

PRESIDENT OF INDIA TAKES A HISTORIC SORTIE  
IN A SUKHOI 30 MKI FIGHTER AIRCRAFT



**New Delhi:** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu took a historic sortie in a Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam today (April 8, 2023). The President, who is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, flew for approximately 30 minutes covering Brahmaputra and Tezpur valley with a view of Himalayas before returning to the Air Force Station. The aircraft was flown by Group Captain Naveen Kumar, Commanding Officer of the 106 Squadron. Later in the visitor's

capabilities have expanded immensely to cover all the frontiers of land, air and sea. I congratulate the Indian Air Force and the entire team of Air Force Station Tezpur for organising this sortie."

The President was also briefed on the operational capabilities of the aircraft and the Indian Air Force (IAF). She expressed satisfaction on the operational preparedness of the IAF.

The President's sortie in the Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter aircraft is a part of her efforts to engage with the armed forces, as the Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces. In March 2023, the President visited INS Vikrant and interacted with officers and sailors on board of the indigenously built aircraft.

Odisha Woman Loses Rs 1.7 Lakh To Cyber Fraudsters; Hubby Gives Triple Talaq

**Kendrapara(KCN):** In a bizarre incident, a man broke the marital relationship with his wife today by saying 'talaq' three times at Baburam Patana village of Kusiapal panchayat under Derabisi block and Sadar police limits in Kendrapara, after she got trapped by cyber criminals and lost around Rs 1.7 lakh. According to a senior official in the police station, the Muslim woman named Jumrun Bibi had entered into online friendship on Facebook with the fraudster identified as



Ravi Sharma, a month ago. The criminal Ravi then addressed Jumrun as his sister and promised to give a gift worth Rs 25 lakh. Accordingly, the accused sent photos of a gold necklace, fridge, iPhone, Air-conditioner, expensive garments and many more items to allure the victim woman. Subsequently, he

demanding that she sends Rs 1.7 lakh towards courier charges. In parts, the woman had paid the total amount to the fraudster. As things got delayed for days together, Jumrun lodged an FIR at the local police station. The incident triggered a feud in the family and Jumrun's husband

Sheikh Rajid, who works in a private firm in Gujarat, got annoyed when he recently came to know about the cyber fraud. The irate man called his wife over the phone from Gujarat in the morning and ended their 18-year-old marriage. The couple were not on good terms prior to this fraud and often were indulging in verbal spats, the senior official added. Meanwhile, Jumrun has lodged an FIR against Rajid demanding alimony for her and their four children.

Odisha: Over 1.5 Tonne Single-Use Plastics Seized In Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** More than 1.5 tonnes of single-use plastic items were seized from Damana area of Bhubaneswar city in Odisha today. An enforcement team of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) found the banned items from a building near Damana market during a routine inspection, sources said. "Members of the Central Enforcement Team of the BMC found 1.5 tonnes of single-use plastic glass, thermocol utensils, polythene bags and other



banned items from a building near Damana market during routine inspection," said an official. The enforcement team had seized single-use plastic items from the same building last year, said BMC Additional Commissioner Suvendu Kumar Sahoo.

"We have traced the person involved in the illegal storage of single-use plastic items and imposed a penalty of Rs 25,000 on him," Sahoo added. BMC sources, meanwhile, claimed that the enforcement teams of the civic body have seized more than 3.5 tonnes of single-use

plastic items from various places in the capital city from October, 2022 to March, 2023. Penalties worth Rs 3.85 lakh have been collected from the violators, said the official. The seized items include ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, thermocol for decoration, plastic plates, cups, glasses and plastic cutlery items like forks, spoons, knives, straws and trays, sources said.

Naveen Promotes Odisha Tourism, Sports In Japan

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today hosted a roundtable discussion in Kyoto city with a focus on opportunities for collaboration between Japan and Odisha in tourism and sports sectors. The event was attended by major tour operators and representatives of the hospitality sector from Japan as well as various Japanese sports associations and representatives from the sports sector. During the discussion, the Chief Minister highlighted the immense potential of Odisha as a tourist destination, with a particular emphasis on leveraging Odisha's rich

Buddhist tradition especially the heritage sites in Dhauli, Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri and Udayagiri. He spoke about the various initiatives undertaken by the state government to promote tourism in Odisha. The Chief Minister also highlighted the significant strides made by Odisha in the sports sector and expressed his hope for collaboration with Japanese sports associations and universities. He also highlighted the state government's focus on hockey. The Chief Minister informed the audience about Birs Munda Hockey Stadium, the world's largest hockey stadium in terms



of seating capacity and how it was built in a record 15 months' time. Patnaik also spoke about the focus of the state government on improving sports at the grassroots level. The student delegates

and Professors of Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan had been to KIIT University in Bhubaneswar on an academic exposure trip recently, said the Chief Minister while urging everyone present at the

discussion to explore such collaborative opportunities. He urged stakeholders in the sports and tourism sectors to explore opportunities for collaboration between Japan and Odisha.

During the event, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Government of Odisha and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel for the development of a state-of-the-art Gymnastics Centre in Odisha and for collaboration between AM/NS and the Government of Odisha to further promote sports in the state. The delegation also provided an overview of the investment opportunities available in Odisha for Japanese investors in the tourism and sports sectors. The representatives from the tourism and hospitality sector expressed their interest in exploring the

possibilities of collaboration with Odisha, given the state's unique cultural heritage and natural beauty. The roundtable discussion provided an excellent opportunity for both the Japanese and Odisha delegations to explore avenues of collaboration in tourism and sports. The meeting concluded with the participants expressing their commitment to working towards strengthening ties between Japan and Odisha in these critical sectors. The Chief Minister expressed his appreciation for the warm hospitality

extended by the people of Kyoto and conveyed his hope that the visit would contribute to further strengthening the relationship between Japan and Odisha. Industries department Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma made detailed presentation on tourism sector in Odisha. Sports department Secretary Vineel Krishna made presentation on the sports sector related activities and the unique partnership model promoted by the state. The delegates actively participated in the deliberations and showed active interest in partnering with Odisha.



# Odisha, ArcelorMittal Nippon Ink MoU For Gymnastics High Performance Centre

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha today entered into a partnership with ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India to set up a High Performance Centre (HPC) in Gymnastics in Bhubaneswar to promote and develop the sport of gymnastics in the state. The state government will create and maintain the infrastructure for the HPC and academies while AM/NS India will operate and manage these centres and train gymnasts, particularly women gymnasts, and provide coaching development and certification and judge certification. Sports & Youth Services Department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Vineel Krishna and Deputy Director HR & Administartion AM/

NS India Keiji Kubota signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Kyoto city of Japan today. “The state government is committed for the development of sports in Odisha. Gymnastics as an Olympic sport has its appeal among the masses. Odisha has a pool of talent, who under expert guidance and a holistic supports system, can be nurtured to become international gymnasts over the next five years. I am delighted to see our state and AM/NS India come together yet again, this time to promote gymnastics. This partnership will go a long way in creating a vibrant gymnastics ecosystem in the country and help us identify and develop young talent for the future,” said the Chief Minister. Odisha’s earlier collaboration with AM/NS India during the Ultimate Kho Kho League proved



very fruitful with team Odisha Jugger nauts emerging champions. The company’s efforts in promoting hockey were also commendable. The government recognises the importance of public-private partnerships in encouraging sports development, he added. “We value AM/NS India’s continued support in this endeavour of our state,” said the Chief Minister. The Odisha AM/NS

Gymnastics High Performance Center will be a facility housed in the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar for senior athletes participating in the ‘Elite Senior Gymnastics Programme’. While

the three ‘Odisha AM/NS Gymnastics Academies will be located in Puri, Jeypore, and Rourkela for grassroots level athletes. The HPC and academies will focus on creating a robust scouting framework and nurturing talents from Odisha to compete at National and International levels with competent coaching teams, quality equipment and sports science support. It will develop a gymnastics ecosystem with long term sustenance, with coach development and certification, judge certification and with a special focus on female gymnasts. The athletes will receive international and national exposure in addition to academic support. The programme will help develop the sport in India and build a strong foundation of skilled coaches, trainers, and support staff. Odisha has already set up Gymnastics Centres in Puri and Bhubaneswar and an additional centre in Rourkela will be operational soon. Gymnasts who have represented Odisha at national and international level have commenced their training at these centres. Notably, Odisha is the only state to set up a bouquet of high performance centres for different sports. HPCs in swimming, shooting, weightlifting, football, hockey, sports science and athletics have made operational in Odisha.

## Hotter Days Ahead For Odisha Dists As Mercury To Soar From Apr 11

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted hotter days for maximum parts of Odisha in the next couple of days as temperature is likely to increase by 3-4 degree Celsius. Regional Meteorological Office cautioned that there will be significant change in day temperature from April 11. “In the last 24 hrs, many parts of Odisha saw rise in temperature and some areas witnessed norwester-induced rainfall. While districts in the southern parts of the State experienced norwester-induced rainfall accompanied by thunderstorm, others parts saw temperature hovering around 39 degree Celsius and above. Kashipur in Rayagada district recorded 10 mm rainfall while Balikuda in Kandhamal district registered 4 mm rainfall. On the other hand,



Rourkela and Jharsuguda recorded maximum daytime temperature with 39.4 degree celsius (C) while Baripada recorded 39 degree C. Similarly, Bhubaneswar recorded 37 degree C and Cuttack 36.5 degree C,” said senior scientist of regional meteorological department Uma Shankar Das. While there is no specific determining factor for the weather in the next five days, disturbances in Chhattisgarh and adjoining areas may cast

an influence in some parts of northern and southern Odisha triggering rainfall and thunderstorm mainly due to norwester. There’s a possibility of western disturbances weakening from April 11 onwards. In the next 24 hrs, districts like Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Angul may experience norwester rains and lightning with wind speed going upto 30-40 km/hr while other areas down south may see

thunder and lightning, he informed. Rainfall and thunderstorm warning has been issued to northern Odisha districts and some southern Odisha districts on April 9. On April 10, warning has been issued for primarily Southern Odisha. No warning has been issued for April 11 and 12. As western disturbances are likely to weaken, heat wave has been predicted as temperature is likely to increase by 3-4 degrees,” he added.

## Odisha: OMDC Staff’s Body Found With Bullet Injuries In Keonjhar

**Keonjhar/Barbil:** In a shocking incident, the body of a Orissa Minerals Development Company (OMDC) staff was found with bullet injuries in Barbil town of Keonjhar district in Odisha here today. The deceased was identified as Dusasan Barik (55) of Dalaki slum in Barbil, a staff of OMDC at Thakurani here. Prima facie, it appears as if he was shot from point blank range. While the reason is still unknown till now, land dispute is suspected to have led to the crime. Barbil police and a scientific team have started investigation into the matter. As per reports, Dusasan had



gone to duty but did not return home on Friday night. The following day, his body was found with bullet injury on his head, behind a transmission tower at Barbil’s Damu Hutting while his bike was around 200 metres away. Two live 9mm bullets and three empty

beer bottles were also found near the body of the deceased. Family members, on being asked, said Dusasan had not come home from office the previous night and they got to know about his death in the morning. They, however, shared that

Dusasan used to get into fights with neighbours over land-related matter and alleged that he has been murdered. Meanwhile, a case has been registered and family members are being interrogated. Further investigation is underway, police said.



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## Manoj Bajpayee Drops Hori Mein Song From Family Drama Gulmohar



Makers of the upcoming family drama 'Gulmohar' unveiled the first song 'Hori Mein'. Taking to Instagram, Manoj Bajpayee treated fans with a Holi celebratory song. Sharing the song video, he wrote, "A symphony of colours, a melody of joy. This Holi, celebrate with the most colourful song of the season with Batra Family! The much anticipated heartwarming family drama #Gulmohar streaming from 3 March!"

The song depicted the Holi scenario. The Batra family can be seen celebrating a symphony of colours and a melody

of joy in the song. 'Hori Mein' sung by Kavita Seth and music directed by Siddhartha Khosla and Alan Demoss. 'Gulmohar' is a drama about three generations of a family who have grown apart through time. The film directed by Rahul V Chittella, stars Sharmila Tagore as the matriarch Kusum Batra, who decides to sell Gulmohar and go to Pondicherry. Her declaration creates a commotion in the family, leaving her son Arun (Manoj Bajpayee) uneasy and her grandson (Suraj Sharma) wishing for independence. After the trailer of 'Gulmohar', Manoj

received mixed reactions from fans as they expected an update about 'The Family Man Season 3'. Helmed by Rahul Chittella, the film stars Manoj Bajpayee, Sharmila Tagore, Simran, and Suraj Sharma in the lead roles and is all set to stream exclusively on Disney+ Hotstar from March 3, 2023.

The most striking trivia about the movie is that it marks the comeback of legendary actor Sharmila Tagore on the big screen, after a long gap of 12 years. Gulmohar is a Star Studios production in association with C h a l k b o a r d

Entertainment and Autonomous Works. The film's original music is composed by Siddhartha Khosla. Meanwhile, Manoj was last seen in the song 'Kudi Meri' alongside actors Abhimanyu Dassani and Dhvani Bhanushali which gathered decent responses from the audience. He will also be seen in the power-packed courtroom drama 'Banda'. The film marks the directorial debut of Apoorv Singh Karki in Hindi films who has helmed popular OTT shows like 'Aspirants', 'Saas Bahu Achaar Pvt Ltd', 'Flames', etc.

## Shriya Saran's Namaami Namaami Song From Period Actioner Kabzaa Out

Ever since the teaser of Underworld Ka Kabzaa is out, it generated quite a stir amongst the audiences to watch this action-packed film. Keeping the interest level at a peak, makers drop another song, Namaami Namaami from the most awaited film.

'Namaami Namaami' is the introductory song of Shriya Saran in Underworld Ka Kabzaa. Being a divine and piety song, it emphasises the culture of Amarapura province and how Shriya worships Nataraj (Shiva) with 'Namaami



Namaami'. Sung by Aishwarya Rangarajan, the song leaves you with love and affection towards lord

by Ravi Basrur. Underworld Ka Kabzaa is a story about the Mafia World and the journey of Arkeshwara in the underworld. The film features Shriya Saran, Upenendra and Kiccha Sudeepa in pivotal roles and is all set to hit theatres on the 17th of March 2023 in Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam.

The film is produced by Anand Pandit Motion Pictures in association with Sri Siddeshwara Enterprise and Alankar Pandian and directed by R. Chandru.

## Thalapathy Vijay's Varisu Streams on OTT, Prime Video Makes Big Announcement



South blockbuster Varisu, the Tamil action blockbuster starring Thalapathy Vijay is now streaming on Prime Video and the big announcement was made today. Directed by Vamshi Paidipally, the film boasts of a power-

packed cast including Rashmika Mandanna, Prakash Raj, Yogi Kumar, Sarath Kumar, Shaam, Prabhu, and Meka Srikanth playing pivotal roles. Varisu streams from February 22 in Tamil along with Telugu, and Malayalam

language dubs on the service.

With a majestic backdrop, Varisu beautifully showcases the importance of family, and how situations that put a strain on relations, also test the veritable strength of those very

ties. Head of a loving, joint family, business tycoon- Rajendran (Sarath Kumar) involuntarily pits his three sons against each other in his pursuit to find a worthy successor from amongst them. While the two older sons Jai (Srikanth) and Ajay (Shaam) choose a more unexpected divisive path of destruction, the youngest son- Vijay (Vijay) opts to keep his family together, while defending it from the clutches of a prying enemy.

Commenting on the streaming premiere of the film on Prime Video, Thalapathy Vijay, said, "Varisu is an extremely special film for me.

## Ram Charan Shocks Everyone with an 80-Second Long Dance Step on the Sets of 'RC15'



Mega Power Star Ram Charan has impressed everyone on the sets of RC15 especially the director Shankar Shanmugham. The actor danced to an 80-second long dance step in a single step leaving everyone awestruck.

Ram Charan is known for his effortless dance moves in almost all his movies. He brings tremendous energy to the dance floor.

RC 15 shoot was happening in Kurnool recently where people thronged to get a glimpse of the actor.

RC 15 is directed by Shankar Shanmugham who is known for his blockbusters like Indian, Robot etc, the film also stars Kiara Advani opposite Ram Charan. S Thaman is the composer while Thirunavukkarasu and Rathnavelu are the cinematographers of the film.

## Krushna Abhishek wishes to reunite with Govinda the way Shah Rukh Khan and Jaya Bachchan did in Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham

Krushna Abhishek has been in the news for his tumultuous relationship with Govinda. The two may not be in talking terms at the moment but Krushna has only good things to talk about his mama and the kind of equation they share with each other.

"He is my mama and I know sooner or later we will be back together. I always believe that blood is thicker than water and it has the power to reunite us," Krushna said in his new interview. He also shared that he is waiting for Govinda to come up to him, give him gaalis and sort things out between them.

The comedian also wishes to have an emotional reunion with Govinda just the way Jaya Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan had in Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham. "I am waiting



aisa kuch hojaye. Hum kahin na kahin mil jayenge aise (we will meet like that sometime soon)," he told The Indian Express. Krushna then went on to recall the time when he and Govinda actually met in a Dubai mall. "Once I was out shopping when the shopkeeper told me that Govinda mama was just there. So I called him and I saw him. Then like in a film scene, I actually ran in slow motion toward him. And then my maami (Govinda's wife Sunita Ahuja) came in that very moment," he shared with a laugh.

However, the comedian said that he considers Sunita maami like his mother who has every right to be angry and upset with him. Calling Govinda and Sunita as his family, Krushna shared that he has stayed with them for 8-9 years and he is certain that one day everything will be just fine.



# Be courageous to give big names



Who knows, the Gandhi of current age will surpass Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Some congress men may have done wrongs but the Gandhi of current century too condemns that. Gandhi has condemned those wrongs committed while in power. Gandhis pursue the philosophies of congress, many too are for the philosophy congress, diversity and democracy where voice of voiceless and marginalised are attended as a principle of civilization. History the record keeper, has honoured none compromising integrity and has made Budha, Jesus, Gandhi heros of humanity. Name is not enough, integrity is fuel to leave smokes behind and to position humanity into new height. New Gandhis will set new hights, but compromises will ruin. Fate of compromise with integrity has been

well documented in 2014 and 2019 general election of India, world has seen that. Compromise with integrity drowns and integrity sustains even in flood, thunder, like rock of the mountain. It's a fact that the philosophy of one blood one race one religion is not for Indian context. Many don't like it. Many Indians are for diversity. Democracy is not for congress, our democracy is for Indian nationals who are divergent and different but one. Let every Indian be a Gandhi not only Rahul Gandhi. In Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism etc. we see these religions are reformist not original by itself. The original ancient religions are Judaism and Hinduism respectfully. Its practices are challenged by Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism and later it becam separate religions. Roots are Judaism and Hinduism. Hinduism is also a progressive religion unlike Judaism. Followers of Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism are in big numbers over the

seas. Indians in Newyeark 1.8%, Chicago 1.5%, San Francisco 2.7%, Washington 1.7%, Houston 1.3 %, It's p r o p a g a t i n g nonviolence. Source: MPI tabulation of data from the U.S. Census Bureau pooled 2014-18 ACS. British Indians form the largest ethno-national group in London with a population of around 656,272 or 7.5% of the population. The majority are concentrated in West London, though populations can be found throughout London. They are not there for material prosperity. It's for peaceful co-existence. Its for love. No amount of revenge. Love for enemy. Forgiveness for repeated sin. They too practice Indian rituals, festivals, dress and food. The problem of these religious group is, each one loves the leader, loves the scripture. But often they themselves feel, as if they don't love the members of the their own community. The other flaw they feel is, the members of these communities propagate the values enumerated in the scriptures and practised by the

initiator but, the members of these communities never opt to give name like Christ, Buddha, Jain to their children as others do. There may be few names like Christ, Buddha, Jain, but the acception is too little. In other religions it is seen, there are persons with names of gods and goddesses. So far psychology is concerned, names drives a person to know, acquire and deliver the character. Of course they are good names but character of the names are missing. In our societies, we need to have many Christs, many Buddhas, many Jain and Persons with the name Christ, Buddha, Jain etc. if he moves in the society, it will remind the family member, society, and offices about the characters and values of these champions instead of their religion. If a person with name Christ, Buddha, Jain is convicted and goes to jail, the name will remind the fellow prisoners on the character of Christ, Buddha, Jain, even the convicted person will get reminded with the meaning of it's own names.

Names builds the character, character transforms the behavior and behavior has an impact in the society. If a person becomes a different character or negative character, people will remind him of his expected character of his or her name. Names have meaning. Meaning drives the individual. Name is an inevitable aspect of human life. Every new person has to introduce oneself first with name. For listeners, first impression last long. No one is against the character of Christ, Buddha, Jain. But almost no duplicate Christ, Buddha, Jain is found in our society. Poor use duplicates items and imitations, it manages the situation. It gives satisfaction to the owner as well as onlookers. It inspires both to the owner and to the on lookers to have the original one. Nowadays people give names to their pets. Through names they try to expect a character from their pets. Often the pets

delivers as per the names and expectations as they are groomed like that. Even human beings are named after many expectations from a child. In course of time the child is reminded by all about the character of the original person. While reading this article, readers may be getting reminded after the character of their names, the original person. We have the opportunity to correct ourselves. No parent gives name, Satan, Raxhyasa, Pisacha etc. Because these names have negative repercussions. Negative names if given, must inject to be negative. Some time we use and abuse our friends and enemies with negative names. And they say, let me prove the name with that I am called. Name drives a person to act, react, correct and to pursue persistently to achieve that. In these days people don't want to give the names which are already there in the society and have been named. So parents and guardians coin the words and letters and give a new name.

These names too drives the person concern and the people who call the name. While calling a person, if the name itself has significant r e s p e c t a b l e personality of history, the caller become conscious. Some time it is heard that, persons with particular names are found with that particular character. Some time negative and some time positives. When someone becomes very successful in sports, science, profession, business, politics, cinema, art, craft etc, people start giving those names to their children. The child hears that name throughout his or her life time. It motivates the person concern. Let's conclude, name drives the person, names impacts the society. Name itself is a messenger. Names forms the character of the individual, family and society and that forms the nation. Let's be proud of the names which have no negative character. Let's have the courage to give names which have historical and ethical values. Let these names being a person move in our homes, villages,

towns and cities. Let these names be in our class rooms, offices, business houses, even in prisons and brothels. Name gives message, names inspires, name transforms, name challenges. Let's be courageous to give the names like Buddha Christ, Jain even Gandhi and Ambedkar. These names will build our society. Be courageous to give names and to be named with mighty character. Names works as a messenger and transforms. Be courageous to give big names. In today's world social activists, NGOs, writers and poets, media and politicians and many from government and civil society are trying and bothering and some are frustrated for not being able to build the character of children, families, society. Empel number of names of perfect charters is expected to spread the message in the society. But it's unfortunate to see the slogans "Gandhi murdabad, Godshe jindabad"

Social worker

Chaibasha,

Jharkhand

Phone:

9437104304

# Gender: Can we redefine



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 it's 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 it's 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 it's 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 foots t e p s , p a t r i a r c h y

c o n s c i o u s l y corrupted the mind to establish the secondary position of the woman in relation

to the man as a glorified position to sustain the d i c h o t o m y . Culturally and socially the

s u b o r d i n a t e f u r t h e r 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 feminism, Butler reverses the structure and begins it with desire which

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.

Kolkata, West

Bengal India





The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar lighting the lamp along with Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar on the 200th birth anniversary of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, in New Delhi

## "They Went To Court, But It Gave Them A Jolt": PM Modi Taunts Opposition

**Hyderabad:** Taking a dig at some political parties who approached the Supreme Court alleging arbitrary use of central probe agencies against opposition leaders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the top court gave them a "jolt" by refusing to entertain their plea.

"A few days ago some political parties went to the court seeking protection that no one should seek to inquire our books filled with corruption. They went to court, but court gave them a jolt," PM Modi said, without taking any names. He was talking about corruption and "parivarvad" at the public meeting.

Recently as many as 14 political parties led by the Congress filed a petition in the top Court alleging that there has been an alarming rise in



the use of coercive criminal processes against opposition political leaders and other citizens exercising their fundamental right to dissent. However, the Supreme Court, refusing to entertain the plea, observed that politicians do not have "higher immunity". On April 5, a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala

expressed disinclination to entertain the petition, saying courts are always there for taking up the grievances of political leaders as they do for common citizens. PM Modi was in the city to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of projects worth over ₹11,300 crore in Telangana besides flagging off the Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat Express.

## Row In Bihar After 3rd Gender Denoted As 'Caste' In Headcount Survey

**Patna:** The much publicized ongoing exercise of the headcount of social groups in Bihar by the state government has run into fresh controversy over enumeration of members of 'third gender' as a separate caste.

Castes in Bihar will now be identified on the basis of codes, in the form of numbers, and each caste has been given a numerical code for use during the month-long second phase of caste-based headcount from April 15 to May 15. For instance, the sub-categories of Maithil, Kanyakubj and other Brahmins have been merged into a single social entity called Brahmin, which will have caste code as 126. No separate enumeration of its sub-categories will be done. Similarly, the caste code

of the Rajput is 169, Bhumihar (142), Kayastha (21) and for members of 'third gender' is 22. Total 215 codes have been allotted to different castes and 'third gender' has also been considered as caste with the allotment of a separate caste code. Terming the state government's move of considering 'third gender' as a separate caste in the ongoing exercise as a 'criminal act', Reshma Prasad, founder secretary of Dostanasafar, a Bihar-based NGO, on Friday told news agency PTI, "How can gender identity of a human being, become his/her caste? Can 'male' or 'female' be considered as caste... similarly, how can 'transgender' be considered as caste? People belonging to transgender community can be of any caste".

The move is against the 'Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules' that talk about the prevention of non-discrimination of transgender persons, said Reshma Prasad. "The social welfare department of the state government must intervene into the matter so that gender identity of a person should not be considered as caste. I will definitely write to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in this regard and seek his immediate intervention into the matter. It's a sheer injustice with people belonging to transgender community". Rajasthan Gets First Transgender Cop After 'Red Tape' Delayed Appointment Echoing a similar view, Grace Banu, a known trans person rights



activist and a software engineer from Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu), told Press Trust of India over phone, "The move of the Bihar government is simply 'a social injustice' with people belonging to transgender community. How 'transgender', which is a gender identity, can be considered as caste? There are so many castes

in transgender community. If the state government (Bihar government) does not know how to count the transgender people, we are here to help them". "In the path breaking judgment in National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) vs Union of India (2014), the Supreme Court made an authoritative pronouncement that

transgenders be treated as 'third gender' for the purpose of safeguarding their rights under Part III of the Constitution, as well as under the laws made by Parliament and state legislatures. This social injustice of the Bihar government needs to be rectified immediately....gender of a person cannot be considered as caste at all", said Banu.

Justifying the demand of people belonging to transgender community, Vidyarthi Vikas, Assistant Professor, AN Sinha Institute of Social Studies (Patna), said, "It must be rectified immediately....gender identity of a person can not be considered as caste. There should be a separate column for transgender in gender categories. Freedom should be given to them (trans people), if they want to disclose their caste identities. In that condition their caste should be mentioned in caste categories". Reacting to this, Bihar Social Welfare Minister, Madan Sahni, told PTI, "If they (transpeople) have any issues with the ongoing exercise of caste-based headcount, including codes allotted to different castes, they

must approach the department concerned and discuss with senior officials. The Grand alliance government in Bihar has already taken several welfare measures for improving the socio-economic condition of the people belonging to transgender community". Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has always maintained that caste-based headcount would benefit all sections of the society. The enumeration exercise, which started from January 7, will be completed by May, 2023. The state government will spend ₹500 crore from its contingency fund for the exercise. The General Administration department is the nodal authority for the survey.

## Congress, BJP Mock Each Other Over Karnataka Seat Distribution

**Bengaluru:** The Congress and the BJP seem to be mocking each other over internal troubles in distribution of tickets and allotting seats to top leaders of their parties. With the Congress having announced candidates for 166 seats and the BJP yet to come out with its first list, Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala claimed that senior BJP ministers, including Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, are keen to change their seats to negate anti-incumbency. Hitting back at Mr Surjewala, BJP Rajya Sabha MP Lahar Singh Siroya took to Twitter and focussed on the confusion over seats for former Chief Minister Siddaramiah. In his tweet, responding to Mr Surjewala's comments, Lahar Singh Siroya claimed that Mr



Siddaramiah was "running away" from the Badami seat that he won in 2018 and the Chamundeshwari seat which he lost to the Janata Dal (Secular) in the same election. He also took on Rahul Gandhi and Mr Surjewala himself. The choice of seats for Siddaramiah has been a delicate issue for the party as the former Chief Minister has been demanding a second seat for himself. He had initially declared he would contest from the Kolar

seat, but later chose the Varuna seat. Now, he wants to contest from Kolar as well, but the party has maintained a one seat per candidate policy. While the Congress is expected to release more names in the coming days, the BJP's first list is expected in the next couple of days according to party leaders. There has been hectic lobbying for seats in the ruling party. Karnataka goes to polls on May 10 (Sunday) and candidates have to file nominations by April 20.

## BJP "Encroached" On School Land To Build New Party Office: Arvind Kejriwal

**New Delhi:** BJP's name will be etched in history if it demolishes its office to build schools but is doing the opposite which is very painful, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Saturday, in a swipe at the saffron party which accused him of being a "habitual liar".

Mr Kejriwal made the remarks after inaugurating a school in East Vinod Nagar, even as the BJP refuted the allegation by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday that it has

"encroached" on a government school land adjacent to its new central office on Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg and is going to demolish the building there. The BJP claimed that the school building was lying abandoned for many years and no school was running there. Also, the building was on the land of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) which had already given a notice to the MCD to take back its possession.

Mr Kejriwal on Saturday charged that while the AAP government is building new schools, the BJP was demolishing schools to build its office. "They will have their



name etched in history if they demolish BJP offices to build schools. But it's very painful that they are demolishing school," he alleged. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva hit

back, alleging that Kejriwal and other Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders were "habitual liars" prepared to go to any length to "mislead" people. Senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh had on Friday alleged that BJP's new central office encroached on a government school adjacent to it and that the party was "planning to run bulldozers on it." The BJP leaders said that the AAP leaders were making false allegations.

## Adani Issue Being Raised To "Brighten" Rahul Gandhi's Career: Law Minister

**Jammu:** Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying he has failed politically, and claimed the Adani issue is being "deliberately" raked up to "brighten his political career". He also accused the Congress of undermining

the judiciary and said if the opposition party tries to "tear apart" the Constitution by attacking the judiciary, "we will not stay silent". "I am not going to make any comment on it (the Hindenburg-Adani issue) as the Supreme Court has already formed a committee and is looking

into it. But I want to say that this all is being done to brighten the political career of Rahul Gandhi," Mr Rijiju told reporters on the sidelines of a function at the University of Jammu here. He said it is "deliberately" being made into an issue. "The country is run by the Constitution and the law

of the land. One man has failed politically and they are trying to highlight controversies, make an issue out of these to brighten his career," the senior BJP leader said. Mr Rijiju was here to launch the first edition of the Constitution of India in the Dogri language. "The Congress is in

frustration and attacking the judiciary but the government will not stay silent," Mr Rijiju said when asked about a reported threat by a Congress leader to chop off the tongue of the judge in Surat who had convicted Gandhi in a 2019 criminal defamation case.



# Skill Summit On 20 APR

**Bhubaneswar:** In order to encourage and build the confidence among the youths, the State Government is going to host a three-day Odisha Skill Conclave 2023 here from April 20, 2023. "Value addition is the need of the hour for India, but value addition of human resources is crucial for the growth of New India," said Skill Development & Technical Education Minister Pritiranjana Gharai at the curtain raiser event for the upcoming Odisha Skill Conclave 2023, held in Delhi yesterday. "We are delighted to host the Odisha Skill Conclave in our state. The objective of the

conclave is to encourage, motivate and build the confidence of the youth that will help them drive their careers and make a change for the larger interest of the country," he said. In his address, Odisha Skill Development Authority Chairman Subroto Bagchi said, "We are thankful to National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) that helped us to showcase the immense potential of the skilled workforce from Odisha. The brand 'Skilled in Odisha' has been created with the intention of drawing national and international attention to the skilling

ecosystem in Odisha." After the state witnessed success at the World Skill Competition, we are looking forward to expanding and strengthening the position of the state on a global pedestal, Bagchi. Skill Development & Technical Education Principal Secretary Usha Padhee said Odisha has proved to be a pioneer in skilling and has exhibited exceptional potential. The Odisha Skill Conclave is an unique opportunity to display the State's achievements and showcasing the vast



opportunities across sectors, she said. "There is a global demand for skilled workers and we are working towards building the workforce that can cater to the rising demand across sectors. Additionally, we are also enabling the youth of the state to meet their aspirations," the

Principal Secretary added. Contributing his thoughts, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, Atul Tiwari, said Odisha is one of the most important States in the country with respect to skill development. The initiatives taken

towards skilling and the emphasis on the same has been phenomenal. The G20 working group on education will be hosting the third meeting on 'Future of Work' which will be an important discussion for the State, Tiwari said. Given the increasing focus on skilling across the world, the Odisha Skill Conclave will be an important milestone for more achievements and success from the State, he stated. A video on the World Skills Centre, Odisha, was showcased during the event to the audience which depicted the facilities of the centre that

contribute to the high-end skill training including upskilling and entrepreneurship programmes, among various other opportunities. The overarching goal of the event will be to develop and enhance the State's human resource potential and creating opportunities by offering high-quality, reasonably priced, and easily accessible technical and vocational education and skill development training to all societal groups. This will help the State benefit from its demographic dividends by fostering transformative human development among its youth and

establishing 'Skilled-in-Odisha' as a household name on a global scale. The three-day event will witness various upcoming MoUs, conferences, exhibitions, demonstration, and cultural activities and will offer a plethora of opportunities to the skilled workforce from the State. The curtain raiser event was hosted by Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) and Skill Development & Technical Education Department, Government of Odisha along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) as the Industry Partner.

## Team BJD Ready

**Jharsuguda:** Moving fast in the race for the Jharsuguda MLA seat, the Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has engaged 12 senior leaders for the by-poll to the Assembly segment. Earlier, the BJD had appointed three senior leaders as observers for the by-poll. As per an order of the BJD, Ministers Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak and Tukuni Sahu have been appointed as Observer for Kirmira block; while Minister Niranjan Pujari and MLA Saroj Meher have been appointed for Kolabira block; MLAs Padmanav Behera and Arun Kumar Sahoo will look after Jharsuguda block.



Similarly, Ministers Pratap Keshari Deb and ex-Minister Dibya Shankar Mishra have been appointed as observers for Laikera block; whereas senior leaders Pratap Jena,

Puspendra Singhdeo, Snehangini Chhuria and Rita Sahu will look after Jharsuguda Municipality. The ruling party had earlier appointed senior leaders Prasanna

Acharya, Devi Prasad Mishra and Sarada Prasad Nayak as observers for the upcoming by-poll. As this by-poll is going to be the last election before the next Assembly and general elections 2024, the BJD is leaving no stone unturned. The BJD has fielded Deepali Das, daughter of the slain Minister Naba Kishore Das, to get sympathy votes and to downplay the Minister's murder case. The BJP and Congress have yet to name their candidates for the by-poll, which will be held on May 10 and the result will be declared on May 13.

## Nayagarh handloom weavers in distress, stare at bleak future sans govt support

**New Delhi:** With no support from the government, increase in cost of raw materials and distress sale, the traditional weavers in Ranpur area of Nayagarh are now staring at an uncertain future. The popular handloom clothes prepared by the traditional weavers in the area have carved a niche across the country and the globe. However, it is being pushed into oblivion due to alleged neglect on part of the State government. The thread of life is running out for the weavers in Ranpur. Being unable to make both their ends meet due to the low wages they earn from weaving, most of the weavers have left their traditional profession. While many of them have left the State to work as migrant workers, others are working as daily labourers to earn their living. Take the case of Maninag Handloom Cooperative Society



Limited where 150 weavers were working once upon a time. However, most of them have left the profession and only 25 weavers are continuing with the traditional work. The society was established in 1954 with an aim to popularize the country made clothes and strengthen the profession of the weavers. However, the society is gradually losing its identity due to the shortage of raw materials. "Most of the weavers have left the State to work as migrant workers. A weaver

family could hardly manage Rs 150 per day where as a daily labourer is getting Rs 300 per day. It is very hard to make ends meet to work as a weaver," said Jayanti Das, a lady weaver. "The cost of raw materials has skyrocketed due to GST and other reasons. The cost of production has increased accordingly. It is very hard to make any profit from handloom products now. Moreover, the distress sale of handloom products has also made our life miserable,"

said Parikhita Das, another weaver. Though the new generation is not showing any kind of inclination for the profession, the State government claims that all support is being extended to the weavers. "The number of weavers is declining as most of them have become old. We are trying to impart training to young people to attract them towards the profession," said Karunakar Behera, Assistant Handloom Officer of Nayagarh district.



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# Vedanta Aluminium's healthcare interventions benefit 2.5 lakh people in Odisha & Chhattisgarh

**On World Health Day, the company organized mega health camps and awareness sessions in the regions where it operates**

**Bhubaneswar:** Community health interventions of Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, have benefitted over 2.5 lakh people in Odisha & Chhattisgarh in FY23. On World Health Day, the company conducted a mega health camp at Vedanta Hospital, Lanjigarh (in Kalahandi, Odisha), which saw participation of more than 750 people including community, employees and business partners. Similarly, at Jharsuguda, where the company runs its mega aluminium smelter, awareness camps were conducted in local villages with the theme of "Health for All" covering a wide range of topics like

malnutrition, balanced diet, good health & hygiene practices, and various types of diseases. BALCO has also undertaken a 4-day long campaign for mothers and pregnant women which includes HB Testing, doctor consultation, medicine distribution and awareness sessions on Maternal Child health & Nutrition (MCHN), along with organizing a multi-speciality health camp benefitting over 150 people from remotest locations of Korba district. Reiterating Vedanta Aluminium's commitment to 'Health for All', the theme of this year's World Health Day, Mr. Rahul Sharma, CEO – Aluminium Business,



Vedanta Ltd., said, "Healthy societies are the backbone of sustainable development, where local communities are empowered participants in their own progress. Vedanta Aluminium's unwavering commitment to the health of our employees and local communities is an outcome of our

culture of care. The improvement in the local quality of life owing to our healthcare initiatives bolsters our determination to create a stronger, healthier society, as we continue to fuel India's self-

reliance in aluminium, the metal of the future." Dr Girish Chandra Rout, CDM & PHO, Kalahandi district, on the health initiative shared his thought saying, "Vedanta Lanjigarh has truly

## TPSODL warns customers against the fraudulent messages for updating KYC

**Brahmapur:** TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL), the joint venture between Tata Power and Odisha Government for power distribution in Southern Odisha, today, issued an advisory against the unscrupulous elements, who are misleading the people with messages/SMS to update their KYC and contact the electricity officer at 6371461080.

These individuals have been engaging with customers without any authorization of TPSODL.

TPSODL urges customers to take all precautions before responding to such messages/calls. The company never asks any customer to share any password, OTP, bank details, or laptop/mobile screen during payments with Executives. The company advises to use authorized payment modes for all bills.

TPSODL has a dedicated 24\*7 Toll Free No. 1800-345-6797/ 1912 as a one-point solution to many grievances. The company urges all its customers to immediately report any such message/ call by any individual asking for transaction or banking details.

"We at TPSODL, have always maintained focus on value creation for all our customers. We are keeping a close watch on such fraudulent malpractices and wish to alert our customers of such fake domains. We would urge them to follow authorized payment channels by the company and inform us at our toll-free no. if they come across such fake individuals" said Mr. Arvind Singh, Chief Executive Officer, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Ltd.

## TTK Prestige launches the most awaited exchange festival 'Anything for Anything'

**Bhubaneswar :** TTK Prestige, India's leading kitchen appliances company, has launched an exciting 'Anything for Anything' exchange festival. The offer will run until

July 31st 2022.

TTK Prestige is offering 25 percent to 45 percent discount on pressure cookers. This enables home cooks to exchange their old pressure cooker and upgrade to the Svachh range, which offers innovative spillage control lids. There is a 33 percent to 60 percent discount on cookware, for those that want to upgrade to the Cuprus range. The Cuprus non-stick cookware has anti-bacterial properties

enabled by silver ION technology. A discount of 33 percent to 45 percent is available on gas stoves. Now home cooks can upgrade to the Svachh gas stove comes with liftable burners and arevolutionary easy clean design. TTK Prestige is offering a discount of 38 percent to 45 percent on mixer grinders. Home cooks can exchange their old mixer grinders and upgrade to the powerful Delight mixer grinder that comes with a 5 year

warranty on the motor. Ensuring that consumers can clean their homes effectively without touching the dirt, Prestige CleanHome is offering 35 percent to 45 percent off on vacuum cleaners. Consumers can upgrade to the Prestige powerful 1200 W vacuum cleaner that offers both wet and dry cleaning.

Commenting on the exchange festival, Dinesh Garg, EVP – Sales & Marketing, TTK Prestige, said: "Over the

last 66 years, TTK Prestige has emerged into the go-to kitchen appliances brand for home-cooks across the country. The brand operates on the pillars of trust, safety and innovation, which forms the basis of every TTK Prestige product. Powered by innovation, our products offer enhanced functionality and stunning aesthetics that adds tremendous value to the lives of busy home-cooks.

## FALI BRINGS INDUSTRY LEADERS TOGETHER TO NURTURE THE NEXT GENERATION

The Future Agriculture Leaders of India Program will hold its FALI 8 Convention on June 4 and 5, 2022 on Jain Hills in Jalgaon. In its eighth year, FALI has established itself as a unique, high impact program that makes agriculture attractive for the next generation by providing interactive learning, field visits, business plan contests, and exposure to cutting edge agriculture and agribusiness. This last academic year, FALI provided its program to over 11, 000 eight and nine standard students in 135 government aided rural schools in Maharashtra and Gujarat. The number of FALI alums totals 25,000, most pursuing higher education in science and agriculture and positioned to be future leaders of Indian

agriculture.

The Board of Directors met today and agreed on the expansion plans for FALI. Over the next ten years, FALI is expected to increase the number of students and schools by 25% a year in Maharashtra and Gujarat, adding Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. At this rate, FALI would have backed the creation of over 250,000 future leaders of Indian agriculture. The Directors also agreed on programs for FALI alums, internships, scholarships and seed funding for FALI alumni ventures.

The Directors of FALI also reviewed the plans for the FALI 8 Convention to be held on June 1-2 and June 4-5 on Jain Hills in Jalgaon.

Over its first eight years, FALI has

received strong support from several leading agribusinesses of India: Godrej Agrovet, Jain Irrigation, UPL, Bayer and StarAgri. At the FALI Convention on June 4 to 5, senior managers of these companies will participate along with leaders of about ten other agribusinesses and banks interested in supporting FALI 9 and beyond. These companies see that the results of FALI has shifted attitudes of students and their parents, who before saw subsistence farming as an unattractive career for their children. FALI students have taken home modern agriculture practices and with FALI, parents see modern, sustainable agro-enterprise as a promising path for their children.

## Gosai Furniture opens new store in Bhubaneswar

**Bhubaneswar :** Gosai Furniture, a leading furniture solutions brand today launched its new store in Bhubaneswar. It aims to enhance the quality of life of people through its innovative & exquisite furniture designs made with pure shesham wood. To give a royal feel to its customer at the home and office space the company thoughtfully designed its product after taking due consideration of the needs of customers. New store is spread across more than 5000 square feet with ample space for display. This store will enable customers of Bhubaneswar to own Rajasthani style

furniture. Ollywood actress Poonam Mishra has graced the occasion and inaugurated the store as chief guest. Whereas Mr Sita Ram and Pawan Kumar present during the inauguration event. Covid pandemic has changed the way people live in their house. As work from home becomes more prevalent and people stay within their house more time as compared to earlier, they need specific furniture for their various needs. It has given required impetus to the furniture industry and brands like Gosai Furniture rose to the occasion with their beautifully designed furniture which is well

accepted by customers. Gosai Furniture products are made from shesham wood unlike other brands who rely on plywood. Our product portfolio consists of bed, dining, sofa, book shelf, side board, wardrobes, study tables and much more to choose from. We do not deal with plywood; all our products are made of solid wood. We also present in Bangalore, Hyderabad and Vijayawada with our valuable partners. On this occasion, Mr Sita Ram, Proprietor, Gosai Furniture said that, "We are extremely delighted to open our new store in Bhubaneswar."





Lahiru Kumara made the opening breakthrough

## We are as prepared as we can possibly be for SL: Balbirnie

New Delhi: Ireland skipper Andrew Balbirnie said on Friday that they will be much better prepared against Sri Lanka following their performance in the Test match against Bangladesh. Ireland, who are returning to Test cricket after almost four years, went down to Bangladesh by seven wickets in the only Test but managed to put on a strong fightback after being 27-4 with a deficit of 128 at one point in time. Through a brilliant batting display, they found a way to take a 137-run lead courtesy a Lorcan Tucker century along with fifties from Andy McBrine and Harry Tector. "It was certainly backs to the wall stuff on day two and a lot of people probably wrote us off yesterday but our day was as good a Test day



as Ireland as had - the character, application and skill," Balbirnie told reporters at the end of the Test match. Ireland are now heading to Sri Lanka to play two Tests from April 16. "We are as prepared as we can possibly be (for Sri Lanka) with a Test match in the sub-continent under our belts," Balbirnie added.

"If we were going into two Tests against Sri Lanka with no red-ball cricket, let alone Test cricket, it would be very challenging but we know Sri Lanka are a very good team in their own conditions. "But the lads will be confident, we have had enough good performances from our new guys that if we could

get a couple more things right we could give it a crack. We want to try and win Test matches and will always do that. We are desperate to get on the board but we know we have to learn quickly," he said. Balbirnie added that he was very impressed with how Lorcan Tucker earned his maiden Test century.

## Grant Bradburn named interim head coach of Pakistan

New Delhi: Pakistan have named Grant Bradburn as the head coach for the upcoming series against New Zealand, while Andrew Puttick has been appointed as the batting coach. Both appointments are only on an interim basis. A media release from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said that they are finalising the names that can take over after the series. "The PCB will confirm the Pakistan team management for post-New Zealand series following the



completion of the relevant recruitment processes, which are presently ongoing," said the statement.

Bradburn had previously served terms with the Pakistan team as fielding coach in 2018 and then also as the

Head of High Performance coaching, before stepping down from that position in 2021, incidentally soon after Ramiz Raja became the president of the PCB. The change now comes as a new regime has taken over the board, with Abdul Rehman being named as the "assistant to head coach", while Umar Gul has been named as the bowling coach. The duo had served in coaching capacities during the series against Afghanistan as well, when the overhaul was announced in March.

## FIFA Rankings: India Jump 5 Places, Now Just One Spot Away From Breaking Into Top 100



New Delhi: FIFA, football's world governing body, released its latest rankings on Thursday in which Argentina has jumped to top spot thanks to their win in the recent friendlies and the World Cup win last year. Brazil, meanwhile, have slipped to third spot from the number 1 position as France are the new number 2. However, there is no change from rank 4 to 10. At the same time, Indian men's football team have also earned 8.57 points, courtesy their wins over Myanmar and

Kyrgyzstan in the tri-nation tournament, to jump to 101st position in the rankings. India were earlier ranked 106th. India beat Myanmar 1-0 while registering a 2-0 win over Kyrgyzstan in Imphal last month, which helped them gain the important points. After the latest rankings, India are now placed between New Zealand (who are above them) and Kenya (who are below them). India have a total of 1200.66 points and among 46 Asian nations, they are placed at 19th. Japan is top ranked among

all Asian nations. They are the 20th best team in the world, as per rankings. Shaji Prabhakaran, Secretary General of All India Football Federation (AIFF), showed happiness over the jump of 5 places in the rankings and wrote on Twitter that the team is working hard to achieve greater success in future. "Jumped 5 spot in the latest FIFA Ranking to 101. We have no doubt the team behind the team will keep working hard and we together as One Team rise to a record level," he wrote.

## Buck stops with Bavuma after Shukri shake-up

New Delhi: Change continued to sweep through South Africa's structures on Friday (February 17), when Temba Bavuma replaced Dean Elgar as captain of a Test squad that included neither of the side's only century-makers last year. One of them was Kyle Verreynne, who was the team's second-highest run-scorer in Australia in December and January. He will give way as first-choice wicketkeeper to Heinrich Klaasen. Sarel Erwee - the other South African century-maker in 2022 - Rassie van der Dussen, Khaya Zondo, Lungi Ngidi and Glenton Stuurman also failed to crack the nod, and Theunis de Bruyn retired from international cricket on Thursday. The squad of 15, picked to play West Indies in two matches in Centurion and at the Wanderers in February and March, features Tony de Zorzi for the first time. Keegan Petersen returns from a hamstring injury that

forced him out of the series in Australia, and Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton, Wiaan Mulder and Senuran Muthusamy are back in favour. Last month came the news that bowling coach Charl Langeveldt would join Punjab Kings, and it was first reported last week - and repeated in the press on Friday - that JP Duminy was being lined up to replace batting coach Justin Sammons. Outside the dressing room, the selection chief has been sacked. Or, in the flowery words of a CSA release, they had "decided to release Victor Mpitsang of his role". The other selector, Patrick Moroney, will in future be confined to under-19 duty. For now at least, squads and teams will be picked by Test coach Shukri Conrad and his white-ball counterpart, Rob Walter, with input from the captains. Conrad and Walter are themselves new arrivals having been appointed last month to



replace Mark Boucher. Conrad made plain at a press conference on Friday that he had sparked most of the playing personnel revolution. Here he is on the leadership reboot: "Dean's done an exceptional job over the last couple of years, and in my conversation with him that's something I made clear. This was my decision. Dean's still going to play a huge part in our leadership group. This doesn't make Dean a poor captain and

Temba a good captain. But I felt this was the right fit for me and for us going forward." There was plenty more straight talk where that came from. Here's Conrad on Markram, who has gone 15 Test innings without reaching 50: "People are always going to be behind Aiden Markram or they are going to say he flatters to deceive. I'm in the former group. Aiden's going to open the batting. He's a wonderful cricketer and a strokeplayer. Aiden and

I go back a long way, so I know his character. We've got to match characters to that to our selections and the type of cricket we want to play. I say emphatically that he will open the batting with Dean." And on Verreynne's axing: "Ultimately I get paid to make certain calls and subjectivity plays a part. That was my conversation with Kyle. He's done everything that can be expected. But I think 'Klaasie' has done more and deserves a full

crack. 'Klaasie' is, in my opinion, not just a batter that we can stick in the field. I've always viewed him as a wicketkeeper-batter, so for me it was a straight shootout as to who I wanted. And that's 'Klaasie'. That's unfortunate on someone like Kyle." And on the uncapped Coetzee's retention, which came at the expense of Ngidi: "It's quite simple for me. I think Gerald Coetzee needs a good run. We all know the promise that he holds, and now's as good a time as ever to unleash him. Without giving too much away, I'd like to think that I'd be in a position to play all our quick bowlers in Centurion. Depending on what the Wanderers throws up, that XI might change. It's purely Gerald ahead of Lungi right now." And on the elevation of De Zorzi, the leading batter in domestic first-class cricket this season with 489 runs at 122.25 in five innings and a best effort of 304 not out:

"Tony's career has gone in one direction, north rather than south. He's someone I identify as a future captain. The fact that he's scored a mountain of runs is no surprise to me." And on the axed Van der Dussen, Erwee and Zondo: "I don't think anybody is in a position to say there's never a way back in. You can never say never. But changes had to be made and I made them. What must they do to come back in? Score lots of runs at domestic level at a good strike rate. If you want to play internationally you've got to dominate domestically not only the amount of runs but at the rate at which you score them." And on why a squad for two Tests on the Highveld should include three spinners in Keshav Maharaj, Simon Harmer and Muthusamy: "I'm old-fashioned in terms of a batting line-up. I want seven batters. So I want to increase our allrounder stocks. Allrounders don't only

have to be seam bowlers, they can also be guys who bowl spin. In Wiaan and 'Sen', we get that balance. If I want to play four quicks because I think the pitch is going to be a certain way, it gives me the option to play 'Sen'." Conrad and Walter will hold a lot of authority, but Enoch Nkwe, CSA's director of cricket, saw value in the modern idea of giving coaches more clout: "I've always believed the coach should have more of a say in selection, as long as it's in line with CSA's bigger strategy. It is going to be an interim phase, something we want to trial. But I believe the two coaches are the best positioned people to talk about selection." Bavuma is still the ODI captain but he has given up the T20I leadership in the wake of South Africa's disastrous World Cup campaign in the format in Australia in October and November. His successor in that format has yet to be named.