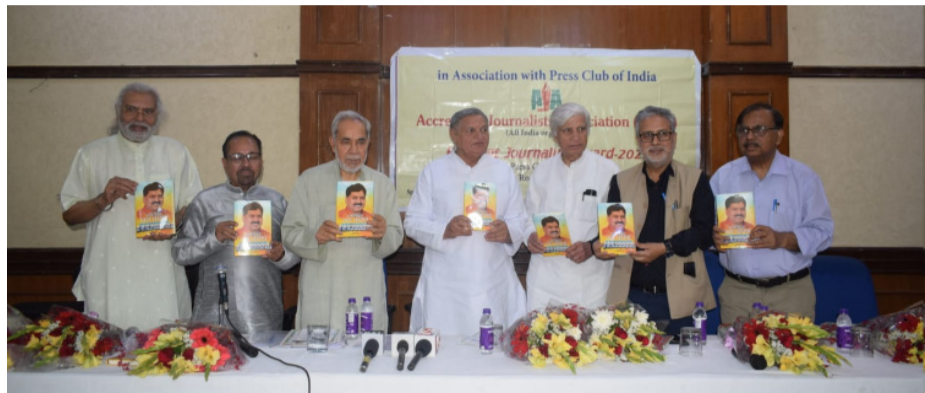


Accreditation Journalist Association Felicitates Two Senior Journalists, Calls for Better Conditions and Protections for Journalists



New Delhi(KCN) :The Accreditation Journalist Association organized an award ceremony to felicitate two senior journalists, Shri Umesh Joshi and Shri Madhurendra Sinha at the Press Club of India, New Delhi. "The Chief Guest of the event Sr. Journalist Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, Guest of Honour Former Minister Yoganand Shastri, Former MLA Ramakant Goswami, Senior Journalist and Former Minister Delhi Government, Uma Kant Lakhera President Press Club of India, General Secretary Vinay Kumar, Agriculture Journalists Association, President Vijay Shankar Chaturvedi etc graced the event. "Sr. Journalist Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, President, Indra Gandhi National Center for Arts said, "Today religion and politics have come together. Today not the journalist but the institutions have become weak. The condition of journalists in this country is grim. They are the torchbearers of change in

the country but seem to be left out in the cut throat competition and the race of development. They have to talk it out with the media owners for their needs and other privileges."He also congratulated veteran journalists Shri Umesh Joshi and Shri Madhurendra Sinha who were honored at the event. Ram Bahadur Rai further said, "Both dedicated their life to journalism but never compromised with their ethics and values. Both have guided the society new directions."Shri Yoganand Shastri, former speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, said, "Times have changed ever since modernity has come in journalism, but bad news has forced me to say a lot."Mr. Ramakant Goswami, senior journalist and former minister of Delhi Government said that journalists will have to play a pivotal role in keeping democracy safe. Vijay Shankar Chaturvedi, President of the Accredited Journalists Association,

conducted the stage and he said that the organization is proud to honor both the journalists, who are well devoted to their duties. President Vijay Shankar Chaturvedi shared the objectives of the Accredited Journalists Association and urged the Government of India and the Chief Ministers of all the states to provide pension to the journalist. He also advocated bus travel free across the country for security of returns, pension, re-implementation of railway concession. Apart from arranging free treatment in private and government dues across the country, Mr. Chaturvedi demanded other facilities etc. He demanded that a media commission should be constituted."Shri Manoj Kumar Sharma, Director, PR Guru, said, "all the states have to come together to curb violent incidents against the journalists in the country. This is the need of the hour."Shri Kowdle Channappa proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Odisha Govt Extends Suspension Of Internet Services In Sambalpur By 48 Hours

Sambalpur(KCN): In view of tension prevailing in Sambalpur following violence during Hanuman Jayanti procession, State government extended suspension of the internet services in the town by 48 hours (two days). As per the order, access of internet and data

(2) of Indian Telegraph Act 1885 read with Rule 2(1) of The Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency/ Public Safety) Rules, 2017 to prohibit the use and access of the internet. Earlier, the internet services were temporarily suspended for the next 48 hours

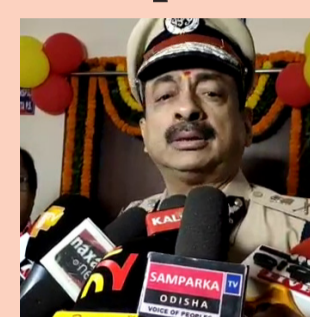


services including WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter and other social media in violence-hit Sambalpur town will continue to be banned till 10 am of April 17, 2023. The restriction has been imposed under the provisions of Section 5

beginning from 10 am on 13 April to prevent further spread of inflammatory and motivated messages. Meanwhile, the curfew is in force in Sambalpur town to restore peace and normalcy post violence on Hanuman Jayanti.

Odisha DGP Warns Action Against Those Involved In Sambalpur Violence

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Amid curfew clamped in Sambalpur town in view of tension gripped the area during Hanuman Jayanti yesterday, Odisha DGP Sunil Kumar Bansal warned to take action against those involved in the violence. Addressing media persons here today, he said that the situation in Sambalpur was peaceful despite some untoward incidents occurred in the town on Friday night. "There were some unpleasant incidents took place at some places in Sambalpur yesterday night for which we have sent some extra police forces to ensure peace and tranquility. The senior officials are



reviewing the situation and currently the overall situation is under control. However, necessary action will be taken against those people who had either provoked or involved in the violence," the DGP said. The curfew in Sambalpur town is in force with immediate effect for an indefinite period following violence. Sources said that some shops were

torched ransacked last night following which the district administration decided to declare curfew in the region. Meanwhile, the Home Department of Odisha Government has extended the suspension of internet services by two more days to prevent further spread of inflammatory messages. Earlier, section 144 had been imposed in the western Odisha town after the violence broke out between two groups during Hanuman Jayanti procession on April 12. At least 10 police personnel and several residents were severely injured in the clash.

CAPF Constable Exam In Odia

New Delhi: In a landmark decision under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ministry of Home Affairs has approved conducting Constable (General Duty) examination for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in 13 regional languages, in addition to Hindi and English. The historic decision has been taken at the initiative of Union

Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah to give impetus to participation of local youth in the CAPF and encourage regional languages. In addition to Hindi and English, the question paper will be set in the following 13 regional languages, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri and Konkani

The decision will result in lakhs of aspirants taking part in the examination in their mother tongue/regional language and improve their selection prospects. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Staff Selection Commission would sign an addendum to the existing MoU to facilitate the conduct of the examination in multiple Indian languages. Constable GD is one of

flagship examinations conducted by the Staff Selection Commission attracting lakhs of candidates from across the country. The examination in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English will be conducted from January 01, 2024 onwards. States/UT governments are expected to launch wide campaign encouraging local youths to use this opportunity of

taking the examination in their mother tongue and participate in huge numbers to make a career serving the country. The Ministry of Home Affairs under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi and guidance of Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Shah is fully committed to encourage use and development of regional languages

Mahant unveiled the statue of Dr Ambedkar on his Birth anniversary



Fatehpur (KCN) :The unveiling ceremony of the statue of Constitution maker Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was organized on Friday in Kahi of block Airayan of Khaga tehsil area and in Umra gram panchayat of block Vijaypur. Mahant of Khadeshwar Dham Ashram Dalmou (Rae Bareilly) Pandit Vijay Sharma alias Mahant Ganeshdas Ji Maharaj formally unveiled the statue of Babasaheb by cutting the ribbon and cutting the cake. On the

occasion of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar's 132nd birth anniversary, before unveiling the statue, office bearers and villagers of Ambedkar organizations also honored Mahant Ganeshdas Ji Maharaj by welcoming him with a turban and garland. During this, Mahant Ganeshdas Ji Maharaj addressed the ceremony and said that the success story of Baba Saheb's life struggle is an example for the people of the country. He said that it was his good fortune that he got the opportunity to unveil the statue of Dr.

Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution. An appeal has also been made to make future children like Babasaheb. Along with this, the importance of the constitution made by Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar was also explained to the people. In the present program, Mahant promised that soon more than one hundred statues of Babasaheb and other great personalities will be installed in the entire district, along with Ambedkar Park and Ambedkar libraries will also be constructed so

that students and others can take education firmly. Will establish a separate place in the society and people will know the constitution properly, for which more than one million copies of the constitution will be delivered to the people. Meanwhile, journalist and representative of Mahant Ganeshdas Ji Maharaj, Shibu Khan also did the work of telling the real purpose of democracy while being aware of education among the people present. He said that today the constitution made by him is being

misused somewhere, because the society is going backward due to the inaction of those who go from reserved seats as MPs and MLAs. Along with this, he has also made a special demand that Baba Saheb's statue should be installed from every district to panchayat level. A large number of villagers have been present including on this occasion. During this time, apart from the people of the enlightened class, other people have also paid tribute to Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar keeping their point of

views. Let us inform that the work of installation of idols at both the above places has been done with the courtesy of the social organization - Mano Foundation and with the help of Mahant Ganeshdas Ji Maharaj. At the same time, before this program, a huge Bhandara was also organized by Mahant Ganeshdas Ji Maharaj in Gram Panchayat Umra at the conclusion of the nine-day Shatchandi Mahayagya, which continued till late night. During this, husband Chetram, head (Pradhan) of Umra Gram Panchayat, Pradhan representative

Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and Iron Lady Mayawati be awarded Bharat Ratna: Mahant Ganeshdas

Mahant Ganeshdas Ji Maharaj has demanded the government to give Bharat Ratna to Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Ji Maharaj for doing a special work as a propagator of Sanatan Dharma and another for Ms. Mayawati for giving a strong governance to the state by rising above the restrictions of the house in the society. He has demanded that if any honor is given to the person who has done a special work during his lifetime, then surely its importance increases immensely and the dead soul does not get any pleasure from the honor received after death. Mahant Ganeshdas Ji Maharaj demanded Bharat Ratna to be given to former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and BSP Supremo Ms. Mayawati and Sanatan Dharm Pracharak Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Ji Maharaj Has done and said that its campaign will be launched so that Bharat Ratna is given soon. During this, Mahant Ganeshdas Ji Maharaj has also sought support from the people present.

Rajan Yadav, Shivmohan, head (Pradhan) of Kahi Gram Panchayat, social worker Ram Shankar Gautam, Ram Pyare Gautam, Gambhir Singh, Ballu Singh, Hari Prasad, Raja Gupta, Shiv Kumar, Ramkaran Paswan, Ankit, Ajay, Shani, Madhuram Maharaj, Satendra Kumar, Manoj Sharma, Professor Ramendra Kumar, Omkar including many teachers class and local villagers have been present.

State Pacts With NPCI & Paytm

Bhubaneswar(KCN): To facilitate digital payment in Government services, the State Government on Saturday signed MoUs with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Paytm. The MoU with NPCI will help increase digital transactions in the government operation by effective use of NPCI's digital payment solutions and develop innovative and replicable models for increasing digital transactions. Similarly, the MoU with Paytm is aimed at the financial inclusion of citizens and merchants of the state as well as investment facilitation. The MoUs were signed during the maiden Odisha Fintech Festival organised here on Saturday with enthusiastic participation from startups, fintech companies, students, researchers, policymakers, and visitors from multiple sectors. The festival aims to

develop a roadmap for the fintech industry in Odisha, identify opportunities and challenges, and attract more fintech companies to the State. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the event and gave a virtual address. Electronics & IT Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, Principal Secretary, Finance Vishal Kumar Dev, Principal Secretary, E&IT, Manoj Kumar Mishra, Chairman, of Startup Odisha, Omkar Rai, IT Special Secretary Manas Panda, CGMRBI Suwendu Pati and COO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Praveena Rai were other dignitaries present and shared their insights with the participants. The festival has been organized in a grand scale with support from NPCI and iServeU a homegrown fintech startup that is serving



leading banks and fintech across India. The festival showcased the latest trends in the fintech space and the increasing acceptance and popularity of fintech applications among the masses. Senior company executives attended the festival as panelists. Top Financial Expert, Rajib Sekhar Sahoo shared his insight on technology trends in Industry. Shri

Sahoo is known for his practical approach towards use of technology in Banking and Finance Sectors. The financial revolution unleashed by UPI and the immense possibilities through its usage have been discussed in the panel discussion titled, Credit Card -UPI Linkage: Driving the next wave of Growth in digital payments. In the session, Voice

Tech - The power to unlock the real value of Bharat, technologies and ways to enhance digital and financial inclusion were discussed. Recognizing the critical role of SMEs in India's growth and the centrality of fintech in ensuring financial access for them, a discussion covered the theme Accelerating Access to Finance for SMEs. The

acknowledged Indian fintech success story and the challenges ahead were dealt with in the session Growth of Fintech in India. The growth of Odisha's fintech ecosystem and the possibilities inherent in it were taken up during the session Fintech & Bank Collaborations in East India. Two Master classes - Understanding Investments in Fintechs

and Driving Innovations through NPCI's API Accelerator Platform—and a fireside chat titled—Transforming Rural India via UPI for PPIs—were organized as part of the festival. Various BBPS (Bharat Bill Payment System) products of companies such as Misscallpay - Tata Power, AU Small Finance Bank, and iServeU Technology Pvt Ltd., have been launched in this programme. The deliberations during the event underlined how fintech advancements have considerably increased financial access and inclusion. Currently, over 3000 Startups are working to create new fintech products and services in the country, and some of them have become unicorns. Mobile wallets and digital payment platforms have accelerated the process of financial inclusion by empowering those without bank accounts to

participate in the economy. Big data and advanced analytics have improved credit scoring models, risk assessment, access of small businesses and entrepreneurs to capital. Lately, the use of blockchain technology has improved efficiency, transparency, and security in financial transactions. The fintech revolution has benefitted everyone from citizens to MSMEs. Odisha has made rapid strides in the fintech space in the last few years and multiple fintech startups and companies such as iServeU, Autosave, Mool Technologies, and Subhalaxmi Future Solutions have launched their innovative products and services nationally. This event will provide impetus to the government's efforts to create more jobs, increase innovation in the financial sector, and transform Odisha into a national fintech hub, officials said.

Odisha Food Bags Global Awards

Bhubaneswar: Ace Mandarin Vir Vikram Yadav has brought laurels for the State. Principal Secretary Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Shri Yadav has been honoured in USA with Global Planet Purpose Award: Drive For Results. CMO Odisha has tweeted: Using real time satellite image, the validity of paddy crops at farms is checked, ensuring transparent disbursal of Minimum



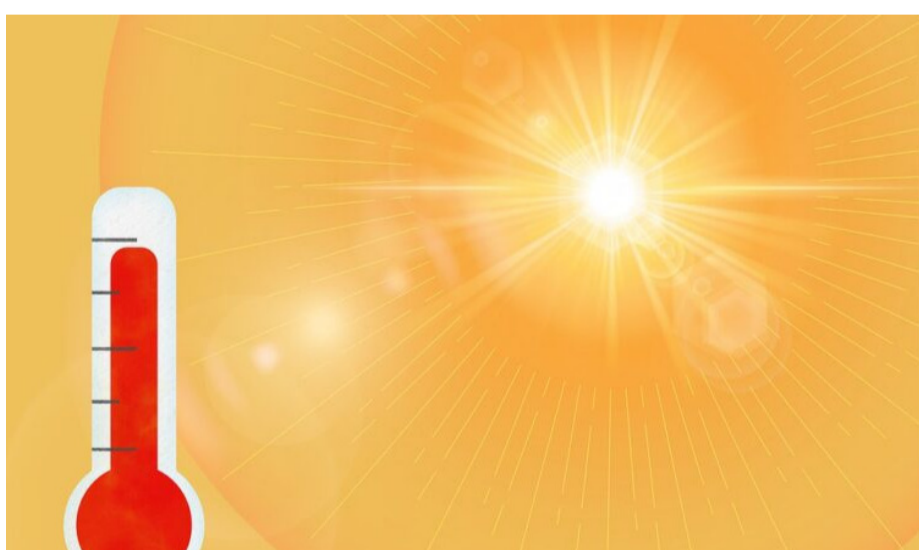
Support Price. The technology-led transparency as part of #5T governance has also substantially improved farmers' participation in MSP scheme. In recognition of its Satellite Image based

Validation of Paddy Crop system, #Odisha has been declared the 'Global Planet Purpose Award winner: Drive for Results' at the Planet Explore 2023-Transparency to Action Conference at Washington DC, USA. FS & CW Department has implemented the automation system equipped with satellite assisted paddy crop validation with the help of ORSAC. This innovative intervention

of State Govt has tremendous potential to bring relief to genuine farmers and ensure proper targeting of MSP of paddy. Honest and Hard Working Mandarin, Shri Yadav is sincerely handling FS & CW Sector for more than five years and now with transparent system in place, Odisha Food is gaining Global Recognition for its transparency, thanks to 5T efforts.

Summer Heat: Bhubaneswar, Jharsuguda Boil At 41 Degree C

Bhubaneswar(KCN): People of Odisha are battling the scorching summer and heatwave as many places stood above 40 degree Celsius today. By 2:30 PM on Saturday, Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda became the hottest places in Odisha with the maximum temperature 41 degree Celsius. Sambalpur and Chabali recorded 40.6 degree C and 40 degree C respectively during the period. Similarly, Hirakud registered 39.4 degree C, Keonjhar 37.2



degree C by 2:30 PM today. Such weather condition is likely to continue in many parts of

the state till April 16. The MeT issued heatwave warning for Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sundargarh,

Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Deogarh, Angul, Boudh and Sonepur for tomorrow.

ED Chargesheets Ex-Odisha MLA In PMLA Case

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has chargesheeted former BJD MLA Anam Naik in a PMLA case. The central probe agency said the charge sheet was filed before a special PMLA court in Bhubaneswar against Naik and a few others suggesting their conviction as well as confiscation of properties worth Rs 1.52 crore. The ED initiated its investigation on the basis of an FIR registered at Vigilance P.S. Koraput, Odisha, against Naik for possession of



disproportionate assets worth Rs 1.54 crore. Probe revealed that the former MLA has invested his ill-gotten income, which being over and above his known source of income, in acquiring various immovable properties and in making bank investments in his name and in the name of his family members, who were found to have actively assisted him in such layering and concealing of proceeds of crime. The ED had already provisionally attached assets worth Rs 1.52 crore, which were confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority.

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One Year of Gangubai Kathiawadi: Here's Why Alia Bhatt's Film Is Still A Fan-Favourite

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' that went on to become Hindi cinema's first bonafide hit during the challenging pandemic, completes a year today, signifying not just our perseverance to power through but that quality cinema always finds takers. The highly acclaimed blockbuster was a game-changer in many ways and defied all odds. Here's taking a look at the top 5 reasons the Sanjay Leela Bhansali directorial was a modern-day classic –



1) Brought audiences back to cinemas - While the movie received accolades for its nuanced performances, it opened the theaters in the post-pandemic era and the audience flocked in abundance. It's one of the films that reintroduced the audience to a magnificent cinema experience after a long time. That was certainly

evident in its mega box office collection with the film grossing ₹153.69 crore at the domestic box office and ₹209.77 globally emerging as a massive commercial success. 2) Opened with double-digit numbers despite theatres working at 50% occupancy - The fact that

the movie faced overwhelming odds made this accomplishment all the more amazing. Having faced audience resistance to turning up to the theaters, the film opened at double-digit numbers despite theatres working at 50% occupancy and booked

an example of a blockbuster. 3) A female-centric subject worked after ages - Gangubai Kathiawadi had a female lead and must say a strong one. Mostly such kinds of films conventionally don't perform as well as those starring their male counterparts, but the way

casting – Known to extract the best and most riveting performances from his actors, Sanjay Leela Bhansali chose Alia Bhatt to headline the film despite naysayers saying she was a miscast and probably too young to bring the role much required depth. However, the filmmaker stuck to his conviction and the results were for all to see! Gangubai Kathiawadi was touted as Alia Bhatt's best performance to date as she unanimously won praise from audiences and critics alike. 5) The magic of Sanjay Leela Bhansali – A textbook example of a modern classic with all of Bhansali's trademark grandeur, artistic frames, and moving storytelling, the movie also connected with audiences around the world, cementing Sanjay Leela Bhansali's status as a torchbearer for Hindi cinema at the time.

Manoj Bajpayee Takes Viewers Inside His Ancestral Home In Bihar As He Promotes 'Gulmohar'



Actors often take personal routes to promote their films. Manoj Bajpayee shared glimpses from his ancestral home in Bihar to promote his upcoming drama 'Gulmohar'. Taking to Instagram on Friday, Manoj dropped a video and showed the viewers his ancestral home in

Bihar. "Ghar khaas banta hai usme rahne waalon se. Aise hi khaas parivaar ki kahani hai," he captioned the video. Showing a corner of the house, Manoj said, "There used to be an Almira where my mother used to keep barfi, pera and curd. I used to steal and eat them." Manoj also revealed that he

visited the place for the first time after his mother's demise. Taking a tour of the house, Manoj shared 'home is where the heart is'. Fans of the actor were quite excited to see his house and shared their love and admiration for him in the comments section. "Legendry

Actor Lovely Show," a user commented. "This is beautiful!! Love the personal touch," another user commented. Helmed by Rahul Chittella, the film stars Sharmila Tagore, Simran, and Suraj Sharma in the lead roles and is all set to stream exclusively on the OTT platform Disney+ Hotstar from March 3, 2023. Talking about the essence of the movie, Manoj said, "There's something for everyone in the movie. It will make you choke and it will make you laugh." The makers of the movie 'Gulmohar' hosted a special screening on Wednesday for Manoj's friends in the industry. Ashutosh Rana, Bobby Deol, and Gajraj Rao attended the screening.

Selfie Day 1 Box Office Collections: Akshay Kumar's Film Gets 'Disastrous' Opening of Rs 2.55 Cr

Superstar Akshay Kumar and Emraan Hashmi's 'Selfie' released this week and suprisingly it has got a low opening. The film is the Hindi remake of the 2019 Malayalam-language comedy-drama Driving Licence, which featured Prithviraj Sukumaran and Suraj Venjaramoodu. Noted film critic and trade analyst Taran Adarsh took to Twitter and wrote:

#Selfie has a disastrous Day 1... Sends shock waves throughout the industry... One of the lowest starts for a film that has several prominent names attached to it... Fri ? 2.55 cr+.

#India biz. Dharma Productions and Kumar's Cape of Good Films joined hands with Sukumaran and producer-distributor Listin Stephen's company Magic Frames -- who are marking their Hindi cinema debut as producers. The Malayalam original Driving License revolves around a superstar (Sukumaran) famous for his driving skills but loses his licence. However, the issue spins out of control after he locks horns with a motor inspector (Venjaramoodu), who happens to be a fan of the actor. Lal Jr directed the film from a script by Sachy. The Hindi version stars Akshay Kumar, Emraan Hashmi, Nushratt Bharuccha, and Diana Penty in the lead roles. It has been directed by Good Newwz fame filmmaker Raj Mehta.



Iqbal Khan's take on reality shows

Iqbal Khan made a comeback on TV after three years with social drama Nima Denzongpa. The actor, who stays away from social media, is currently enjoying fatherhood as the couple welcomed their second baby in February. Iqbal, who was once seen in Khatron Ke Khiladi 6, shared his views on reality shows with ETimes TV. He said, "I did Khatron Ke Khiladi because it is actually a reality show. It's about doing tasks, completing it and going ahead. It's not about how much you can talk and play games to stay in the show. In KKK, there are no mind games. It's adventurous." When asked if the audience will get to see him in more such reality shows, Iqbal replied, "Whether you'll ever see me in a reality show apart from Khatron Ke Khiladi? Well, never say



never but as of now, no." The actor, who is a fitness enthusiast, shared how he takes care of his health. He said, "I haven't worked out for a month because of Ramzan. I just tried to control my diet. I eat normal and healthy.

Everytime I feel, I am putting on weight, I control my portions. I don't go overboard. I eat less." Iqbal and his wife Sneha are parents to 10-year-old Ammaara. They have named their second baby, a girl – Ifza.

Harvey Weinstein's Lawyers To Appeal Against Rape Conviction, Sentence: Reports

Harvey Weinstein was sentenced to an additional 16 years in prison on Thursday, but his lawyers will continue to fight for him to have a life outside of jail, pledging to appeal his Los Angeles conviction. According to Variety, Weinstein's defence team, led by Mark Werksman and Alan Jackson, is completing its notice of appeal. Variety has learnt that they want to submit it as soon as the middle of next week. Juda Engelmayer, Weinstein's spokeswoman, told Variety that the actor had an unfair trial. He said, "This whole process has been alarming and awful for our society." "The media coverage has been driven by a seemingly popular appeal, which I



believe has led to biased legal and judicial processes by people more concerned about their political and professional lives, or their own extreme ideologies, than truly being arbiters of justice. Harvey Weinstein was the symbol, and truth or facts didn't matter. He is universally reviled, so it was determined that fairness shouldn't matter... That's what this societal shift has caused: Just get him at any cost, no matter how laws and due process be damned. That's a scary and slippery slope for us all." Weinstein, who is 70 years

old, will probably spend the remainder of his life in prison after adding 16 years to his 23-year term in New York. His defence team on the east coast is also challenging his New York conviction in addition to his Los Angeles conviction. Weinstein's case will be heard by the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court. Weinstein is already serving a 23-year sentence in New York, after being convicted of rape and sexual assault in that jurisdiction in his 2020 criminal trial, reported Variety.

Supreme Court of India or the Court of Henry II?



Many of us may not know our connection with the Roman law. Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55 BC and England was under the Roman rule from AD 43 to AD 410. The Romans made many highways, some of which are in existence even today. I make a mention of highways because it has a connection with our criminal jurisprudence. In the early medieval days, all crimes were not considered as an offence against the king and his peace. Offences like treason, disseisin (seizing of land belonging to another) which affected the King's interest alone were considered as an offence against the state. Other crimes were regarded as mere tort, matters falling in the domain of the Baron's Court, Manorial Court, etc. Kings used to sell jurisdiction, which led to rapine and unjust judgements at the hands of private tribunals dispensing justice. This, among other reasons, led to the Barons revolting against the King and compelling him to issue the Magna Carta, the great

charter, where the King undertook "Nulla vendemus, nulla negabimus aut differemus, rectum aut justitiam" - to no man will we sell, or deny, or delay, right or justice.

A crime committed on the four highways built by the Romans was considered as a felony, triable by the King's Court, because it affected the King's interest. The Romans were ousted by Saxons (Germans) and they ruled over England till the Norman conquest of 1066 AD which period is known as the Dark Ages. The conquerors, led by the Normandy Duke who came from France, faced a lot of opposition and were weak. They could not have ruled without the support of the clergy, the most powerful institution, and the Lords, Dukes, Earls and the Barons. The court of the Norman Kings were the courts of first instances for all men and all causes. Though during the Dark Ages, during the Anglo-Saxon times, in place of the classical Roman law, inquisition, ordeal and other methods of administration of justice were introduced, the Roman was not completely dead. An ecclesiast (bishop) was the Prime Minister and the Chief justitiar

judge). The King's council (court) continued to be the Supreme legislative, administrative and judicial body during the subsequent regimes as well. King Henry II succeeded by King John, Henry III and then Edward I. Edward I has been called the 'English justitiar' for the judicial reforms he brought in. The great Bracton, known for his Treatise on the Laws of England, was a judge for 20 years during Henry III's time. Thanks to Bracton, the Roman law principles, once again, came to be the guiding principles of justice administration. The most important principle is "nemo potest esse simul actor et judex" - no one can be at once suitor and judge. What am I talking about is the 12th and 13th centuries, where the King and the few noble ecclesiasts and nobles whom the King nominates at his option, exercise all judicial, legislative and administrative powers. It took another 7 centuries to reach our pre-independence era, where the concept of separation of powers came to be universally accepted, and to incorporated Article 50 of the Constitution which mandates that there

Mathews J Nedumpara shall be separation of powers. The development of law has not been seamless. In the 16th century, the House of Commons asserted to itself the judicial power to adjudicate private disputes. We also find a



diametrically opposite proposition at the hands of Chief Justice Edward Coke, in Dr. Bonham's case, 1610. He said "Iniquum est aliquem rei sui esse judicem" - that if the Parliament were to make a law where one of the parties to it is made judge thereof, such a law is void. In short, even during the times of monarchy, even in medieval times, the concept that nobody can be an 'actor' and a judge both at once, was considered to be sacrosanct. In law schools it is taught as the first principles, namely, "nemo debet esse judex in propria causa". However,

today we are perplexed to come across "breaking news" on TV and headlines that the Supreme Court and the High Courts have invoked suo motu action. And the latest in the long line of such action

since the dawn of the so-called PIL jurisdiction, is the Supreme Court's suo motu W.P. no.3/2021, In re: Distribution of Essential supplies and services during pandemic, manifestly with good intentions. I do not wish to be critical. But a suo motu PIL in the matter of "In Re: Matter Of Great Public Importance Touching Upon The Independence Of Judiciary", where then CJI headed a bench to hear a case where he himself is the accused, is difficult to be erased from one's mind. The point I wish to drive home is that 70 years after independence, in the

name of doing good, now in name of distribution of essential supplies (which nobody can really find fault with) and sometimes in the name of "protecting the independence of judiciary" to protect

Justice Gogoi from the allegations, which has caused irreparable damage, we are going back to the early Middle Ages when the Normandy Kings, the weak French invaders by constituting a court/council consisting of the Bishops, Earls, Lords, Barons, sought to rule the empire. The ordinary people then had no role, whatsoever, in the governance of the realm. Their worth was based on their ecclesiastical status, land holding, the armed men they could provide in times of war, etc. In the "modern King's Court" which the Supreme Court of India is today, the

Lord Chancellor, the treasurer of the exchequer are the amicus curie, the senior lawyers, who hail from the legal and judicial dynasties. The PIL was (40 years before) not what it is today. It was 'pro bono litigation' for the enforcement of the rights of a person(s) aggrieved - an undertrial, a slum dweller, a disabled, and the like. Pro bono litigation which received great amount of appreciation, even internationally, did not last even for a decade. Naturally, with thousands of poor people sending thousands of letters and postcards to the courts, the courts found that the floodgates had opened and nothing could be done. The "new jurisprudence" of postcard writ petition came to an end. 'Pro bono litigation' which was legal and constitutional, namely, in consonance with the concept of "right, remedy, forum". In its place, a new industry of PIL grew at an exponential rate. They turned the Supreme Court (like in the days of the Normandy Kings of the 12th and 13th century) into a 'court of first instance for all men (though not really all men, only the rich and the

powerful) and all causes'. It has made the Parliament irrelevant in comparison. They distorted the concept of judicial review to absurd levels and conferred the ultimate say, even in matters of policy and governance. They, the PIL wallas, do these absurdities in the name of the "basic structure". They come to the court complaining, not of the violation of their fundamental rights, but of the "basic structure". They assert the right to represent the public at large, and the Courts have failed to insist upon the bare minimal requirements that a class action litigation should demand. They have reduced the Supreme Court into their private domain, where they alone have a right to be heard, because of the commanding position they enjoy in society as parliamentarians cum senior lawyers, activists enjoying a great clout, etc. Some simple souls too approach the court invoking PIL, and to their shock they get rebuked and fined.

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PAUSE, NOT A PIVOT



Reserve Bank of India on 06 Apr 2023, declared its monetary policy and credit policy. There was an expectation that RBI may raise the policy rate /repo rate by 0.25 percent (25 basis points).but it maintained the status quo. Reacting to its decision or dissecting India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC's) Decision, RBI described the decision as "Pause,

Not A Pivot. A pause indicates status quo in central bank parlance. The phrase 'not a pivot' to explain today's rate decision is no accident. Pivot means changing the direction of a business, usually in response to changes in the market. The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee may have stunned market participants with a surprise status quo on the repo rate but may change in future. Das' statement used the term 'pause' after mentioning the status quo on rates, but clarified that this

Dr. Santosh Kumar Mohapatra pause was intended for just this meeting. Later in the same statement, he said, "The MPC will not hesitate to take further action as may be required in its future meetings." The statement on the MPC resolution never mentions the word "pause." It only states that the repo rate has been left unchanged. The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee has voted unanimously to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%. The central bank has so far raised the repo rate by 2.5 % or 250

basis points since May 2022 to control inflation. But RBI has increased deposit rates by only 1% only. It means savers are the worst hit. NPAs are written off to show that NPAs are decreasing. When loans are written off only around 13% are recovered and the rest goes to pockets of defaulters. But the same is compensated by paying less interest to depositors. After all, retail inflation remains well above the central bank's target of 4%. February

Consumer Price Index was at 6.44%, above the upper end of the 2-6 % targeted inflation band of the RBI too. But, the RBI is expecting inflation to come down. It has forecast CPI at 5.2% for the 2023-24 financial year. At the same time, it has raised its GDP growth forecast from 6.4% to 6.5%. The important thing is that rate of inflation may decline but the price rise will not. Further inflation is not demand-driven but cost-push due to rising of indirect taxes like GST on food items and

higher excise taxes on petroleum products. Fiscal measures are necessary to curb price hikes and inflation. Further raising the GDP forecast sounds preposterous especially when the global economy may see a decline in growth rate and various international agencies have reduced the growth forecast for India

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Letter To Editor

Dear Editor
Recently, I had the grand opportunity to travel in a round trip on Vande Bharat between Howrah Station and New Jalpaiguri Junction. This was my maiden travel on this new Indian Railways super fast train, and was an absolutely delightful experience. The total 561 kilometres each way distance was covered only in 6.5 hours in AC chair cars with broad windows, enough leg space, light, ventilation, comfortable leaning chairs and outstanding hospitality of the Indian Railways staff serving on the Vande Bharat. The toilet arrangements (vacuum sucking model) and the alert cleaning staff has been cautious in making the entire journey a memorable experience. The cleanliness and proper waste collection as initiated by the Government of India as a national priority; is very demonstrated in Vande Bharat Railway service. The travel has been very smooth with only a few designated stops and the schedule maintained is highly appreciated. Furthermore, the quality of food served in breakfast, snack, lunch and dinner must be appreciated. The food was warm, not over spicy or hot for the children traveling, a healthy balance of both vegetarian and non-vegetarian items were included along with desserts like gulabjams, sweet curd and ice creams. Waste products were all nicely collected and the supportive behaviour of the professionally trained railway staff with a smiling face and eagerness to help the passenger was an added bonus to the trip.

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The Union Minister for Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh attends the 16th convocation of Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth (Deemed-to-be-University) at Udaipur, in Rajasthan

"He Has Plane, Cars, Wealth, We Have...": PM Modi's Friendship Has "No Strings Attached": Ugandan Envoy

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday said the Congress chooses Kamal Nath as its chief ministerial face in the state on the basis of his "huge wealth". Even Congress leaders endorse this view, Mr Chouhan told reporters here. Reacting to the barb, Mr Nath, a former chief minister, dared him to name any "company or industry" he (Mr Nath) owns. "He has aeroplane, helicopter, cars, property, wealth, that is why he is



a Congress leader and their chief ministerial candidate...But we have the public (on our side)," the chief minister said without naming the state Congress chief. Even Congress leaders say that he is a leader

because he has "huge wealth", Mr Chouhan claimed. "If a leader of Congress is decided on the basis of wealth and resources, then let them...but this cannot be a yardstick for a leader in democracy,"

he said. Supreme Court Collegium Recommends 7 High Court Judges For Madhya Pradesh Asked about the chief minister's remarks, Mr Nath said, "Shivraj Singh ji will not desist from speaking lies. Will he be able to state that I have no link to any industry? I am not the owner of any industry or company." Chouhan can not digest his food without lying, the Congress leader said, adding that the chief minister should name the "company, industry or business I own".

Earlier, a newspaper report had quoted Congress's Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha as describing Mr Nath as a (financially) capable person, as required in politics." @ChouhanShivraj ji, the newspaper misrepresented my statement. Kamal Nath ji is the most experienced and capable person. This is true. Undoubtedly you have become the most capable person in BJP in these 20 years. Despite your active contribution and mandate, the BJP today sits in power," he tweeted.

New Delhi: Uganda looks at Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a friend and will never forget India's help during the Covid-19 period, High Commissioner of Uganda to India Joyce K a k u r a m a t s i Kikafunda said on Saturday. "In Prime Minister Modi, we look at him as a friend. He visited Uganda in 2018 and after his visit, things have never been the same, relations became activated and the level of friendship increased," Ms Kikafunda told ANI. "He (PM Modi) always says his friendship with Africa, in general, and in Uganda, in particular, it has no strings attached. He looks at the problems you have and then helps, unlike some other countries where they are like give me then I give you. He says the friendship that he gives you has no strings attached. Like



when they helped us during Covid, we wouldn't ever forget that. So we are really happy with the relationship we have. And my duty is to make sure that relationship remains beautiful," Envoy said. The High Commissioner of Uganda to India termed the recently concluded visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to her country as beautiful. She also said that the opening of the first overseas campus of the National Forensic Sciences

University (NFSU) in Uganda's Jinja as a proud moment for both countries. The External Affairs Minister was on a visit to Uganda and Mozambique from April 10-15 to further strengthen India's "strong bilateral relations" with the two countries. The High Commissioner of Uganda was talking in the women entrepreneurs conference hosted by Baroness Verma (Member of the House of Lords of the UK) on Monday.

Arvind Kejriwal Will Reply To All Action Against Him In Time: Nitish Kumar

Patna: A day after the CBI summoned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in connection with an excise policy case, his Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar on Saturday said Mr Kejriwal will reply to "all the actions" initiated against him at an "appropriate time". Mr Kumar was replying to questions from journalists who sought his views on the CBI summons to

Arvind Kejriwal for questioning in connection with the excise policy case. "People know what is happening against him (Kejriwal). He is a well-regarded person, and he has done a lot of developmental work in his state. He will reply to all the actions that have been initiated against him at the appropriate time", the Bihar chief minister said. According to the

notice issued by the CBI, Mr Kejriwal has been called to appear at the agency headquarters at 11 AM on Sunday to answer queries of the investigating team as a witness in the case, officials said. Nitish Kumar also told reporters, "This is the reason that we are making efforts to unite more and more parties in the country against the BJP-led central government. We will

make all efforts and work unitedly." The Bihar chief minister met Mr Kejriwal in Delhi on Wednesday in his attempt to forge an alliance of opposition parties against the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre before the 2024 general election. The Bihar chief minister and his deputy Tejashwi Yadav had also met AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi in the national capital. Speaking at a function here on Friday, Mr Kumar had called upon people not to vote for BJP in the coming general elections. "If people vote for BJP, they will destroy themselves. And if people vote against BJP, they will ensure not only their progress but also of the state and the country," he had said.

"Sachin Pilot's Turn Won't Come Because...": Amit Shah On Congress Rift

Bharatpur: Home Minister Amit Shah launched a scathing attack on the Congress party and its leaders in Rajasthan on Saturday, mocking both Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot for their internal feud and dismissing their chances of retaining power in the state. Speaking at a booth-level workers' meeting in Bharatpur district, Mr Shah said that the Congress government in Rajasthan was a "failed experiment" that had betrayed the people's mandate and plunged the state into

chaos and corruption. He advised Mr Gehlot and Mr Pilot to stop fighting with each other and "accept the inevitable". "There is no point in fighting. It is the BJP that will come to power in Rajasthan. The people have seen through your drama and deception," he said. He also took a direct swipe at Mr Pilot, who stepped up his feud with Mr Gehlot this week by launching a one-day fast against alleged corruption by the BJP's Vasundhara Raje and accusing his own party's government of not



acting against her. Mr Shah told Mr Pilot that he had wasted his time and energy in challenging Mr Gehlot and that he had no future in the Congress. "You may be more

popular on the ground, but you are not going to be chief minister. The Congress will never give you that chance. You have been sidelined and humiliated by your

own party," he said. "Pilot sits on dharna on any pretext, but his turn [to be Chief Minister] will not come because his contribution in filling the coffers of Congress

party is less and Gehlot's contribution is higher," Mr Shah said, alleging that the Chief Minister had "looted" the to fund the Congress. Mr Shah's remarks were significant as they came in a region of eastern Rajasthan that is dominated by the Gujar community, to which Mr Pilot belongs. The Gujjars are a powerful and influential caste group that has often agitated for more political representation and reservation in government jobs and education.

In the last election, the BJP had given tickets to nine people from the Gujar community. They all lost as the Gujar vote shifted to the Congress in the hope that Sachin Pilot would become the first Gujar Chief Minister of Rajasthan. The Congress also performed better than the BJP in this region as compared to 2013, when it had faced a rout across the state. By attacking Mr Pilot's chief ministerial aspirations, Mr Shah appeared to be trying to win over those in the

Gujjar community, who are hoping to see a Gujar chief minister one day in Mr Pilot. He said that the BJP was the only party that cared for the welfare and development of all sections of society, including the Gujjars. He appealed to the Gujar voters to switch their allegiance to the BJP and support Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a "new India". He said that the BJP would ensure good governance, security, infrastructure, health care, education and employment opportunities for all.

'Serbian mother from Scotland' - Dr. Elsie Inglis Secret Tunnel Gets Buried During Facelift Of Historic Markandeya Tank; Locals Fume



European and American women in the nineteenth century lived in an age characterized by gender inequality. Women could not enjoy the legal, social, or political rights to the extent, they could not vote, could not sue or be sued, could not have personal property after marriage and were barred from higher education. Women were to obey their fathers and husbands unquestioningly. Their occupational choices were limited to staying at home, caring for their children and running the household. In this background there emerged a Scottish woman who broke down all bias and barriers with her strong determination and spirit. Her battles included the fight to become a doctor and surgeon. She fought for equal rights for women in education, medical careers and voting. Apart from these notable achievements, it was her efforts in the battlefield hospitals during the First World War that brought her fame in the last three years of her short life. This paragon of womanly virtue was Dr. Elsie Inglis. Born in Naini Tal, in the Himalayan foothills of India in 1864, she was the daughter of John Inglis, a chief commissioner in British India. Subsequent to the retirement of her father, the family returned to Edinburgh in 1878 when Elsie was 14. There she was given the same educational opportunities that a boy would have got. Afterwards, she studied medicine at Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women and was one of the first women in Scotland to finish higher education and qualify as a doctor in 1892. She went on to complete her training in two hospitals in London and Dublin, including a maternity hospital and came back to Edinburgh as an experienced doctor. She knew that newly-graduated female doctors in Scotland could not gain experience working in field under supervision as they were not eligible for training in general hospitals. That appeared as a large barrier in front of so many of her fellow female doctors. But she viewed it as an opportunity and decided to something

about it.

So, in 1904, Dr Elsie Inglis opened her own hospital for women and children, known as The Hospice, and run only by women. This not only opened up doors for poor women and children for whom medical care was under resourced, but also provided fresh female medical doctors a place for training. But that was only a beginning.

Elsie did not, confine her activities to medicine. At the time, Scottish women couldn't vote, so it's no surprise that she became involved in the movement for women's suffrage. She helped organize the Scottish Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies and remained their Honorary Secretary until her death. She engaged herself into travelling the length and breadth of the country and spoke at several meetings a week to spread awareness among women.

World War-1 began on July 28, 1914 with Austria-Hungary declaring war on Serbia. The allies to Serbia were Russia, France, Belgium, and Britain with its Empire. The war diverted attention away from women's suffrage, but 50 years old Elsie again saw it as an opportunity; both for female doctors and the suffrage movement.

She presented the idea of mobile hospitals staffed entirely by women that would serve on the war front lines, proving that women were equally capable as men and women can also contribute to the war effort. When Elsie proposed her services on the Western Front, the British War Office flatly refused the idea on the basis of her sex, with the words "MY GOOD LADY, GO HOME AND SIT STILL."

Despite attempts to repress her efforts, Dr Inglis was not at all, prepared to 'SIT STILL'. She approached to the Allies in Belgium, France, and Serbia offering them medical support from all-female medical units. Because of their proximity to the frontlines and especially Serbia was flooded with typhus and relapsing fever, the three countries were not in a position to refuse medical aid from a group of only women, despite their gender prejudice. That is how Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Services (SWH) was born.

Now she needed funding. She contacted the Scottish Red Cross, but they refused. So she used her public speaking skills asking for funding and she was flooded with both public support and enough funds. Within

few months, she set up the first SWH in France at Royaumont in 1914 on the front line. By end of WW-1, The Scottish Women's Hospitals established 14 medical units staffed by 1,500 women, all volunteers. Tens of thousands received medical care by the hospitals she set up in France, Serbia, Ukraine, Romania, Corsica, Malta, Belgium, and Russia. Her efforts attracted volunteers from distant countries; New Zealand, Australia and Canada. Some had medical backgrounds, many did not. There were artists, actors, teachers, sportswomen, young and not so young. Some received a salary, some joined as it was a rare opportunity open to women to actively help the war effort, for others it was a rare adventure.

In 1915, Dr. Inglis set sail for Serbia, to take charge of the SWH Unit in a small town called Kragujevac, giving medical aid to the Serbian Army. The whole of Serbia was overrun by typhus and conditions in the hospital were miserable. Fever-stricken soldiers were brought in dirty bullock wagons daily. There was shortage of beds for patients, the food was unclean and inadequate, there was lack of sanitation everywhere and hygiene was totally ignored. Hardly settled in, Dr. Inglis started her work along with her girls and tackled every job needed for proper functioning of the hospital.

Unfortunately, the tide of war was going against the poorly equipped Serbians. The Austrians joined by German and Bulgarian forces had continued to advance and in 1915 winter, 'The Great Retreat in Serbia' began towards Albania and Greece. Hundreds of thousands of civilians and soldiers fled the country in middle of winter, enduring harsh weather, treacherous roads and enemy attacks. Many of them froze, starved to death, died of disease or were killed by enemies.

The SWH had a choice to make; either stay and go into captivity, or flee with the retreating army. Elsie and about 80 women refused to abandon their patients and hospital. Eventually, she had been made a prisoner of war, but she was allowed to continue her duties, treating enemy soldiers and Serbians with the same impartial and loving care. During the next few months she suffered great hardship at the hands of the enemy. Her health broke down due to lack of food and rest. But, Dr. Inglis's Serbian

adventure continued until February, 1916 when they were repatriated forcibly. Her contribution to WW-1 was not yet over. In the latter part of 1916 she headed off again to provide medical help to her beloved Serbians fighting at the Russian front. By this time she knew she had cancer but hurriedly set up two field hospitals, staffed by about 80 women. This division was also taken prisoner of war and the SWH once again had to retreat. The British government demanded she come home but Elsie refused until the Serbian soldiers were guaranteed safe passage. Elsie, crippled with critical illness, was finally brought back to Britain and she bade her last farewell to each of the Serb officers being evacuated "with due honour."

Three days after the completion of her Russian mission, Elsie Inglis earned her rest forever on November 26, 1917, when she was only fifty-three years old. Thousands lined up the Edinburgh streets for her funeral in St Giles Cathedral.

Dr Elsie Inglis did not live to see peace in 1918, nor the granting of the first vote to British women the same year. Serbians remembered Dr Elsie with proud heart, as the 'sandy-headed doctor.' She never let go the anchor of life, the cross of faith, or the heart of love. The Serbs said: "In Scotland she became a doctor, in Serbia she became a saint."

Elsie's inexhaustible support for the people of Serbia led her to become the first woman awarded the Order of the 'White Eagle', the country's topmost honour. Today there are statues, monuments and streets in Serbia named after Elsie Inglis, the British Embassy residence in Belgrade is named in her honour and she has been commemorated on stamps and banknotes. She also received the highest awards for gallantry from France, Serbia and Russia.

Winston Churchill was an ardent admirer of the work of the 'Scottish Women's Hospital'. In his words, "No body of women has achieved a high reputation in this great war as this organization of women. Their work, illuminated by the fame of Dr. Inglis, will shine brightly in the pages of history." Historians say Florence Nightingale took nursing to a unique height by serving wounded soldiers during the Crimean War, and her successor, Dr. Elsie Inglis, put women one step ahead of men in the First World War.

Ashis Kumar Panda

Puri: An ancient and secret tunnel (Suranga) that earlier existed at Markandeya tank in Puri gradually got buried during the development and beautification work of the historic water body, which is underway. This has triggered strong resentment among local residents who alleged utter admin neglect today.

Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation (OBCC) Limited has been entrusted with the development and beautification work of the Markandeya tank and Markandeswar Temple in the pilgrim town. The tunnel has now been blocked with a concrete wall constructed in front of it. The stone-made tunnel built to feed water to the tank has been withering away, thereby posing a serious threat, many locals stated.

The tunnel was built during the rule of King Kapilendra Deb and dates back to the British



Era. Passing underneath a Goshala (cow shelter), the tunnel mingled with the Mangala River at Jamuna Ghat.

The tunnel is said to be around 500-year-old and its width is about five feet. The compound wall near the tunnel had collapsed several times during the rainy seasons and was repaired at subsequent times. With the passage of time, the tunnel was blocked and now a concrete wall has been constructed in front of


it. Due to water logging inside, the tunnel has caved in at many places and gone down at several others.

"We used to play inside the tunnel in our childhood days. Now, the dilapidated parts of the tunnel could turn out to be dangerous for local residents," a legal professional Chinmaya Dash expressed.

"Chingudi Nala (creek) also previously existed on the west side of the tunnel which has now been completely

encroached. Rainwater used to ingress and get drained out through this passage and it has now got entirely buried," Markandeya Unnayan Committee vice-president Papina Kumar Satpathy rued.

When contacted, the manager of OBCC-3 in Puri town Sridhar Rout said, "We are not aware of the existence of the tunnel and will take necessary steps after an inspection of the alleged construction site."



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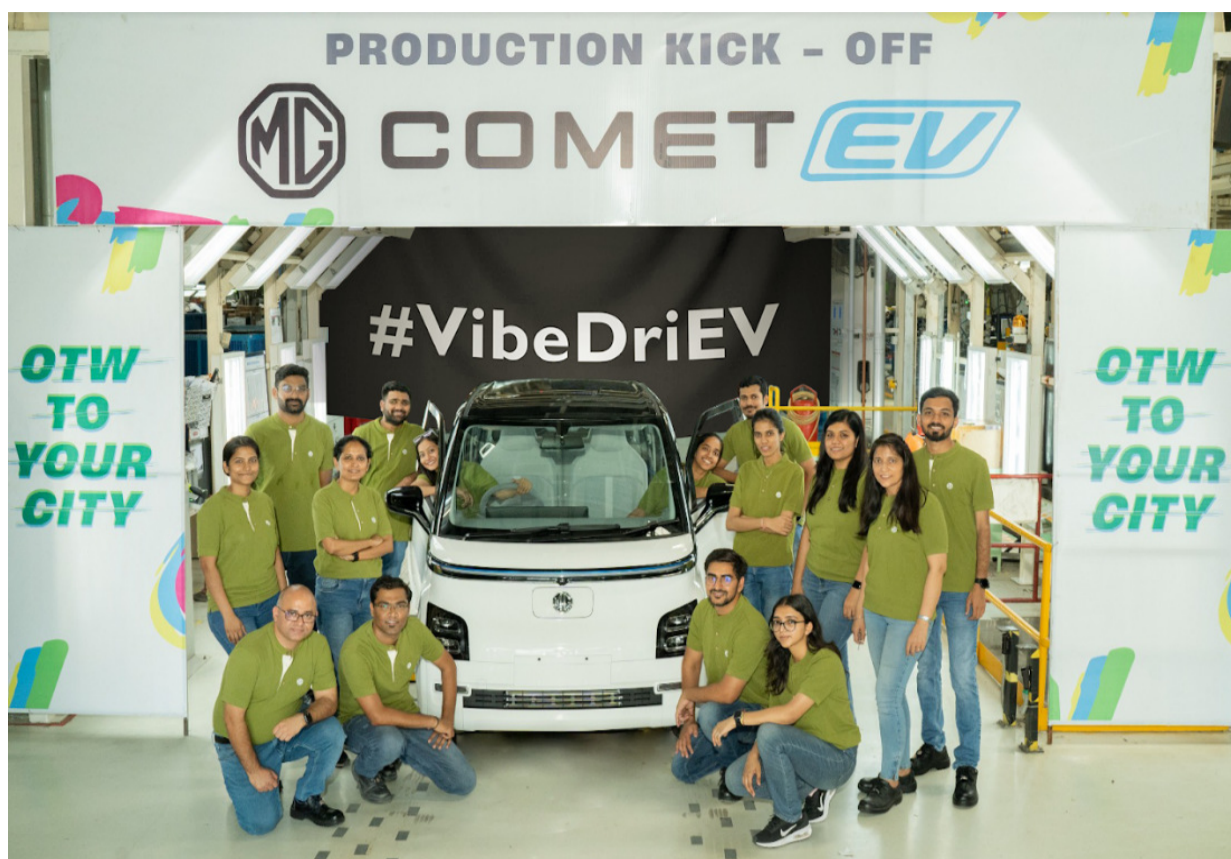
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MG Motor India rolls out first 'Comet' to mark the start of production of its Smart EV

Gurugram :MG Motor India has announced the start of production of its Smart EV - Comet, with the first unit rolling out from its Halol plant in Gujarat. Based on the globally acclaimed GSEV platform, the MG Comet boasts an innovative and futuristic design language that is sure to turn heads. One of the key features of the GSEV platform is its versatility and spaciousness, making it an ideal choice for urban commuters. The platform is designed with ease of usage in mind, ensuring hassle-free manoeuvring on



congested roads and effortless parking capabilities. The GSEV-based vehicles have been very successful in global markets, with more than 1 million units sold so far. Safety is also a top priority for the GSEV platform, with a solid steel frame providing a strong foundation for the vehicle body, and airbags ensuring maximum protection for passengers. The MG Comet takes safety to the next level, with 17 hot stamping panels spread across the body-in-white, enhancing the vehicle's structural safety. Commenting on the first production roll-

out of Comet, Biju Balendran, Chief Operating Officer, MG Motor India said, "The recent Urban Mobility Happiness Survey conducted by Nielsen unequivocally brings out the fact that a compact smart electric vehicle is the preferred choice of urban commuters when it comes to commuting. At MG, we are committed to providing innovative and sustainable mobility solutions and with the MG Comet we shall offer a futuristic and practical Urban EV with many fun-to-drive elements. With the first Comet rolling off the production line, we are

delighted to welcome the beginning of a new EV future for India." Additionally, the Comet is equipped with various smart features that complement the GSEV platform, including Internet of Vehicles (IoV), multimedia, and connected features. With the production of the Smart EV - Comet, MG Motor India is continuing to push the boundaries of innovation and design in the electric vehicle market. The Comet's solid steel chassis and high-strength vehicle body make it a durable and reliable choice for those looking for an electric vehicle that prioritizes safety and practicality.

Vodafone Idea Foundation to Set up Robotic Labs in Schools

Bhubaneswar: Digital Skills are at the centre of the fourth industrial revolution and a prerequisite for future employment opportunities for today's children. With the objective of playing a role in building a future ready talent force from the school level onwards, Vodafone Idea Foundation, the CSR arm of Vi, and Ericsson India have partnered to set up state-of-the-art Robotic Labs in ten schools across the country to provide new-age learning experiences to children from

underserved communities, preparing them to participate in future technological studies. Digital Labs, an innovative education programme, is designed to hand-hold school going children aged 11-14 years, through their first experience with the world of programming and new technologies. By creating an open atmosphere for learning, Digital Labs aim to instill courage in these students to embrace technology and imbibe a problem-solving approach. The partnership is

aimed at improving the students' education and employment prospects across Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by providing an exciting learning experience and develop skills such as teamwork, problem-solving skills, critical thinking. Through this partnership, ten Digital Labs will be set up at Vodafone Idea Foundation schools in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Commenting on this initiative, P Balaji, Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Officer - Vodafone Idea Limited, and Director - Vodafone Idea Foundation said, "Digital skills are a necessity for the holistic growth of the youth in the digital era. Exposing school going children to coding and robotics helps spark creativity, stimulates critical thinking, imbues a collaborative mindset and opens up a world of opportunities. Using our technology based tools, we have been working with

underprivileged children through various programmes aimed at giving them an opportunity to learn, grow and compete. Taking our 'Technology for Good' mission forward, we are happy to partner with Ericsson, to expose the young minds with higher-level skills and development, as well as encourage underserved groups to pursue advanced ICT education and enter science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields."

Samsung Launches High-Performance Premium Jet™ Cordless Stick Vacuum Cleaners in India

Bhubaneswar: Samsung, India's largest and most trusted consumer electronics brand, has launched its premium, highly powerful and intuitive Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaner line-up, delivering the ultimate end-to-end hygienic home cleaning solution to consumers in India. The line-up of vacuum cleaners will be available on Samsung's official online store, Samsung Shop starting May 04, 2022 and soon on Flipkart. The launch marks Samsung's foray in the vacuum cleaner segment in India with a range that can generate up to 200W of industry-leading suction power.

The range comes with a Jet Cyclone system that features nine cyclones with 27 air inlets to securely trap fine dust particles that are sucked into the vacuum cleaner without compromising on suction power. Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners release clean air out with a Multi-layered Filtration System, which

traps 99.999% of fine dust particles and allergens. This is certified by the British Allergy Foundation & SLG Prof & Zertifizierungs. Running on a robust Digital Inverter Motor that optimizes airflow with its ultrasonic welded airfoil blades for high energy efficiency, Samsung vacuum cleaners - Jet 70, Jet 75 and Jet 90 - come with the promise to provide high-speed and enhanced cleaning for consumers.

"With increased focus on safety, health and hygiene in the post-pandemic era, consumers are looking for agile and efficient home cleaning solutions. Our all new Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners are here to provide unmatched convenience to our consumers with best-in-class features for a hassle-free cleaning experience. Equipped with cutting-edge technology such as a Multi-layered Filtration System, the vacuum cleaners trap 99.999% of fine dust and allergens and provide powerful

and hygienic cleaning. Despite Samsung Jet's remarkably powerful suction capabilities, its body has been designed to be lightweight, allowing our consumers to enjoy the Jet's easy-to-use features more comfortably," said Mohandeep Singh, Senior Vice President, Consumer Electronics Business, Samsung India. The all-new range of Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners will be available in three models - Jet 70, Jet 75 and Jet 90 - with prices ranging from INR 36,990 to INR 52,990. The models will be available on Samsung's official online store Samsung Shop starting May 04, 2022 and soon on Flipkart. For a limited period between May 04 and May 09, 2022, consumers buying Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners can avail no cost EMIs of up to 12 months, starting INR 2,799. Consumers will get one-year warranty on Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners.

Gifting ideas for Mother's Day

With Mother's day just around the corner, we must appreciate the role she plays in our lives. While mothers deserve our love round-the-clock, it's all about going all-out on Mother's day. From grand-mothers to new moms, these super women play myriad roles in our lives. And they deserve much appreciation and a lot of CARE!

However, the plethora of choices tend to daunt a person while picking out the perfect gift for your mother. But worry not! If you are on the lookout for a gift that would be the perfect token of love - Here's a gifting guide for mother's day that will tick all your check boxes for the 8th of May 1. Clensta's Super Women Combo Pack for your Super Woman: The super women that our moms are, they hop from one task to another

and make it look effortless and breezy without caring about the toll it takes on their mind, body and skin. This Mother's Day pamper your super-mom with Clensta's Super Women Combo Pack which comprises of a Face Moisturizer, a Sunscreen, a Face Serum and an Under-eye Cream. Laced with the goodness of magical Red Aloe Vera, this essential combo will help your mother in replenishing her natural glow and having the perfect skin she has always dreamt of. The higher concentrations of beneficial phytochemicals in Red Aloe Vera provide it a 22-times more powerful anti-inflammatory effect. High concentrations of salicylic acid and polysaccharides help relax tight muscles and provide a soothing effect.

Blue Dart reports record performance with positive Q4 and Year-End

Mumbai: Blue Dart Express Limited, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & Distribution Company, declared its Audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2022 at the Board Meeting held in Mumbai.

The company posted ₹ 1,354 million profit after tax (previous year ₹ 891 million profit) for the quarter ended March 31, 2022, and ₹ 3,764 million profit after tax (previous year ₹ 963 million profit) for the year ended March 31, 2022. Revenue from operations for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 stood at ₹ 11,659 million and 44,090 million for the year ended March 31, 2022.

Funskool rolls out exclusive new range of toys for children this summer

Chennai: India's leading toy manufacturer, Funskool India Ltd is back with launching yet another blockbuster range of toys for children this summer. The wide range of new products are from a diverse range of categories such as board games, puzzles, Infants & pre-school, dough etc. This range will not only encourage the development of multiple skills: cognitive, physical,

social, and emotional but also help parents to fully engage their children. The product offerings include 3 in 1 Deluxe Play Gyman Mini Vehicles combo packs for Toddlers, traditional board games such as Goats and Tigers (better known as Aadu Puli Attam in Tamil), Mancala, 9 in 1 Super Games apart from other products in Handy Crafts, Fun Dough and Puzzles for young children.

Commenting on the launch of the new products for summer 2022, Mr. R. Jeswant, CEO, of Funskool India said, "Funskool has always strived to introduce the best inspiring and engaging toys with a focus on edutainment. Being indigenously developed and manufactured, the new range of toys and games align with the nation's goal of Atma Nirbhar Bharat."

India Poker Championship and India Online Poker Championship

Mumbai: Spartan Poker announced the dates for its leading poker championships. The India Poker Championship (IPC) is heading to Casino Vegas by Big Daddy, Nepal, and will be held from 17th - 22nd May 2022. The 13th edition of the Indian Online Poker Championship (IOPC) will be held from 2nd - 19th June 2022. Indian poker enthusiasts will get to experience the best of both felts this summer with a whopping combined Prize-Pool of 36.5 Crore GTD.

India Poker Championship, the five-day live event hosted in Casino Vegas by Big Daddy, Nepal, will include four high-octane tournaments with a combined prize pool of 3.5 Crore. The IPC May

'22 MegaStacks edition is also designed in a best-in-class live tournament structure with heavy buy-ins & deep stacks for a high-quality gaming experience.

The India Online Poker Championship, which follows immediately post IPC, would be the biggest ever online poker series in India with a massive prize pool of 33 Crore GTD! The 18-day-long virtual series will provide an online experience unlike any other gaming event in India.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Amin Rozani, CEO of Spartan Poker Group said, "We are excited to host the India Poker Championship live this year and follow it up with our very successful

India Online Poker Championship that will be hosted on the Spartan Poker platform, along with other streaming partners like AIO Games, Blitzpoker, PokerHigh, and PokerDaddy. We know how incredible the level of play in these competitions can be! We aim to offer an even better experience for players & fans, and even more opportunities for skilled players to raise their games and win huge prizes."

At Spartan Poker, we provide a seamless and a fair gaming experience to the Indian poker community, and we are driven to build Poker as a professional sport in India, along with all its inherent thrill, while also showcasing the country's untapped poker talent. Added Mr. Rozani.

Sudarshan Venuelevated as Managing Director of TVS Motor Company

Chennai: TVS Motor Company, a reputed manufacturer of two-wheelers and three-wheelers globally, announced at its board meeting today the elevation of Sudarshan Venue as Managing Director of the Company, effective today. Sudarshan has been charting the future of one of India's leading two-wheeler manufacturer and has made it the most awarded two-wheeler company. He has played a pivotal role in the company's growth in India and key

international markets, including Asia, Africa, and more recently in Europe. Prof Sir Ralf Dieter Speth, Chairman, TVS Motor Company said, "Sudarshan has got a clear vision and brings with him both a tremendous passion for advanced technologies and sustainable growth, deep-seated in values. He thinks future-oriented, staying ahead of the emerging trends. Personal, smart mobility, including electrification, are two of his big areas of focus. He has also spearheaded the international growth of

TVS Motor. He has the ability to lead high performing teams internationally with empathy. He takes care of people and society. I am sure that with his leadership, the company will grow stronger and further pivot to the future." Mr. Venu Srinivasan, Chairman, Emeritus, TVS Motor Company said, "Sudarshan's extraordinary efforts have witnessed key decisions to develop aspirational products and grow fast in India and overseas."

WhatsApp rolls out emoji reactions, bigger groups

San Francisco: With an aim to make the messaging platform more user friendly, Meta-owned WhatsApp has announced that it is rolling out new features, including emoji reactions, bigger files and groups. The company said that it is slowly rolling out the ability to add up to 512 people to a group, which, till now, allowed to add only up to 256. "We are excited to share that emoji reactions are now available on the latest version of the app. Reactions are fun, fast, and they reduce overload in groups too. We will continue improving them by adding an even broader range of expressions in the future," the company said in a blogpost.

Allround RCB hand DC fifth straight loss

New Delhi: A clinical powerplay bowling effort saw Royal Challengers Bangalore return to winning ways with a 23-run thumping of Delhi Capitals at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday (April 15). Despite Virat Kohli's 47th IPL half-century, and a handful of other cameos in the 20s, RCB were restricted to 174/6 courtesy a fine spin bowling performance from the Capitals but they just didn't show up with the bat. DC top-order caved against RCB's seamers, losing three in the first 14 balls of the chase and their captain by the end of the powerplay, to quickly let the game, and those elusive first points, slip.

DC were quick to gauge that taking pace off could do the trick on this atypical Chinnaswamy pitch, and the three overs of spin in powerplay

produced only 16 runs combined. The three pacers, however, all leaked a couple of boundaries each in their powerplay overs. Kohli took on Anrich Nortje to get going, and Faf du Plessis laid into Mustafizur Rahman. The captain, who smoked a six down the ground off Axar Patel, also decided to take on Marsh but heaved one straight to midwicket where Aman Khan took a stunning one-handed catch to his right, on second attempt, to lend RCB the first big blow.

With Kuldeep coming just in after powerplay, DC had deployed spin from both ends and that slowed RCB further down. Kohli, who got a life on 36 when the chinaman bowler shelled a tough return chance, broke the shackles as soon as he saw pace return. Mustafizur was welcomed with a four



and then dispatched over fine-leg for a six before Kohli notched up his 47th IPL fifty, off just 33 balls. Lomror ended the over with a six himself - the 19 runs off the over took RCB to a strong 89/1 at the halfway mark. Kohli's wicket came against the run of play, not that DC would have complained. The former RCB captain, who had manoeuvred well

through DC's spin attack, eventually perished miscuing a full toss from Lalit Yadav to deep midwicket soon after his half-century. The bowler copped punishment from no. 4 Glenn Maxwell in the form of two maximums in the remainder of the over. But Marsh's adamant call for a caught-behind review put an end to Lomror's fight just as the

batter was beginning to free his arms more often. Capitals' most productive phase of play was where they picked three successive wickets across two overs to rob RCB of any momentum going into the death overs. Axar, after taking a beating from Maxwell and a promoted Harshal Patel, got lucky when the umpire's review for a stumping appeal against

the latter returned a caught-behind decision. Kuldeep then got the two prized wickets in successive balls, getting Maxwell to top-edge a googly and power-hitting specialist Dinesh Karthik to hole out a first-ball pull to deep midwicket. RCB slipped from 132/3 to 132/6 in the 15th over. Only a costly penultimate over from Mustafizur propelled them to 174, which ultimately proved quite enough though. Three wickets in as many overs upfront was as good a start as RCB could have hoped for. Prithvi Shaw was DC's Impact sub, and he was undone by a sharp direct-hit from his RCB counterpart. Anuj Rawat nailed this throw at the non-striker's end to send Shaw on his way for a second-ball duck, after the batter pushed the ball in the covers and took off for a single. Four balls in,

Marsh popped a leading edge off one from Wayne Parnell. Next over, Yash Dhull only wasted a DRS review on a plumb LBW call as DC slipped to 2/3. David Warner's little counterattack - a hat-trick of boundaries off Siraj - was put to an end early by RCB debutant Vijaykumar Vyshak who got the left-hander miscuing a pull off his slower ball. Axar's entertaining cameo lasted 14 balls, where he took on Wanindu Hasaranga but was outsmarted by Vyshak's knuckle ball. Manish Pandey turned it on against the legspinner too, in the 14th over, with a 4, 6, 4, 2 to march to a 37-ball fifty with minimal applause and even minimalistic celebrations. The Sri Lankan had the last laugh though, trapping him LBW next ball. Vyshak consumed another in his final over with a

knuckleball, rounding off a memorable debut with figures of 4-0-20-3. Coming in at 110/8, Nortje struck four boundaries in his 14-ball cameo of 23* to drag it down to the final over. From the final scorecard, it may appear DC put up a fight but it was never so after the dismal powerplay collapse. With a four-day break now before they resume their hunt for first points this season, Delhi return home where they will host Kolkata Knight Riders on April 20. For RCB, it will be a quick turnaround with CSK paying a visit on Monday (April 17). Brief scores: Royal Challengers Bangalore 174/6 in 20 overs (Virat Kohli 50; Kuldeep Yadav 2-23, Mitch Marsh 2-18) beat Delhi Capitals 151/9 in 20 overs (Manish Pandey 50; Vijaykumar Vyshak 3-20, Mohammed Siraj 2-23) by 23 runs

Patidar, Iyer to take treatment in UK

New Delhi: Rajat Patidar will take treatment in England and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) also confirmed on Saturday that Shreyas Iyer too is on way to the United Kingdom for his back surgery.

The BCCI said it will bear all the expenses of Patidar's surgery to his left heel, which has ruled him out of the entire IPL 2023. "The BCCI will send Patidar for surgery although he is not a centrally contracted player. He is one of the targeted players and we will ensure he gets the best treatment," a BCCI official said.

Patidar (29) shot into national limelight with a swashbuckling century in the IPL playoffs last year for Royal Challengers Bangalore and followed it up with some stellar



performances in domestic cricket. He had been undergoing rehab at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) before the decision was taken to send him for surgery. He is currently at home in Indore, waiting for his visa papers to fly to the UK for the treatment. Earlier, his franchise issued a statement about his injury status. "Unfortunately, Rajat Patidar has been ruled

out of IPL 2023 due to an Achilles Heel injury. We wish Rajat a speedy recovery and will continue to support him during the process," RCB said in a statement recently. Meanwhile, the BCCI said Iyer will undergo an operation next week. "Mr Shreyas Iyer is scheduled to undergo surgery for his lower back issue next week. He will remain under the

surgeon's care for two weeks and will return to the NCA after that for rehabilitation," a BCCI statement on Saturday said.

The BCCI also provided an update on Jasprit Bumrah, who has already completed surgical treatment and started rehab at NCA from Friday. "Mr Jasprit Bumrah underwent surgery in New Zealand on his lower back, which was successful and he remains pain-free. The fast bowler was advised by the specialist to start his rehab six weeks after the surgery and accordingly, Mr Bumrah has commenced his rehab management at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru from Friday," the BCCI statement read. It is largely expected that Bumrah will be ready for the 50-over World Cup in October-November.

New Delhi: On April 15, during Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB) match against the Delhi Capitals (DC) at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, Dinesh Karthik continued his poor form in the 2023 Indian Premier League (IPL) by being dismissed for a golden duck by Kuldeep Yadav. RCB was in trouble after DC won the toss and chose to bowl first. Karthik came in to bat after Glenn Maxwell's dismissal and RCB needed a strong finish from him. Unfortunately, Karthik tried to attack the first ball but could not find the connection as the ball landed straight into the hands of Lalit Yadav at deep midwicket. As a result of this golden duck, Karthik has achieved the unwanted feat of having the joint-most ducks in IPL



history, alongside Mandeep Singh. This was the 15th time in his IPL career that Karthik has been dismissed for a duck. Despite playing for six different teams in the IPL since the first season in 2008, Karthik has been struggling with his form throughout the tournament, having scored just 9 runs in four innings so far. This is also the second time in the 2023 IPL that Karthik has been dismissed for a duck,

following his early dismissal in RCB's season opener against the Mumbai Indians. Karthik's poor performance was a major factor in RCB's batting failure, as they were only able to put up 174 runs on the board despite a bright start from Virat Kohli who scored a half-century. Although Karthik has been part of many IPL teams, including Delhi Daredevils, Kings XI Punjab, Mumbai Indians, Gujarat Lions,

Kolkata Knight Riders, and RCB, his form has been inconsistent in recent years. The IPL is one of the most popular T20 cricket leagues in the world and attracts many star players from various countries. Karthik has been a regular participant in the league, and his performances have often been critical to his team's success. However, his current form is a cause of concern for RCB and the fans who hope to see him bounce back soon.

Non-striker run-out not only correct but absolutely necessary, says MCC

New Delhi: The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has reiterated its oft-repeated position on non-strikers being run out for backing up too far and said the growing narrative and vilification of the bowlers during that type of dismissal is unfair. "Our stance on this is simple - batters must not steal ground if they do not wish to be given out in this manner. Nor should they be expecting to be given a warning if they do. If all non-strikers only left the popping crease once the ball had been released, there would never be the need for

such a dismissal again," Mike Gatting, the chair of the MCC World Cricket Committee, said in a statement on Thursday (February 23). Committee member Kumara Sangakkara was even more supportive of the bowler. "The bowler is not the villain here. Every batter has a choice; to stay in their ground, or risk being given out if they try to steal ground. If they choose the latter, they are the ones who are breaking the Law," the former Sri Lanka captain noted. The MCC's reiteration of its stand was taken at a meeting held at the



ICC headquarters in Dubai last week. The MCC, recognised as the sole authority on the game's laws, said, "Part of the discussion in Dubai touched on the growing narrative for the bowler to be

vilified for this type of dismissal. The committee members were unanimous in their view that the batter stealing ground is the one breaking the Laws of the game and therefore deserving of

recrimination. They were also in agreement that there is no precedent to require a bowler to give a warning to a batter, confirming they are completely within their right to

dismiss the batter on the first occasion they break the Law." India bowler Deepti Sharma had to face the brunt of England media's vilification campaign after she ran out Charlie Dean during an ODI at Lord's last September. The English media rose up in unison condemning Deepti and called for immediate change of rules. One newspaper in London ran a full page coverage on the dismissal. "The MCC will have to change the Laws of Cricket. What Deepti Sharma did at Lord's looked wrong, whatever the existing Law says," a report on

the page had read. But the MCC said such dismissals are not only correct but necessary. "The MCC World Cricket committee (WCC) has unanimously agreed that the Law regarding the act of non-strikers leaving their ground early and subsequently being run out is not only correct but necessary to ensure that non-strikers do not gain an unfair advantage," the statement said. It has now called for calm across all levels of the game, from the grassroots level of recreational cricket to the elite level, stating that "the act of running

out a non-striker who opts to steal ground is within the Laws of the game." The committee also noted the recent incident involving Adam Zampa who attempted to run out non-striker Tom Rogers, in a men's Big Bash League game in early January. "The overriding factor is that there is a simple way that all confusion and controversy around this form of dismissal can be eradicated -- by non-strikers complying with the Law and remaining within their ground until they have seen the ball being released from the bowler's hand," the MCC committee said.