



The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu receives warm welcome by students and local people on her arrival at Golaghat, in Assam

OBC Forum Odisha met Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel



Sambalpur, (KCN) : A delegation of State OBC Forum met Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday evening at residential office in Raipur and requested him to take up the issues of reservation for OBCs. Most of backward cast leaders of Odisha were present in the meeting where CM Baghel said, his government is being

implemented 14 percent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) and the floor passed resolution for 27 percent OBC reservation which was sent to the Governor for approval. During this discussion, OBC Forum State President Shankar Patra, Chhattisgarh Government Backward Classes Development Authority Member

Naren Sahu, Deepak Pradhan, Pardeshi Viswal, Sambalpur District Coordinator Saroj Sahu, Cast Leader Sudshanshu Shekhar Moharna, Virendra Kumar Pradhan, Pandav Karna, Sublan Pradhan, Brahma Mahakur, Nilu Sahu, Lambodar Naik and state and district level workers of major OBC communities were present.

SBI Phulbani Branch's Deputy Manager Arrested Over Rs 8 Crore Loan Fraud

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Odisha Crime Branch has arrested Asutosh Acharya, deputy manager of State Bank of India's Phulbani Branch, over his alleged involvement in a loan fraud of more than Rs 8 crore. He has been apprehended under Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120B of the IPC, and Section 66 (C) of the IT Act. He will be produced before the Court of SDJM, Phulbani.

According to official sources, the case against Acharya was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by the Regional Manager of the SBI, RBO, Phulbani. He is accused of illegally recommending and



processing 59 Xpress Credit Loans, meant for salaried individuals, and 26 Pension Loans, meant for pensioners, to non-salaried individuals and non-pensioners. It is alleged that he then transferred the loan amount of Rs 8,01,87,000 to accounts belonging to his family members and relatives. The fraudulent activity is believed to have taken place between September 2021 and September 2022, during

which Acharya used his position as Dy. Manager-cum-Field Officer to process the loans using forged documents, including salary slips. The loan amounts were sanctioned without the knowledge of the borrowers and were subsequently diverted to various accounts, including those belonging to Acharya's family members and relatives. The accused is said to have misappropriated the loan amount for personal gain, with the intention of investing it in other profitable ventures. Acharya reportedly facilitated the sanctioning of loans in the names of ineligible persons without the borrower's knowledge. The investigation into the case is ongoing.

Naveen Visits Nippon Steel

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday visited the state-of-the-art Kimitsu Steel Works of Nippon Steel Corporation (NSC) in Japan. Shri Patnaik led by the Team Odisha, which is on a Japan tour, was briefed about the plant and given a tour of the facility.

The State delegation's visit to NSC's Kimitsu Steel Works provided an opportunity for the delegation to learn about the latest technologies and processes used by NSC in the production of steel. The plant was established on land reclaimed from sea and used environmentally sustainable green technologies. The depth of the sea used to be more than 10 metre.



The plant has a large lay out campus and green tree belts. The plant produces diversified specialised steel products used for various downstream industries like the automobiles. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister expressed his admiration for the state-of-the-art facility and the commitment of NSC towards excellence in steel production. He

discussed the use of similar green technologies for the plants coming up in Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts. The proposed plant will also focus on specialised steel products which will enable downstream industries in Odisha. He highlighted the immense potential for collaboration between NSC and Odisha, given the state's rich mineral

resources and potential in the steel sector. Shri Patnaik also assured the NSC officials about the committed support of the government of Odisha for Arcelor Mittal-Nippon Steel (AM/NS) India's upcoming integrated steel plants in Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur in Odisha. The projects will use huge volumes of iron

ore fines which will help in value addition of the mineral within Odisha in comparison to current trend of exporting the iron ore fines. The Chief Minister expressed his appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by NSC towards the delegation and conveyed his hope that the visit would contribute to strengthening the relationship between NSC and Odisha.

Jharsuguda Gets New Collector Ahead Of May 10 Bypoll

Bhubaneswar: The state government today appointed 2015-batch IAS officer Aboli Sunil Naravane as the new collector of Jharsuguda district of Odisha.

Naravane was working as the Collector and District Magistrate of Sonepur. "In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 20 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 (Act II of 1974), the state government do hereby appoints Aboli Sunil Naravane, IAS, as the District Magistrate of Jharsuguda," said a notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievances department today. Naravane is directed to hand over the charge to Sonepur ADM immediately and join her new place of posting, added the notification. Naravane replaced Saroj Samal as the Collector of Jharsuguda district.

Notably, the Jharsuguda Assembly seat in Jharsuguda district will go for a by-election on May 10. The by-election is necessitated due to the murder of sitting MLA and Health Minister Naba Das on January 29.



Real estate sector relieved with RBI holding on the existing rates

New Delhi: The real estate players must be heaving a sigh of relief at the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) decision to hold the repo rate at 6.5 per cent.

In an unanimous decision, the MPC on Thursday decided not to revise upwards or downwards the repo rate -- the rate at which the RBI lends to the banks. "The RBI's decision to hold rates is welcome as this will enhance buyers' confidence especially after repeated hikes had



already increased their acquisition cost," said Ramani Sastri - Chairman & MD, Sterling Developers. Home loan interest rates are already at an alarmingly higher level of 9.5 per cent and above due to the

increase in repo rates in the recent past. A further hike would have taken the housing loan interest rates to double digits. Several industry officials had voiced their views on the impact of another rate hike on the home loan interest rates.

Reaching out Community; AIIMS Bhubaneswar organizes Health Mela

Bhubaneswar(KCN): To meet the horizon of people's expectation, AIIMS Bhubaneswar reaches out to the local community and organizes a Health Mela in the village Sijua. Leading from front AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas inaugurated the health Mela as well as provided health consultations. As part of G20 Jan Bhagidari campaign, the Doctors, paramedical staff and medical students provided health

consultation and free medicines to the villagers. Docs of AIIMS provided health check-ups to 220 villagers. Out of which 65 school students were given special attention regarding their nutrition status and overall health assessment. Similarly, geriatric groups were provided a holistic attention encompassing their various health ailments. Emphasizing on various women health related issues, efforts were made to



meet their demands with special focus on creating awareness over menstrual and breast Health. More than 40 women were also consulted in the health mela. A blood donation camp was also organized on the occasion in the mobile blood van. 9 units of blood were collected from the donors. Being inspired from the Hon'ble Prime Minister's call to make 'Jan Bhagidari' a strong element of India's G20 Presidency, AIIMS Bhubaneswar has organized a health mela and blood donation camp at the doorstep of the local community, said Medical Superintendent Dr. Dillip Kumar Parida. Senior Doctors from CMFM and Transfusion Medicine department, paramedical staff, employees of AIIMS provided health consultation in the health mela. Local villagers appreciating the Samaritan gesture of AIIMS Bhubaneswar provided all support and cooperation.

State Hikes Minimum Wage

Bhubaneswar: With the beginning of the new financial year, the State Government has revised minimum daily wages of unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly-skilled labourers in the State. According to an official notification issued by the State Labour Commissioner Dr N. Thirumala Naik, the daily wages of the labourers has been increased by hiking their Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) by Rs 12.



N Thirumala Naik, Labour Commissioner, Odisha in exercise of the powers delegated in the aforesaid Notification do hereby notify that the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) @ Rs. 12 per day (after rounding off) shall be payable to the unskilled,

semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled categories of employees in all 89 scheduled employments w.e.f. 1st April, 2023 in addition to the minimum rate of wages. With the hike in VDA, the minimum daily wages for unskilled,

semi-skilled, skilled, and highly skilled workers have been increased to Rs 345, Rs 385, Rs 435 and Rs 495, respectively, with effect from April 1, 2023. The variable dearness allowance is being revised every six

months in the interest of the labourers. The State Government has been providing focused attention and efforts towards skilling the workforce in Odisha. The State Government has been revising the daily wages as per the advice of Stated Minimum Wages Advisory Board, which had asked the State to adopt a system of revision of the special allowance called VDA @ 0.90 per point rise in the Consumer Price Index Number for industrial workers (base 2001-100) as admissible and shall be declared at half yearly interval (April 1 and October 1) from the date of notification of revised wages, starting from April 1, 2019.

Headmaster's drunken foolery lands him in trouble

BALASORE: A primary school headmaster found dancing to a song played on his mobile phone and later sleeping on the floor of the classroom under the influence of alleged consumption of liquor left the parents of the students red-faced here on Wednesday. Muchiram Marandi, the headmaster of Todapada Government

Primary School, was later detained by parents when they got to know that the teacher was in an inebriated condition and indulging in foolery inside the classroom during school hours. Irked, the parents staged a protest in front of the school demanding immediate transfer of the teacher.

On getting information, block education officer Ajay Kumar Jena along with other staff reached the school while the protest was on. The parents vented their anger and alleged, "Marandi often comes to work in an inebriated state and listens to songs on his mobile phone. He also abuses the students."

Though the students never complained earlier, they did inform us on the day, the parents further stated. To pacify the agitators, Jena held a meeting with the school's management and assured them of a thorough investigation. "Action will be taken on the erring teacher basing on the findings of a probe which has been launched," Jena said.

2 women among 6 held for looting Rs 17.5 lakh

PHULBANI: Kandhamal police on Wednesday arrested six persons including two women and recovered Rs 17.50 lakh cash which was looted from a businessman in Phulbani town two days back. The arrested persons were identified as A Kishore and A Hari, the masterminds of the loot and their associates M Lili, Saraswati, Litu Gouda and M Pandu. All of them belong to Pakalipalli village within Aska police



limits in Ganjam district. Kandhamal SP Suwendu Patra said on Monday, businessman Aswini Patra and his servant Ramesh were on their way to deposit Rs 17.50 lakh cash in a bank when Kishore and Hari snatched their money bag and

fled on a bike. The duo was intercepted by police near Khajurigaon in Gochhapada, but they left their motorcycle at the roadside and ran into the nearby forest. The same night, the associates of Kishore and Hari took them to Kesinga in the

Kalahandi district in a car. On a tip-off, Kesinga police intercepted the car during vehicle checking and detained the six accused including the two women. Subsequently, a team of Kandhamal police reached Kesinga and brought the accused to Phulbani. Apart from the stolen cash, tools for opening motorcycle dickets and several master keys were seized from their possession, the SP added.

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Cirkus On Tata Play: Reasons Why You Must Watch Ranveer Singh's Comedy Of Errors

Get ready for a dazzling display of jaw-dropping acrobatics, death-defying stunts, and heart-stopping performances as the circus comes to town in the electrifying new movie, 'Cirkus', on Tata Play's Bollywood Premiere from 6th April. Here are the four reasons why this film should be on your watchlist! Tried and Tested Concept but with a new twist
The film is based on William Shakespeare's play 'The Comedy of Errors' and follows the classic plot of two sets of identical twins who get separated at birth and meet again years later. The resulting confusion and chaos make for an engaging and entertaining plot. In addition, the concept adds an exciting layer to the movie, making it stand out from the rest. Bollywood has proved the twin separation and union of a twin as a most incredible show,



it to be a super hit phenomenon, and 'Cirkus' does absolute justice to it. Star-Studded Cast 'Cirkus' features an impressive ensemble cast, including power-packed performer Ranveer Singh with a multitalented star cast of Pooja Hegde, Varun Sharma, Jacqueline Fernandez, Jonny

Lever, Siddhartha Jadhav, Sanjay Mishra, Murali Sharma, among others. Their performances will keep you hooked to the screen from start to finish. Moreover, they all ensure to bring their unique flair and energy to the film. Rohit Shetty's signature style direction 'Cirkus' is directed by

must-watch. Rohit always steps up while making any movie to keep his audience engaged, and his movies are the perfect family watch, as he offers entertainment, laughter, and a heart-warming story that can be enjoyed by all members of the family. Worthwhile Playlist The film features peppy music composed by Amar Mohile and sung by talented singers like Shreya Ghoshal, Badshah, and Lijo George-DJ Chetas. The songs are sure to get you grooving in your seat. Bollywood movies are famous for their music, and 'Cirkus' is no exception. The film features catchy songs that will have you tapping your feet and singing along in no time.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu Gets Candid On 'Shaakuntalam', Says 'There's No Wall Between North And South Films'



Famous actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has come down to Mumbai for the promotion of her upcoming film 'Shaakuntalam'. In the recent years, as the barrier between North and South films has been diminishing, Samantha talked about how there is no wall between the two industries. Samantha told ANI, "There's no wall between North and South films now. I don't want to engage in any debate over this. As an actor, it gives me immense pleasure that I can work in films across languages. Nowadays, audiences also watch movies from different languages." 'Shaakuntalam' is based on a popular Indian play 'Shakuntala' by

Kalidasa. Shakuntala was the wife of King Dushyant and the mother of emperor Bharata. The Pan-India mythological romantic drama will be out in Hindi, Malayalam, and Kannada. When asked about the movie, Samantha said, "It's a love story. And love is like a universe in itself. Our cultural heritage is rich. And the story of this film is inspired from one of our oldest classics. Apart from the story, the movie has high-level graphics and special effects." Dev Mohan has been paired opposite Samantha. Expressing her feeling, she said, "I am excited as well as a bit nervous. The budget of the film is quite high. But I feel, audience will love the movie." Samantha was recently seen in the sci-fi thriller film 'Yashoda' which received positive responses from the audience. She will be next seen in an upcoming romantic film 'Khusi' opposite Vijay Deverakonda and in the action thriller web series 'Citadel' alongside Varun Dhawan.

Section 84: Abhishek Banerjee Bags Film With Amitabh Bachchan, Calls It His 'Moment Of Eklavya Meeting Dronacharya'

Bollywood actor Abhishek Banerjee has featured in several character roles in films and web-series. The actor gained prominence after portraying Jana in Stree and Jaffa in Rana Naidu, and has continued this success by turning in back-to-back standout performances. Now we only want to see more of him every time we see him on screen. Today, taking to social media, Banerjee made an announcement informing that he will be a part of Amitabh Bachchan and Diana Penty starrer Section 84. Abhishek Banerjee penned down an emotional note saying "Section 84 is my moment of EKLAVYA meeting his DRONACHARYA.. for me when I knew nothing about acting I knew only one name AMITABH BACCHAN, from a boy who used to be hypnotised by him to be actually getting an opportunity to stand alongside him in one frame, life truly has become a full circle for me with this film This is what dreams are made of, bacchan mania continues, this time I m going to be a part of it in front of camera!! Thank you thank you Ribhu sir you hv no idea how much my younger self is jumping with joy to be on your set and experience the mania I think we all hv been struck by for years now!" Recently, the makers also announced Diana Penty in one of the key roles. 'Section 84' is presented by Reliance Entertainment in association with Jio Studios and produced by Reliance Entertainment and Film Hangar.

Pathaan Box Office Collections: SRK-Deepika's Film Continues Its Historic Run, Earns Rs 1016 Cr Gross Worldwide



Yash Raj Films' 'Pathaan', directed by Siddharth Anand, is a historic all-time blockbuster and is already the highest grossing Hindi film worldwide with collections at Rs 1016 crore gross till today. 'Pathaan' is on a brilliant run at the domestic and overseas box office since its release. The film on its fifth Saturday was again rock-steady at the box office and held up strongly. It collected 1.98 crore nett in India (Hindi - 1.95 crore, All Dubbed versions - 0.03 crore). 'Pathaan' has now recorded \$46.58 million

in the overseas territories alone, while nett collection in India stands at 523.16 crore (Hindi - 505.05 crore, Dubbed - 18.11 crore). The total worldwide gross is an incredible Rs 1016 crore (India gross : Rs 633 crore, overseas: Rs 383 crore). 'Pathaan' stars superstar Shah Rukh Khan in the titular role while John Abraham plays the antagonist Jim. Deepika Padukone essays the role of ISI Agent Rubina Mohsin. Ever since its release, the film has been enjoying huge footfalls in cinema halls and has been a massive success. 'Pathaan' marks Shah Rukh Khan's return to the movies after a long hiatus of four years. He was last seen in Anand L Rai's 'Zero' in 2018 alongside Katrina Kaif and Anushka Sharma, however, it had failed to impress the audience. Prior to the release of 'Pathaan', there was a boycott campaign against the film on Deepika Padukone's saffron-coloured outfit in 'Besharam Rang' song. However, all this did not affect its box office numbers as 'Pathaan' received a massive response from viewers.

Director Aanand L Rai Expresses Gratitude As Kangana Ranaut-R Madhavan's 'Tanu Weds Manu' Clocks 12 Years

12 years ago as we transitioned into spring, Aanad L Rai & Colour Yellow Productions' most iconic film 'Tanu Weds Manu' starring R Madhavan and Kangana Ranaut witnessed a theatrical release that roared loud with its box office success. Kangana delivered yet another impactful performance and was applauded by the audience. R Madhavan once again won hearts with his stunning performance. The lead duo's on-screen chemistry was loved by the audience. The film received praise from critics & viewers alike. Aanand L Rai & Colour Yellow Productions' Tanu Weds Manu created a buzz like no other making it one of the most successful films of the year and the most iconic ones in Indian cinema. Speaking about the film, Aanand L Rai says, "The response this beautiful story received is unmatched. The film is



still relatable to a wide audience even today & that's what a beautiful story does. It leaves an impact every time. I can't believe the film has completed twelve years today. Gratitude only for all the love & support." The film has what it took to be a successful entertainer. It was a balance of comedy, romance, and drama which ran at perfect pace with the storyline written by Himanshu Sharma with interesting twists and turns. His latest venture into the regional cinema with Aatma pamphlet traveled across the globe & was screened at the Berlin Film Festival where a global audience appreciated the brilliant storyline. Rai is pinning India on the global map with back-to-back creatively strong stories. Some of Aanand L Rai & Colour Yellow Productions' successful films include 'Ranjhanaa', 'Tumbbad', 'Happy Bhag Jayegi', 'Tanu Weds Manu', 'Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan', 'Newton', and 'Manmarziyaan' to name a few. Following the success in the regional cinema is the recently announced second installment of one of the highest grossers of 2022, 'Jhimma'. Taapsee Pannu starrer 'Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba' is also in the making.

In the world of unmarried Christian priests



In this world where money matters more than everything for most of the people, some people are different. They believe that serving the society is paramount for them. They live far away from their abodes and live a very Spartan life. Welcome to the world of only unmarried Christian priests home in India. Well, it is in North Delhi's Civil Lines area.

Well, an eerie silence greets you when reach at your destination—The Brother's House built in 1925. The sound of silence there amidst old trees and manicured lawns looks so enchanting. The chirping of birds breaks the silence of the Brother's House though. Well, this is not another building. It has a very rich past. As Good Friday and

Easter are couple of days away, those who live at the Brother's House are praying more than doing anything else. Well, Brother's House is the only abode in India of unmarried Christian priests. There is no place for married priests with families here. Prior to here, it was at near Delhi Junction. That's long time back.

Originally hailing from Tamil Nadu, Brother George Solomon has been living here since 1989, says, "Currently, only six unmarried priests live here at the Brother's House. The number is dwindling fast. There was a time when we had around ten or even one dozen priests staying here." According to him, "The Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ society, which is also known as Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS) was started in 1877 based upon the vision of Bishop Westcott, initially under the title of the Cambridge Mission. Westcott's vision was

for an Anglican community of celibate brothers from Cambridge University to set down roots in India."

The venerable St. Stephen's College that has produced Indian president Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad and Pakistan President Zia ul Haq respectively was also established by the Delhi Brotherhood Society. Even St. Stephen's hospital was established by it. Both have been doing yeoman service for the society.

More often than not, all the brother's at DBS sit together during breakfasts and discuss everything under the sun. Apart from serving as priests in different churches, they are associated with various DBS institutions. Today, DBS operates 19 projects for the betterment of society, and is involved in w o m e n ' s e m p o w e r m e n t , c o m m u n i t y d e v e l o p m e n t , education, abuse prevention, vocational

Vivek Shukla

training, scholarly work, interfaith dialogue, night shelters. Ian Weatherall was the last British national associated with DBS. He has died of cancer aged 91 couple of years ago. He was an outstanding example of an Anglican missionary, much loved and admired by the small community of Britons living permanently in Delhi and by the Indian Christian community. With today's emphasis on religious pluralism, missionaries are out of fashion, but Ian's life demonstrates the contribution they make when they are integrated in the country in which they work. In 1951 he joined a community of celibate priests in Delhi, and spent the rest of his life in India.

George Solomon is also a peace activist and permanent face of all religion prayer for the last around two decades on Gandhi Jayanti on 2 October and on Martyrs' Day on 30 January at the Rajghat and later Tees Marg

respectively. He recites verses from Bible during the all religion prayer. "Very honestly, it gives great joy and happiness when you take part in all faith prayers. It gives a strong message that we all have to live together to make India as a truly a secular country. Gandhi ji's came to know about Christian religion while he was in South Africa. There he met Christian missionary Joseph Doke, who wrote his first biography, and C.F. Andrews, a teacher in Delhi's St. Stephen's college," informs George Solomon, who is a priest in one of the Churches of Delhi.

A veteran of Brother's House, Monodeep Daniel is a Priest, Theologian, Educationalist and author of numerous books. When not lecturing, writing, or studying Biblical Greek, he can be found at the

Brotherhood House or some school run by the Delhi Brotherhood Society. Says Daniel, "I hail from Lucknow and I have been part of DBS for the last over 30 years. We all live peacefully here and Brother's house is our world. We remain in touch with our families. We have given our lives to the cause of the Delhi Brotherhood Society. This is our chosen path."

Well, all those who are associated with DBS are proud of the fact that Charles Freer Andrews (12 February 1871 – 5 April 1940) was an Anglican priest and member of Brotherhood society. He was an educator and an activist for Indian independence. He became a close friend both

Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi and identified with the Indian liberation struggle. He was instrumental in convincing Gandhi to return to India from South Africa, where Gandhi had been a

leading light in the Indian civil rights struggle. He also taught in St. Stephen's college.

Those associated with DBS are called as Brother as they are part of the Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ society. It is later also called as DBS.

The unmarried priests of Brother's House get lunch and dinner apart from breakfast. They get some remuneration too for their day to day activities. With smile on his face, George Solomon says that they too enjoy Cricket and football matches together. "We have a TV in our Brother's house. There we watch big sport events together. And we celebrate Indian Cricket teams' victories in our own way."

Meanwhile, St. Stephen's College is moving towards Haryana after making a huge contribution in the field of education and nation building since 1881 in Delhi. Well, the Delhi Brotherhood Society is

opening a school in Sonapat in Haryana from the next academic session i.e. 2023-24 and currently all the members of DBS are concentrating on this ambitious project. The School would be known as St. Stephan's School.

According to Brother George Solomon, "The construction work for the St. Stephan's School is going on in a very rapid pace. We hope that the school building would be ready before the start of next academic session. It would be a state of the art building with wonderful library and Science laboratories. Of course, our school would have a big play ground."

After spending around two hours at the Brother's House, you feel little surprised that in this world where money matters more than anything for most of the people, some people think and work for others selflessly.

The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor

Letter To Editor

Dear Editor

Since time immemorial, each age has contributed in the formation of literary theories. Neo criticism which flowered in the 1940s marked its significance by breaking off from the then existing compartmentalized departments. It spreads its roots and gives birth to Cultural studies which penetrates deeper into the ellipsis and gives birth to the Gender studies. The word 'gender' echoes the conventional roles prescribed to an individual by the society which is designed by the essence of patriarchy. Patriarchy justifies its illogical and dominant functioning by deriving the definition of gender from culturally inferring of the term 'sex.' According to patriarchy, the combination of the chromosomes ushers certain biological features which is essentially not fluid. Thus affecting its impact on both orientation and identity. It advocates for the linear structure of sex followed by gender that results in desire.

The functioning of the linear structure leads to the establishment of a hegemonic power structure that functions by 'othering.' Through the technique of 'divide and rule', patriarchy destabilizes the harmonious living by dividing human between a man and a woman and further othering the woman. Literature which is a reflection of the society, marks how since the creation of the world, Eve, the woman is the slave to her master, Adam. René Descartes coined the existence and the functioning of the binaries of the mind and the body.

Following his footsteps, patriarchy consciously corrupted the mind to establish the secondary position of the woman in relation to the man as a glorified position to sustain the dichotomy. Culturally and socially the subordinate position of a woman has been glorified to the extend that she is reduced to a body which is to be owned by the mind of the man. However with Simone de Beauvoir's words, "One is not born a woman, but becomes one" the notion of the existing and breathing concept of gender gets destabilized. The existing linear structure ended at desire. However with the onset of the third wave of feminism, Butler reverses the structure and begins it with desire which further destabilizes the entire socially excepted structure. It echoes the essence of 'mess' which leads post-structuralism to hammer the knell on the existing binaries leading to the fluidity of gender and broadening of the gender studies which now encompasses not only the study of feminism but also the study of transgender that gives voice to all the unheard voices that were being lost rather made to be lost in translation.

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Illicit Overture of China

Uma Shankar Prasad

China's Premier has called that the power in our hands is given by the people not be misused. We should only use it for the development of our country. So China is indulging in an illicit policy against India is obvious. It is seeking to change the names of some places in Arunachal Pradesh, thus wanting to stamp its own claim in Arunachal Pradesh, which is a state of Indian Union—which is a sovereign country with full rights to decide upon internal matters within its borders. India Should rejected the Chinese Overture fully and totally.

China, also, knows that tough stand India has on such issues.

Yet, as part of its traditional method of keep needling India every now and then, and thus keep India disturbed, it has this time tried to rename some places in Arunachal Pradesh—which is an integral part of India. Through such pranks, China often tries to instigate India in to some action that could draw extreme outcomes. By now, however, India has learned its lessons correctly and responds to various Chinese overtures as per the situation. When China tried to rename some places in Arunachal Pradesh this time, India issued terse rejection of the idea and communicated to China that it would tolerate no such nonsense.

India has learned its military lessons as well as can be seen from many instances in the past few years. Whenever and wherever China tries to intrude into Indian territory at god-forsaken places in the Himalayas, Indian troops offer a stiff opposition and almost always drive the Chinese often find it difficult to counter. The stories of Indian valour and nerve have now begun spreading all over the world, making the so-called invincible Chinese Army look like a dehydrated force.

The World has also come to know

by now that the Indian debacle in 1962 against the invading Chinese Army took place only because the Indian leadership cowered under the Chinese propagandism of its own strength. The reality is now known to the world that in less than 15 days, the Indian Army regrouped itself into an invincible force and started driving the Chinese invaders back. It was then that the Chinese stopped their aggression – just avoid the ignominy of defeat at the hands of the brave Indian Army. If China had not withdrawn its aggression, the Indian Forces would have sent the aggressors packing. For until then, the

Government has become amenable to the idea of using the Indian Air Force. If that had happened in an authentic manner, India could have avoided the disrepute of a crushing defeat. But even in those so-called bad times the Indian Army acquitted itself with a rare aplomb and toughness that has found no equal in the world since then.

In the past some years, India has confronted China with tremendous power packed in its moves — whether military or diplomatic or economic. In India, thus, China has found its equal in every which the way. Chinese supremacy declined during the

COVID pandemic when China reeled under the weight of Corona Virus and India showed its prowess in handling the crisis complete with vaccines and became the mainstay of fight against Pandemic the world over. Now when China tries to indulge in overtures such as the latest one in Arunachal Pradesh, India has a real time response to the Chinese Nonsense. This has become a common knowledge now. China's biggest trouble is that what ever it does, India has a tough response to it. And each time it indulges in something nonsensical, the world expects India to give the Chinese a befitting answer.

Columnist Khurda (63706 75562)

Single use plastic-most dangerous for environment

Pratap chandra sahu

Single use plastics are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. Single use plastics are known as also disposable plastics. The most common single use plastics are carry bags, drinking bottle, straws, bottle caps, food wrappers, grocery bags, wrappers for consumer goods, multi layer packaging used for food and take away containers. The convenience and cost-effectiveness of plastic has made it popular in daily use. When food and other products are

packaged in plastic, they are protected from spoilage. In case of fresh goods, they remain fresh for longer, keeping food from spoiling reduces food waste, which helps reduce the strain on our resources and keeps costs down. In healthcare single use plastics such as blood bags and syringes help modern health care remain affordable for all and helps to provide a safe and hygienic environment in hospitals. Even though single use plastic has a comparatively low production cost but its disposal cost is high. Collecting all pieces of discarded single use

plastic each year, separating, cleaning and then treating them incurs a very cost. Most of the discarded plastic that is collected gets either burnt or disposed of in some landfill of garbage. The world produces about 300 million tonnes of plastic every year, however only half of it is disposable. The remaining plastic finally ends up in the oceans. Since plastic takes quite considerable span of time to get decomposed, there is another serious concern of

microscopic particles or micro plastics which causes problems for sustainable environment. When plastic breaks down it releases many toxic chemicals which were used in its manufacturing. As a result the soil in landfills as well as ground water and ocean water gets polluted. These harmful chemicals enter the human food chain. Various studies have linked the presence of such toxic chemicals to occurrence of cancer, disruption of hormonal activities

, affecting endocrine and immune system. So we should wage a war against usage of single use plastic. It is known that about 9 billion tonnes of plastic has been produced globally, 79% of which is still in environment. About 8 million tonnes of plastic waste flows into ocean worldwide every year from coastal regions. Half of world's plastic are made in asia. After environmentalists raised the issue about plastic pollution various nations has taken measures to limit the usage of single use plastics. The odisha

govt. announced phase wise ban on use of single use of plastic items from 2nd october 2018. But many of the bans on use of single use plastic in indian states are not universally effective. Plastic pollution particularly micro plastic is a key issue to be addressed by india as the uncontrolled waste continuousto damage the environment for several years. The govt. needs to come up with a broad and extensive national action plan to ban the single use plastic.

Nabarangapur 9437788860

Commemorating World Health Day 2023 in Kolkata

Kolkata, (ADVAITA SETH): Today, on World Health Day 2023, the Prof. J. J. Ghosh Foundation and Birla Industrial & Technological Museum are joining hands to commemorate the founding of the World Health Organization in 1948. The aim of this commemoration is to inspire action towards addressing the health challenges of today and tomorrow. The event will feature a popular lecture titled 'Important Health Issues in Student Life' by Dr. Mouli Madhab Ghatak, who is a Senior Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Specialist and Secretary of the Spinal Cord Society in West Bengal. Following the lecture, there will be an open-house quiz called 'WHO@75' to



celebrate the 75th anniversary of the World Health Organization this year. The event will be attended by more than 100 students from various schools including Nabajatak Vidyabhavan for Girls, Techno India Group Academy, Saltlake Point School, Shri Shikshayatan

School, Birla High School, Techno India Group Public School in Garia, Delhi Public School in Ruby Park, and The Calcutta Emmanuel School. World Health Day is an annual event that celebrates the founding of the World Health Organization in 1948. The day aims to raise

awareness about global health issues and promote initiatives to improve health and well-being worldwide. The event organized by the Prof. J. J. Ghosh Foundation and Birla Industrial & Technological Museum is an excellent opportunity to inspire young minds and

motivate action towards addressing the health challenges of today and tomorrow. World Health Day is celebrated every year on April 7th to commemorate the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. The WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting health and well-being globally. The organization's primary objective is to ensure that everyone, everywhere, has access to the highest possible level of health facilities. The theme for World Health Day 2023 is "Building a fairer, healthier world for everyone," and it aims to promote equity in health and address health disparities.

HIV AIDS patients were Served Nutritious Food



warangal (KCN): On Thursday under the auspices of Lodi Charitable Social Service Organization in Fatima Nagar, Hanumakonda District, with the vision of Manavseve Madhava Seva, with the spirit of service, 161 AIDS patients were given nutritional food to children with the cooperation of CLHA CAA Austria, CHAI Secunderabad. On this

occasion, Father Vijayapal Reddy said that with the cooperation of CLHA and CA, ten items of nutritious food, clothes and meals were provided to the sick people who came from Warangal district and other districts. On this occasion, he said that once every two months, they provide assistance with the help of their organization. 500 transportation expenses have also been given to

those who have come from distant places. Medicines have also been made available to those who have financial means or are seriously ill, he said. Bishop Berata School Principal Father Jaya Pratap, Coordinator Veera Babu, Kiran Kumar Reddy, Field Workers Shirisha, Anita, Team Members Mamta, Rohan, Rahul and others participated in this program

Burning & Uprooting of Sarna Flag condemned By Jharkhand Bachao Morcha

Ranchi (KCN): The matter of uprooting and burning the Sarna flag has been taken seriously by the Central Chief Convenor of Jharkhand Bachao Morcha, MLA Lobin Hembram and Convenor Vijay Shankar Nayak and have supported the Ranchi Bandh. The above mentioned things were said today by the central convenor of Jharkhand Bachao Morcha, former MLA candidate Vijay Shankar Nayak. He also said that he has appealed to all the tribal organizations to engage in the work of making the arrest historic success so that the people who uprooted the Sarna flag



and burnt it may come to know that the tribal society Till the culprits of this incident are not arrested Till then there will be struggle on the road. Mr. Nayak further said that the tribal society should take this incident seriously and work to struggle on the road and give a befitting reply to such forces so that they think millions of times before doing such an incident. It is a matter of shame and a point of indignation that the culprits have not been arrested by the District Police Administration till now. Can also be cordoned off, hence the administration Do not do the work of not taking

this incident lightly, otherwise you will have to be ready to face its serious consequences. Mr. Nayak said in clear words that Jharkhand Bachao Morcha workers will work to come out on the road on 8th and will not hesitate to arrest them, as well as the leaders and workers of Jharkhand Bachao Morcha will actively participate in the torch procession on 7th. Give your support against this incident by participating Will work for the tribal community and will fulfill its commitment to stand with the tribal society and support them at every step in all their struggles.

Government Unveils Key Amendments To Online Gaming Rules: Here Are The Changes

New Delhi: The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) on Thursday released new rules for online gaming that prohibit any game that involves betting and wagering, and entail a framework of multiple self-regulatory organisations (SROs). "The moment online gaming trespasses into involving betting and wagering regardless of the core content of the game, then it comes into conflict with these new rules", Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar told reporters. "We are dealing with a framework that allows for all online gaming to be determined as permissible or not by an SRO, and there will be multiple SROs," Mr Chandrasekhar said. According to a news release, the aim of these amendments is to enforce greater due diligence by online gaming and social media intermediaries with respect to online games and fake or falsely misleading information related to government business. Elaborating on the new rules at a press conference, the Union Minister said, "It is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision

and goal that young Indians get every opportunity possible to create startups and innovate for the world. Online gaming is certainly a huge opportunity for India and young Indians. We see the Indian online gaming ecosystem expanding and growing into a multi-billion dollar industry and being an important catalyst for India's one trillion dollar digital economy goal by 2025-26, with very clear restrictions on online wagering and betting." Here are the amendments that have been drafted after widespread consultations with multiple stakeholders: 1: As per the amended rules, it has been made mandatory on the part of intermediaries to make a reasonable effort to not host, publish, or share any online game that can cause the user harm or that has not been verified as a permissible online game by an online gaming self-regulatory body or bodies designated by the central government. 2: Rules will also ensure that online games or sites that involve wagering will be completely banned, including any advertising or any kind of presence. 3: An online gaming self-

regulatory body or bodies (SROs) designated by the Central government will determine whether a real-money game is permitted or not. 4: The self-regulatory body will have the authority to inquire and satisfy itself that the online game does not involve wagering on any outcome, that the online gaming intermediary and the game complies with the rules, the requirements under law for being competent to enter into a contract (currently at 18 years), and a framework made by the self-regulatory body regarding safeguards against user harm, including psychological harm, measures to safeguard through parental controls, age-rating mechanism, and measures to safeguard users against the risk of gaming addiction. 5: There will be multiple SROs, and these SROs will have participation from all the stakeholders, including but not limited to the industry. 6: The intermediary will also have to ensure that no advertisement, surrogate advertisement, or promotion of an online game that is not a permissible online game is hosted on its platform.

Decide On AAP's 'National Party' Petition By April 13: Court To Poll Body

Bengaluru: The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday directed the Election Commission to consider the representation made by the Aam Aadmi Party for recognition as a national party as per law, and take a decision by April 13. Justice M Nagaprasanna, who heard the petition, observed that it was the responsibility of the Commission to independently assess the

representation and take a decision. The Court directed that the Commission take a decision by April 13 and dispose of the petition. Alleging that the Election Commission of India has kept its representation for recognition as a national party 'under review', the AAP approached the HC with the petition on Wednesday. The party's advocate



informed the court that it had made a representation to the Commission on December 19, 2022 and a reminder e-mail was sent on March 15, 2023. It claimed that it had submitted all the requirements under The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, Clause 6B to the Commission, but there has been no action on it. The party is recognised as a state party in Delhi, Punjab, Goa and Gujarat. It had contested in the

Gujarat elections in 2022 and submitted the details of the votes it had secured there to the Commission and sought recognition as a national party as per Clause 6B of the Act. The AAP pointed to the condition that a party which obtains six per cent of the votes in four different states would be eligible for recognition as a national party.



The Vice President & Chairman Rajya Sabha, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar receiving a Parliamentary Delegation from South Sudan, led by Ms. Jemma Nunu Kumba, the Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, at Parliament House, in New Delhi

SRC Asks For Disaster Plan Training programme for OBC survey starts

Bhubaneswar: As Odisha is facing natural disasters frequently, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu on Wednesday asked all Collectors to prepare District-level Disaster Management Plan and submit the report to him by May 31, 2023. Ahead of the beginning of the South-West Monsoon, Shri Sahu held a meeting with all Collectors and asked to prepare the plan keeping the monsoon season in view. The Additional District Magistrate (ADM), who



are in-charge of emergency situations, have been asked to hold weekly review meetings every Friday and submit the minutes of the meetings to the SRC. The SRC has asked the Collectors to submit

reports about damages occurred due to the recent hailstorm and northwestern, in the prescribed format. They have to ensure that the district-level control rooms are in functional mode.

He told them to activate the official machinery to keep the essential items, equipment and mapping of human resources in readiness. Due to its geographical position and climate, the State is always prone to

floods and cyclone storms. Due to the return of the South-West Monsoon, especially in October and November, severe storms are experienced in Odisha. At times, this period is extended upto mid-December. Notably, Odisha is a pioneer State when it comes to disaster management. The State has been awarded by the UN for this. Very recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi awarded Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) with 'Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar-2023' for its disaster management.

BHUBANESWAR: A training programme for the OBC survey to commence from May 1 in the state, for which training is being given to Anganwadi workers and teachers on the offline survey which will mainly be conducted in rural areas. The survey will be carried out by the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes in all the 314 blocks and 114 urban local bodies of the state. The survey will continue till May 20, while a special drive will be launched from May 21 to 27 for the survey. Odisha is only the second



state after Bihar to conduct OBC survey. The decision of the Odisha government to go for the survey had evoked strong criticism from the Opposition in the state. Enumeration centres will be opened in villages for the survey. The centres

will be opened either in the schools or Anganwadi centres. Teachers and Anganwadi workers will be engaged as enumerators for the offline survey. Official sources said that 101 centres will be opened in Bhubaneswar for the survey.

PACS On Digitization Mode

New Delhi: A Centrally sponsored project for Computerization of 63,000 functional PACS/LAMPS across the country with a total financial outlay of Rs. 2,516 Crore is under implementation. The project entails bringing all the functional PACS onto on ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) based common software, linking them with NABARD through State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs). At present, proposals for computerization of 58,383 PACS have been received from 24 States and 4 Union Territories.

Release of central share amounting to the States/UTs for the procurement of hardware, digitization of legacy data and establishing support

at Central and State Levels by NABARD. Development of software has been started by the National Level Project Software

loans, lowering of transaction costs, reducing imbalances in payments, seamless accounting with DCCBs and StCBs and



system is under process. An amount of 11.28 crore has been released to the State of Uttar Pradesh under this Project for Computerization of 1,539 PACS. The Project Monitoring Units (PMUs) have been set up

Vendor (NLPSV) selected by NABARD. The expected benefit of the computerization of PACS Project, inter alia are - increasing efficiency of their operations, ensuring speedy disbursement of

increasing transparency. Implementation of Common Accounting System (CAS) and Management Information System (MIS) would enable PACS to carry out their operations online and obtain refinance/loans for their various activities from NABARD through DCCBs and StCBs. This was stated by the Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

Stand-Up India Funds 40 K CR

New Delhi: Recognising the challenges that energetic, enthusiastic, and aspiring SC, ST and women entrepreneurs may face many challenges in converting their dream to reality, Stand-Up India was launched to promote entrepreneurship amongst women, Scheduled Castes (SC) &

through access to loans from bank branches of all Scheduled Commercial Banks. Stand-Up India Scheme has proved to be an important milestone in promoting entrepreneurship among SC, ST and women," the Finance Minister said on the 7th anniversary of SUPI Scheme. Smt. Sitharaman said that

third pillar of National Mission for Financial Inclusion namely "Funding the unfunded". Scheme has ensured availability of seamless credit flow from branches of Schedule Commercial

Banks to SC/ST and women entrepreneurs. Scheme has been instrumental in improving the standards of living for entrepreneurs, their employees and their families."



Scheduled Tribes (ST) categories, to help them in starting a greenfield enterprise in manufacturing, services or the trading sector and activities allied to agriculture. On the occasion, Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said, "It is a matter of pride and satisfaction for me to note that more than 1.8 lakh women and SC/ST entrepreneurs have been sanctioned loans for more than Rs. 40,600 crore." "The scheme has created an eco-system which facilitates and continues to provide a supportive environment for setting up green field enterprises

Stand-up India Scheme has touched numerous lives by ensuring access to hassle-free affordable credit to the unserved/underserved segment of entrepreneurs. The Finance Minister said that the scheme has provided wings to aspiring entrepreneurs to showcase their entrepreneurial acumen and the potential entrepreneurs hold in driving economic growth and building a strong ecosystem by being job creators is immense. On the 7th anniversary of the Stand-Up India Scheme, Union Minister of State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad said, "Stand-up India scheme is based on the

The First Warrior

Swayam Deep Dash

I do not know when my march began
I do not know if I walked or ran
I do not know if I went near or far
I do not know if I was called to war

I do not care for mountains tall
I do not care for the ocean's call
I do not care come rain or shine
I do not care for water or wine



I do not think of wrinkles and lines
I do not think of un-lived lives
I do not think of what has been
I do not think of days unseen

I do not stop for aching bones
I do not stop for precious stones
I do not stop for the setting sun
I do not stop when the night is done

Prince or Pauper, King or Queen
Tattered rags and Velvet Sheen
Metal and flesh, trail and path
All shall fall before my wrath

All the deeds, noble or bad
All the moments, fond or sad
All the lovers, flame and spark
All will fade in light or dark

You may see me in the ticking clock
You may see me in the returning flock
You may see me in spring or fall
All I see is Duty's call

I am nothing, I am all.




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LVPEI managed 1,00,000 preterm babies for ROP blinding eye disease

Bhubaneswar: “LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) crossed a major milestone in preventing avoidable blindness in newborn babies by managing 1,00,000 preterm babies for Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) across its network centres in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. ROP is a blinding eye disease and an emerging epidemic of the 21st century. Babies born early (premature) or with low birth weight (less than 2 kg at birth) are at the risk of developing ROP,” said Dr Tapas Ranjan Padhi, Faculty, Anant Bajaj Retina Institute, Mithu Tuls Chanrai Campus, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. To mark this milestone achievement, the LVPEI team launched the unique, one-of-its-kind ‘LVPEI Atlas of Retinopathy of Prematurity and other Neonatal Retinal Diseases’ - a useful guide for clinicians, researchers, health care

personnels and policy makers, she further added. LVPEI is the pioneer in starting ROP screening and management program in India. It was first started in 1998 in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and later extended to the tertiary centres of LVPEI in Bhubaneswar, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. Over 1,00,687 babies from across the country and neighbouring countries have been managed for ROP by providing preventative, curative and rehabilitative care. Of these, 64,000 babies have been managed at LVPEI’s Kallam Anji Reddy campus in Hyderabad, 17,000 at the Bhubaneswar campus, 9000 at the Vijayawada campus, 8000 at the Visakhapatnam campus and 9500 through the LVPEI rural secondary centres. Among those identified with ROP, 6685 babies (20,362 eyes) were safely operated, 4559 babies (10,273 eyes)

received lasers, and 1510 babies (2901 eyes) received injections to manage difficult stages of ROP. “Each treated baby can take anywhere from 1-4 hours of focused care by the team followed by months and years of follow-up care to achieve the best possible vision for these babies by the time they enter school life. Additionally, the ROP program has significantly contributed towards training over 350 health care professionals, including nurses from across the country, and setting up neonatal anaesthesia and care units and neonatal rehabilitation and early intervention programs for the first time within eye care hospitals in India. The learnings from the program have resulted in twenty-five scientific publications and reports on better management of ROP babies,” said Dr Subhadra Jalali, Network Director, Newborn Eye Health Alliance (NEHA), LV Prasad Eye Institute.

The launch of ‘LVPEI Atlas of Retinopathy of Prematurity and other Neonatal Retinal Diseases’ is another important milestone in the care and management of newborn babies. The atlas, supported by an educational grant from Carl Zeiss India, contains 100 ROP images of varying disease severity and in different clinical situations – entire spectrum of ROP presentations, follow-up, pre and post treatment and its natural history. “Taking fundus photographs (images of the interior surface

of the eye - retina) of tiny babies is not an easy task and requires tender handling coupled with efficient technology. This atlas is a great tool for clinicians and health care professionals to better understand ROP and other neonatal eye diseases and their management,” said Dr Akash Belenje, Consultant, Anant Bajaj Retina Institute, LVPEI Prasad Eye Institute. Dr Belenje along with Mr R Ugandhar Reddy, Optometrist at LVPEI, have compiled the images for this atlas.

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.”

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.”

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.

traps 99.999% of fine dust particles and allergens. This is certified by the British Allergy Foundation & SLG Pruf & 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.

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.

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.

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.

’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.

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.”

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

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.

"We were just one hit away" - Samson

New Delhi: An injury while fielding towards the end of the first innings meant that Jos Buttler wasn't able to open the batting in Rajasthan Royals' chase against Punjab Kings. The England limited-overs captain was getting some stitches to his finger when R Ashwin came out to open, with the Royals deciding to hold back Devdutt Padikkal, a regular opener, to face the spinners. This move, however, did not quite work to the Royals' benefit as Padikkal largely struggled during his 26-ball 21 which sapped the momentum. The Royals had managed 57 in the powerplay, although they lost three wickets while doing so.

In the next four overs (7-10), they got 32 while only 35 runs came from overs 11-15, with the team slipping to 124/6. "Jos had a small injury, he got injured while fielding and was getting stitches. The physio wanted some time, which wasn't there to finish the stitches and then go out to open. The thinking of sending Ashwin (to open) and holding everyone back, thinking to hold Devdutt Padikkal in the middle overs was to specially face the spinners they had. They had a leg-spinner and a left-arm spinner bowling in the middle overs. Padikkal, a left-hander batting in the middle and getting a couple of sixes, was the planning," reasoned

Royals' skipper Sanju Samson. "Yes I think it's very important in games like this, where the momentum shifts away from you. We started off really well, we finished the powerplay really well. I think in the middle (overs) we were expecting us to get those boundaries here and there. (But) they bowled really well, two, three (tight) overs together. That's where the momentum went a bit down. But we did really well to get so close. A couple of fours here and there, I think we just fell short of a six, just one ball hit away," he said about the outcome of the game. That the Royals came close was due to Shimron



Hetmyer's 18-ball 36 and debutant Dhruv Jurel, who came in as an Impact Player and smashed an unbeaten 32 off 15, although his knock went in vain. Speaking about Jurel, Samson elaborated on the development process of the Royals. "That's how we work as a franchise. He has been with us from the last two seasons. He was playing

a lot of domestic games. What we do as a franchise, we tend to have camps just before the IPL. People who play domestic cricket, they keep on coming to our academies. We did about five to seven camps of a week each throughout the year. We did it in Nagpur, Jaipur, Chennai, Bangalore, almost everywhere. We made sure that people like

Dhruv Jurel, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Riyan Parag and all these guys get enough practice. Our team management, especially Zubin Barucha (Director of High Performance) put in lots and lots of hours in making someone like a Dhruv Jurel to come and bat the way he did in his first game, playing international bowlers in this pressure situation. That says a lot about him and we are very hopeful he comes again and wins us a few games," added Samson. The Royals bowlers, apart from having to counter a batting-friendly wicket, also had the dew factor to contend with. While R Ashwin and Jason Holder did a good job,

Yuzvendra Chahal and KM Asif leaked runs, with the latter conceding 54 runs from his four overs without picking up a wicket. "Coming here, looking at the history, we expected it to be a high-scoring game - with the small boundaries, a good batting wicket and dew coming on. We were expecting the dew in the second innings but I think the dew was right after the powerplay in the first innings. The mindset of our bowlers can make a huge difference here. You can think about using the wicket a bit more and using the speed of the ball. We definitely learn from this game and come back better in the next game," said

Samson. While coming to the defence of Asif, Samson also said they can learn from the way Sam Curran operated despite the dew: "Someone like Asif, who is playing his sixth or seventh IPL game (fifth), it's very important to back him. We are definitely looking at our Indian pacers who can bowl in the middle (overs) and the death, and the powerplay. It's not an easy job, with the dew and the kind of batsmen. He should learn from that and come back much better in the next game. We could see how Sam Curran bowled with the dew, taking his time...he could have bowled much better but we have to look at other factors as well.

Murphy, Morris in expanded list of centrally-contracted Australia players

New Delhi: Todd Murphy and Lance Morris have been named in Cricket Australia's expanded 24-member list of centrally contracted male cricketers for the 2023-24 season. Murphy made the cut after enjoying an excellent debut series in India, where he took 14 wickets from four Tests at an average of 25.21 including a seven-fer on debut in Nagpur. Speedster Morris, who was an unused member of that squad and is yet to make his senior team debut, has been included with an eye on the upcoming assignments in England, which feature a World Test Championship final and a five-match Ashes series. Among Australia's back-up group of fast bowlers, Michael Neser, Jhye Richardson and Sean Abbott have all been handed contracts. Mitchell Swepson, Peter Handscomb and the



recently-retired Aaron Finch are the notable absentees from the list. The expanded list of centrally-contracted players comes on the back of a new pay deal allowing the board to offer four additional contracts over the usual 20. Marcus Harris, for example, hasn't played since the New Year's Ashes Test of 2022 but is expected to return to the fold following a spate of impressive performances in the Sheffield Shield. "We have chosen a group of players we expect will

form the majority of those two campaigns and we know that we will need a squad mentality to achieve success," national selector George Bailey said. "As we find each year now, there is a lot of cricket in the next six to 12 months and our depth will be tested. The six Test matches during the winter are in relatively short succession and we have a busy period of white ball cricket leading up to, and post, the ODI World Cup." David Warner, who is on the last rungs of his Test

career, finds a place with an eye on that ODI World Cup that follows the two Test assignment in England. However, the case of legspinner Swepson is more curious for having gone from being the No.2 spinner behind Lyon to being overlooked for a central contract. Players not awarded contracts can earn upgrades throughout the year by accruing 12 upgrade points. They receive five points for a Test match, two for an ODI and two for a T20I. Pat Cummins, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, David Warner, Adam Zampa, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Lance Morris, Todd Murphy, Michael Neser, Jhye Richardson, Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar

Williamson to undergo knee surgery, set to miss World Cup

New Delhi: Star New Zealand batter Kane Williamson is set to miss this year's ODI World Cup in India after scans revealed that he'd ruptured an anterior cruciate ligament on his right knee, which will need him to undergo a surgical procedure to repair. Williamson injured his knee while fielding for the Gujarat Titans in the IPL 2023 opener against Chennai Super Kings. He was subsequently ruled out of the tournament and returned to New Zealand to undergo further scans on the knee and now faces a lengthy period of recovery and rehabilitation. "I've received great support over the past few days and want to thank both the Gujarat Titans and New Zealand Cricket for that," Williamson said in a New Zealand Cricket statement. "Naturally it's



disappointing to get such an injury, but my focus now is on having the surgery and starting rehab. "It's going to take some time, but I'll be doing everything I can to get back on the field as soon as possible. I look forward to doing what I can to support Gary and the team over the next few months." Recovery from ACL reconstructive surgeries have a time-frame of about six months, which is how far away the World Cup in India is right now. But

Williamson is expected to have his surgery sometime in the next three weeks as it is the best practice to wait for the swelling in the knee to subside before the surgery. Even if he does better the expected timelines, New Zealand's skipper is unlikely to have had any games under his belt going into the marquee tournament. Head coach Gary Stead however hasn't completely ruled out Williamson's participation in India. "From our perspective, we certainly haven't

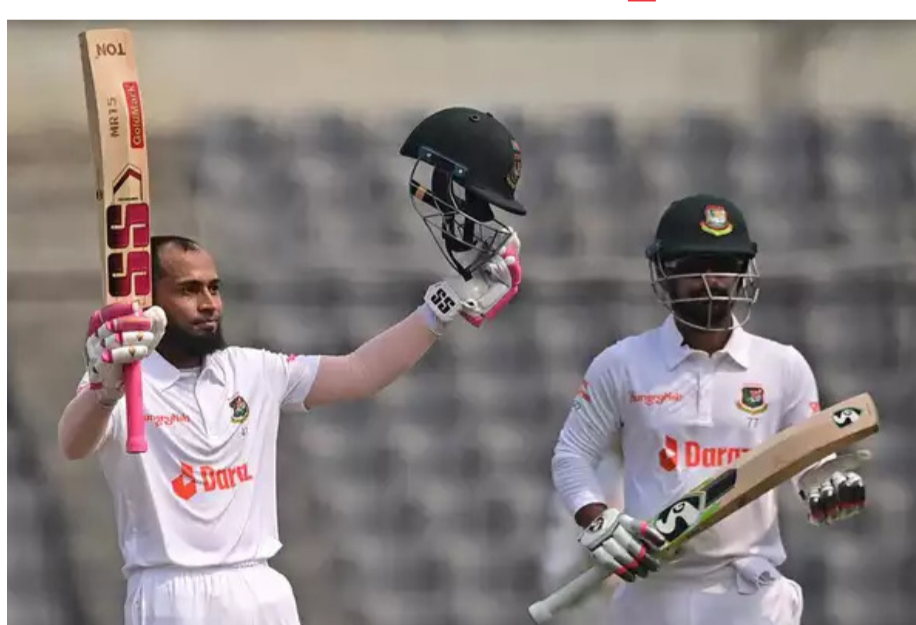
given up hope on that, and Kane will meet a number of milestones in the next six months or so," he said. "You take Kane the player, for a first start, but then Kane the leader and the person he is within our group as well, it's a huge spanner in the works for us. Our first thoughts, obviously, are with Kane at the moment, it's a tough time for him, it's not an injury that you expect is going to happen, it comes out of the blue and it obviously hits you pretty hard at the time." New Zealand, who finished the 2019 World Cup as runners-up, will now have to re-think their plans going into the 2023 edition. In that last tournament in England, Williamson finished as the Player of the Tournament, aggregating 578 runs from nine innings at an excellent average of 82.57 with two hundreds and two fifties.

Mushfiqur comes good when the chips are down: Siddons

Dhaka: Bangladesh batting coach Jamie Siddons praised Mushfiqur Rahim's knock, and felt the senior batter always comes through when the chips are down. Mushfiqur scored 126 off 166 balls - his 10th Test ton - and added 159 runs with Shakib Al Hasan (87) in their fourth-wicket stand to help the host take a first-innings lead of 155 runs. "It was amazing. Again, we were in a little bit of trouble with him at the other end and, Mushy generally comes good when the chips are down, he sticks in there and makes sure he gets his call for us and got the score going nicely. Again, he was aggressive when it was required," Siddons told reporters on Wednesday.

"When the bad ball was there he (Mushfiqur) put it away. He was very disciplined around his defense and his leaving game and so I was really happy with that," he said. "In Test Cricket we need to have that," he said. Siddons also felt Shakib would've been frustrated for not reaching a century himself. "Yeah, it was a bit frustrating for him. I reckon the bowler changed his tactic, bowled off spin well outside off and tempted him into that shot. So, he'd be more disappointed than me," he said. "I guess he (Shakib) just kept playing the way he wanted to play. I mean, he played the sweep shot quite well throughout the innings, but, with that tactic

being employed, it was probably the wrong shot. And you make one mistake when you're batting and you're out. I don't think it has anything to do with getting towards a hundred. He was on 80 odd and in the ODI he was a little bit closer. I'm sure he'd love a hundred, but his contribution in the team overall, we're happy with that," he said. Jamie said that they are trying to play aggressive brand of cricket while added that from now onwards they are expecting to put Mehedy Hasan at seven considering it will allow them to pick at least five regular bowlers in their playing XI. "Yeah, pretty aggressive I thought. We were served up a



few bad balls, so it was good that the boys were ready and willing to put them away. So, the scoring rate went quick, which took the game forward really fast. Happy with the way we batted," said Siddons. "I think we've been building to that for a while now. And of

course, we play Ireland, so we were a lot more confident to go aggressively against them," he said. "I think Mehidy is a batsman now a proper all-rounder that bats. He's proven that in one day cricket, Test cricket. The 50 he got today was really well timed, aggressive but

still working the ones and holding up the end, protecting the bowler at the other end," he said. "And in one day cricket he's seen as one of our key batters as far as his hitting ability and so as an all rounder he is sitting beautifully on number seven," he said.

Siddons added that now his focus is developing tailenders as they are expected to have bigger roles with the bat in current times. "We've been putting in a lot of work. Probably Ebadot's looking a lot improved. Haven't had a lot of Khaled on tour with us. He's not a white-ball player, so I don't do any work with him that much," said Siddons. "But Ebadot and Shoriful as well, who hasn't really been around, been injured and stuff, and not in the team, so it's hard to put work into when I'm in another country and they're here. But I think Ebadot has improved. I mean, his effort today wasn't great, but he's been a

number 11 for a number of years and now he's not batting at 11. So that's a good thing. But we need to get better, Taijul needs to be a better player than that if we're gonna only play seven batsman," he said. "He (Taskin) is very keen to be seen as an all-rounder. At the moment he's still a bowler that can bat a bit. But he's improved outta sight and I see that with him. I see that with Ebadot. Ebadot's a much more capable batsman now, at least holding up an end and Taskin's someone that can score runs. He works hard on his batting and the people that you have time with, you can put time into and they will get better, but he's looking good and normally, he would be sitting there at number eight," he concluded.