr.Rout hails.

**Sambalpur(KCN):** Standing of an insti-

said Odisha has emerged as a major

Describing India as the most happen-



tution depends on the manner in which its students behave and conduct themselves, Chief of the Board Of Governors of IIM-Sambalpur and SBI Chairperson Arundhati Bhatta-charya said today.

Addressing the first convocation of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Sambalpur, Ms. Bhattacharya said, that the students have the power to make or break the reputation of a new institution.

Ms. Bhattacharya, who is also the Chief of the BoG, IIM-S, said the students should do ordinary things in an extraordinary way.

Delivering the convocation address as the Chief Guest, Chief Secretary, Aditya Prasad Padhi,

educational hub of eastern India with several institutions imparting courses in humanities, science, commerce, engineering, medicine and management.

Odisha is home to a host of reputed educational institutions like AIIMS, IIT, NISER & IISER. IIM, Sambalpur is a new addition in the educational firmament of the State, Mr.Padhi said.

Setting up of an IIM at Sambalpur has triggered new hopes and aspirations, especially, among the youth of Odisha, Chief Secretary pointed out.

After globalization, pursuing a career in management has become a major option before most of the students, he said.

ing destination in the world, Mr.Padhi said, India has vast potential for application of managerial skills for development. Demonetization has marked a new beginning for the economy, Chief Secretary Mr.Padhi said describing the linking of banking and mobile infrastructure to Aadhaar as the new digital economy, which has vast opportunities. Newly appointed Director of IIM-S, Mahadeo Jaiswal and Director of IIM-Indore, which is the Mentor institute of IIM-S, Prof R T Krishnan also spoke on the occasion. While 45 students received certificates on the occasion, one student was presented gold medal during the convocation.

## BJP to reach people

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** BJP State President Basant Panda today called upon the party cadres to make policies and schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi headed Union Government reach people in State.

Addressing Media Meet after unfurling the party flag on the 38th Foundation Day, Mr.Panda thanked the people of the state for reposing faith in it during the recently concluded rural polls.

"Our strategy is based on our welfare measures taken under the good governance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We hope that our party will take the state forward towards development and we are taking revolutionary measures to achieve it," he said.

The party also conducted Bhumi Pujan for upcoming

two-day National Executive meeting, from 15 April at the Janata Maidan here.

Prime Minister Mr.Modi along with all the stalwarts of BJP is scheduled to attend the meeting.

Party sources said the good show during recently concluded polls is being held at all the 36,000 booths across the state, party sources said.

As part of the program, party's offices at district, block, panchayat levels were directed to hoist flags and activists at the grassroots called upon to participate and initiate preparations for the 2019 general elections.

BJP General Secretary Bhrigu Buxipatra spoke about the importance of the Foundation Day, developmental agenda of the NDA Government under the Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, development at the grassroots level and creating awareness about history of the party.

General Secretary Prithviraj



Harichandan said the Ministers of the Union Government will review the performance of the State Government in implementing various centrally sponsored schemes.

"It is a general process of review and not an exercise to create problems for the State Government," Mr.Harichandan clarified.

He said since many Union Ministers will attend the meet, they will look into how effectively Central Schemes have been implemented,

Mr.Harichandan said the meet will also look into how the Central funds are being used by the State Government.

Governing BJD said it does not have any issues about any review.

BJD Spokesperson Pratap Kesari Deb said the BJP National Executive Meet is an internal affair.

"There is no point bringing governance issues into the matter and disturb another State Government."

He said the saffron leaders are trying to paint that the reviews will have no political bearing on the State Government.

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**Taapsee calls Judwaa 2 a challenge, wants to meet original star Salman**

She wants to look her glamorous best in the film and says that she has not yet met the stars of the original 'Judwaa.'

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the most that I am expecting out of the film. I have experimented a lot with my acting bit, so I want to get into the commercial heroine space," she says. "It (commercial

tress says it is not easy to make people laugh.

"Comedy is a difficult genre, it is not easy to make people laugh. I am keeping myself prepared to have fun. But as it's a new genre



Karisma's or Rambha's characters from the original film starring Salman Khan.

Taapsee Pannu has said that her role is neither based on Karisma's or Rambha's characters from the original film starring Salman Khan.

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu wants to explore the commercial film space with 'Judwaa 2' and says she wants to look her glamorous best in the sequel.

Known for her hard-hitting performances in films like 'Baby' and 'Pink', Taapsee set off on her Bollywood journey with David Dhawan's 'Chashme Baddoor' in 2013.

Four years later, she is now set to collaborate with him again for 'Judwaa 2'.

"I will work on my part by making sure I look my glamorous best in the film. The change of look is

for me to explore I am not going to be over smart in saying that I will be only relaxing," she says. "Comedy as a genre is difficult and people do not realise its potential. It is the most underrated genre. We get critical acclaim for films like 'Pink', 'Naam Shabana'. But critical acclaim does not give you money," she says.

The actress is open to doing slapstick comedies. "I don't enjoy watching sex comedies be it in Bollywood or Hollywood, so no point in doing it if I don't enjoy it. I don't mind doing slapstick comedies," she says. Taapsee is now looking forward to the release of 'Naam Shabana' a spin-off from the 2015 hit film 'Baby'. Produced by Neeraj Pandey and directed by Shivam Nair, the action spy thriller is set to release on March 31.

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**Did Kareena just take a sensational dig at Mira Rajput's housewife comments?**

Mumbai: Kareena Kapoor Khan has been basking in the bliss of motherhood, putting her career on a temporary backseat. The actress, however, will soon commence work on 'Veere Di Wedding'.

Kareena, who has been a hands on mother ever since Taimur came into her life, however believes that every maternal journey is different from the other.

"What kind of a mother I am is something that will unfold with time. I will not scream from rooftops about experiencing

days? If I'm spoken about like that, what would it be like for other women?" DNA quoted her as saying. One can't help but notice how much the statement seems like a fitting comeback to the comments on housewives by Mira Rajput, wife of Kareena's ex Shahid Kapoor.

"I had a tough pregnancy, I went to those 5 months of difficult times to bring my daughter into this world. So now I want to spend every moment that I can with her and I think there is a set of responsibility

ahead of me, so I can finish all of my responsibility and I have nothing in my way. I can raise my daughter, I can be a good wife. Nothing will stop me after that. I love being at home, I love being a mother to my child, I wouldn't want to spend one hour a day with my child and rush off to work, why did I have her? She is not a puppy; I want to be there for her as a mother," Mira had said, earlier.

Mira had received a lot of flak for her infamou



motherhood or how much I love Taimur. There's always the pressure of being judged, no matter what you do. It's about how you deal with it. Every pregnancy and every mother's journey with her child during those nine months and afterwards is different. You can't draw parallels. No one out there really knows me or what I am feeling at a given time. How can anyone decide on my behalf whether I am supposed to feel depressed or if I can step out before 45

ties around my plate and I feel at my age I have a lot more energy, I have my future

generalisation of housewives. Well, one can only read between the lines.



No break for the 'Breakup Song'

**'We are not promoting sex'**

Do you think the film industry is welcoming to newcomers like you?

It's really difficult to get into Bollywood - it's a matter of time and the luck factor counts too. It's tough; and it was tough for me. It has been a very long and difficult struggle for me, I have enjoyed my journey though because it was not like I was just struggling and doing nothing ... I have taken a little long to do the kind of film I really wanted and desired. But it has finally happened and I am here.

Wajah Tum Ho

can be termed as your proper debut film. What are your expectations from it?

My expectations are very high because this film has given me everything that I have ever dreamt of. I feel amazed as I have experienced everything I wanted in this film - being a solo lead, performing to the best songs, playing a very strong character. The first teaser poster was my solo poster! Moreover, I have good chemistry with director Vishal Pandya - at most times, newcomers lack this when you cannot match up with the director. Like we

say - uparwala jab bhi deta hai, chhappar faad ke deta hai.

The steamy scenes in the film have created a major buzz. What is your reaction?

It's no big deal in the industry. Every film has a kiss - no matter how big the names in the film. It's according to the requirements. It's necessary to show a little romance because a pure thriller gets boring. It's okay and there should be no big halla as if people have never seen anybody kissing on screen before.

Some people are just overreacting. I

don't care as long as

We are not promoting

me? Just do your own work. If you don't like it, keep it to yourself.

Which hero would you like to work with next?

The only dream in my life is to work with Shah Rukh Khan that's it. He is my childhood love.

You said you are a very animated person. Tell us more about what you are like in real life? I am the way people have seen me in Bigg Boss - there is not even one percent difference between me and the girl on that show.



it is creating a buzz. Once people watch the film in the theatre, they will understand that whatever is done, is done rightly. It's not like there's nothing to do so we are doing those scenes.

sex. The film has lots more to offer.

So many people come on social media and say 'What did you do!' Arrey why are you wasting your time by coming to my page and following

# Softbank-backed Ola ramps up electric vehicles push in India

**NEW DELHI(KCN):** Indian ride-hailing firm Ola, backed by Japan's Softbank Group, is preparing for a large-scale rollout of electric vehicles by next year even as it runs trials on the viability of the business model, Chief Executive Bhavish Aggarwal said.

Ola will pilot a few thousand electric vehicles in several Indian cities this year and, "after that we will be scaling it up in a major way," Aggarwal said in an interview on Friday.

The company will also invest in setting up charging stations in the pilot cities, he said, without saying how much Ola would invest in its electrification drive.

Ola's push comes as sales of electric vehicles on the road by 2020, but high battery



vehicles in India have remained slow, despite government incentives to curb pollution.

In the year ended March 2016, 22,000 electric vehicles were sold in India, whereas sales of conventionally fuelled vehicles crossed 20 million units in the same period.

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India over the next five years, according to local media reports.

"We're able to leverage their (Softbank's) network and scale of operations around the world," Aggarwal said, adding that Ola was also talking to automakers globally about strategic tie-ups.

In India's \$12 billion taxi market where Ola vies with ride-hailing giant Uber, the push into electric vehicles is also a way for the Indian start-up to lower the cost of car ownership, once battery costs start to come down.

The company is expected to be profitable in 18-24 months, Aggarwal

said. **LEAP OF FAITH**

In the next few weeks the first wave of electric vehicles under Ola's pilot scheme, including two-wheelers, rickshaws and cars, will roll out in the southern state of Telangana and Nagpur city in central India.

The main challenge for Ola is the lack of charging stations and the limited range of vehicles given taxis travel about 150-200 km daily.

Aggarwal said for the pilot Ola was using modified versions of existing models, but its goal remained to operate a vehicle for an entire day without a recharge and it is working with automakers

to co-design such vehicles.

For the pilot, where infrastructure is inadequate Ola will invest in setting up charging stations but for the longer term it is talking to power and fuel companies to form partnerships.

Charging stations would include a battery swapping facility for some vehicles and quick recharges for others, Aggarwal said.

"We're taking a leap of faith ... The economics are still not there so we're taking a bit of a risk," said Aggarwal, alluding to Ola's investment in the pilot.

## RBI projects inflation to rise to 5 percent

**MUMBAI(KCN):** The Reserve Bank today projected retail inflation to increase to 5 per cent in the second half of the current fiscal citing risks of El Nino impacting the monsoon and one-off effects of the Goods and Services Tax.

"For 2017-18, inflation is projected to average 4.5 per cent in the first half of the year and 5 per cent in the second half," said the RBI's first bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2017-18. Risks are evenly balanced around the inflation trajectory at the current juncture and there are upside risks to the baseline projection, it said.

A proactive supply management will

play a critical role in staving off pressures on headline inflation, it added. RBI further said that a prominent risk could emanate from managing the implementation of the allowances recommended by the 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC).

Also, upside risk arises from the one-off effects of the GST, said the policy statement. The new indirect tax regime is likely to be implemented from July 1. On the downside, RBI said international crude prices have been easing recently and their pass-through to domestic prices of petroleum products should alleviate pressure on headline inflation.

## Samsung reports record USD 8.76 billion quarterly operating profit

**SEOUL(KCN):** Despite the Galaxy Note 7 fiasco and a corruption scandal involving the top brass, Samsung Electronics Co on Friday predicted that its first-quarter operating profit for this year advanced 48.2 per cent on-year.

Apparently helped by the robust performance of its chip business, the company's operating profit is estimated at 9.9 trillion won (\$8.76 billion) in the January-March period, compared with 6.68 trillion won posted a year earlier, the South Korean tech giant said in its regulatory filing.

It marks the second-highest quarterly operating profit ever posted by Samsung Electronics. The current record was set in the third quarter of 2013, when Samsung's operating profit hit 10.1 trillion won, Yonhap news agency reported.

Samsung's sales over the cited period edged up 0.44 per cent to 50 trillion won, the data also showed.

Samsung did not announce the performance of each business division. The company is set to release the finalized earnings report later this month.

The first-quarter operating profit was above the market's earlier estimate of 9.43 trillion won, compiled by Yonhap

Infomax, the financial news arm of Yonhap news agency.

Samsung has been facing various challenges since last year, including the suspended production of the Galaxy Note 7 phablet and the arrest of the firm's de facto head Lee Jae-young in line with the corruption scandal that led to the ouster of South Korea's president.

Industry watchers, however, said Samsung's strong performance in chip sales is forecast to have helped improve its bottom line.

Local brokerages said the global chip industry has been enjoying a boom since the second half of 2016. Samsung is expected to have posted a sound operating profit from its chipmaking business, which may have reached a whopping 6 trillion won.

The South Korean tech giant posted an all-time high operating profit of 4.9 trillion won in the chip segment in the October-December period of 2016.

Although its IT and mobile business is presumed to have posted lackluster earnings on the suspension of the ill-fated Galaxy Note 7, industry watchers said the Galaxy S8 and the Galaxy S8 Plus, which will hit shelves this month, will help the com-

pany recoup earnings down the road.

The South Korean company is estimated to have sold 9 million units of the Galaxy S7 smartphones in the January-March period. The company

had solid sales of its budget model mobile phones, such as the Galaxy J series.

The second-quarter operating profit is expected to reach 12 trillion won, industry watchers said.

If the global chip

business continues to post robust performances, Samsung's annual operating profit may hover far above 40 trillion won this year coupled with smartphone sales, they added.

successful growth across many of our existing products."

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## Jaguar Land Rover sales up 16% at 6,04,009 units in FY17

**NEW DELHI(KCN):** Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land

quarter a year ago. In March, sales were at 90,838 units, up 21

successful growth across many of our existing products."



Rover (JLR) today reported its best-ever annual retail sales of 6,04,009 units in the financial year ended March 31, 2017, up 16 per cent from the year-ago period.

The company exceeded sales of 6 lakh units for the first time in its history, Tata Motors said in the BSE filing.

Retail sales for the fourth quarter ended March 2017 were up 13 per cent to 1,79,509 vehicles as compared to same

per cent as against March 2016, it added.

Commenting on the sales performance, Jaguar Land Rover Group Sales Operations Director Andy Goss said: "These numbers set the seal on Jaguar Land Rover's seventh successive year of sales growth, by breaking through the 6,00,000 barrier." He further said: "The last 12 months have seen the launch of three completely new product lines, and

Retail sales for Jaguar went up by 83 per cent to 1,72,848 units in the financial year, primarily driven by the successful introduction of the F-PACE and solid sales of the XE and XF. Land Rover sales were marginally up by 1 per cent to 4,31,161 units in FY17, as continuing strong sales of the Discovery Sport, Evoque and Range Rover Sport were offset by the run-out of Defender and Discovery.



said it has received licence from the Reserve Bank of India to start payments bank.

Headed by Kumar Mangalam Birla, the group's outfit Aditya Birla Nuvo had set up a 51:49 joint venture -- Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd -- with telecom major Idea Cellular to launch payments bank services in the country. "... the Reserve Bank of India... has granted licence to Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd

**NEW DELHI(KCN):** Trai Chairman R S Sharma today said the telecom regulator has advised Reliance Jio to stop 'complimentary' service offer as it was not in accordance with the regulatory framework.

"We examined it and found that it was not in accordance with regulatory framework, so we ad-

Birla Nuvo said in a BSE filing. At present, Airtel and India Post are offering payments bank services in the country.

Idea Cellular Chief Corporate Affairs Officer Rajat Mukarji had earlier said the Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank will be launched in the first half of 2017. With the objective of deepening financial inclusion, RBI kicked off an era of differentiated banking by allowing SFBs (small finance banks) and advised them to stop it," Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) Chairman R S Sharma told PTI.

The regulator yesterday asked Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio to withdraw the three-month 'complimentary' offer of unlimited data usage and free calls on payment of a minimum Rs 303.

Reliance Jio said

entities were given in-principle nod, including 11 for payments banks. Later, three entities -- Tech Mahindra, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company and a consortium of Dilip Shanghvi, IDFC Bank and Telenor Financial Services -- backed out of the payments bank licensing. Payments banks can accept deposits from individuals and small businesses up to a maximum of Rs 1 lakh per account.

it accepts Trai's decision and is in the process of "fully complying" with the regulator's advice.

Trai had previously found nothing wrong with its extended promotional offers of free data and voice that had helped Jio clock 100 million customers. Of these at least 72 million opted for paid services.

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The actress is open to doing slapstick comedies. "I don't enjoy watching sex comedies be it in Bollywood or Hollywood, so no point in doing it if I don't enjoy it. I don't mind doing slapstick comedies," she says. Taapsee is now looking forward to the release of 'Naam Shabana' a spin-off from the 2015 hit film 'Baby'. Produced by Neeraj Pandey and directed by Shivam Nair, the action spy thriller is set to release on March 31.

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**'We are not promoting sex'**

Do you think the film industry is welcoming to newcomers like you?

It's really difficult to get into Bollywood - it's a matter of time and the luck factor counts too. It's tough; and it was tough for me. It has been a very long and difficult struggle for me, I have enjoyed my journey though because it was not like I was just struggling and doing nothing ... I have taken a little long to do the kind of film I really wanted and desired. But it has finally happened and I am here.

Wajah Tum Ho

can be termed as your proper debut film. What are your expectations from it?

My expectations are very high because this film has given me everything that I have ever dreamt of. I feel amazed as I have experienced everything I wanted in this film - being a solo lead, performing to the best songs, playing a very strong character. The first teaser poster was my solo poster! Moreover, I have good chemistry with director Vishal Pandya - at most times, newcomers lack this when you cannot match up with the director. Like we

say - uparwala jab bhi deta hai, chhappar faad ke deta hai.

The steamy scenes in the film have created a major buzz. What is your reaction?

It's no big deal in the industry. Every film has a kiss - no matter how big the names in the film. It's according to the requirements. It's necessary to show a little romance because a pure thriller gets boring. It's okay and there should be no big halla as if people have never seen anybody kissing on screen before.

Some people are just overreacting. I

**Kaatru Veliyidai review: A visual treat where roses overpower the guns**

Set against the backdrop of the Kargil war, Kaatru Veliyidai chronicles the love affair of Varun, an air force officer, and Leela, a doctor. While Mani Ratnam's previous film, OK Kanmani was a love story too, it was a more breezy affair in comparison. This, meanwhile, is an intense, emotional and a complex take on love and on human failings and inadequacies.

The film opens with brief shots of the Indo-Pak skirmish and shows Varun being held in a Pakistani jail.

It's as he remi-

man with failings that he acknowledges. The tendency of humans to hurt the ones they love most is brought out here. He is wary of commitments, hot-tempered and forgetful, ready with his quick apologies, which naturally fail to pacify Leela, who frequently tries to pull the plug on the relationship. But love keeps drawing them back. Like when he leaves her stranded at a registrar's office. Such moments feel taken straight out of life itself.

We get to see a new dimension to Karthi's performance. His clean-shaven

demeanour is a perfect foil to his mercurial ways. The actress has been flatteringly photographed. The lead pair shares terrific screen chemistry, and bring out great intensity and passion in the relationship. The film isn't, however, without its glitches. Certain moments, like when Varun meets Leela's parents, feel contrived. Also, in this love story, the entire Indo-Pak skirmish seems sloppily crafted. As was evident in Kannathil Muthamittal, battle scenes aren't the strength of this director. But if you can ig-



nises about his past that we get to learn about his roller-coaster romance with Leela. The narration frequently moves back and forth in time, and these transitions are smooth. The Mani Ratnam touch is there in the way that the love is shown to grow between Varun and Leela. The lyrics, locations, Ravi Varman's exquisite photography and a splendid musical score by Rahman all enhance the magic of these moments. Varman's photography, especially, is a key area of strength. Varun is a simple

look also suits the role perfectly. Hydari's exotic looks and vulnerable

more these missteps, Kaatru Veliyidai feels like a love poem on celluloid.



No break for the 'Breakup Song'

don't care as long as We are not promoting



it is creating a buzz. Once people watch the film in the theatre, they will understand that whatever is done, is done rightly. It's not like there's nothing to do so we are doing those scenes.

sex. The film has lots more to offer. So many people come on social media and say 'What did you do!' Arrey why are you wasting your time by coming to my page and following

me? Just do your own work. If you don't like it, keep it to yourself.

Which hero would you like to work with next?

The only dream in my life is to work with Shah Rukh Khan that's it. He is my childhood love.

You said you are a very animated person. Tell us more about what you are like in real life? I am the way people have seen me in Bigg Boss - there is not even one percent difference between me and the girl on that show.