

Master Plan For Mangala Temple



Puri(KCN): An ardent devotee of Adi Shakti, V K Pandian on Saturday directed officials to prepare a master plan for the development of Maa Mangala temple, Kakatpur within 15 days.

Secretary to CM Shri Pandian gave the direction after holding discussions with the servitors, trustees and local people during his

visit to Kakatpur.

He said the work for the development of the Shakti Pitha will start after the Chief Minister approved the developmental plan prepared by the Odisha Bridge Construction Corporation (OBCC).

Under the programme steps would be taken for the release of water from the temple premises, parking facilities for the

visitors and development of the Prachi river bank.

Earlier, Shri Pandian had reviewed the progress of the Parikrama project around Shree Jagannath Temple Puri and the construction of the Shree Jagannath Medical College Teaching Hospital.

The construction of the medical college teaching hospital would

be completed by June 23 next year. Later, the ST Secretary reviewed the development work of Chandrabhaga beach, expansion of the Konark-Chandrabhaga state highway and the new ring road.

Shri Pandian directed the officials to complete the expansion work of Konark-Chandrabhaga State Highway by April, 2023.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA'S GREETINGS ON THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS

NewDelhi: The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu has sent her greetings to all fellow citizens on the eve of Christmas. In a message, the President has said, "I extend my heartiest greetings to all the countrymen, especially Christian brothers and sisters on the festival of Christmas. This festival is a symbol



of peace and brotherhood for the entire mankind. On this day we remember the message of compassion and sacrifice given by Jesus Christ. The festival of Christmas inspires us to treat each other with love and kindness. Let us take a pledge to adopt the divine teachings of Jesus Christ in our lives"

Know where you can catch glimpse of men's hockey world cup trophy

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The FIH Men's Hockey World Cup-2023 trophy is all set to return to Odisha tomorrow (December 25) after travelling across 13 states and one Union Territory in the country.

The Trophy Tour of the Men's Hockey World Cup-2023 had been kicked off in the city here on December 5. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had handed over the trophy to Hockey India President Dillip Tirkey on the occasion. The trophy will arrive at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here at 11.30 am on Sunday. Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Hockey India President Dillip Tirkey, Mayor Sulochana Das and senior officials of the Sports department will receive the trophy at the airport, said an official.

The trophy will be displayed at Biju Patnaik Square near the airport from 12 noon to 12.30 pm. Then, the trophy would be taken to Lingaraj Temple via New Airport Square, Sishu Bhawan Square, Mausima Flyover and



Ratha Road, said the official.

"The trophy will reach Lingaraj Temple at 12.50 pm and leave the shrine premises at 1.20 pm. A group of priests from Puri will recite Vedic hymns at the shrine during the arrival of the hockey world cup trophy," he added.

The trophy will be taken to Esplanade Mall at Rasulgarh through Ratha Road, Kalpana Square and Puri-Cuttack Road. It will be displayed at the mall till 2.20 pm and then taken to SOA campus through Rasulgarh Square, National Highway 16, Fire Station Square, Patas Ban Square, Kalinga Studio Square

and SUM Hospital Square.

The trophy will be displayed at SOA campus from 2.50 pm to 3.20 pm, said the official.

"The trophy will reach KIIT University Ground at 4 pm via SUM Hospital Square, Kalinga Studio Square, Patas Ban Square, Fire Station Square, Jaydev Vihar Square and KIIT Square. It will travel to Nayagarh from KIIT University Ground at 4.30 pm," he added.

Notably, Odisha will host the Men's Hockey World Cup-2023 at Kalinga Stadium in the capital city and Birsu Munda Stadium in Rourkela from January 13 to 29.

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Looking at the trend of collections from both Own Revenue and Central Transfers, it is expected that Odisha will be able to receive Total Revenue Receipt of Rs.1.62,000 Crore. While own Revenue collection by 31 March 2023 is expected to touch Rs.93,000 Crore, Central Transfers will be Rs.69,000 Crore. Latest Financial Position of the State by end of November reveals the above financial trends..

It is expected that the Total Central Transfer from Government of India during 2022-23 will be Rs.69,000 Crore. Central Transfer includes Share Tax and Central Grants. While the total Central Transfer as on 30 November was Rs.33,007 Crore. Which is 47 % of the Budget Estimate for 2022-23, senior officials are expecting that the Total Central



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State Eyes 1.62 L CR Revenue



Transfer by 31 March 2023 will be Rs.69,000 Crore. Target was Rs.69,766 Crore for 2022-23, while State received Rs.58,055 Crore on this account in 2021-22. According to latest statistics, Total Own Tax Revenue collection by 30 November was Rs.28,217 Crore, which is likely to rise up to Rs.47,000 Crore by 31 March, 2023. Budget Estimate for 2022-23 was Rs.46,000 Crore. So there will be a marginal growth in Own Tax Revenue,

officials opine. However, Own Non Tax Revenue collection is concerned till end of November 2022, it was Rs.28, 204 Crore, which is 59% of the Budget Estimate. As collection trend is less, it is expected that Rs.46,000 Crore will be collected during 2022-23 as against the Budget Estimate of Rs.48,200 Crore. So far Total Own Revenue collection is concerned by 30 November, 2022, it was Rs.56,421 Crore, which is 60% of the

Budget Estimate of Rs.94,200 Crore. Looking at the trend it is expected that Total Own Revenue collection will be Rs.93,000 Crore. While Revenue Collection is comfortable, Expenditure Performance is less than the corresponding period of last fiscal. Total Expenditure by 30 November was Rs.79,690 Crore, which is only 43% of the Total Budget Provision. Total Expenditure as

on 30 November 2021 was 46% of the Budget Provision, officials say. Expenditure in Agriculture and Allied Sector was Rs.8925 Crore, which is 44%, Infrastructure Sector spending was Rs.10,688 Crore, which is 42% and Social Sector Spending was Rs.35,015 Crore, which is 49 %. So Social Sector Spending was more than other sectors by 30 November 2022. By 30 November, 2021, spending in Social Sector was 50%, Agriculture & Allied Sector was 44% and Infrastructure Sector was 29%. Looking at the spending trends, the State Government has advised the senior officials to take necessary steps to increase spending in coming months, so that there will be larger achievements in the major sectors.



Arch Bishop calls on Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik thanks him for inauguration of renovated Catholic Church, Bhubaneswar at Naveen Niwas



Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts, Minister, Smt. Rita Sahu Presenting Portrait in Bandha to Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, prepared by Weavers of Bijepur at Naveen Niwas

Sainik School Celebrates Diamond Jubilee



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday said that the strength of our education system not lies in academic excellence, but rests in the ability to empower the students with knowledge, confidence, responsibility, and ability to think and face

situations of life independently. Addressing the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Sainik School Bhubaneswar, CM said that this Institution stands apart for its efforts to instill the ethos of armed forces, and endeavor to awaken the individual potential of each

student to serve his or her motherland in every sphere of life. He hoped that the school will continue to bring about the desired transformation in our future citizens. Set up by legendary leader Biju Patnaik in 1962, Bhubaneswar Sainik School, after sixty glorious years, has

become a benchmark for quality education, character building and personality enrichment. The school has not only produced some of the finest soldiers of our country, but also large number of its cadets have made significant achievement in the fields of Civil Services, Medicine, Engineering,

Merchant Navy, entrepreneurship and many other fields. It can take pride in its galaxy of alumni for the significant contribution they have made to society, said CM Shri Patnaik. It is the moment to cherish the glorious and memorable years that the school and its alumni have passed through and to motivate the young minds of boys and girls to emulate the same. I would like to urge the young cadets sitting here to seize each and every opportunity that you get, and live up to the expectations of the school as well as the nation. He congratulated the entire SAIBHUBAN family on the auspicious occasion of Diamond Jubilee and hope this event helps in igniting the minds of the cadets in shaping the kind of India we all aspire to.

Odisha: Spurious drugs worth Rs 23 lakh seized in Cuttack

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Drug Control Administration of Health and Family Welfare department of Odisha government claimed to have seized huge quantities of spurious drugs from a trader in Cuttack last month. The Drug Control Administration seized eleven spurious drugs worth Rs 23, 22, 948 from MH Pharmaceuticals at Nayasarak under Purighat Police limits on November 22 this year, sources said. The drugs were seized after receiving replies from the manufacturers regarding the authenticity of the medicines, sources said. These drugs had been

kept separately and their sales were stopped immediately. The medicines were procured from outside Odisha, sources added. The drugs enforcement team of Odisha is in touch with their counterparts in several states including Uttar Pradesh to find out all parties involved in the supply chain of the spurious drugs. "We have been screening the drugs available in Odisha market continuously. Drugstores have been asked to stop the sales immediately if there is any suspicion on the authenticity of any drug," said a senior official of the Health department.

Sources, meanwhile, claimed that the drugs enforcement team has seized spurious drugs from Ashok Medical Store at Bargarh in western Odisha. The store owner had procured the medicines from three pharmaceutical firms in Uttar Pradesh. Health and Family Welfare department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shalini Pandit, meanwhile, asked the drugs enforcement agencies to intensify screening activities for breaking the supply chain of spurious drugs in Odisha. She also asked the officials to take stringent actions against the people involved in the illegal trade.

Chargesheet filed against Archana Nag in film producer Akshay Parija blackmail case

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police has filed chargesheet against honey-trap kingpin Archana Nag before the court of JMFC 3, Bhubaneswar in Nayapalli Police Station case no. 646/2022, registered on a complaint lodged by film producer Akshay Parija. The 501-page chargesheet has been submitted against Nag

under Sections 384, 385, 388, 389, 500, 506 and 120-B of the IPC and Sections 66E, 67 and 67A of the I-T Act, said a senior police official. The Commissionerate Police has prayed before the court to keep the investigation open for collection of more evidences in the case, he added. "The Commissionerate Police will submit

supplementary chargesheet against Nag after completion of the investigation," said the official. Notably, Parija had lodged a complaint with the Nayapalli police on allegations that Archana and her husband sought Rs 3 crore from him by blackmailing him with a video of the intimate moments between him and a woman.

NROs celebrate Raja festival in Netherlands

Amsterdam: The Non Resident Odias celebrated state's most famous Raja festival with much fanfare in the European country Netherlands. The Odia Socio Cultural Association, Netherlands (OSCAN) recently hosted the festival at Ceremony Venue, Historic Hall, 'Spirit of India' in the city of Utrecht. Vikram Dev College organises 'Recent Advances in Biological Sciences-2022' Hundreds of Odia families along with their friends, relatives and well-wishers living in different parts of Netherlands gathered at the venue to celebrate the auspicious occasion with lots of enthusiasm and enchantments. The festival was observed in a grand way after two-year Covid induced hiatus. The Raja Milan was inaugurated by Puneet



Shukla, Infosys' Country Head, Netherlands. Addressing the participants, he showered profuse praises on OSCAN team for their noble endeavours in promoting and propagating Odisha's rich art, vibrant culture and lofty tradition in Netherlands. In a video message streamed during the event, Chairman of the World Odisha Society, Kishore Dwivedi lauded the efforts of OSCAN in

celebrating and popularising the fairs and festivals signifying the essence and fragrance of Odisha in Europe. The distinguished guests appreciated the social and charitable services undertaken by OSCAN in Odisha during the period of Covid pandemic and FANI cyclonic storm that had devastated the coastal part of the state in 2019. They also welcomed the series of seminars being conducted by OSCAN to

impart technical and skillful training to Odia students aspiring for pursuing higher studies in Netherlands. The highlight of the event was a colourful cultural Jamboree presented by male and female members of OSCAN along with their children. The special attractions of the spectacular extravaganza include the presentations of Mangalacharan item in Odissi dance, singing of the song titled 'Mo

Odisha' and staging of several fun-filled competitions, fashion show and Quiz like Recital of Hulahuli, putting up of Alata, wearing of saree and getting make up. The whole arrangement of the festival was smoothly managed and neatly executed by OSCAN's core team which include President Saswat Padhi and senior members like Paritosh Mohapatra, Sushil Das Mohapatra, Lopamudra Nayak, Aurobindo Ghadai, Debadatta Dash, Deepak Parida, Leoshree Mohapatra, Somnath Lenka, Anshuman Mishra and Suwendu Acharya. The Raja Milan - 2022 Festival was supported by Nobel Hypotheek - Netherlands, Jansen Smit Makelaars en texteurs - Netherlands, AAONXT - Odisha, Om Ayyan Infra - Odisha and SJPD Builder - Odisha.

Tour De Kalinga 4.0

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Roots Of Odisha Foundation (ROOF) and supported by High Five Social innovation and Mission Odisha organized Tour De Kalinga's fourth Edition. And the 4th edition of Tour De Kalinga ended on a grand note at Centre for Youth and Social Development ("CYSD"). This expedition is categorized to be the longest community pedaling expedition 1300 km in 13 days was ended in Bhubaneswar on 23 December 2022. Tushar Kanti Behera, Minister of Sports, Youth Services flagged off the program on 11 December in front of Kalinga Stadium Bhubaneswar. Starting from Bhubaneswar, Konark, Puri, the 20 member team visited the western part of Odisha viz, Satapada, Chillika

Lagoons, Berhampur, Taptapani, Chandragiri, Geranag, Paralakhemundi, Rayagada, Koraput, Bisham Cuttack, Kotagada, DaringiBadi, Phullbani, Nayagarh, Khurda was covered. The team with their aim to sensitize public on the need of pedaling to work as action against increased global warming has visited schools, colleges, universities such as Khemundi College, Centurion University, GIET, Phulbani Autonomous College, Nayagarh Autonomous College, Ranpur College etc to interact with students, the next gen citizen. The team comprising of 69 year old retired professor of Delhi University Dr. Sunil Kumar from Nainital, Uttarakhand, Shri Bharat Chand retired Principal

and father of former Indian Cricket World Cup Winner (under 19) Unmukt Chand fascinated the public with their sheer determination to inspire and make change the mindset of public towards cycling. Chairman of ROOF and the Chief Organizer of Tour De Kalinga CA. Sudhir Kumar Dash while addressing the gathering expressed hope about Odisha, which has tremendous potential for Eco and Adventure Tourism that can create crores of employment for the people of Odisha. While praising the Chief Minister and the State Administration for their focused approach in creating sports culture in the state, he said the state has emerged as the Sports Capital in the country.

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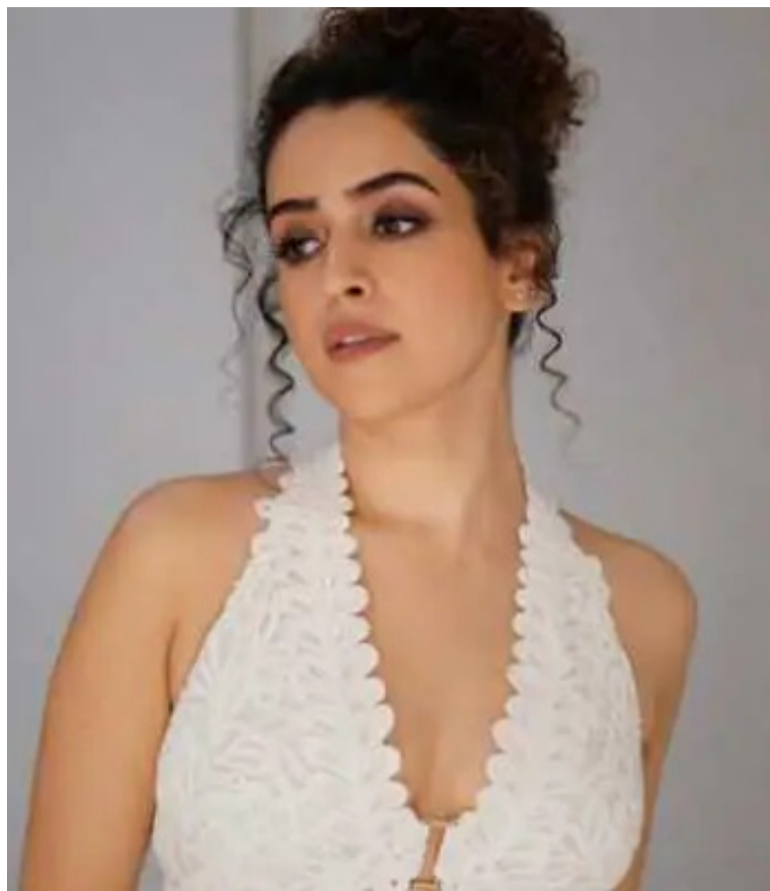
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Top 5 Bollywood actresses who worked in Women-Oriented movies and slayed!

People no longer rely as much on male-starring movies as they once did. More real, honest, and authentic stories are now in high demand. While "masala" movies may perform well at the box office monetarily, there has been an increase in female-led movies over the past several years.

Radhika Madan
The actress that has portrayed many women-centric and critically acclaimed characters in the movies such as Pataakha, Angrezi Medium, and Sanaa has established her own unique identity in the industry. Not many people know that she has also played women-centric characters in some short films as well.

Sanya Malhotra
By portraying supporting roles in



sports biopics like Dangal. Bollywood actress, Sanya Malhotra, recently appeared in Umesh Bist's contemporary social drama Pagglait. The film sheds light on the situation of a young widow who wants to fulfill her dream and make a living but is prevented from

doing so by her family's pressure to get married again. **Puja Agarwal**
Puja Agarwal has worked on women-oriented short films since her assignment as an actor. Giving her heart and soul to the projects, she has worked on short films such as Truth about Lies and

Mirror, and now she is coming up with her another women-oriented short film, "Bisaahee." The story revolves around a current-day vlogger, Stuti, who arrives in a hamlet where women are executed for practicing witchcraft because it is so primitive.

Nushratt Bharuccha
The popular and talented actress Nushratt Bharuccha, most recently worked on the Hindi version of the popular Marathi horror movie Chhori. She has previously acted in India's Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA movie series, Sonu Ke Titu

Ki Sweetie, and Dream Girl. **Kriti Sanon**
Mimi is a drama with a social message starring Kriti Sanon. It discusses surrogacy. It centers on the lives of a surrogate who has been abandoned. It became a major hit upon its release on the OTT.

'Fast and Furious 10' shoot sparks neighbor's fury over car stunts

Though fans of the 'Fast and Furious' franchise are excited for its 10th installment, 'Fast X', the residents of Los Angeles' historic Angelino Heights neighborhood,

to racing and doing street takeovers throughout the area just west of Downtown. Residents who deal with the constant noise and unsafe conditions

from FilmLA received by community members indicates that 'Fast X' will shoot Friday from 9 am to 2 am in front of the Toretto house on Kensington Road, with

will stage a huge protest and will invite many reporters and news cameras to film us protesting this film shoot all day and night," an email obtained by Variety



from a resident to Los Angeles City Council read.

It continued, "We will hold this protest to honor the 178 people who have been killed by street racers in Los Angeles, and to shame Universal for their callous disregard for

not so much. According to Variety, ever since the first movie of the popular franchise dropped in 2001, fans have made a beeline to Angelino Heights to gawk at Bob's Market, the store owned by the family of the film's Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel) and the character's quaint Victorian house.

However, Bob's Market and Dominic's house have become a destination for more than just snapping selfies. Nearly every night, car enthusiasts spin out doing donuts at high speeds in front of the store in addition

are fed up and are planning a protest for the 'Fast X' shoot. The protest comes as anger over the effects of street racing and takeovers is at an all-time high in the city. Meanwhile, traffic fatalities and pedestrian deaths have skyrocketed during the pandemic, often caused by reckless driving and speeding. It's become an epidemic across LA and the entire country as traffic deaths in the US jumped 21 percent in the first three months of 2022 compared to 2020, reported Variety. A notice of filming

"simulated emergency services activity, aerial photography, wetting down of street and atmospheric smoke." As per Variety, according to a spokesperson for FilmLA, which is in charge of permits for film shooting in Los Angeles, a shooting permit has not been finalized, but the bulletins were provided to the community by the office. "If this film shoot is allowed to go forward in Angelino Heights, or any part of it from F10 Productions (Universal) ... we

this deadly epidemic of street racing their films started and continue to promote." No further details about the protest were available. Tyrese Gibson, Ludacris, Michelle Rodriguez, Sung Kang, Jason Momoa, Daniela Melchior and Brie Larson are also a part of the film, which is being helmed by Justin Lin. Lin has been one of the lead directors for the action franchise, having previously helmed 2021's 'F9', as well as 'Fast & Furious 6', 'Fast Five', and The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift.

Riteish Deshmukh is all praises for Genelia's 'unmatchable' bargaining skills

Riteish Deshmukh gets candid about the bargaining skills of his wife, actress Genelia D'Souza. He recalls an incident where, because of Genelia, he managed to purchase a highly-priced sculpture in New York at half of its stated price.

He said: "I am very fond of art. So once we were in New York and I went to an art gallery with Genelia. I really loved one sculpture but it was highly priced. So, I thought I should let Genelia give it a shot with her unmatched bargaining skills. To my surprise, she got the same sculpture at half price. I was so proud of my wife." Riteish started his acting career with the movie 'Tujhe Meri Kasam' in 2003. He went on to work in a number of films, including 'Masti', 'Kyaa Kool Hai Hum', 'Bluffmaster!', 'Malamaal Weekly', 'Grand Masti', and received a lot of positive feedback for playing a serial killer in the romantic thriller 'Ek Villain'.

Now, he is making his directorial debut with Marathi film 'Ved' and appeared on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' to promote his film along with actor Shubhankar Tawde and the music duo Ajay-Atul. 'The Kapil Sharma Show' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.



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Referring Questions of Law to Larger Benches is in Ignorance of the Doctrine of Stare Decisis



Mathews J. Nedumpara

It is said that even Homer nods at times, meaning that sometimes even very eminent and scholarly men err, for, to err is human. Lord Halsbury, known for his monumental work titled "Halsbury's Laws of England", in London Street Tramways Co. v. London County Council [1898] AC 375 (HL), had held that House of Lords is bound by its own decisions. That was a great deviation from the view hitherto then in force that no precedent is absolutely binding, but is only a guidance. Justinian, known for his great work called "Corpus Juris Civilis", so too Chief Justice Edward Coke and Blackstone known for their works "Institutes of the Laws of England" and "Commentaries on the Laws of England", respectively, only contemplated that not the judgment, but the principle evolved in a judgment, the ratio decidendi, will be applicable to future cases as a precedent, the principle being stare decisis et non quieta movere: "to stand by decisions and not disturb the undisturbed." In a legal context, this is understood to mean that courts should generally abide by precedents and not disturb settled matters.

2. When Halsbury delivered the judgment in the case of London

Street Tramways Co., no judgment was treated as a legislation or in substitution of a legislation. What was the precedent is the principle, if any, which a Court has evolved for the first time for resolution of the controversy before it for which no principle was available. Halsbury was such a tall figure that his decision that the House of Lords shall be bound by its own decisions was not questioned by anyone; there was no occasion for it as his view did not create any difficulty because what was a precedent was the reason for the decision and nothing else.

3. In the Government of India Act of 1935, it was expressly provided that the ratio decidendi of the judgment of the Federal Court and Privy Council shall be binding on all Courts and Tribunals within the territory of British India. The Constituent Assembly incorporated Section 212 of the Government of India Act in the Constitution of India, though it was worded differently. Article 141 of the Constitution reads thus:

"141. Law declared by Supreme Court to be binding on all courts- The law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of India."

But for Article 141, the law would have been simple, offering no difficulty even for a common man to comprehend. Chief Justice Edward Coke said that law is reason. The concept of precedent also is

nothing but reason, namely, the 'reason' for a decision which a superior Court has adopted to be binding on coordinate Courts and subordinate Courts. However, we understood and interpreted Article 141 differently from what it ought to be in jurisprudence. In actual practice, we forgot the concept that what is a precedent is the 'reason' for the decision, namely, the principle, if any, which the superior Court has evolved for resolution of a dispute before it, and the 'reason' for the decision when repeatedly applied by superior Courts become settled principles. Our Judges misunderstood Article 141 as the power to legislate, and each sentence and word of a judgment became the law of the land. The concept of the 'reason' for the decision being repeatedly applied and thus assuming great authenticity was forgotten and our lawyers and Judges treated the latest decision on a subject as the binding one.

4. When Judges started legislating, completely misunderstanding the scope of Articles 141 and 142, a new era of large number of judgments, which cannot stand together, conflicting with each other, became the order of the day. The new practice of referring cases to larger Benches, because two judgments are in conflict, both involving no particular legal principle, became very common.

5. What is stated above could be said as the preface to the

scenario leading to the constitution of a Five-Judge Bench to authoritatively decide which of the interpretation given by two different Three-Judge Benches of the Supreme Court about Section 24(2) of the Land Acquisition Act is the correct one. In Pune Municipal Corporation case, 2014, a Three-Judge Bench headed by Justice R M Lodha took the view that merely because the Government has deposited with the court the compensation amount to be paid to the land holders whose property was acquired, their right is not lost if the property is not utilized for the purpose for which it is acquired, but only if they have accepted the compensation. In 2018, another Three-Judge Bench headed by Shri Justice Arun Mishra in Indore Development Authority took a contrary view holding that the judgment rendered by the earlier Three-Judge Bench is per incuriam. A Bench headed by Justice Lokur wrongly faulted Shri Justice Arun Mishra for taking the said view observing that he was bound by the earlier decision in the Pune case. Justice Arun Mishra was unfairly accused of judicial impropriety. On the very next day, Justice Mishra, taking note of the observation of Justice Lokur, requested the Chief Justice of India to refer the issue for consideration of a larger Bench. The Hon'ble CJI accordingly constituted a Five-Judge Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra. When the said

Bench assembled to hear the question, which was referred to it, some associations of farmers sought recusal by Shri Justice Mishra on the premise that His Lordship has already taken a view on the subject and, therefore, it is inappropriate for him to head the Bench, a proposition which has no foundation in jurisprudence.

6. I am afraid to say that the entire controversy has its root in the failure to be kept abreast of the first principles of jurisprudence. We forget very simple things; we are not often thorough enough about the concepts like res judicata, stare decisis, res inter alios, nullity, etc. The practice of referring a case to a larger Bench for decision on important questions of law is in ignorance of the first principles. As I said at the outset, law is reason, not numbers, at least when it comes to stare decisis. The number has relevance only when a Bench of three or more Judges decides a case and the judgment constitutes to be res judicata. If a Bench of three Judges is to decide a case between A and B, what matters is not the validity of the reason offered by the Judges, but who are in majority. The majority decision as res judicata will prevail, no matter right or wrong. This principle which is only applicable to res judicata, we have been applying erroneously to the doctrine of stare decisis. We did not accept the minority view in A K Gopalan's case as stare decisis because we got

confused with the distinct concepts of res judicata and stare decisis. To repeat, so far as res judicata is concerned, all that matters is the majority view. On the contrary, so far as the doctrine of stare decisis is concerned, it is not the majority view which ought to matter, but the 'reason' for the decision. If reason for the decision is understood as the meaning of Article 141 and is followed in actual practice, we will be freed from the slavery and absurdity of needing to search for the law applicable from the thousands and thousands of judgments, reported and unreported and groping in darkness, not knowing what the law is. The majority view if rendered per incuriam will bind none, not even its authors and the minority if not per incuriam is binding as a precedent. The doctrine of res judicata often would mean injustice because unless we accept an erroneous decision of a court, acting within its jurisdiction, in conformity with the principles of natural justice and not involving any violation of the express statutory provisions as final, authoritative and binding, there can be no end to litigation - interest reipublicae ut sit finis litium (it is to the interest of the state that there be a limit to litigation). The doctrine of res judicata is a necessary evil. If we misunderstand stare decisis for res judicata, which is what we are doing when we advocate that judgements of a larger bench on a reference, like the instant case, be

followed would mean that persons who were not parties to a case too ought to suffer the irrational judgements of larger benches. We have suffered enough, for instance the Judges-2 case by which the Collegium system was established, because of Kesavananda Bharathi, PILs are filed claiming no fundamental right being violated but violation of the basic structure. The government could not establish a National Tax Tribunal because some lawyers could get it quashed alleging violation of basic structure. The worst instance in my mind is the quashing of the NJAC because certain "eminent" lawyers pleaded that it is in conflict with the Judges-2 case, which was nothing but the re-writing of the Constitution without the authority of the Parliament. The earlier we realize that, saying law is not reason but brutal majority would be insanity, the better.

7. A strict adherence to the concept of ratio decidendi would mean the principle employed in arriving at a decision and nothing else. Lawyers practising in subordinate Courts understand this principle better than those practising in the Supreme Court, for, when judgments of the Supreme Court, which are contrary to each other, are placed before a Munsiff, he has no option to refer the issue to a larger Bench but to decide it relying upon the various judgments placed before him, which carry the appropriate principle to be applied.

8. Those who agree with me will concede that the concept of stare

decisis, which is embodied in Article 141, would mean that the principle which the superior Court has evolved and applied in resolving an issue before it is what is applicable to the coordinate Bench or subordinate Courts as a precedent and that the strength of the Bench does not matter at all, only the principle employed. I am sure that vast majority of my brothers and sisters would agree with me that legal principles are not discovered every day and every moment like new planets and moons orbiting the other galaxies forming part of the Milky Way. I am unable to think of even a single principle which the Supreme Court has evolved for the first time during its existence for the last 70 years which never ever existed for resolution of an issue before it which could act as a precedent, except the much hallowed doctrine of basic structure, which is founded on sand, being in conflict with the first principle of jurisprudence, ubi jus, ibi remedium - where there is a right there is a remedy- right, remedy and forum. Constituting Constitutional Benches of five or seven Judges is extremely counter-productive, for, it will cement the erroneous concept that precedent means numbers and not the reason for the decision or the principle employed. The earlier we repeal Article 141, the better for our legal system.

The Author is the President, National Lawyers Campaign for judicial transparency & Reforms

Mohammad Rafi's melodies will continue to reign the music world



Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

42 years have passed since the evergreen singer Mohammed Rafi - Padma Shri left for his heavenly abode. He was a famous playback singer. He was born on 24 December 1924 in Punjab. Even at a young age he was more fond of music than studies. He started learning music from the famous Hindustani singer Chotte Gulam

Ali Khan. Later he became the disciple of Firoze Nizam. When Firoze was appointed as a music director in Lahore Radio Station, Rafi got an opportunity to sing in the radio. It was a turning point in his life. Still, the magic of his beautiful voice resonates in the hearts and minds of his fans. He had a fine clarity in his voice and an in-depth understanding of melodies and music. His voice has been referred to as "the most exquisitely pleasant voice with a divine grace and splendor." He had

once mentioned that in his childhood, songs sung by fakirs passing through the streets had had a profound effect on him - and that's probably exactly the effect his own voice has had on generations of music enthusiasts, and even the actors, singers and musicians he worked with. He was a nice human being and was very much dedicated to his work. He was a complete singing package and could sing any composition effortlessly and flawlessly as he knew how to blend emotions and melody

perfectly by giving the right treatment to each song, which resulted in thousands of soulful songs. Rafi became the favorite singer of other composers too, notably O. P. Nayyar, Shankar Jaikishan and Sachin Dev Burman. Rafi became the voice of Dev Anand with soul-stirring songs composed by S. D. Burman. He was notable for his voice, versatility and range; his songs were varied from fast peppy numbers to patriotic songs, sad numbers to

highly romantic songs, qawwalis to ghazals and bhajans to classical songs. He was uniquely and singularly responsible for the very existence of the finest artistic grandeur, splendor and original creativity that embodied the golden era of music and melodies of Hindi cinema. He encouraged and helped other artists all the time by all means including finance. It was he who suggested that Kishore Kumar conduct stage shows when he was in economic difficulties.

Lata Mangeshkar once said of Rafi: "He was a man of God. There were no airs about him. He would neither eat paan, nor chew betel nuts nor drink alcohol. There has neither been a voice like him nor will there be one in a hundred years." He was very punctual and faithful to his profession. He encouraged and welcomed new comers. His famous songs are 'oh duniyakerakwale' (Baiju Bavra), 'ghunghunarehehai' (Aradhana), 'kyahuaतरavaada'

(Hum kise se Kumnahin), 'yahambadlavahamkya he' (Jugnu) etc. He has performed in around thirty eight musical concerts abroad. Rafi has the distinction of being the first playback singer of all times to be featured in the pioneering list of the Guinness Book of World Records, for having sung the highest number of songs, which is a total of 26000 songs, in Hindi and other languages. He was nominated for the Filmfare Award 21 times, winning six times. He won the National Award for

Kya huateravaada from the film Hum Kisi Se Kum Naheen. India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru had honoured him on Independence Day in 1948 for his song on Mahatma Gandhi, Suno suno aeduniyawaalon Bapukiamarkahani. Mohammed Rafi was like an angel. Today Rafi is not with us but his melodies continues to reign the music world. His songs today are just as popular as they were during his lifetime.

B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra Satellite Ahmedabad

Actor Kamal Haasan Joins Congress Yatra With Gandhis In Delhi

New Delhi: Thousands of people joined the Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra today as Rahul Gandhi marched through Delhi amid calls by the Health Minister to follow Covid protocols. Actor-turned-politician Kamal Haasan also joined the Gandhis yatra in Delhi today. Several party leaders, including Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khera, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Kumari Selja and Randeep

Surjewala were seen marching with Mr Gandhi. Later, former Congress President Sonia Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi also joined Rahul. This is the second time Sonia Gandhi has joined the yatra. In October, she had taken part in the Congress' mega foot march in Karnataka. As the Bharat Jodo Yatra entered the national capital from Faridabad early this morning, Delhi

Congress Chief Anil Chaudhary welcomed Mr Gandhi, other party leaders and the yatri at Badarpur Border amid "Rahul Zindabad" chants. While addressing party workers and leaders, Rahul Gandhi reiterated that the motive of his yatra is to open a 'mohabbat ki dukaan' (shop of love) amid a 'nafrat ka bazaar' (market of hatred). "Common man of the country is now talking about love. In every



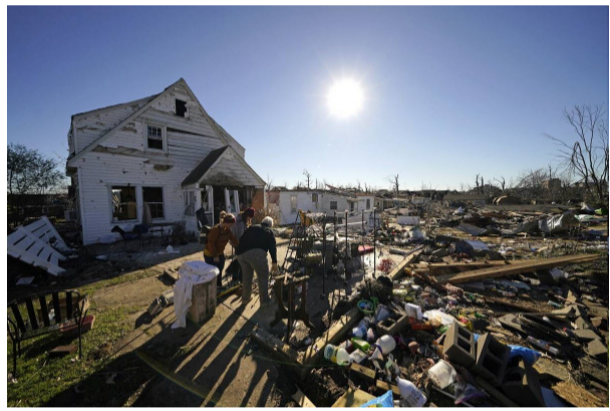
state, lakhs have joined the yatra. I have told people of RSS and BJP that we are here to open shop of love in your 'bazar' of hatred," Mr Gandhi said. Mr Gandhi said the

Earlier, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had written to Rahul Gandhi asking him to ensure Covid "protocols" are followed during Bharat Jodo Yatra. In his clapback, Mr Gandhi cited PM Narendra Modi's recent poll campaign in Gujarat and the BJP's "Jan Aakrosh Yatra" in Rajasthan. "The BJP is taking out yatras in various states. But the Health Minister is sending

letter only to us," he said. Congress had alleged that the BJP wanted to stop Mr Gandhi's yatra as it is scared of the love Bharat Jodo Yatra has received. Today's yatra will conclude at Red Fort in the evening. Congress' mega march, which completed 100 days on December 16, will take a nine-day year-end break and will again resume on January 3 from Delhi. The Delhi Police have

released a traffic advisory asking commuters to avoid certain routes and make "maximum use" of public transport. The traffic, says the advisory, is expected to remain heavy from Badarpur to Red Fort. "There will be graded and dynamic diversion to ensure smooth traffic management and facilitate commuters while ensuring safety of pedestrians on roads," said the advisory.

Thousands without heat, water after tornadoes kill dozens



Washington: Residents of Kentucky counties where tornadoes killed dozens of people could be without heat, water or electricity in frigid temperatures for weeks or longer, state officials warned Monday, as the toll of damage and deaths came into clearer focus in five states slammed by the swarm of twisters. Kentucky authorities said the sheer level of destruction was hindering their ability to tally the damage from Friday night's storms. At least 88 people — including 74 in Kentucky — were killed by the tornado outbreak that also destroyed a nursing home in Arkansas, heavily damaged an Amazon distribution centre in

Illinois and spread its deadly effects into Tennessee and Missouri. In Kentucky, as searches continued for those still missing, efforts also turned to repairing the power grid, sheltering those whose homes were destroyed and delivering drinking water and other supplies. "We're not going to let any of our families go homeless," Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said in announcing that lodges in state parks were being used to provide shelter. In Mayfield, one of the hardest-hit towns, those who survived faced a high in the 50s and a low below freezing Monday without any utilities. "Our infrastructure is

so damaged. We have no running water. Our water tower was lost. Our wastewater management was lost, and there's no natural gas to the city. So we have nothing to rely on here," Mayfield Mayor Kathy Stewart O'Nan said on "CBS Mornings." "So that is purely survival at this point for so many of our people." Across the state, about 26,000 homes and businesses were without electricity, according to power outage.us, including nearly all of those in Mayfield. More than 10,000 homes and businesses have no water, and another 17,000 are under boil-water advisories, Kentucky Emergency Management Director Michael Dossett told reporters. Kentucky was the worst hit by far in the cluster of twisters across several states, remarkable because they came at a time of year when cold weather normally limits tornadoes. At least 74 people died in the state, Beshear said Monday, offering the first specific count of the dead.

Pfizer confirms Covid-19 pill's results, potency versus omicron

Washington: Pfizer said Tuesday that its experimental COVID-19 pill appears effective against the omicron variant. The company also said full results of its 2,250-person study confirmed the pill's promising early results against the virus: The drug reduced combined hospitalizations and deaths by about 89 per cent among high-risk adults when taken shortly after initial COVID-19 symptoms. Separate laboratory testing shows the drug retains its potency against the omicron variant, the company announced, as many experts had predicted. Pfizer tested the antiviral drug against a man-made version of a key protein that omicron uses to reproduce itself. The updates come as COVID-19 cases, deaths and hospitalization are all rising again and the U.S. hovers around 800,000 pandemic deaths. The latest surge, driven by the delta variant, is accelerating due to colder weather



and more indoor gatherings, even as health officials brace for the impact of the emerging omicron mutant. The Food and Drug Administration is expected to soon rule on whether to authorise Pfizer's pill and a competing pill from Merck, which was submitted to regulators several weeks earlier. If granted, the pills would be the first COVID-19 treatments that Americans could pickup at a pharmacy and take at home. Pfizer's data could help reassure regulators of its drug's benefit after

Merck disclosed smaller-than-expected benefits for its drug in final testing. Late last month, Merck said that its pill reduced hospitalisations and deaths by 30 per cent in high-risk adults. Both companies initially studied their drugs in unvaccinated adults who face the gravest risks from COVID-19, due to older age or health problems, such as asthma or obesity. Pfizer is also studying its pill in lower-risk adults "including a subset who are vaccinated" but reported mixed data for that group

on Tuesday. In interim results, Pfizer said its drug failed to meet its main study goal: sustained relief from COVID-19 for four days during or after treatment, as reported by patients. But the drug did achieve a second goal by reducing hospitalisations by about 70 per cent among that group, which included otherwise healthy unvaccinated adults and vaccinated adults with one or more health issues. Less than 1 per cent of patients who got the drug were hospitalised, compared with 2.4 per cent of patients who got a

dummy pill. An independent board of medical experts reviewed the data and recommended Pfizer continue the study to get the full results before proceeding further with regulators. Across both of Pfizer's studies, adults taking the company's drug had a 10-fold decrease in virus levels compared with those on placebo. The prospect of new pills to fight COVID-19 can't come soon enough for communities in the Northeast and Midwest, where many hospitals are once again being overloaded by incoming virus cases. Both the Merck and Pfizer pills are expected to perform well against omicron because they don't target the coronavirus' spike protein, which contains most of the new variant's mutations. The U.S. government has agreed to purchase enough of Pfizer's drug to treat 10 million people and enough of Merck's to treat 3 million, pending FDA authorisation.

Pfizer vaccine protecting against hospitalisation in South Africa Omicron wave: study

Johannesburg: Two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine appear to have given 70 per cent protection against hospitalisation in South Africa in recent weeks, according to a major real-world study, which suggests weaker efficacy against the new Omicron variant. The study released on Tuesday by South Africa's largest private health insurance administrator, Discovery Health, was based on more than 211,000 positive Covid-19 test results. Around 78,000 of those results from Nov. 15 to Dec. 7 were attributed to Omicron. The 78,000 results are not confirmed Omicron cases, meaning the study cannot offer conclusive findings about the variant labelled "of concern" by the World Health Organization and reported in more than 60 countries. South African scientists have so far



confirmed around 550 positive tests as being Omicron, with the variant accounting for 78 per cent of sequences from November, more than the previously dominant Delta variant. South Africa alerted the world to Omicron late last month, triggering alarm that it could cause another surge in global infections, and leading to the imposition of travel restrictions on southern Africa. South Africa's daily infections have since risen to around

20,000 in recent days. The findings from a real-world analysis are some of the earliest on protection against Omicron outside of lab studies, which have shown reduced neutralising activity against the variant. Based on analysis by Discovery's clinical research and actuarial teams, and in collaboration with the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), the study calculated that two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech

offered 70 per cent protection against hospitalisation compared with the unvaccinated during the surge in cases and 33 per cent protection against infection. It said this represents a drop from 80 per cent protection against infection and compares with 93 per cent efficacy against hospital admission during South Africa's outbreak of the Delta variant, which is the globally dominant variant and considered to be the most infectious to

emerge during the pandemic. Discovery cautioned that the study's findings should be considered preliminary. Glenda Gray, SAMRC president, said it was however encouraging that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine appeared to be offering good protection against severe disease and hospitalisation. Children appeared to have a 20 per cent higher risk of hospital admission with complications during the fourth wave than during the first, despite a very low absolute incidence. (AP) South Africa is using the Pfizer-BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson vaccines in its Covid-19 immunisation campaign, with more than 20 million Pfizer doses administered so far. J&J and the SAMRC are conducting a large real-world study of J&J's vaccine, and recent analysis has shown no deaths from Omicron, Gray said.



The President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu presented gifts to children on her visit to Sacred Heart Cathedral church, in New Delhi

103 super-speciality hospitals outside Odisha brought under BSKY so far: State govt

Bhubaneswar (KCN): At least 103 super-speciality hospitals outside Odisha have been brought under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) so far, around 28,000 patients have received Cashless Treatment in the ongoing year and the State government has paid around Rs 39 crore towards cashless treatment.

As a significant step towards 'Healthy Odisha, Happy Odisha' envisioned by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik through the BSKY, 103 super-speciality and tertiary care hospitals outside the State have been empanelled under the programme by the end of November 2022,

said Odisha State Health Assurance Society (SHAS) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Brundha D in a review meeting recently held under her chairmanship at SHAS conference hall here.

Reviewing the progress made in extension of cashless treatment to Odia people in private hospitals beyond Odisha, Dr Brundha directed to ensure timely payment of claims raised by the private sector hospitals. The Nodal Officers were asked to look into the claims on daily basis for their earliest payment within the scheduled timeline.

The empanelled hospitals outside the

State included Christian Medical College, Tamil Nadu; Sri Shankara Cancer Foundation, Bengaluru; Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata; Homi Bhabha (HB) Cancer Hospital, Vizag and Sangur in Punjab; Dr Bhubaneswar Borooh Cancer Institute (BBCI), Guwahati; HB Cancer Hospital, Varanasi; Mahanana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Cancer Centre, Varanasi; Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research and Education in Cancer, Mumbai; and Tata Memorial, Mumbai.

Twenty four Fortis Group of Hospitals in Chennai, Delhi, Dehradun, Varanasi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Amritsar,



Faridabad, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Noida, Ludhiana, New Delhi, Delhi, Punjab and Kolkata, along with seven super-speciality heart hospitals in Narayana Hrudayalaya Group at Bengaluru, Mumbai, Raipur, Kolkata, and Jamshedpur have also been empanelled under BSKY.

Thirteen hospitals in OSTF Group were

empanelled, of which seven hospitals are in Vishakhapatnam, three in Raipur and three in Surat.

Other empanelled super-speciality hospitals in Visakhapatnam include the AN Hospital, Queens NRI Hospital, Sagar Durga Hospital, Vijetha Hospital, MB Multi-speciality Hospital, KIMS ICON Hospital,

GJ Hospital and Trauma Centre, Giggles and OMNI Women and Children Hospital, GITAM institute of Medical Sciences, OMNI Hospital, Ayushman Hospital and Medicover Hospital.

The empanelled hospitals from Raipur include Indus Hospital, Life Worth Super-speciality Hospital, SMC Heart Institute, Medishine Health Care, Kanha Children's Hospital, Sanjeevani Cancer Hospital, OM Hospital, Shree Narayan Hospital, Sagar Multi-speciality Hospital, Vardaan Hospital, MJ Morning Star Hospital, Mittal Institute of Medical Sciences, Petals New-born and Children

Hospital, Suyash Institute of Medical Sciences, Agarwal Hospital, Goodwill's Medical Sciences, Shri Krishna Hospital, Raipur Institute of Medical Sciences, Sri Ananta Sai Hospital, Balgopal Children Hospital and Kalda Burn and Plastic Surgery Centre, an official source said. KD Nupur Hospital and Nilakantha Hospital in Surat; Great Eastern Medical School & Hospital, Medicover Hospital, and KIMS Sai Seshadri Hospital in Srikulam; HCG EKO Cancer Centre, Kolkata; Velammala Medical College in Madurai, Tamilnadu; Medicover Cancer Hospital, Hyderabad; Shri Balaji Metro Hospital,

Chhattisgarh; Apex Super-speciality Hospital, Raigarh; Venkatarama Hospital in Dwarakanagar and Vizianagaram; Tirumala Medicover Hospital, Vizianagaram were also brought under BSKY fold. Available data showed, around 4,500 Odia people received cashless critical care in these hospitals during the month of November 2022, towards which State government has already paid Rs 11.26 crore to the hospitals concerned. From January to November 2022, as many as 28,000 patients have received the cashless treatment in outside hospitals towards which State govt paid around Rs 39 crore.

100 hostels for SC, ST students soon: Naveen



BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday announced the government will construct 100 more hostels in the state for SC and ST students. Addressing the valedictory ceremony of Sargiful Mahotsav-2022, organised by SC/ST Development department here, the chief minister said at present more than five lakh students belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe

communities are staying in hostels. More accommodation facilities will be created by December 2023.

Stating that students should march ahead in life with a competitive spirit, the chief minister said children of Odisha are no less than those of any other state in the country. He called upon the students to make efforts with determination to excel in their studies and move ahead in life.

Citing the example of former Indian hockey captain Dilip Tirkey, the chief minister said he was one of the top hockey players who went on to become president of Hockey India due to his hard work and efficiency. He (Tirkey) is a role model for youths, he said. The chief minister also congratulated the students who passed in examinations and released a souvenir 'Sargifula'.

Minister for SC and ST

Development Jagannath Saraka also spoke on the occasion. Sargifula Mahotsav is being organised for the last 12 years in the state. This year, around 1,200 students and 170 teachers participated in the function. The students, who excelled in competitions like debate, quiz, science exhibition, creative writing, music and sports, organised for the occasion earlier, were awarded at the event.

Orissa HC directs social audit of food security schemes in state



CUTTACK: The Orissa High Court has issued fresh direction to the state government to conduct social audit of entitlements under different schemes for implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA). As part of adjudication of a PIL seeking intervention for implementation of

NFSA, the state government had filed affidavits in pursuance of an order issued on August 23, 2021.

While hearing the petition filed by Odisha State Legal Services Authority (OSLSA), the affidavits were presented before the court on December 20. On perusal of the

affidavits, the court found that the state government had conducted the social audit on the functioning of all fair price shops (FPS) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in 30 districts during financial year 2021-22. But the August 23, 2021 order had specified that the

social audit should not be confined to entitlements under TPDS but include mid-day meal scheme, Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and Maternity Benefit Programme (MBP) as well as any other scheme for implementation of NFSA.

While fixing March 2, 2023 as next date for consideration of the matter, the bench of the division bench of Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice MS Raman directed the state government to undertake proper exercise for conducting social audits strictly in terms of the NFSA and the rules thereunder of all the schemes referred to by the court in its order dated August 23, 2021 and file a compliance affidavit by then.



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Vedanta Aluminium observes Kisan Diwas with the farming community in Jharsuguda

Jharsuguda: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, observed Kisan Diwas (National Farmer's Day) with the local farming community, which included farmers and agri-entrepreneurs enrolled with the company's Jeevika Samridhhi and Subhalaxmi Co-operative projects.

Jeevika Samridhhi is Vedanta Aluminium's sustainable livelihood project in agriculture and Subhalaxmi Co-operative is one of India's largest rural women's co-operatives supported by the company.

As part of the program, the company conducted an extensive training program for the participants with Mr. Surendra Delki,

Assistant Horticulture Officer (Kolabira Block), Government of Odisha, in the presence of Mrs. Janvi Pradhan, Sarpanch, Parmanpur block. He appraised the farmers on sustainable agricultural practices such as land and water management, crop planning, harvest management, package of practices, organic farming, natural pest management,

and various agricultural schemes by the government that can be leveraged by the farmers. Through Jeevika Samridhhi, Vedanta Aluminium has been supporting farmers in the region by training them in advanced agricultural practices. The project has positively impacted more than 300 farming households across five villages of Jharsuguda

and has been instrumental in increasing the monthly income of the farmers by nearly 50%. The project has helped farmers engage in cultivation round the year by giving them access to better resources, increasing crop diversity, providing them with improved irrigation facilities and thereby decreasing dependence on monsoons, and contributing to better

revenues for the farmers. The farmers are also trained in advanced agriculture practices through agri-scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra and other agricultural research institutes.

Vedanta Aluminium's Subhalaxmi Co-operative is one of India's largest rural women's co-ops, with a presence across 72 villages in Odisha and

over 4,100 women members. The co-op enables aspiring women entrepreneurs with micro-finance, skill development, financial literacy and market linkage. More than 1,800 women have already benefited from its skill development programs, which include agriculture-based enterprises like animal husbandry, farming,

mushroom cultivation, etc.

Speaking about the company's endeavours to support the local farming community, Mr. Sunil Gupta, CEO - Vedanta Ltd., Jharsuguda, said, "Creating avenues for sustainable livelihood is a key focus area in Vedanta Jharsuguda's community development endeavours."

Tata Steel celebrates 'World Environment Day' at Joda

Joda: In line with the theme declared by the United Nations of '#OnlyOneEarth' and reiterating its commitment towards creating a sustainable tomorrow, Tata Steel observed World Environment Day at Joda on Sunday.

As part of the celebrations, mass plantation drives were organised at various locations including Joda East Iron Mine, Khondbond Iron Mine, Ferro Alloys Plant and Bichakundi Manganese Mines. Apart from mass plantation, to create awareness on environmental sustainability, drawing

competitions amongst school children from various schools of peripheral villages along with awareness sessions were organised. The winners of the various competitions were awarded with certificates and gifts. Apart from this, fruit bearing saplings were also distributed among the School children during the drawing competitions.

Tata Steel Foundation also organised many activities on the day that started with plantation of saplings in various Schools across Joda including UPME School, Joda, Government Upper Primary School,

Khondbond and Boys' & Girls' Residential Bridge Course (RBCs) Centres. To promote sustainability among the children, Tata Steel Foundation also organised drawing competitions among the students. It may be noted here that the celebrations would continue throughout the month of June, which is being observed as 'Sustainability Month' across Tata Steel. As part of the month-long celebrations, a series of activities has been planned that includes awareness campaigns, webinars, and online quiz competitions on the theme 'Be Earth Smart'.

Reliance General Insurance Introduces the Power of Choice in Health Insurance

Bhubaneswar: Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd. (RGICL), one of India's leading Private General Insurance Companies, launches the most flexible and customisable health insurance policy - Reliance Health Gain. The policy offers customers an opportunity to design their health insurance policy by choosing features as per their need and paying only for what they choose. RGICL has brought out three different plans - Plus, Power and Prime - and an array of features to facilitate customisation of policy for each customer. With this launch, Reliance General aims to address the evolving and unique medical needs of

modern-day customers of all age groups.

Reliance Health Gain comes loaded with 38 industry leading features like Double Cover that provides twice the amount of sum-insured to be used during same claim; Unlimited reinstatement to restore the base sum insured amount as many times as it gets exhausted during a policy year; Guaranteed Cumulative Bonus, that protects loss of cumulative bonus post claim; or the benefit to reduce Pre-Existing disease waiting period from 3 years to 2 or even 1 year. With many more such benefits, the product has been designed keeping in mind the modern health-insurance consumer.

Excited about the launch, Rakesh Jain, the

Chief Executive Officer, RGICL, said, "Consideration towards health insurance has seen a rapid surge as an aftermath of the pandemic, people are more aware about modern treatments and rising healthcare costs. But choosing the right insurance cover is still a problem most customers face. With the Reliance Health Gain Policy, we want to give customers the 'Power of Choice', so that they can design their health insurance as per their needs. We are positive that Reliance Health Gain Policy will empower customers with choices and help them take control over their health insurance policies. 'Make your own policy' is a futuristic model as it is aimed to bring greater transparency and enhanced trust."

"WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY" OBSERVED AT ADITYA ALUMINIUM

Bhubaneswar: World Environment Day was observed at Aditya Aluminium, a subsidiary of Hindalco Industries Limited of Aditya Birla Group on 5th June 2022 at Chandamal Village of Jangala G.P. under Rengali Block in Sambalpur District, through Mass Plantation Drive and at various places of surrounding. The Day was observed in presence of Mr. Sameer Nayak Unit Head, Dr. Vivekananda Mishra Vice President & Head HR, Mr. Satya Prasad Das Head ER & IR, Mr. Goluk Maharana Forest Office Rengali, Mr. Golekh Gangaria Forest Office, Ms. Reeta Biswal Sarpanch Jangla, Ms

Gandhi Behera Ex Sarpanch & Social worker Jangla, Mr. Rajib Mishra Swadhin Ekta Sangathan, Mr. Seshadeb pradhan Ex Sarpanch. To mark the event and make it a memorable event 200 mango saplings were planted in Chandamal Village to convert wasteland into mango orchard. Aditya is planting 30000 saplings for avenue plantation, backyard garden, wasteland development and greenbelt development. Many competitions like Drawing, Slogan & Posters were organized on the World Environment Day's theme "Only One Earth"

from 2nd to 4th June. All winners were felicitated with prizes on the occasion. Ms. Gayatri Sahoo a complete blind from birth CSR Team member presented a beautiful poem on Environment Conservation. An engaging Skit Dashkatia was presented on Only One Earth demonstrating importance of environment conservation and effect of Climate change on our lives. A nursery was also inaugurated named as "MAHIMA NURSERY" by all dignitaries. The purpose of developing nursery in the village to provide collective & hybrid saplings of different fruit bearing & flowers in a cheap rate.

Aquaconnect raises \$15 million in Series A funding round led by Lok Capital

Chennai: Aquaconnect, a full-stack aquaculture platform announced today that it has raised \$15 million (INR 120 crore) in a Series A funding round, led by Lok Capital, with participation from Louis Dreyfus Company Ventures, Suneight Investment along with existing investors including Omnivore, AgFunder, Rebright Partners, Flourish Ventures, HATCH and other debt investors participated in the round.

Aquaconnect will utilize the fresh funds to strengthen its portfolio of scalable solutions that use AI and Satellite remote sensing and widen its service offerings in both the pre-harvest and post-harvest aquaculture value chain (to input retailers, seafood buyers and other stakeholders).

Aquaconnect aims to grow stronger in the pre-harvest chain by tripling its AquaPartners network to amplify the impact across India. Currently, the company has a network of 500+ AquaPartners (rural entrepreneurs who provide last-mile assistance), serving over 90,000+ fish and shrimp farmers.

Commenting on the Series A fund round, Rajamanohar Somasundaram, Founder & CEO Aquaconnect, said, "We've added about 500 AquaPartners in the last 12 months and this phygital network has helped us scale phenomenally across 6 major aquaculture production states. In the next 12 months, we are set to triple our AquaPartners' network across India and optimize our service offerings."

Aquaconnect has built a robust logistics infrastructure in India's rural and coastal regions to meet last-mile connectivity. The superior supply chain capabilities and fulfilment centres in multiple strategic locations are helping Aquaconnect to enable overnight delivery to its partners.

In the post-harvest chain, the company aims to scale its seafood market linkage across domestic markets in India. Further, Aquaconnect plans to accelerate seafood exports to the top import markets like the US, China and Japan and capture a significant share in the blue protein segment, globally.

This Season, relish #MaaApproved pickles made with love by Mother's Recipe

New Delhi: India relishes its pickles, and no meal or food platter is complete without them. There are fond memories of pickle making process; from procuring quality fruits from the bazaar, to mixing the right masalas as per the traditional recipe or drying them on the terrace.

In its recent social media campaign #MaaApproved, Mother's Recipe emphasizes how the brand handpicks the best

quality ingredients and follows the traditional and authentic pickle recipes endorsed by our mothers. Whichever part of the country you reside in, pickle has always been an indispensable memory. Each one of us has distinct childhood memories of our mother's dos and don'ts to ensure the perfect pickles and her delicacy has resulted in authentic pickles for us. The aromatic process of seeing her make pickles, while she

ensured the ingredients were perfectly sun-dried, the right marination was used, only fresh oil and masala were added, and the perfect texture and colonset the pallet craving for more.

MothersRecipe are the best experts when it comes to traditional pickle recipes and following the same methods, the brand guarantees the usage of fresh and high-quality ingredients with no chemical preservatives. Mother's

Recipe has curated 50 variants of region-specific pickles, with recipes sourced locally and made in the most traditional way without compromising on taste and quality. Keeping in mind the local taste palette the brand has customized pickles, their wide range of pickles spans from Andhra Avakaya, Karnataka Cut Mango, Madras Thokku, Kerala Mango, Bengali Mango, Punjabi Panchranga, Gujarati Methia

Mango, Maharashtra Mango, Gujarati Gorkeri, Choondo, and Red Stuffed Chillies.

The objective of the campaign was to promote those consumers who consider the pickles that replicate the same authentic taste as prepared by Mothers with old traditional recipes. Mother's recipe promises to all consumers that our pickle assures Maa-approved standards.

PEPPERFRY LAUNCHES ITS 1st STUDIO IN JHARSUGUDA

Bhubaneswar: Pepperfry, the e-commerce furniture and home goods company, announced the launch of its 1st Studio in Jharsuguda, Odisha. The offline expansion is in line with the company's aim to penetrate into niche markets and build an omnichannel business in home and living marketplace in India. Pepperfry's studio footprint currently spans across 80+ cities with 160+ studios in the country.

The company launched its first studio in 2014. The new studio launched in partnership with Design and Decor, is situated at Sarbahalin Jharsuguda, spanning across a carpet area of 546sq.ft. It offers customers a first-hand experience of a large catalogue of furniture and home products carefully selected from a differentiated portfolio of 1 lakh plus products available on Pepperfry website. Customers will get specialized design advice from the company's interior design consultants. The studio at Jharsuguda aims at providing a personalized shopping

experience tailored to the unique needs of home and living customers in Odisha.

Launched in 2017, Pepperfry franchise business model offers order fulfillment and after sales service by Pepperfry, support on studio design, launch & set up, operational guidance, marketing, and promotions. Pepperfry partners with local entrepreneurs who are aware of the hyperlocal demand cycles and trends. Pepperfry launches about 8-9 franchisees every month. Pepperfry Accelerator Program, launched in June 2021 was crafted to expand Pepperfry's offline footprint. The big differentiator of this program is the Capex required by franchise partners which starts from INR 15 lakhs onwards. This model is based on 100% price parity and does not require the partner to hold product inventory, making it a mutually beneficial business association.

Speaking of the launch Amruta Gupta, Business Head - Franchising and Alliances, Pepperfry said, "We are delighted

to launch our new Studio in Jharsuguda in partnership with Design and Decor. Owning a Pepperfry franchise is an entrepreneurial success, and we aim to reach consumers beyond the larger catchment areas of metropolitan and tier 1 cities. Our franchise partners include a mix of successful businesses, women entrepreneurs, ex-army officials and first-time entrepreneurs. Today a large part of our Pepperfry customer interactions leverage AR and virtual product interactions. With our mission to spark a feeling called home across the world, we endeavor to consistently deliver great customer service."

Bikash Agrawal, Owner, Design and Décor said, "We are extremely happy to partner with Pepperfry, India's leading home and furniture marketplace. Pepperfry has pioneered a truly differentiated omnichannel business and we are proud to be a part of their journey in creating the largest omnichannel home and furniture business"

Ms. A Manimekhalai assumes charge as Managing Director & CEO of Union Bank of India

Mumbai: Ms. A. Manimekhalai today assumed charge as Managing Director & CEO of Union Bank of India. A seasoned banker with experience of more than 3 decades, Ms. A. Manimekhalai started her career in erstwhile Vijaya Bank as an Officer in 1988 and rose successively as Branch Head, Regional Head, and functional head of various Departments at Corporate Office. She was instrumental in devising &

implementation of strategic policies covering core areas like strategic planning, setting organizational goals, growth strategies, action plans, compliance, internal control, etc. Before joining as MD & CEO at Union Bank of India, Ms. A. Manimekhalai was Executive Director at Canara Bank, wherein she oversaw strategic planning, credit & related matters, inspection,

marketing and financial inclusion, State Level Lead Bank responsibilities and the functioning of Regional Rural Banks. She played a pivotal role in effecting successful amalgamation of Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank. She has extensive experience as Director on the Board of five other companies namely Canbank Factors Ltd, Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of

Commerce Life Insurance Co. Ltd., General Insurance Corporation of India, India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. and Trustee, Canara Robeco Asset Management Co. A member of various committees and working groups constituted by Government of India, she has actively contributed towards policymaking, including drawing the future road map of RRBs, Financial Inclusion, Agriculture Value-chain

Finance, Banking Correspondent issues and creating synergies for seamless credit flow to Health Care and Education.

Ms. Manimekhalai holds Master of Business Administration (Marketing) from Bangalore University, and a Diploma in Human Resource Management from Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), Mumbai.

Broad, Lawrence return to England Test squad

New Delhi: Stuart Broad, Matthew Potts and Dan Lawrence have been recalled to the England men's Test squad for the two-match series against New Zealand, set to be played in February 2023. The 15-player squad, announced by the ECB on Friday, will be led by Ben Stokes.

Pacer Mark Wood, who returned from injury in the recently-concluded Test series against Pakistan, is set to go on a break and will be available for selection for the tour to Bangladesh in March. Teenage legspinner Rehan Ahmed, who picked a five on debut in Karachi will be heading to the International League T20 League "with a view to joining up with the white-ball team in Bangladesh," the ECB stated in a release. Meanwhile, Joe Root will be joining the Test side ahead of the series,



following a brief stint at the ILT20. Similarly, Harry Brook, Ben Duckett, Olly Stone and Will Jacks - who are a part of the SA20 will fly to New Zealand to join the Test squad.

The first of the two Tests will begin on February 16, at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui, which will be a day-night affair. It will be followed by the second Test at the Basin Reserve in Wellington, from

February 24. They will play two two-day warm-up games against New Zealand XI ahead of the Test series, at the Seddon Park in Hamilton, from February 8 to 11

Squad: Ben Stokes (Captain), James Anderson, Stuart Broad, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ben Foakes, Will Jacks, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Olly Stone

I didn't sleep much thinking about IPL auction, admits Curran

London: An "overwhelmed" Sam Curran on Friday said he endured a sleepless and nervous night ahead of the IPL mini-auction, where he became the most expensive player in the history of the T20 league's auction after fetching a whopping Rs 18.5 crore bid from Punjab Kings here.

Curran witnessed an intense bidding with Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Rajasthan Royals, Chennai Super Kings, Lucknow Super Giants and Punjab Kings raising their paddles frenetically to secure the services of T20 World Cup player-of-the tournament. In the end, it was Punjab Kings that broke the bank to get Curran, who drew the highest-ever bid that bettered the previous best buy of Rs



16.25 crore that Rajasthan Royals had shelled out to grab South African all-rounder Chris Morris in 2021. "I didn't sleep much last night, was a bit excited, also nervous about how the auction was going to go. But yeah, absolutely overwhelmed and incredibly humbled that I managed to get what I did. I never had any expectations to receive that," Curran said on

Star Sports show 'Cricket Live - Auction Special'. The 24-year-old all-rounder said he is happy to be back with the Punjab outfit, with whom he made his IPL debut in 2019. Punjab Kings were then known as Kings XI Punjab. "Obviously, going back to where it all started for me in the IPL with Punjab, where I did my debut season four years ago. So, to be going

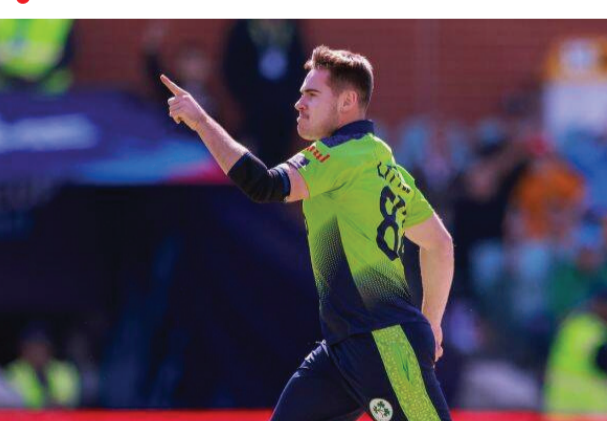
I look forward to playing under Hardik Pandya, says Joshua Little

New Delhi: On Friday, Joshua Little became the first Ireland player to be picked in IPL auction. Defending champions Gujarat Titans roped him for Rs 4.4 crores in the IPL mini auction held in Kochi on Friday.

The 23-year-old is excited to play under Titans' captain Hardik Pandya and coach Ashish Nehra.

"I look forward to playing under Hardik Pandya within such a high-quality squad. I'm also looking forward to working with coach Ashish Nehra and would like to thank the management team at the Titans for believing in me," he told the Irish Times.

With his IPL duties, the Ireland pacers will miss the national duties. In March, Ireland are due



to tour Bangladesh, with a potential trip to Sri Lanka in April and the return visit of Bangladesh to follow in May.

"I have loved playing international cricket for Ireland - and that will always remain my priority, but to be able to learn and play in the IPL will be an incredible opportunity and thanks to Cricket Ireland for supporting me in this," he said.

Gujarat Titans opened the bid for Little before Lucknow Super Giants entered the fray. However, the Titans persisted with him and eventually acquired his services.

Little picked up a hat-trick at the recently-concluded T20 World Cup 2022 when he dismissed Kane Williamson, James Neesham and Mitchell Santner in the 19th over of New Zealand's

BCCI not amused by IPL teams' participation in foreign leagues

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) seems to be seeing an alarming trend in the Indian Premier League (IPL) owners going overseas and participating in foreign leagues. At the owners' meeting in Kochi on Friday (December 23) morning, held on the sidelines of the IPL auction, the BCCI officials seemed to discourage the franchises from participating in foreign leagues.

"That was the point. They tried to discourage them from participating in foreign leagues. They understood those who are already there. But they tried to dissuade us from taking such steps in the future," said an official of a team who was present at the meeting.

At this point, three IPL teams - Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders



and Delhi Capitals - are part of the UAE league (ILT20) and six teams - Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai Indians, SunRisers Hyderabad, Lucknow Super Giants, Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals - are part of the league in South Africa (SA20). In fact, all six teams in SA20 are IPL

subsidiaries and it is being seen as a mini-IPL. Besides, in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), two IPL franchises - Kolkata Knight Riders and Punjab Kings - are participating.

The BCCI did not exactly object to the IPL franchises' presence in SA20 are IPL

evidently was not amused. "They were suggesting that our presence in foreign leagues could dilute the value of the IPL," said the official. Among those present at the meeting were BCCI secretary Jay Shah and IPL chairman Arun Singh Dhumal.

When asked about it, Dhumal played it safe

and gave a rather politically correct answer. "Not really. Other boards have all the right to start their leagues. But we have seen that the IPL is way ahead. A few of them (franchise owners) have interests in other leagues. They have to look after their business interests. We can't stop them. They have money in their kitty, so it is their choice," Dhumal said.

Among other issues at the meeting, the BCCI brought up the matter of centralised merchandising. The suggestion was that both the BCCI/IPL and the franchises will collaborate and get involved in the merchandising which could benefit all parties, including the fans. The BCCI also promised the upgradation of infrastructure to the teams at the IPL venues.

back there seems fantastic and I am looking forward to joining a few English team mates as well," Curran said.

Coming off a brilliant T20 World Cup outing, Curran just can't wait to start his new journey with Punjab Kings in the IPL. "Yeah, I think it will be very different, but like I said, I know the stadium. I know Mohali pretty well, so that obviously is a little bit of an advantage, having some familiar team mates who'll help me. "And yeah, I feel confident going into this tournament, where I've come off a fantastic World Cup. And yeah, it's amazing, I'm just incredibly excited, it's just a few months away till I will be coming to India, but it's incredibly exciting," he said.

innings in Adelaide.

Little became just the sixth bowler to pick up a hat-trick in a men's T20 World Cup game. In seven matches at the T20 World Cup, Little picked up 11 wickets at an economy rate of 7.00.

At 17, in 2017, he was selected to play in a series in India but Little chose to skip it to focus on academics at school. "I got picked to play against Afghanistan in Greater Noida, Delhi. [But] it was an important time for school, and I had to give the cricket a miss and try to do well in my exams. That was my decision. I got a lot of stick for it on social media and stuff," he had told ICC website then. In September 2016, he had already become the second-youngest player to feature in a T20.



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