

Retired Banker, LIC Agent Among Three Arrested In Rs 4.13 Crore Bank Fraud Case In Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Economic Offences Wing, Bhubaneswar, arrested three persons including a retired banker and an ex- LIC agent in over Rs 4 crore bank fraud case.

The arrested accused persons were Sk. Abdul Hayee, the Retired Branch Manager of Nuapatna Branch; Prakash Kumar Mohapatra, former Sr. Assistant of Christ College extension counter of Urban Cooperative Bank, Cuttack; and Md. Mustakim Raza, the loanee. The trio was arrested in an EOW case U/s 409/420/467/468/471/120-B IPC. As per allegation, Sk. Abdul Hayee, the then Branch Manager of Nuapatna Branch, the then senior clerk Prakash Mohapatra of Extension Counter of Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, Cuttack, colluded with three loanees sanctioned eight loans against fake LIC policies amounting to Rs 3.82 crore during the period 2019 to 21. The current outstanding amount on these loans is Rs 4.13 Crore. The ex-banker as well as Sr. Assistant at Christ



College extension counter of the Urban Cooperative Bank in conspiracy with the arrested loanee Md. Mustakim Raza and two others had fraudulently sanctioned 8 loans amounting to Rs.3.82 Cr. against the security of fake/forged LIC policies. The accused bank authorities in violation of the banking guidelines deliberately did not verify the authenticity/genuineness of the pledged insurance policies nor did they get it ratified with the concerned branch of LIC, and moreover, sanctioned the loans showing falsely the assignment of the fake policies with LIC by manufacturing the forged documents. Further, they went on renewing the loans by sanctioning new loans to close the

previous loans. Even, the pledged insurance policies stand in the name of some other persons but it has been forged by changing the name of the policy holders to the name of the loanees, the EOW said in a release today. Md. Mustakim Raza, who was arrested in the bank fraud case, was working as an LIC agent from 2002 to 2022. He allegedly collected LIC policies from the branch that he forged by putting the name of the loanees including him. He managed to avail the loan against the forged insurance policies. And the arrested bank officials were aware of such forgery. The investigation is currently underway to nab two others accused in the case.

IMD Predicts Rain, Thunderstorm In These Odisha Districts On April 28

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Several districts of Odisha are likely to witness thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind reaching up to 40-50 kmph on April 28, predicted the IMD regional centre here today.

Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Gajapati and Ganjam on April 28. The IMD has issued an Orange warning for these districts. Similarly, heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Kandhamal, said the IMD. "People are advised to keep a watch on the weather and take safe shelter during the thunderstorm to protect them from lightning. The commuters should also follow traffic advisories in urban areas," added the weatherman.

OBITUARY

Late Prasant Kumar Dash
Kshetraphal, Chandikhole, Jajpur
Date of Departure: 17/04/2023
Pray peace for the Departed soul
Fondly Remembered By
Family, Friends & Relatives

Honorary Doctorate to Achyuta Samanta



Bhubaneswar: Eminent educationist and social worker and Founder, KIIT and KISS, Prof. Achyuta Samanta has been conferred with honorary doctorate by

Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Assam. He was conferred with D.Litt. by the university on the occasion of its 5th convocation ceremony.

This honorary doctorate has been awarded to Prof. Samanta for his outstanding contribution to the field of education and social service. He received the honor from

Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, Hon'ble Governor of Assam. This is the 51st doctorate for Prof. Samanta. He expressed his gratitude to the authorities of Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva University for the recognition. It will motivate him to do more, said Prof. Samanta. Among others, Union Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Chancellor Sjt. Bhabendra Nath Deka, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Mridul Hazarika, and Registrar Prof. Mrinal Kumar Borah were present on the occasion.

Is Not Misuse Of Power By Government Machinery?

Delhi/ Bhubaneswar/ Raipur:(KCN): It is shameful to say that the Government Machinery treats the Journalists as the Fourth Pillars of the Constitution, but till now Government has not recognized & not published or not declared as Fourth Pillars of the Constitution in Pen & Papers Officially. How disgracefulness & pettiness, though the Pen & Papers are with the hand of the Journalists as the Journalists can only expose the all lowfalls, irregularities, injustices and corruptions, if any Buerocrate, MLA, MP, Ministers, Politicians, Social Activists and any citizen of India are doing. It is known to all that Pen is mightier to Sword. It is regret to say

that the Government Machinery should not misutilise a single paise of Revenues, the entire money of Revenues which are collecting from different sources are to be utilized in all development works, in case of Connectivity or making of good quality Roads. But what happened, the Government is doing Roads & it is giving to a Contractor for collecting Toll Taxes & they set up Toll Plaza Gates in different Roads of India. This Toll Plaza is not taking Toll Taxes from the Government Departments, MLA, MP, Ministers and their selected Taxes exempted lists, but they are intentionally, planningly and cunningly taking Toll

Injustices To Journalists



Taxes from the Journalists. It is nothing but a blackmailing, extracting and showing

of Dabangagiri, Gundagiri as well as misutilising of Power. Here is an question mark

that how they are daring not to give exemption of Toll Taxes to the Journalists. It is the right

time to unite all Journalists of India & do expose the Buerocrates, MLA, MP, Ministers,

Politicians, Social Activists, Government Machinery who are doing Dabangagiri, Gundagiri, irregularities, injustices and corruptions as the 2024 Election is knocking at their Door & time will come, the Government Machinery will compell to recognize the Journalists in Pen and Papers with Government Notification as Fourth Pillars of the Constitution to the Journalists of India. The Government Machinery or Buerocrates, MLA, MP, Ministers, Chief Minister, Prime Minister all have joined hand with each others and they are doing pretension, irregularities, injustices, corruptions making the

innocent peoples of India as a fool. They are thinking or they have set or made their mind programming that Government Money, Guest Houses, Vehicles & etc are their Paternal Properties & they can enjoy & utilize as per their choices. Now, the sensitive, intellectual Citizens and Journalists of India are appealing and demanding for recognition of Journalists as Fourth Pillars of the Constitution in Pen & Papers Officially as well as the Toll Taxes should not be taken or collected from the Journalists of India. There should be debate in this issue or regards from ground level of India.

G20 Meet begins

Bhubaneswar: The third Education Working Group meeting under G20 kicked off here on Wednesday with a seminar on 'Building Capacities for Lifelong Learning in the context of Future of Work' at Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT). The meeting is a continuation of the previous two working group meetings held in Chennai and Amritsar earlier, aimed at discussing and implementing innovative ideas and policies to globally transform the education sector. Over 60 delegates from G20 member countries,

invitee countries and international organisation countries are participating in the three-day meeting. Addressing the occasion, Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State for Education, emphasised on the value of skill education and informed about the many skilling initiatives offered by the government in order to create a future-ready military. Shri Sarkar said that today's seminar builds on the deliberations held in the last two webinars on the evolving world of work, and the importance of foundational skills and lifelong learning. It aims to strengthen



human and institutional capacity for the delivery of 'future skills' for a 'future-ready' workforce through upskilling, re-skilling and lifelong learning while ensuring

inclusivity, he said. Guided by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the government of India is rethinking the ways deployed to develop, assess, and

recognize skills, primarily through the integration of academic and vocational education, he added. Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi, Chairperson of the

National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), also spoke at the seminar. The seminar included three panel discussions, with

participation from Brazil, Spain, UAE, Singapore, Russia, South Africa, Mauritius, OECD, UNICEF, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Delegates also attended the G20 Future of Work Exhibition where they saw cutting-edge technology and innovative ideas that are changing the way we work and learn. The exhibition features active representation from industry, academia, government agencies, multilateral agencies, startups, and other organisations, as well as an experience zone on the future of work

and huge technology exhibits. Apart from the discussions, the three-day meeting also includes a cultural extravaganza, featuring traditional Odissi performances. The delegates will get a chance to experience the rich cultural heritage of Odisha and learn more about the state's history and traditions. On the last day of the seminar, the delegates will visit the Konark temple. The temple is a symbol of the state's rich cultural heritage and is a popular tourist destination.

Historic demonstration of Central, State employees demanding restoration of OPS



Bhubaneswar: Under the banner of National Joint Council of Action (NJCA), Odisha Circle branch comprising all Central Govt. employees including Railways and all State Govt. employees including Teachers, a mass demonstration programme was conducted in Bhubaneswar on 26.04.2023. Thousands of employees from all departments of Central/State Govt. with the banners and flags of their respective organizations assembled near Master Canteen Square, Bhubaneswar and went on a huge rally to the lower PMG area where a grand meeting was conducted under the President-ship of Com. Prasant Kumar Mohanty, NJCA, Odisha. The meeting was addressed by Com. P K Patsahani, Convenor, NJCA Odisha and General Secretary, East Coast Railway Sharamik Union, Com. Bruhaspati Samal, General Secretary, Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers, Odisha State Coordination Committee and Joint Convenor, NJCA Odisha, Com. B B Panigrahi and Com. Prakash Chandra Mohanty, President and General Secretary, Odisha Secondary

School Teachers' Association respectively, Com. Prasant Kumar Mohanty and Com. Sujit Kumar Behera, President and General Secretary, Odisha State Govt. Employees Coordination Committee respectively, Com. Chitta Ranjan Pattnaik, General Secretary, Income Tax Employees Federation, Odisha, Com. Panchanan Jena, General Secretary, Odisha Contractual Teachers' Union, Com. Sukant Behera, General Secretary AIOSSTA and many other senior leaders from many sister unions including Bank, LIC and both Central and State Govt. Pensioners' Associations in Odisha. Addressing the gathering, all the leaders criticised the anti-employee policies of both the Central and State Govt. Frequent changes in the pension policies of the Govt. of India with introduction of New Pension Scheme or National Pension Scheme (NPS) with effect from 1st January, 2004 which became applicable to all new entrants to central government services (except the Army, Navy and Air Force) and adopted by all State Governments except Govt. of Tamilnadu and West Bengal, crores of Central and State Govt. employees and

pensioners are now quite apprehensive regarding the future of pension which is treated as a major social security in the fag end of their life. Since 2004 till date continuous struggle is going on both by the Central and State Govt. employees to scrap NPS and restore OPS. Now under the banner of NJCA rigorous State level and National level agitational programmes are being undertaken every month under the banner of Joint Forum for Restoration of Old Pension Scheme (JFROPS) which is getting momentum day by day. As such, encumbered with decisions taken by various State Governments like Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Chhatisgarh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to rollback to OPS, Andhra Pradesh Govt.'s decision to offer a guaranteed pension of 33% of the last basic pay without any monthly deduction from the employees' salary and latest by Maharastra Govt. to exit from the NPS only because of the continuous struggle programmes conducted by each State Govt. employees including employees and trade unions, now the Hon'ble

Finance Minister on 24th March, 2023 has set up a Committee to propose changes for improvising NPS. Considering the gravity of the continuous struggle programmes of the employees and pensioners, it was expected that the Central Govt. would take a constructive step and declare in the last Budget Session to scrap NPS since ahead there is the year of General Election. But by constituting the committee, the Govt. has tried to adopt a tactical way to smoothly overcome the year of election and to divert the employees from their struggle path which is next to impossible. The demand of the employees is not to improve, but to scrap NPS including PFRDA Act, 2013 and restore OPS.

Above all, the OPS is a defined benefit scheme without any contribution from the employee and guaranteeing minimum pension of 50% of the last pay drawn subject to minimum of Rs.9000/- per month plus DR (7th CPC norms). There is also a benefit of getting a lump sum amount equivalent to 40% of the pension at the time of superannuation as the commutation value which is restored after 15 years. In addition, the pension amount is increased by 20% each 5 years starting at the age of 80 and doubling the pension amount at the age of 100 of the pensioner. There is neither such social security nor any guarantee of minimum pension under NPS. Even though the employee contributes 10% of his salary every month in addition to 14% similar contribution by the employer, the NPS beneficiary gets a meagre amount confined to maximum 10% of the last pay drawn as monthly pension illustrated as above. To manage their families, such pensioners are now seen to work as daily-wagers, street vendors and even suicidal cases are being witnessed in case of failures.

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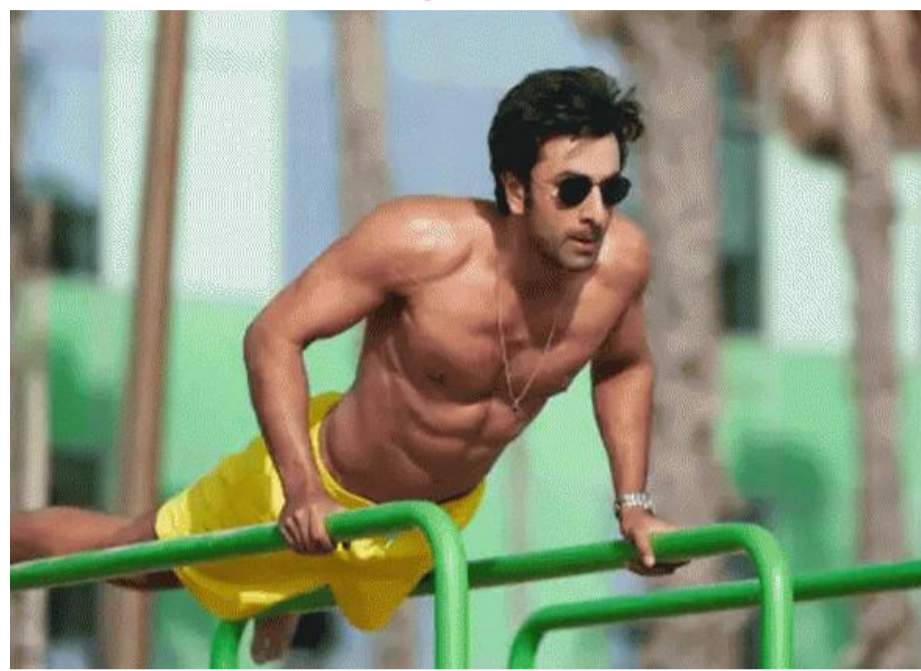
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Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar: Ranbir Kapoor Flaunts Cool Avatar in Pyaar Hota Kayi Baar Hai song

The makers of 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar' teased Ranbir Kapoor's fans by sharing a glimpse of the actor from his upcoming song 'Pyaar Hota Kayi Baar Hai'. With Ranbir dressed in a suit, the poster gives us a sneak peek of the actor shaking a leg in a club. Seems like fans can expect a dance number coming their way. Taking to social media, makers ignited excitement amongst the audience for the upcoming song. Along with the poster, in the captions, the makers

wrote, "Pyaar ka ultimate gyaan..... Kal milega. #PyaarHotaKayiBaarHai Out tomorrow." Sung by Arijit Singh and composed by Pritam, 'Pyaar Hota Kayi Baar Hai' will be out on February 10. Besides Ranbir Kapoor, Shraddha Kapoor is also starring in 'Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar', which is helmed by Luv Ranjan. 'Pyaar Hota Kayi Baar Hai' is the second song. Prior to it, the makers unveiled the first song of the film 'Tere Pyaar Mein' which got a massive response



from the fans. 'Tere Pyaar Mein' oozes freshness and romance. The song is composed by Pritam, sung by none other than Arijit Singh along with Nikhita Gandhi, and has lyrics penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya. With Ranbir and Shraddha's presence, the song looks like a beautiful combination of love and liveness that strikes the right chord with the youth. The film marks the first on-screen collaboration between Ranbir and Shraddha and is all set to hit the theatres on March 8, 2023.

Pamela Anderson Still Owns Iconic Baywatch Swimsuit, Wears it 30 Years Later



Actress Pamela Anderson has admitted she still has the iconic red swimsuit she wore on the hit TV show Baywatch. The 55-year-old former glamour model revealed the outfit still fits and said she slips into it "every once in a while," despite it being more than 30 years since she first wore the racy costume, reports mirror.co.uk. Pamela rose to fame playing lifeguard C.J. Parker on the popular drama series and first stepped into the role back in 1992. She stayed on the show

for five seasons before departing in 1997 to pursue other acting and modelling jobs. Opening up about her Baywatch swimsuit, Pamela said: "I had a couple back then. Now I only have one and it fits!" "I put it on every once in a while," she admitted to Entertainment Tonight. After leaving Baywatch in the late 90s, Pamela returned to the role of C.J. in 2017 for a cameo appearance in the Baywatch movie spinoff. The actress claims she only agreed to take part

Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathaan' is the First Film Ever to Shut Down Burj Khalifa Boulevard!

The brutal battle that superstar Shah Rukh Khan's character Pathaan has with John Abraham's, anti-hero Jim in Dubai was possible because the entire Burj Khalifa boulevard was shut down for the first time ever for any film in the world. Director Siddharth Anand reveals, "The toughest action to execute in Pathaan - one is on top of a moving train, one is mid-air with planes, one is in Dubai which takes place in the boulevard around the Burj Khalifa which no Hollywood film has been able to do this." "To shoot this sequence in Dubai, it just looked impossible. But the Dubai police and the authorities made it happen for us." He adds, "My friends, who live at the Boulevard, came and told me that they got circulars saying on this day between this time, you will not be able to access the boulevard so please plan your days. And they were amazed that - oh my god... that's for my film!" Siddharth further states, "I said I can't believe it and this wouldn't have been possible if they had not agreed to our vision and supported us wholeheartedly. So I want to thank the Dubai police and the authorities in Dubai." 'Pathaan' released on January 25. It also stars Deepika Padukone, John Abraham, Dimple Kapadia and Ashutosh Rana.



Richa Chadha-Ali Fazal Announce Psycho-Thriller 'The Underbug' as Their Second Home Production

Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal are ecstatic as their second home production, 'The Underbug,' got a positive response at the Slamdance Film Festival in Los Angeles. The film, which was made under the banner of Pushing Buttons Studios, entered this independent film festival and garnered rave reviews from critics and audiences both.

The movie is directed by Shujaat Saudagar and stars Ali and Hussain Dalal in lead roles. The film was shot during lockdowns in late 2020. The film was extensively shot in a house somewhere in the interior of Maharashtra. A psychological thriller, the story



revolves around two characters who take refuge in an abandoned house. 'The Underbug' is the first psychological horror movie from their production house. Owing to this it

helped to create a cult for South Asian movies of a similar genre in front of a global audience. Richa said, "The movie got a great response and as creators of it we were there to witness



it. It was a very proud moment for us, especially because it represented Indian cinema on such a huge global platform. This is a great time for cinema as Indian

movies are getting wider reach with a global audience. The films of this genre are quite tricky since it has a very niche audience, but since it got such a positive response it kind of says it all."

Ali said, "I have not only produced the movie but also acted in it, so I am not just physically involved with the movie but also emotionally. And seeing a response like this is quite heartwarming. The movie was made in very confusing and stressful circumstances. The movie also had the added responsibilities since it was its first screening, and the first reactions were positive, it gave us a lot of confidence." The movie is written by Shujaat Saudagar, Abbas Dalal, and Hussain Dalal and produced by Vikesh Bhutani, Shujaat Saudagar and Aman Mann. Executive Producers Richa Chadha, Ali Fazal, Abbas Dalal and Hussain Dalal.

THE POPULATION BOMB IS STILL TICKING

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Nayak

It looks like the UN Population Data 2023 dropped a bombshell among us when it emphatically declared that India's population surpassed that of China on April 19, 2023 and ranked as the world's most populous country. Of course, it is not at all, an amusing news that our population now stands at 1.4286 billion compared to China's 1.4257 billion. A huge country with a huge population may not be always at an advantage from different perspectives. There is nodenying the fact that a country with a small population can more effectively handle its socio-economic problems than that of a populous country. A huge population is undoubtedly a burden for a country and thwarts its steady development. It was American Sociologist

Kingsley Davis (1908-1997) while serving as Associate Professor at Pennsylvania University from 1937 to 1942 coined the terms "Population Explosion" and "Zero Population Growth" first studying the demographic trend in the American society. As a member of the team of demographers sponsored by Carnegie Corporation he visited 10 countries of Africa and Asia including India in 1951 to study its population growth and its reasons.

Similarly, Nobel Prize winner German Physicist Paul Ehrlich (1854 - 1915) had coined the term "Population Bomb" expressing his deep concern over the unchecked world population growth and its trajectory. He co-authored a book entitled "Population Bomb" in 1968 with

Anne Howland Ehrlich that became an international bestseller and warned the human civilization about the consequences of overpopulation in the world. He predicted that overpopulation would cause famine, disease and widespread poverty in populous countries which will stunt the progress of the human society. According to Ehrlich since 1930 population of the world has doubled within a single generation, that is, from 2 billion to 4 billion. It definitely augured bad omen for the world. The global population reached 8 billion on November 15, 2022 and is expected to be 8.5 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050. The first United Nations sponsored World Population Conference was held in 1954 in

Rome, second in 1965 in Belgrade, third in 1974 in Bucharest, fourth in 1984 in Mexico city that widely discussed about various population issues like infant mortality rate, birth control, reproductive right, family planning, fertility and maternal mortality etc.

The population of India grew from 361.1 million in 1951 to 1210.2 million in 2011. Anyway, as on 1st July, 2020 India's population was estimated at 1.38 billion. Demographers are of the opinion that India is in the third stage of demographic transition where birth rates are steadily decreasing, but population is increasing as there is a large percentage (53%) of people in the reproductive age (15-49). "It is important to

note that total fertility rate (the average number of live child birth a woman is supposed to have in her life) was as high as 6 or more in the 1950s, but has come down to 2.2 in 2015-16." The decadal growth rate of the population of India has clearly shown a declining trend in the past few decades. During the period 2001-2011 the decadal growth rate was 17.7% as against 21.5% of the period 1991-2001. However, the momentum of overall population growth will go on naturally. Population control is not an easy task that requires a whopping amount of fund worldwide. It is believed that about \$ 750 million is spent globally on different awareness programmes to check population growth.

India happens to be the first country in the world to embark on a state-sponsored National Family Planning programme in 1952 to check the fertility rate among the people and to slow population growth. In the 1970s a forced and coercive sterilization programme was undertaken in India under the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi which backfired and created resentment among the people. Anyway, the family planning programme could result in a 19.9% decrease in birth rate. It is very much important to note that the family planning programmes prevented 16.8 crore births in India by 1996. The Government of India is trying hard to bring about a stable population. Population growth is

linked to economic status, education, age of marriage and social status, but religion has nothing to do with it. However, lack of awareness and medical counselling among the poor usually causes a spurt in the birth rate and adds to the population. China implemented One Child Policy in 1980 to control its burgeoning population growth and discontinued it in 2016. However, India has not done anything like this. The Government of India passed the Population Control Bill, 2019 to control unchecked population growth in India. It was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in July 2019, but is yet to become an Act. The population of India almost exploded between 1930 and 1980. The decadal growth rate which was 11% in the 1931

census jumped to 25% in 1981. Since the decadal growth rate is showing a declining trend. In the 2011 census India recorded a decadal growth rate of 17.1% which is definitely a positive sign. The UK based international weekly medical journal Lancet predicts that India's population will attain its peak in 2047 with a population of 1.61 billion which will be the largest in the world, then there will be a steady decline which will remain at a balanced level at 1.03 billion. In comparison, as per the projections of demographers the global population will reach 10.4 in 2086 and then will show a declining trend.

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Watermelon a Summer Fruit

Shahnaz Husain



Is there a more perfect summer fruit than sweet, juicy watermelon? It's supremely refreshing and hydrating—and as it turns out, has tons of benefits for your skin as well.

Watermelon is a summertime favorite. Watermelon the 'summer's blessing' contains 90% water by weight and is packed with vitamins and nutrients, especially lycopene, ascorbic acid, and citrulline. Watermelons are packed with all the good stuff; they're tasty, hydrating, and negative calorie food, which helps in burning calories.

These wonderful ingredients are known to protect against many chronic illnesses from heart disease to cancer. When you're incredibly thirsty and need to replenish fluids in your body, watermelon is the ideal summer go-to. Since 90 percent of watermelon is just water, it helps in nourishing the skin and makes it more radiant. Nothing can beat a juicy slice of watermelon when the summer heat is burning you down.

This luscious summer fruit is not only a delicious summer snack, but it also has several advantages for the skin.

From keeping you cool to maintaining your skin health, let us look at some of the benefits of consuming watermelons in summer

Benefits of Watermelon for skin

Hydrates your skin ---

Whether you apply a watermelon face mask or consume a fresh slice, it has a huge influence on keeping your skin hydrated. From acne-prone to sensitive, dry to combination, it's a one-fruit-fits-all kind of thing. If you have sensitive, acne-prone skin, the strong anti-inflammatory properties in watermelon can help calm skin irritation, redness, and inflammation. Vitamin A, B6, and Vitamin C in Watermelon help in collagen production, which improves skin texture and suppleness, make the skin brighter, and fade spots and blemishes. Lycopene content in watermelons has a sun-protection effect, so you are less likely to get sunburnt. The vitamin A in watermelon keeps your eyes sparkly and can prevent macular degeneration.

At home, you may make your own moisturizing facemask using watermelon and

honey. Honey is a humectant that replenishes moisture and works quickly to give you smooth, bright skin. It hydrates and cures dry skin.

Combine two tablespoons of watermelon juice and one tablespoon of honey in a mixing dish. On your face, apply the mixture. Allow it to sit for 10-12 minutes before washing it off. For the best results, do this once a week.

Additionaly, watermelon juice helps to calm and lessen the redness of the skin that is prone to acne.

Prevent oily skin

Watermelon is an excellent skin component, particularly for individuals with oily skin. The delicious red fruit reduces pores and has unparalleled moisturizing effects. It treats oily skin by controlling the oil-producing glands called sebaceous glands, allowing your face to be free of oil and acne.

Watermelon is beneficial for eliminating excess oil from your skin.

Mix one tablespoon of watermelon pulp and one tablespoon of banana pulp in a bowl with a spatula and apply to the face and neck. Allow 20 to 25 minutes for the face pack to dry. After that, wash it with warm water. This is the finest watermelon face mask for those who suffer from acne and pigmentation.

A mixture of mashed watermelon and tomato pulp can be used by those with oily skin to smoothen the skin. The malic acid in watermelon and lycopene in tomato act as natural exfoliators and soothe the skin.

A natural skin toner-- Watermelon juice is a natural toner that is as good as rose water for your skin because of its natural extracts.

Vitamin C and antioxidants present in watermelon help regenerate skin cells and protect them from injury. These nutrients prevent free radical damage and also protect your skin from any further disruption.

To tone your skin, gently apply fresh watermelon juice to it and rinse it off. Watermelon seeds are a good source of magnesium which lowers cortisol levels that help reduce acne and also balances out your hormones.

They also contain protein, fatty acids, and ceramides that help in locking the moisture in your skin.

Natural Exfoliator-- The grainy particles present in the fruit helps gently exfoliate the skin.

Watermelon is rich in vitamin C, which brightens your skin quickly. The gritty particles in the fruit assist in gently exfoliating the skin while also moisturizing it. To naturally scrub off dead skin cells, apply a teaspoon of mashed watermelon to your skin.

To remove dead skin

cells, rub watermelon and tomato pulp across the face or body in circular motions. The malic acid in watermelon and the enzymes in tomato help break down the glue that holds the dead skin cells together.

Combining mashed watermelon with yogurt and honey and then leaving the paste on the face for 10-15 minutes can be beneficial. The antioxidants in honey and watermelon can reduce inflammation, while yogurt can exfoliate the skin.

An Anti-Ager

Watermelons are enriched with antioxidants and vitamins, which all involve offering you glowing skin. Antioxidants help combat free radical damage and enhance suppleness, which reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles and makes skin appear tighter. Vitamins brighten dull skin and make off that layer that makes it look tired and overworked. Mix watermelon pulp, milk, and honey. Make a paste and apply it to your face. Wash it with running or lukewarm water. Watermelon has potent antioxidants that fight free radicals to prevent premature aging. Milk, on the other hand, is a natural cleanser that deep cleanses the skin and removes dead skin cells.

Cure sunburn Applying a

watermelon and cucumber face pack to cure sunburn is recommended. Both watermelon and cucumber are excellent for your skin. Cucumber is a cooling substance that aids in the removal of tan. Watermelon has various aesthetic advantages, including moisturizing and soothing inflammation and itching. It also contains lycopene, protecting the skin from sunburn and skin cancer. It blocks UV rays at least twice as well as an antioxidant.

Mix a spoonful of cucumber pulp with watermelon juice to make the face mask. Apply the pack evenly to your face and leave it on for 15-20 minutes before washing it off.

The best time to eat watermelons is in the morning between 10 am to 12 pm, as breakfast or between breakfast and lunch. You can also have it as an evening snack, before 5 pm. Do not consume it at night or with your meals. It must be avoided by diabetics and everyone with digestive issues. Have it in moderation and never too much, otherwise, it sure can make you feel bloated, and gassy and even give you a stomach ache. It's totally safe, to use it for skin care. The only people who can't use it are those who are allergic to watermelon.

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

Letter To Editor

Dear Editor

This touching bird video has been circulating on the net for quite some time and been viral. However, the interpretation provided here is scientifically incorrect! This is not about an old age caregiving in birds as is being claimed. This video actually shares the story of the parasitic cuckoo bird, in which the females do not lay their eggs in their own nest, and rather parasitize the nest of other host birds.

Cuckoos don't make nests. This is an example where a female cuckoo bird (the big one) that has been growing under the care and support of her foster parents (small bird) is demanding food. The small bird is one of the foster parent whose nest has been parasitized by an adult female cuckoo that laid her egg(s) in that particular nest. The hatched chick has slowly been growing and has even become bigger in size than the foster parents. But the parental instinct is so high in the host bird species that in spite of the fact that this cuckoo is not her own offspring they take every care to help raise them to adulthood. Once the cuckoos mature as semi adults, they leave the nest of their foster



parents and live their independent life. They again pair up in due course of time with suitable partners, mate during the onset of spring and lay their clutch of eggs in the nest of their host species to raise their young.

These nest parasitic cuckoo species like the Asiatic koel don't raise their own chicks; but, leave it for their host species to serve for them in hatching and raising their chicks. The behaviour has evolved over a long period of time, making them very successful in becoming nest and brood parasites. Different species of cuckoos are known all over the world have different local host species.

It is also important to mention that all cuckoo species are not brood parasitic in nature. Ethology is the study of animal behaviour and correct interpretation of behaviour of species is important for better understanding their actions and implications.

It is also important to note that interpretation of animal behaviour should not be made on the perspective of human feelings, sentiments and emotions. It will need to do misunderstanding and misinterpretation of specific behaviour if we try to interpret ethology in terms of human psychology.

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Madhya Pradesh Woman, 22, Killed By Man Stalking Her For 2 Years

Bhopal: A young woman was fatally shot by a man who had been harassing her for years in a residential area of Madhya Pradesh's Dhar city on Wednesday morning. The police said the suspect, Deepak Rathore, had been pursuing the woman, Pooja, 22, for marriage, but she had repeatedly turned him down. Pooja, who worked at a restaurant and lived with her mother and two sisters in Brahmakund, a neighbourhood of Dhar, was on her way to work when Rathore

confronted her and opened fire. She died on the spot, the police said. Witnesses alerted the authorities and a manhunt was launched for Rathore. Rathore had a history of stalking Pooja, and she had filed a complaint against him in court. He had also threatened her family and friends, according to the police. Later in the day, the police located Rathore at his house in Brahmakund and tried to arrest him. But he resisted and fired at the officers, injuring one of them. The police returned fire

and wounded Rathore in the leg. He was taken to a government hospital for treatment and was under police custody. The police also demolished Rathore's house, which they said was an illegal encroachment on public land. The municipal authorities joined the operation and cleared the area of any unauthorised structures. The killing of Pooja has sparked outrage in the community, who demanded justice for her and strict action against Rathore.

Dr. Raghuram Kadali awarded scholarship to attend a course at Netherlands

New Delhi: Dr. B Raghuram Kadali have received a full scholarship (3000Euros) to attend the Delft Road Safety courses (DSRC2023) for low middle income countries at TU Delft Netherlands. The main motivation of the DSRC is to train on a safe system approach to improve the road safety in low and middle income countries. The main outcome of the course is to attempt safety issues on road crashes by looking at Road Safety management, safe road users, safe vehicle, safe infrastructure, enforcement, speed limits and post crash analysis as a cheese model.



Ex Bihar MP's Surprise Dawn Release From Jail Amid Prison Rule Change Row

Patna: Former Bihar MP Anand Mohan Singh walked out of jail in the early hours today amid a huge row over the Bihar government's prison rule change that cleared the path for his release. The current location of Singh, who has served 15 years in jail for abetting the murder of an IAS officer in 1994, is not known. His son and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MLA Chetan Anand is unreachable on phone and the family's house in Saharsa is locked. The gangster-turned-politician was initially to be released around 7 am. But the sudden change of plan was reportedly made to avoid the media. Singh was out on a 15-day parole for his son's wedding. During the break, he spoke to media. He returned to jail only yesterday. The former MP's release from jail comes after the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar tweaked the jail rules. Earlier, anyone convicted in connection with the murder of a public servant on duty was not eligible for a remission in sentence.



This was changed by the Bihar government, paving the way for the release of 27 convicts, including Singh, who have served 14 years or more behind the bars. The move has sparked a huge controversy, with Nitish Kumar government drawing fire from the Opposition BJP. BJP's MP Sushil Kumar Modi, also Bihar's former deputy Chief Minister, has said Mr Kumar had sacrificed law to stay on in power with support from ally RJD. Singh, who represented RJD in Lok Sabha, is considered a prominent Rajput face. And his release is being seen as a move to attract Bihar's

upper caste votes in the 2024 general election. The release also comes against the backdrop of Mr Kumar meeting Opposition leaders to stitch a joint front to take on the BJP in 2024. Singh, who faced multiple cases, was found guilty of instigating a mob that lynched district magistrate G Krishnaiah, a Dalit IAS officer, in 1994. Krishnaiah was attacked by a mob protesting with the body of Chhotan Shukla, another gangster-politician of Anand Mohan's party, who had been killed a day earlier. Singh was sentenced to

death by a lower court in 2007, but the Patna High Court later commuted the penalty to life imprisonment. The late IAS officer's wife has expressed disappointment over Singh's release. Speaking to NDTV, Uma Krishnaiah said, "We don't agree with the move. It's in a way encouraging the criminals. It sends out a message that you can commit a crime, and go to jail but then get freed and join politics. The death penalty was good." The Central IAS Association, the top body for bureaucrats in the country, has slammed the move. "Such dilution leads to impunity, erosion

of morale of public servants, undermines public order and makes a mockery of administration of justice," it has said. Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati, too, has criticised the Bihar government's move that paved the way for Singh's release, calling it an "anti-Dalit" step. Speaking to the media during his parole break, Singh had responded to the uproar over his release. Taking a dig at the BJP, he had said sarcastically, "A decision has been taken in Gujarat due to pressure by Nitish Kumar and RJD. Some people have been released and greeted with garlands." Asked if he was referring to the Bilkis Bano gangrape case, he said, "Yes, that's what I am referring to". BJP is in power in Gujarat. He had said all the 27 people whose names are in the list for remission of sentence have served their time in the jail. "It's not that the state government is letting people walk free just like that. There is a Court directive."

Suresh Prabhu Chief Guest at "Pedagogical Innovations in Education" Education Leaders Conclave and Award ELCA by ObserveNow in Chandigarh on 21st April

Chandigarh: Honourable Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, (Former Union Minister for Multiple Ministries and India's former Sherpa for G-7 and G-20 countries) has always been busy and popular as an intellectual and knowledgeable speaker. On 21st April he was the Chief Guest at ELCA Programme in Chandigarh. At the Education Leaders Conclave and Award, Sri Suresh Prabhu Ji stated, "Education must focus on the individual to change them into a better person while also focusing on society to create a better community for living. Additionally, education must focus on the world. Education should address global issues to prevent adverse impacts on both individuals and society. Thus, future education must align all three aspects together. The challenge for all education leaders is to discuss how to accomplish this and find



a way forward. I would like to thank the thoughtful audience and organizers who brought together educationists, educators, and change leaders for this event." ObserveNow ELCA 2023... was a power-packed show in Chandigarh with the presence of 300 plus Education Leaders from School Education and Higher Education... The scale and grandeur of the show were epic... Next will be soon in Hyderabad.... Sponsors - The theme of this edition of the summit was "Pedagogical Innovations in Education". The

ObserveNow hosted The Education Leaders Conclave & Awards on 21st April in Chandigarh. It brought the entire education ecosystem on one platform. To lay down the innovative methods and pedagogy that the education ecosystem is a part of. ObserveNow set the stage for a grand celebration of education leaders at the summit and awards, graced by the presence of esteemed guest Honourable Shri Suresh Prabhu. ObserveNow welcomed the Esteemed Keynote Speakers in India's Largest Educational Leaders Conclave & Awards in Chandigarh.

Hinduja Family's Truce Uncertain As Lawyers Say Rift Remains

New Delhi: The truce governing the billionaire Hinduja family was thrown into doubt in a London court after lawyers for the patriarch Srichand said the dispute between Gopichand Hinduja and his niece remained. The Hinduja last year had agreed to slam the brakes on copious litigation across Europe, putting on hold a feud that was tearing apart the once tightly knit British-Indian group. But on Monday, a judge was told that the family was still haggling over the governance and succession planning of the business empire some 10 months later. "At the time it was presented as a treaty and the war was over,"



Judge Anthony Hayden said. "There was rejoicing and singing. It's perhaps not astonishing that it's turned out to be something less than a treaty." In the past, the four brothers, who have a collective net worth of about \$14 billion, according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, had

always presented a united front. But the family has been revealed to be deeply divided after details of court proceedings emerged. SP, as the 87-year-old is known, suffers from dementia, and the court was told that at one point the family's dispute went so deep that he was days away from being transferred

to a state-run National Health Service hospital. The feud centers on a pact signed by the four Hinduja brothers in 2014 that "everything belongs to everyone and nothing belongs to anyone." Gopichand, 83, had first claimed that the letter, signed by the brothers, governed the succession planning

for the conglomerate but agreed in June to effectively tear it up, saying that it was no longer legally enforceable against his elder brother. Even as the family continue to negotiate a broader settlement, Srichand's daughter Vinoo and Gopichand are yet to resolve a dispute about what happened to the 2014 letter and how it may have been used, according to Nikki Singla, a lawyer representing Srichand's interests. "There are so many assets in so many different jurisdictions" and "no apparent forethought was ever given to any sort of division were this time to come to pass," Ms Singla said Monday.

Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi takes charge as NIT Warangal's Director

Warangal (KCN) Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi has assumed office as the new Director of NIT Warangal. He took charge from Prof. N.V. Ramana Rao in the presence of Shri. S. Govardhan Rao, Registrar, NIT Warangal. The new Director of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal Professor Bidyadhar Subudhi assumed office on Thursday, April 27, 2023. He will be succeeding Prof. N. V. Ramana Rao who was appointed as Director in October 2017. Prior to his appointment at NIT Warangal, he was working as Dean (Research and Consultancy) and Professor of Electrical Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Goa. The newly appointed Director said he aims to improve research and innovation with the help of faculty and students to make NIT Warangal a campus of first choice. He said, he would want NIT Warangal to focus on research that can solve societal problems, adapt to National Education Policy, and



offer multidisciplinary courses. His vision is to see NIT Warangal to be one of the best research contributors in the nation. Later in the evening, he addressed the faculty and staff of the institute and said that we should all work hard in making NIT Warangal one of the best institutions in the country. About the Director: Before joining IIT Goa as Professor (HAG), he worked as professor of Electrical Engineering at NIT Rourkela for 13 years. He was a visiting professor at Bangkok and Canada. His research interests are system and control theory, control applications to power systems. He pursued his B.Tech from NIT Rourkela and M.Tech from IIT Delhi in

Department of Electrical Engineering. He pursued his Ph.D in the area of Control Systems from University of Sheffield, United Kingdom. He pursued his Post Doctoral Fellow from NUS Singapore. He has authored 6 books, 14 book chapters, published 160 patents, published over 160 papers in reputed journals with a H-index of 40. He is a Fellow, INAE (Indian National Academy of Engineering), IET (The Institution of Engineering and Technology), Senior Member (IEEE). He was awarded top 2% scientists in the world. He was awarded the Samanta Chandra Sekhar award in 2013, NIT Rourkela Alumni award for research, Newton Fellowship, Royal Academy of Engineering, UK

Ready For Cyclone Season

Bhubaneswar: After facing cyclone Fani in the month of May, the State Government has started its preparedness to face such cyclone in summer also. In this direction, Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena on Wednesday held a high-level meeting to review the preparedness. Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallick and Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) and Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu briefed the media about the steps taken to deal with possible cyclones in the state. Mallick said 24x7 control rooms will start functioning in the Revenue department and districts from May 1. A Class-I officer will be in-charge of the control room. Like every year, table top exercise and mock drill will be held in all district headquarters, flood/cyclone centres and block level on June 18

and 19. As Rath Yatra will be conducted on June 20, the mock drill in Puri will be held at a later stage, she said. The Minister further said that 317 fire stations have been equipped with necessary equipment and trained manpower to carry out search and rescue operations. These personnel will be deployed ahead of the cyclone at vulnerable places. In addition to it, 342 regional fire service teams in the state are in combat preparedness to tackle any kind of emergency situation. Similarly, 17 teams of the NDRF's 3rd Battalion are in preparedness to carry out search and rescue operations, she said, adding that 16 teams are stationed at Mundali and one is stationed at Balasore. These NDRF teams are functioning in coordination with Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and Special Relief Commissioner (SRC).



Collectors have been directed to instruct BDOs and Tahasildars to provide fuel to the vehicles used by NDRF teams in affected areas, she added. As many as 879 multipurpose cyclone/flood shelters are being used to shelter evacuees ahead of potential cyclones. OSDMA has been directed to inspect the various emergency equipment and machinery and lights and generators in these shelters. Mallick informed media

persons. Further, she said, OSDMA has been directed to prepare a list of tower lights in the area after checking the functioning of the tower lights in the shelters. Similarly, concerned officials have been asked to check on the functioning of power chain saws in the shelters. Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, Rural Development Department, Health and Family Welfare

Department and Housing and Urban Development Department have been asked to prepare emergency plans to take necessary action on cleanliness and sanitation, said SRC Sahu. These departments will make arrangements for advance deployment of necessary manpower and equipment before the cyclone. All necessary arrangements for relief line clearance/immediate restoration of damaged roads in potentially cyclone-

affected areas shall be made within a short period of time after the cyclone. In addition, these departments have been instructed to prepare a list of emergency equipment in advance and keep it at the district headquarters. Sufficient quantities of bleaching powder, chlorine tablets, lime powder etc. will be kept at the state and district level, he said. There are 10 mobile treatment plants with the Panchayati Raj and

Drinking Water Department. It has been directed for early deployment of these plants in vulnerable areas, he said. Instructions have also been given to supply drinking water to the affected areas through water tankers restore and operationalize damaged water supply projects immediately after the cyclone. The Health and Family Welfare Department has been ordered to keep stock of necessary medicines for flood-related diseases, water purifiers, and anti-snake venom injections available in the district headquarters hospital, the ACS said. After receiving cyclone warning, the Health and Family Welfare Department, Women and Child Development Department have been asked to take steps to bring pregnant women immediately to the district headquarters hospital / CHC / PHC / Maternal Home, he added.

Steps will be taken to maintain alternate power backup in PHC/CHC/District Headquarters Hospitals. Fisheries & Animal Resources Department will take necessary arrangements to ensure supply of cattle feed and fodder during the cyclone. Instructions have been given to take advance measures on keeping pre-monsoon veterinary medicine available and vaccination of cattle at the veterinary hospitals. The Fisheries & Animal Resources Department will take steps for advance transmission of information on possible cyclones and related warnings to fishermen. The Energy Department has been asked to review the disaster management plans of power distribution companies and give instructions for execution. Take necessary steps for speedy restoration of power supply in cyclone-affected areas.

Medical Devices Policy Approved

Bhubaneswar: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, today approved the National Medical Devices Policy, 2023. The medical devices sector in India is an essential and integral constituent of the Indian healthcare sector. The Indian medical devices sector's contribution has become even more prominent as India supported the domestic and global battle against COVID-19 pandemic through the large scale production of medical devices & diagnostic kits, such as Ventilators, Rapid Antigen Test kits, Real-Time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) kits, Infrared (IR) Thermometers, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kits & N-95 masks. The medical devices sector in India is a sunrise sector which is growing at a fast pace. The market size of the medical devices sector in India is estimated to be \$11 billion (approximately, ₹90,000

Cr) in 2020 and its share in the global medical device market is estimated to be 1.5%. The Indian medical devices sector is on a growth track and has an enormous potential to become self-reliant and to contribute towards the goal of universal health care. The Government of India has already initiated implementation of PLI Scheme for medical devices and support for setting up of 4 Medical Devices Parks in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Under the PLI scheme for Medical Devices, till now, a total of 26 projects have been approved, with a committed investment of Rs.1206 Cr and out of this, so far, an investment of Rs.714 Cr has been achieved. Under the PLI scheme, total of 14 projects producing 37 products have been commissioned and domestic manufacturing of high-end medical devices has started which include Linear Accelerator, MRI Scan, CT-Scan, Mammogram, C-Arm, MRI Coils, high end X-ray tubes, etc.

Remaining 12 products will be commissioned in near future. Five projects out of total 26 projects have been approved recently, under Category B, for domestic manufacturing of 87 products / product components. Building upon these measures, a holistic policy framework to accelerate this growth and fulfil the potential of the sector is the need of the hour. While various Departments of the Government have undertaken programmatic interventions to encourage the sector, the current policy aims to put in place a comprehensive set of focus areas for growth of the sector in a coordinated manner. Secondly, in view of the diversity and multi-disciplinary nature of the sector, the regulations, skilling trade promotion of medical device industry are spread over several departments in the Government both at the Centre and State levels. There is a need to bring together the range of

interventions in a coherent manner that would facilitate focused and efficient support and facilitation for the sector by the respective agencies. The National Medical Devices Policy, 2023 is expected to facilitate an orderly growth of the medical device sector to meet the public health objectives of access, affordability, quality and innovation. This sector is expected to realize its full potential, with the strategies viz, building an enabling ecosystem for manufacturing along with a focus on innovation, creating a robust and streamlined regulatory framework, providing support in training and capacity building programs and promoting higher education to foster talent and skilled resources in line with the industry requirements. Encouraging domestic investments and production of medical devices complements the Government's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' programs.

Direct Flights From Bhubaneswar To Singapore, Bangkok From June 3

Bhubaneswar: IndiGo airline will operate direct flights from Bhubaneswar to Singapore and Bangkok from June 3, reports said. The airline has provided the schedule to the Biju Patnaik International Airport here for two flights a week to each destination. The state government has agreed to bear the costs of unsold tickets, with total ticket costs estimated to be around Rs 120 crore per year. The international



terminal building at the airport is currently undergoing renovation, with all necessary infrastructure in place. While the old conveyer

belt will initially be used for luggage, a new one will replace it in due course. Immigration and customs facilities are already in place.

The direct flights are expected to greatly benefit Odisha's tourism and create business opportunities, particularly in Southeast Asian countries.



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Ministry of Education to Host the 3rd King of Kings': Ramesses II (Ozymandias) EdWG Meeting in Bhubaneswar, Odisha



Bhubaneswar: The Ministry of Education is all set to host the 3rd Education Working Group (EdWG) meeting in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from the 26th- 28th April 2023. The event will see participation from G20 member countries, guest countries, and invited organizations such as OECD, UNESCO, and UNICEF.

The three-day event will consist of a seminar/exhibition and working group meetings. The seminar on 'Building Capacities for lifelong learning in context of future of work' will be organized at CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology in collaboration NSDC. The day 1 of the working group meetings will be addressed by Dr. Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State for Education, Government of India. Briefing the media

during the Pre-event Press Conference today, Shri Sanjay K Murthy, Secretary Higher Education informed that the 3rd EdWG meeting will provide a platform to the G20 members, guest countries and International Organisations to deliberate on the Zero draft of G20 Education Minister Declaration based on the inputs received from the countries and International Organisations. The recommendations that will come out of it will feed into the drafting of the declaration to be presented at the Education Ministers meeting in Pune on the 22nd June, 2023.

Shri Atul Tiwary, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, discussed highlights from the precursor events leading up to the 3rd EdWG meeting and seminar. He informed the media that 1 lakh people have participated in Jan Bhagidari events in Odisha since Utkal Diwas, which began as a response to the Prime Minister's clarion call to make the G20 Presidency a People's Presidency. He also mentioned the ongoing G20 Future Of Work exhibition at the CSIR-IMMT grounds, which was launched by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development, and Entrepreneurship, as well as conferences and workshops that took place on the sidelines of the Working Group Meetings. Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Dept. of School Education &

Literacy discussed skill integration in the school curriculum and arming children with a variety of future abilities to start them on a path of lifelong learning. He also shed light on the meeting with Singapore delegates during the India and Singapore workshop held at Taj Vivanta on 25th April morning. He briefed the media about the various partnerships being explored between India and Singapore. The 4th EdWG meeting at Pune post Bhubaneswar will focus on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, which is a crucial component of NEP 2020, he added. More than 60 delegates from 27 countries and International Organisations are expected to attend the meeting and seminar.

Additionally, presentations from UNESCO, Employment Working Group meeting and Digital Economy working Group will also be discussed. The event will also include a multimedia exhibition with participation from industry, academia, and start-up initiatives. The exhibition will be open to local institutions, students, academicians, and researchers from 23rd to 25th April and 27th-28th April 2023. The Delegates will also have the opportunity to visit the Konark Sun Temple as part of the excursion component of the EdWG meetings. The event will highlight Odisha's traditional art and craft through various cultural events planned on the sidelines of the G20 meetings.

According to the legend, Ramesses II was protected by the God Amun Ra. Ramesses II, bold and decisive, managed to escape from trap of a humiliating defeat and came out with an honorable draw. But he returned to his Kingdom with a triumphant victory in his name and had his temples festooned with celebratory reliefs. It was this battle that added the word 'Great' to Ramesses II's name. Immediately his fame spread throughout Egypt. Ramesses II fathered at least 10 sons and 10 daughters within the first 10 years of his father's reign! He had six to eight major wives, many minor wives, and numerous concubines during his long life. He was the father of 80 sons and 60 daughters. In this respect, he surpassed other Pharaohs miserably. His desire was, one day his heavenly blue blood would flow through all the people of Egypt and the Egyptians would be regarded as the descendants of God. Ramesses II was a cultural innovator, a relentless self-promoter, and a clever diplomat. In order to glorify his achievements, he changed the inscriptions on numerous pre-existing sculptures to inscribe his own name. During his 66-year reign (1279-1213 BC), he built number of magnificent new monuments mainly to hide his enormous vanity. Huge wall paintings and inscriptions skillfully shadowed his weak character and glorified his heroism in battles from which he either retreated, defeated or humiliated. At the entrance to the great temple of Abu Simbel in the Nubian region of southern Egypt, there stood shoulder to shoulder colossal statues (66 feet tall) of the four Gods. One of them was Ramesses II himself; who presented himself to the public as 'more than a good God'. In far north of Egypt, bordering its Mediterranean neighbors, he founded a new capital city, called Pi-Ramesses a-Nakhtu, meaning 'House of Ramesses'.

In ancient Egypt, a well-developed ancient civilization was first formed under the first Pharaoh, Menes by 3150 BC in the lowlands of river Nile. With the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt, Egypt's culture, customs, art, architecture, social structure, and Egyptian religion became closely intertwined. Throughout its very long history, the magnificent civilization of ancient Egypt spanned for about three millenniums with its ups and downs. And through these ups and downs, there was always a ruling dynasty at its head. One of the most powerful dynasties that stands out in Egypt's history is the Nineteenth Dynasty, also known as the Ramessid Dynasty, lasting from 1292 BC to 1189 BC.

Menmaatre Seti I was then the second Pharaoh of the Nineteenth Dynasty of Egypt during the New Kingdom. His second son Ramesses II, then a fourteen-year-old boy, would face a mighty blindfolded bull that day. This bull was no other than Apis, an incarnation of the God Tah, the God of technology. The bull symbolized strength, courage and aggressiveness. No one, except the Pharaohs had the ability to control this bull. Undoubtedly Pharaoh Seti-I had the power to control the demon, because he appeared on Earth as an incarnation of the God Amen, the successor of the God Horus. If the young Ramesses II could overpower the bull alone, he would be crowned as the worthy heir of Pharaoh Seti-I. Hordes of enthusiastic citizens were waiting with bated breath to watch the fight between a God and the son of their God. Finally the covers on bull's eyes were removed, the death demon lowered its head and rushed towards the boy with meteoric speed. The boy was not frightened at all. With lightning speed, he threw the noose made of strong rope towards the bull. The throw was absolutely perfect, the noose grabbed the bull by the horns. With one mighty tug of the rope, the raging bull boy surrendered to Ramesses. As the crowd cheered and applauded, Father Seti-I announced, "Ramesses II will be the next Pharaoh". In Egyptian mythology, Ramesses is descendent of 'Ra', the Sun God and the word Ramesses meant 'sunrise' and "Ozymandias", in Greek language. Ramesses II grew up in the royal court of Egypt. His father prepared him to be the future Pharaoh of Egypt by providing him lesson on military, diplomatic, economic, and religious education. At the age of fifteen, Ramesses II started his marital life with his two main wives, Nefertari and Isetnofret. After the death of his father, Ramesses II was crowned the Pharaoh of Egypt in 1279 BC when he was only 25 years old. During his reign, Ramesses II led Egyptian armies against enemies in several regions, including Hittite, Syria, Libya, and Nubia. He expanded the Egyptian Empire, securing its borders against invaders. The most famous battle during the reign of Ramesses II was the Battle of Kadesh (on the present-day Lebanon-Syria border). In 1275 BCE, Ramesses II fought Muwatalli, King of Hittite on the banks of the Orantes River to capture the city of Kadesh.

According to the legend, Ramesses II was protected by the God Amun Ra. Ramesses II, bold and decisive, managed to escape from trap of a humiliating defeat and came out with an honorable draw. But he returned to his Kingdom with a triumphant victory in his name and had his temples festooned with celebratory reliefs. It was this battle that added the word 'Great' to Ramesses II's name. Immediately his fame spread throughout Egypt. Ramesses II fathered at least 10 sons and 10 daughters within the first 10 years of his father's reign! He had six to eight major wives, many minor wives, and numerous concubines during his long life. He was the father of 80 sons and 60 daughters. In this respect, he surpassed other Pharaohs miserably. His desire was, one day his heavenly blue blood would flow through all the people of Egypt and the Egyptians would be regarded as the descendants of God. Ramesses II was a cultural innovator, a relentless self-promoter, and a clever diplomat. In order to glorify his achievements, he changed the inscriptions on numerous pre-existing sculptures to inscribe his own name. During his 66-year reign (1279-1213 BC), he built number of magnificent new monuments mainly to hide his enormous vanity. Huge wall paintings and inscriptions skillfully shadowed his weak character and glorified his heroism in battles from which he either retreated, defeated or humiliated. At the entrance to the great temple of Abu Simbel in the Nubian region of southern Egypt, there stood shoulder to shoulder colossal statues (66 feet tall) of the four Gods. One of them was Ramesses II himself; who presented himself to the public as 'more than a good God'. In far north of Egypt, bordering its Mediterranean neighbors, he founded a new capital city, called Pi-Ramesses a-Nakhtu, meaning 'House of Ramesses'.

One of his proudest achievements was his memorial complex at Thebes, near modern Luxor which later became known as the Ramesseum. He did not built it as a tomb where he and his family members were going to be buried, but as a temple where he would remain as the deity and be worshipped as a god for all eternity. Covering a vast area of the size of four football fields, there were temples, palaces, treasuries and libraries (books of papyrus leaves). Statues of Ramesses II in huge numbers were erected inside the complex to promote himself. The most magnificent and colossal statue of the Ramesseum was erected at the second entrance of the complex, weighing about 1000 tons and carved out of a single granite stone. The Egyptian inscription at the base of the statue read, 'Ramesses, The living perfect God, Son of Re, beloved of Amun'.

Ramesses II outlived most of his wives, sons and daughters. At around 96 years of age, this mighty Pharaoh breathed his last due to severe dental problems, arthritis and hardening of the arteries. His reign of 66 years was the second longest among Egypt's 170 Pharaohs next to Pepi II of the 6th dynasty. So long was his reign that all of his subjects, at the time of his death, had been born knowing Ramesses II as Pharaoh and there was widespread panic that the world would end with the death of their king. Ramesses II was regarded as the 'Great Ancestor' and he was so prestigious that nine Pharaohs

in succession, from his son Ramesse III to Ramesse XI, took his name and glorified themselves. After Ramesse III, Egypt went into an age of decline.

Ramesse II is often regarded as the greatest, most celebrated, and most powerful Pharaoh of the New Kingdom, which itself was the most powerful period of ancient Egypt. In the 'Old Testament' of the Holy Bible, there is a mention of a city named "Land of Ramesses" and Ramesses appeared in the writings of ancient Greek and Roman historians about Egypt. He was famed in Greek literature as Ozymandias, and lauded by early antiquarians as the Younger Memnon (a mighty King in Greek mythology). He also held many titles: Bull of Power, Lover of Justice, Defender of Egypt, Victor over Foreigners, Chosen, and Born of Ra. As his legacy, there are hundreds of legends about his exploits and achievements. Ramesses II and his empire endured 1400 years of oblivion. In the 1st century BC, the Greek historian Diodorus described the Ramesseum as "the monument of a king known as Ozymandias" and credited the colossal statue of Ramesses II as "the largest statue in Egypt". In his words, "I am the King of Kings, Ozymandias. If anyone knows how great I am and where I stand, let him surpass me in one of my deeds!" With these words, Diodorus expressed the pride of the great Pharaoh, that his legend would be immortal. Ramesses II firmly believed that future generations would marvel and bow down to his power, glory and greatness.

Ramesse II's vast empire, temples, majesty of his numerous statues, are now reduced to ruins, many lost their identity in the 'desert sands'. Many segments of the giant statue of Ramesse II have disappeared. Seven cubits long strong legs of his torso-less enthroned statue, is still intact. These remains of the statue are not only admired for their grandeur, but also for their perfect carving, workmanship and stone quality. Not a single flaw is apparent in such a large and precise work. The half visible face of the statue bore an expression of king's pride, arrogance and vanity. Moreover, as the statue is now destroyed, the engraving on the pedestal is just a mockery of the pride and ego of the King who once considered himself as "King of Kings".

The story of Ramesse II or Ozymandias teaches us invaluable lessons.

In the journey of time, the 'huge ruins' of the statue of Ramesse II and its decaying body lost its existence in the 'desert sands far away'. The mighty Pharaoh Ramesse II is now powerless and of no importance in the world. His life, his achievements are lost in the depths of time. The broken statue of the Pharaoh no longer stands as a monument to his greatness, this statue is now counting down the days of extinction as a monument to his arrogance and ignorance. In the same way, one day, all of us will die, there is no hope. It is also utter foolishness of hoping to live eternally on this earth after death. No matter how strong, glorious or mighty we are, at the end, we all will become a 'lifeless matter'. All our events and achievements will get buried in time. So we have to bow before the mighty time and nature. Thus, we should not be boastful, egoistic or live with pride. Instead, we should live a life of modesty.

Ashis Kumar Panda

Reliance Retail's New Commerce proposition gains pace; registers 3x growth in merchant base

Mumbai: Reliance Retail's new commerce proposition has gained pace and registered 3-fold growth in merchant base in the 2021-22 financial year. Speaking on the financial performance, Gaurav Jain, Head - Strategy & Business Development, Reliance Retail said "Our efforts in scaling up digital commerce and new commerce businesses are on track, and we continue to make new highs quarter after quarter. Digital orders are up 2.5x, merchant base is up 3x over the course of the year. Our share of business through all these new emerging channels is at about 17%."

Consumer electronics new commerce initiative, JioMart Digital launched during the year witnessed 50% sequential growth in new commerce business.

Merchant partners throughout the country, including small towns, offering wide assortment of electronics and home appliances across categories. With wider catalogue merchants see business growth.

Similarly, fashion & apparel segment's new commerce revenues witnessed 3.5x growth over last year with partner base now in over 3,500 towns across India. It has added 750 labels during the year and launched four own brands on new commerce platform. Strong traction received from small town merchants with 75% orders coming from Tier 3 and below towns and average value per merchant increasing more than twice year on year.

The new commerce proposition for Kiranashas also gained

pace and pharma category grew exponentially during the year. Year-on-year growth of merchants base increased 4x while existing merchants buying significantly more, order more often & more product lines. It has also added region specific assortment and augmented supply chain to improve reach and delivery performance. It is now directly servicing kiranas in nearly 300 cities and towns witnessing more than 2x growth YoY. Supply locations and warehouses capacity increased 4-times with 21 Smart Hubs and 34 Staples Hubs getting operationalised during the previous quarter. Merchandising teams have been set up close to the semi urban and rural markets where we are expanding too to capture and offer the relevant

local assortment. The merchant partner acquisition team too has strengthened with daily acquisition capability at 3x YoY.

The business has tied up with a bouquet of credit and payment partners to offer credit without collaterals to the smallest of Kiranas thereby helping them with working capital requirements.

Further the chemist channel segment of the business is also gathering pace and in the last quarter alone new commerce operations scaled up to 1,900 cities and merchant base doubled quarter on quarter.

As the merchant onboarding gathers pace, Reliance Retail continues to build and enhance its fulfilment facilities, delivery fleet, partner acquisition capacity, and other

supporting infrastructure in order to cater to the millions of kiranas across the country. In addition to enabling kiranas with a comprehensive digital platform for ordering their supplies, the new commerce proposition also brings a wide choice of merchandise to the kiranas enabling them to grow their business by catering to evolving consumer demands. Further, the initiative is also helping grow the sales and earnings of Kirana partners by getting offers for their end consumers through digitised coupons which are sent directly to consumers who then redeem it at their kirana stores. These offers are brought to the kirana by Reliance Retail and therefore do not entail any burden on the margins earned by kiranas.

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higher productions volumes, we are sure that it will certainly add to the profit margins in the coming quarters. We are also hopeful, that the Q4 results will contribute significantly for the overall FY 23 results, said Shri Sridhar Patra, CMD, NALCO.

NALCO profit up 61% sequentially in Q3 Net Profit for Q3 Pegged at Rs.274 crore

Bhubaneswar,: National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the Navratna CPSE, under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India and country's leading manufacturer and exporter of alumina and aluminium, has declared its financial results for the 3rd quarter ended

December 2022.

According to the reviewed financial results for the 3rd quarter of the FY 23, taken on record by the Board in the meeting held at Bhubaneswar today, NALCO has achieved net profit of Rs.274 crore, as against Rs.170 crore in the

preceding quarter of this fiscal. The net sales turnover in the 3rd Quarter was Rs.3290 crore. Lower sales volume of alumina during the quarter, higher input costs coupled with global challenging business scenario and volatility has affected the profit

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Broad hopes this year's Ashes can match the 2005 series in intrigue and excitement

New Delhi: England pacer Stuart Broad hopes this year's much-awaited Ashes series can match the cult levels attained by the famous 2005 series between the two sides. Eighteen years ago, England shocked the cricketing world by downing a seemingly invincible Australian side in what is regarded among the greatest Test series of all time. It was a result that not only captured a nation's imagination but also inspired an entire generation of upcoming cricketers on a massive scale.

"I feel like I've

experienced so much Ashes cricket I can sit here and say 'actually I really want it to be a tight series'," Broad told in an interview with DailyMail. "I want the game to grow and I want people to love Test cricket and the way the England team are playing. It's fun and if kids watch it they will want to play."

"So, what would be better than to be coming here to the Oval at 2-2 with the Ashes on the line and all the intrigue that would come with it. How amazing would that be?"

Coincidentally, the last

Ashes series held in England did end 2-2, thereby allowing Australia to retain the urn. Broad, however, clarified that hoping for a close series didn't mean taking away from the ruthless edge that the Ben Stokes - Brendon McCullum combine have managed to give this England Test side.

"That's not me saying I want to lose games," Broad continued. "I just want the whole series to grip the nation and inspire kids the way 2005 did. I want our players to take positive options at all times and, if there's a day we get bowled out for a hundred, it is what

it is. As long as the next day we come back with the same intent and become even more aggressive and entertain even more."

England's limited-overs fortunes were revolutionised in 2015 after the ODI World Cup when Eoin Morgan and Trevor Bayliss combined to change the way they played the game, forever. If the results from the last 12 months are any indication, the Test side is on a similar path of transformation.

"The mindset of the group and what Baz [Brendon McCullum] has brought in is that the result is irrelevant," explained Broad. "It's entertainment

we're here for. And when you add that mind-set, because there is so much talent in the group, the performances are really good."

Under McCullum-Stokes, England have won 10 out of 12 Tests, all this with a high-flying brand of aggressive cricket wherein they've outbatted opponents with intent. While a heavy chunk of the results have come at home, England did manage an impressive series win in Pakistan apart from sharing the spoils in New Zealand. Despite being at the fag end of his career, Broad is bursting with enthusiasm while talking

about England's progress as a Test side.

"It's been a breath of fresh air," he said. "I've been so lucky to have experienced so much in my career, but for enjoyment and fun and turning up not knowing what each day will bring yet having a freshness to it has been unbelievable. I think the biggest compliment I can give is that part of me wishes I was 23. Part of me wishes I was learning my trade in this environment. I learnt under Andy Flower who made me a pretty tough cricketer and strong character. He made me deliver under pressure."

"But imagine being Harry

Brook now and coming in with that freedom and backing? There will be lots of Test cricketers from the 90s wishing they'd had this sort of backing."

In the recent years, Ashes contests haven't quite been as tightly fought, even though the scoreline may have appeared close on a number of occasions. There have been a few blockbuster contests in isolation but as a series, 2023 is expected to be the biggest one in a while. With Australia in good form, buoyed no doubt by their creditable performance in India earlier this year, and

England playing the brand of cricket they are, it isn't surprising that the hype for the Ashes series this year has hit the roof. Tactically too, this one is expected to be a clash of contrasts.

"It's going to be a slight clash of styles and I'm fascinated to see how their bowling attack will defend against us," Broad said. "And it will be interesting to see how their batters stay calm because we play so aggressively now. Will they be able to stick to their game plans and bubbles when we're playing this style? That will be a test for them."

Ahead of World Cup, ICC holds workshop for global broadcasters in Goa

New Delhi: The International Cricket Council (ICC) is holding a conclave with its broadcasters in Goa currently. The two-day meet, attended by its media partners from around the world, is being seen as a workshop ahead of the World Cup in October-November in India.

Apart from Disney Star, which is the rights holder of the global events, representatives from all major broadcasters of the world, including Sky of UK, Fox of Australia and SuperSport of South Africa are in attendance. ICC's two media partners in Pakistan, PTV and ARY, have, however, not sent their representatives for the meet which will conclude on Thursday. The exercise is seen as a preparatory and planning meet for the World Cup on how to go about the



event. The broadcasters apparently exchange and share plans for the quadrennial event. Generally all the commercial and broadcast partners attend these workshops but the absence of the Pakistan representatives is not seen with seriousness, however. They had not apparently attended the meeting before the last World Cup either. "Only those that intend

to do a lot of unilaterals, etc attend. Star invites all licensees. PTV and ARY didn't want to attend. They didn't attend last year in the UK either," said a source in the know, playing down the absence of Pakistan channels. It is a well-documented fact that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) are at loggerheads over

Pakistan games in the World Cup but the source said the commercial meeting has no connection with the India-Pakistan standoff.

The BCCI is yet to formally announce the schedule and venues for the World Cup. It's learnt that the announcement could come in the next fortnight. Meanwhile, the BCCI is yet to decide on the rights for the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan, likely by June end. There is a possibility that Star Sports, who held the rights in the last cycle, could be roped in through an arrangement but nothing has been finalised.

Virat Kohli Reveals Phone Is Filled With Daughter Vamika's Photos

New Delhi: Former Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) captain Virat Kohli is getting ready to take part in his 16th season of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Kohli is the highest run-getter in the history of the T20 league and could become the first batter to score 7,000 runs in IPL 2023.

However, off the field, Kohli remains a doting father to daughter Vamika. Former India captain and his Bollywood star wife Anushka Sharma became parents to daughter back in 2021. During a chat with 'RCB Bold Diaries', Kohli revealed that his phone's gallery is full of pictures of his daughter Vamika. "My photo gallery is filled with my daughter's



pictures, for sure. I click her a lot, it just comes to me naturally, every time I see a moment with her and Anushka or her just doing something cute with our dog at home, or anything, I just try and capture it. It is special, you know, you do not want to miss out on these days," Kohli said. Explaining how kids tend to grow up quickly right in front of their eyes, Kohli harped on importance of capturing these moments. "Even now, you don't realize

how quickly kids are growing up, but then you see one of those compiled videos from six months back and you're like, 'Thank god we took those pictures'. It is so beautiful to watch those moments, because when you are in those moments, you don't quite see it in the same way when you look back at it," the RCB batter commented. Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma announced their new philanthropic venture at the recent Indian Sports

Honour awards. Announcing SEVVA, Kohli said that the foundation's name contains the initials of not only his and Anushka's names, but also of their daughter, Vamika.

"This stands for 'SE' of self, 'V' of Virat, 'V' of Vamika, and 'A' of Anushka, as 'seva' is always from self of self," Kohli explained recently.

Apart from his family, Kohli also talked about his current playlist. He revealed that he's currently listening to a lot of Arijit Singh songs which relaxes his mood. Royal Challengers Bangalore will host Rohit Sharma-led Mumbai Indians in their first match of IPL 2023 on Sunday (April 2).

Namibia, PNG tumble records in high-scoring encounter

New Delhi: Hosts Namibia bounced back from an opening defeat to the USA to see off Papua New Guinea in a run-fest at United Cricket Ground, while Canada avenged their side against their southern neighbours in a low-scoring, hot-tempered dogfight at Wanderers to go top of the table on day three the CWC Qualifier play-Off at Windhoek. With a four year-old wound from the two sides' last encounter at the ground clearly still rankling, tempers flared repeatedly at Wanderers as Canada defended a sub-par 198 by 26 runs despite a defiant knock from Sushant Modani, laying to rest grievances from 2019's World Cricket League Division 2 when American obduracy cost them a shot at reclaiming ODI status. Aaron Johnson weathered a hostile opening spell from Ali Khan (who with Suarabh Nertavalkar reduced Canada to 9-3 early) to pull his side back into the match with a brisk 47.

Contributions from Nick Kirton, Harsh Thaker, and Ravinderpal Singh down the order ensured the Canadians had something to bowl at, and regular wickets during the reply ensured the USA never got on top of the chase. Modani repeatedly lost partners as he batted through to the death before falling to Kaleem Sana, triggering a rapid end to the American resistance.

Meanwhile at United Cricket Ground, Namibia bounced back from two early wickets to pile on a record score of 381-8 against Papua New Guinea, skipper Gerhard Erasmus leading the way with 125 from 113. It was Erasmus too, who broke the spirited Papuan chase, taking the wickets of skipper Asad Vala and centurion CJ Amini just as it seemed as though the pair might achieve the unlikely, the Barramundis eventually falling 48 runs short as they were bowled out for



their highest ever ODI score of 333. Coming of the back of a hard-fought win against unfancied Jersey in their tournament opener, Canada again found themselves in trouble early as they renewed their 150-year duel with the United States - the oldest rivalry in international sport. The Americans made good use of the conditions after winning the toss, Netravalkar opening with a maiden before Ali Khan again struck early, pinning Pargat Singh dead in front

with his third ball. Netravalkar had Johnson dropped at slip in his next, but Khan struck again in the fourth to have Matt Spoor caught down leg. Netravalkar claimed his first in the next, pinning Wijeyeratne with one that pitched on leg and straightened from around the wicket, and at 9-3 the Canadian looked in danger of being wiped off the field. Johnson rallied with Kirton however, and was accelerating toward a half-century when he gave it away three

runs short, spooning Nisarg Patel's fifth ball to cover in the 20th. Patel struck again six overs later, drawing Kirton forward and finding the outside edge, and the collapse continued as Nikkil Dutta was caught behind off Jessy Singh for a six-ball duck. Harsh Thaker and Saad bin Zafar arrested the collapse with a 48-run stand for the 7th wicket, but Zafar would hole out off Nostush Kenjige, Monank Patel taking a spectacular catch

just millimetres from the midwicket rope, sparking the first angry exchange between the rival dugouts. Thaker followed soon after, the victim of a direct hit from Nisarg Patel coming in from short midwicket, and made his frustration abundantly clear on his way off. Ravinderpal Singh contributed a vital 26 off 25 before being caught top-edging a pull off Netravalkar, and Kaleem Sana got a couple of boundaries away before being run out trying to get back on strike in the final over, Canada all out with two balls unused, two short of 200.

Canada came out after lunch full of fire however, and from the moment Kaleem Sana had Saiteja Mukkamalla caught behind fending at a short ball, Canada had their neighbours on the defensive. Monank Patel and Aaron Jones both succumbed.



WIM Saina Salonika is adjudged as Most Talented Sportsperson in Miranda House College of Delhi University and bagged four category prizes in the Annual Sports Award Ceremony