



Former Finance Minister Dr Prafull chandra Ghadei, Sukinda MLA Sri Pritiranjana Ghadei, Paryabekhyak & The Kalinga chronicle Group Editor Dr Pabitra Mohan samantaray Paying Homage to Late Bhaganan kar at Danagadi, Kalinga Nagar on his 11 th day Ritual ceremony.

BJP seeks Sanjay Dasburma's ouster from Board

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): The BJP on Tuesday demanded the resignation of Deputy Chairman of State Planning Board Sanjay Dasburma for his alleged involvement in the mysterious death of his associate Chitta Ranjan Palei.



BJP MLA from Brahmagiri Lalitendu Bidyadhar Mohapatra told a media conference that Chitta went missing on Saturday night after attending a feast hosted by another aide of Dasburma, Jagannath Sarangi alias Jaga at Matiapada in Puri.

Biplab Dalei, the personal security officer (PSO) of Dasburma also attended the murder of Chitta and demanded that the BJD leader, his PSO and Jaga be brought under the ambit of the investigation", he said. Though the police had registered a murder case and started investigation, the BJP legislator sought to know if the law will take its course and Dasburma and his aides named in the FIR.

and inaction of the police, Mohapatra said this case will meet the same fate as Mamita Meher and Mahanga double murder cases. "Now the parents and the wife of the deceased have been openly alleging the involvement of Dasburma in the murder of Chitta and demanded that the BJD leader, his PSO and Jaga be brought under the ambit of the investigation", he said. Though the police had registered a murder case and started investigation, the BJP legislator sought to know if the law will take its course and Dasburma and his aides named in the FIR.

Demanding his resignation for a fair trial, Mohapatra said that since Dasburma is holding an important post with Cabinet Minister rank, he has the privilege to evade arrest and misuse his position to derail the investigation. He further demanded that the mobile call records of all the accused persons including Dasburma be verified and the same should be part of the investigation. Earlier, Dasburma was embroiled in the controversial murder of Ayurvedic doctor Madhabilata Pradhan in 2012 and investment of chit fund money in companies owned by his family members.

Sunil Bansal appointed as Odisha Police chief

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Odisha Government on Wednesday appointed Sunil Kumar Bansal as the

currently serving as the Special Director, Intelligence Bureau (IB) and will assume charge of the new

tensively in IB. Before being elevated to the post of special director IB in October 2020, he was

had submitted a panel of names to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The MHA then sent the list of three



new Director-General of Police (DGP), Odisha. Office of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik formally announced the appointment of Bansal, a 1987 batch IPS officer. Bansal, who is on central deputation, is

DGP from January 1, 2022. He will succeed Odisha DGP from 1986 batch IPS officer Abhay who will be completing his two-year tenure on December 31 this year. The 1987 batch IPS officer has served ex-

temporarily in IB. The senior IPS officer also had a stint as Joint Director (IB) in New Delhi. Initiating the process for the appointment of the new DGP in October last week, the State Government

empannelled officers to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) which then scrutinised it and approved the names of three senior IPS officers and asked the Odisha government to pick one name for the top post of police administration in the state.

Ready to accept demand of revoking suspension of MPs if they apologise: Government

NEW DELHI (KCN): Amid the continued Opposition protests over the suspension of 12 Rajya Sabha MPs, the government Wednesday

ready to accept the "wrong" behaviour of the suspended members and were not ready to repent. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad



day said it was ready to revoke their suspension if they apologise to the House for their "wrong" behaviour. Leader of House in Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal said it was shameful on the part of some Opposition members that they were not even

Joshi also said, "You would have to apologise and we are open to taking you back." Opposition members continued to protest inside and outside the house and caused disruptions over the suspension of 12 MPs.

CONTINUED ON: P-7

CM Naveen Patnaik urges NITI Aayog to recommend the Centre for special assistance to Odisha

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday urged NITI Aayog to recommend the Centre for special assistance to Odisha to catch up with front-

ideas for development. He said, "We would like to take this opportunity to present various longstanding and emergent developmental issues requiring the sup-

port of NITI Aayog and Government of India." Hailing the NITI Aayog for its support to States in identifying priorities, sectors, and strategies for sustainable development, the CM said that he welcomes more such consultations and collaboration with the States in course of strategy and policy formulation across sectors. The Chief Minister said, "Our development interventions have been successful in combating Left Wing Extremism, mobilization and economic empowerment of nearly 70 lakh



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CONTINUED ON: P-7

Who did you think of

Shreeta Sikruti Kuanr

Who did you think of?

When I stood with fire heart
Glancing at my lover's eyes
Smudged over our goodbye
The lover's or the poet's?

When my skin burned down
An inch as a reminder of our kiss
During the coming storm
Aided with her occasional laughter
Or her angry smile, as a touch was seized
The lover's or the poet's?

When I painted her image
To the infinities, of her body
That made me taste fire on ice
And her canvas, one look
That melted my flesh by a slice
The lover's or the poet's?

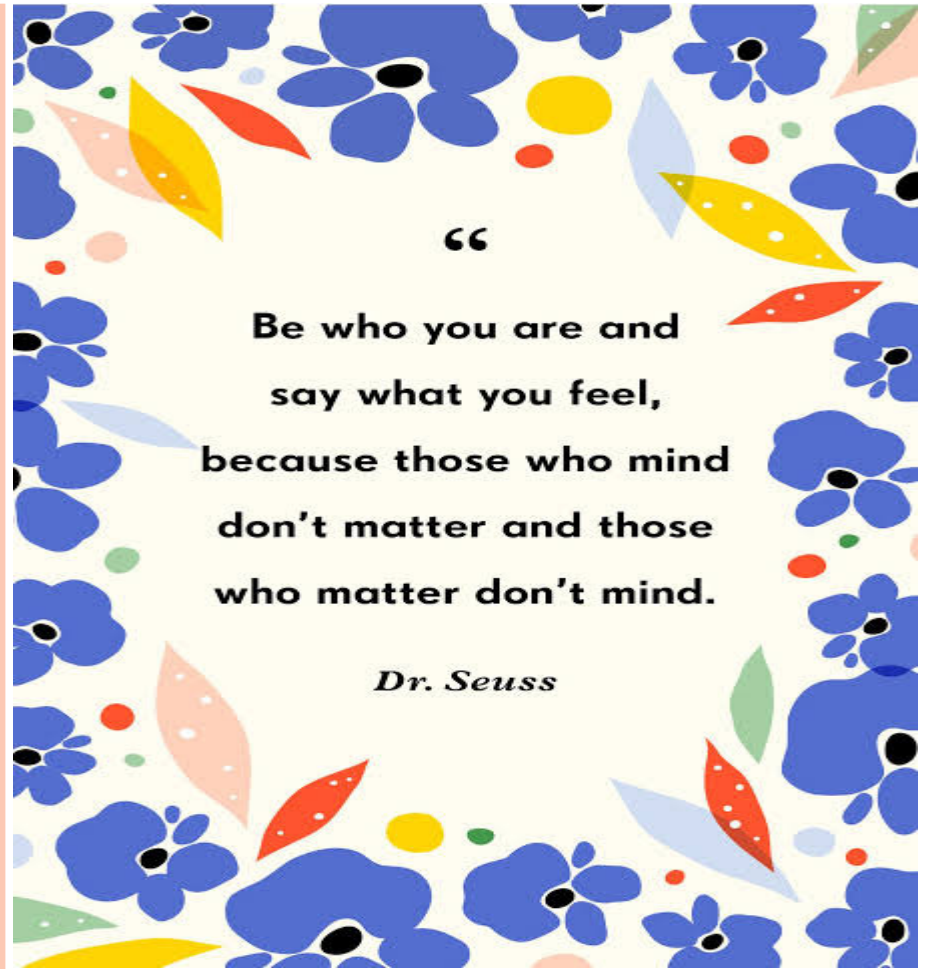
Did you?
Did you think me

As a regret or a gift?
Who stole your stare
By a seaside kiss
Warming our cold veins
Freezing our love scenes
Did you?
Did you think me
As Eurydice who asked you to turn around
Or as Orpheus who chose memory over love?

Who did you think of me ?

When I thought of you
In my head, with my fumbling breath
Swallowing my name, over your you
Erasing myself, with your pictures
Because you and I, are one
Of the same shade, of ruptures.

So, who did you think of me?
When you looked at me, across
Crying to your laughter?



How art and culture can help us rethink time

There is a line in Hamlet where the prince of Denmark declares, "The time is out of joint." Shakespeare might have written these words yesterday, not more than 400 years ago, for we live in a world where our perception of time is dislocated. Humanity should be acting to preserve its long-term future. Instead, short-term mindsets and structures dominate. We focus on the present day while neglecting problems that will endure for centuries – from climate change to ecological collapse. For most of human history we haven't needed to think long-term. It wasn't very useful when we were avoiding attacks from sabre-toothed tigers, desperately foraging for breakfast on the forest floor and surviving extreme weather conditions. As futurist Jamais Casio puts it, "In a world of constant, imminent existential threats, the ability to recognise subtle, long-term processes and multi-generational changes wasn't a particularly important adaptive advantage." Yet today, the nature of risk has changed. We no longer live in a world of clear, local cause and effect, and the greatest threats to civilisation are happening on the timescale of decades or centuries.

To avoid these dangers, we can't wait for our Neolithic mental functions to play evolutionary catch-up, so we need to supplement them. While our minds might not be wired to deal with long-term threats and priorities in the abstract, they are wired for two things that we can control: story and emotion. Our predisposition towards story, and the deeply emotional nature of our decision-making, makes art and culture foundational to ensuring our future as a species.

You might also like:
The perils of short-termism
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How and why did religion evolve?
That's why we have established an initiative called the Long Time Project, which champions art and culture as a route to helping people think and act more long-term. This is about everything from the YouTube videos we watch, to the adverts we scroll past, to the box-sets we binge, to the art exhibitions we attend, to the theatre we see, to the clothes we wear and the furniture we use. All these art forms and creative works are shaped by small "c" culture: the collective values, norms and narratives that underpin and drive our societies. This culture shapes our collective direction of travel, from the kinds of laws we make, to the technology we develop, to the way we distribute wealth.

"Timefulness" is the ability to locate ourselves within eras and eons, rather than weeks and months. So, how exactly can art and culture in this broadest sense expand our perception of time and the future? Art can stretch our time frames, helping us develop what geologist Marcia Bjornerud calls "timefulness": the ability to locate ourselves within eras and aeons, rather than weeks and months.

There is a growing body of deep time work that locates us in the epic geological history of the Universe, evoking awe and wonder. Photographer Rachel Sussman's book *The Oldest Living Things in the World* contains photographs of organisms more than 2,000 years old, like the Pando, a quaking aspen tree that has formed a forest-sized colony by cloning itself continuously for the past 80,000 years. In her photographs, Rachel Sussman captured organisms more than two millennia old (Credit: Rachel Sussman)

As Sussman said in an interview with the Marina Abramovic Institute: "My use of deep time is about creating perspective and differentiating between the shallowness of human timescales and the depth of natural, geologic, and cosmic timescales. It's really meant as a way of shifting our perspective... Somewhere along the way I came to the thought that every problem – personal, societal, anything – can benefit from long-term thinking. It's a simple idea, but it asks you to slow down and consider long-term consequences before acting."

Every problem – personal, societal, anything – can benefit from long-term thinking
Sussman is not alone in her fascination with deep time. Artist-technologist Honor Harger has created a soundscape of the history of the Universe that enables you to hear the "oldest song you'll ever hear": the sounds of the cosmic rays left over from the Big

Bang. In 2014, the National Academy of Sciences in Washington DC hosted an exhibition called *Imagining Deep Time*. And then there is the *Deep Time walk*, an app produced by a scientist, a playwright and a sound designer that enables people to walk 4.6km through 4.6 billion years of history. Other artists are stretching our time frames forwards, directly engaging with the far future. The Long Now Foundation is building a clock designed to run for 10 millennia inside a mountain in Texas (read more about the *Clock of the Long Now*). And the *Longplayer* project is a self-extending composition with Tibetan bowls designed by Jem Finer which started on 1 Jan 2000 and will go on without repetition until 2999.

Meanwhile, in 2014, artist Katie Paterson created *Future Library*, a forest planted in Norway which will supply paper for a special anthology of books to be printed in 100 years' time; Margaret Atwood was the first author to hand over a manuscript that won't be read for a century. All of these works stretch our perspectives, expand our time frames and help us relocate our existence in much more epic territory. Margaret Atwood and Katie Paterson collaborated to create a story for the *Future Library* that will not be read for a century (Credit: Giorgia Polizzi)

Margaret Atwood and Katie Paterson collaborated to create a story for the *Future Library* that will not be read for a century (Credit: Giorgia Polizzi)
Speculative fiction is another way we can stretch our time frames through culture. From ancient Indian vedas to the medieval Christian obsession with apocalypse, from *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* to *Blade Runner*, we've been pondering the future for thousands of years. Dystopian visions like *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Road*, or *Children of Men* cause us to re-examine the elements of the present that might be taking us towards nightmare scenarios.

Recently, designers and artists have sought to create visceral, immersive works that give people a more direct experience of the darker, more dystopian planet we might face if we don't start thinking longer-term. In 2017, the design studio Superflux created samples of what the polluted air of 2030 would smell like if nothing changed, and at a live event in the United Arab Emirates invited policymakers and senior politicians to inhale them. In the words of Superflux co-founder Anab Jain, "Just one whiff of the noxious polluted air from 2030 brought home the point that no amount of data can."

Another Superflux installation in Barcelona, *Mitigation of Shock*, transported people decades into the future into an apartment, set in London, that has been drastically adapted for living with the consequences of climate catastrophe. In Jain's words: "We explored, designed and built an apartment located in a future no one wants, but that may be on the horizon. Not to scare, or overwhelm, but to help people critically reflect upon their actions in the present."

Superflux installation *Mitigation of Shock* allowed visitors to immerse themselves in life in an apartment in a dystopian future (Credit: Superflux)
Superflux installation *Mitigation of Shock* allowed visitors to immerse themselves in life in an apartment in a dystopian future (Credit: Superflux)
For more positive visions of the future, take a film like *Black Panther*, which shows a thriving environmentally-friendly, technologically advanced African civilisation that has never been colonised. Building on the work of writers like Octavia Butler, who placed people of colour at the heart of science fiction, the film enables us to explore a future that moves beyond present-day prejudices. As the second-highest grossing film of 2018 and the most

Ella Saltmarshe and Beatrice Pembroke

tweeted about movie ever, this kind of speculative work clearly has the potential to influence our collective trajectory. On a much more local scale, projects like *Forest of the Future* in London's Waltham Forest features speculative art and design work about the borough, such as screen-prints of future local by-laws by designer Cat Drew, to help decision-makers – politicians, citizens, consumers, voters, businesses – think about what a better future can look like, and how to achieve it. *Black Panther* showed what a more positive future could look like (Credit: Alamy)
Black Panther showed what a more positive future could look like (Credit: Alamy)
The genius of art and culture is that it allows us to experience ideas about the future on an emotional and embodied level,



not just an intellectual one. Take Olafur Eliasson's recent *Ice Watch*, in which he transported melting glacial ice from the Arctic to London where the public could see and touch the blocks. "I believe that one of the major responsibilities of artists – and the idea that artists have responsibilities may come as a surprise to some – is to help people not only get to know and understand something with their minds but also to feel it emotionally and physically," Eliasson wrote in a 2016 article for *Huffpost*.
Often questions about the long-term future can feel distant and hard for people to translate into meaningful action in the context of their lives. It's one thing to watch *Black Panther* in the cinema, and another to know what its vision of the future means in the context of your own life. Art and culture can not only help us experience the long view, but can provide reflective space to enable us to take action based on that understanding.

Somerset House's recent *Earth Day* season exemplifies this approach with its focus on "the role of language and storytelling in promoting collective action on the global climate crisis". Its mixture of immersive installations, screenings, workshops and debates enabled the public to both explore and reflect. In the words of the founder of the Climate Museum Bridget McKenzie: "We need to move beyond seeing arts and culture in service to communication of climate action, to thinking of it as a transformative and generative agent."

Olafur Eliasson placed melting iceberg pieces in front of the Tate Modern in London (Credit: Getty Images)
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We Know Not What We May Be was a project at the Barbican in London developed by Zoë Svendsen of the arts organisation Metis. After a 20-minute talk from expert speakers from fields like economics, geography and environmental science, the public was invited to explore what it would be like to live in an alternative economic future, based on a fictional scenario devised from one of these experts' research. In an immersive "factory of the future" they grappled with their role in the shape of the future through storytelling and experimentation. In the words of Svendsen, the arts "can invite us to take on ways of operating without having to commit to them". Or there's the work of interactive theatre company

Coney, whose 2014 piece *Early Days* (of a better nation) involved no actors, only a participating audience who were told: "The war is over and the nation lies in ruins. You and your fellow survivors must build the beginnings of a new country. What are the rules you're going to live by? And can you avoid the mistakes of the past?" The audience had to explore how they might organise themselves and run a country, testing and playing with new behaviours and scenarios.

An installation by Finnish artists Pekka Niittyvirta and Timo Aho in the Outer Hebrides used light to show the impact of sea level rise (Credit: Pekka Niittyvirta and Timo Aho)

An installation by Finnish artists Pekka Niittyvirta and Timo Aho in the Outer Hebrides used light to show the impact of sea level rise (Credit: Pekka Niittyvirta and Timo Aho)

It's likely that acting in the interests of the long term will involve radical change in the short term. It will involve rocking the boat, going against the norm, doing things very differently. Art and culture can help us do this in many ways: by connecting us with previous moments of change to make the radical feel more possible, by challenging the inevitability of the status quo, and by making radically different worlds feel tangible.

Take *Economic Science Fictions*, a new anthology exploring how science fiction can motivate new approaches to economics, or *A People's Future of the United States*, with speculative stories that challenge oppression and envision new futures for the US. Speculative work can liberate us from the confines of pragmatism and to dream new futures. Fictions can fuel the future.

Culture also has the power to rapidly transport us out of the confines of everyday life to create embodied experiences of different possible futures. Back in the 1960s, the Situationists, a group of artists in Paris, pioneered work that created moments to jolt people out of their usual ways of thinking and acting. They demonstrated that art and culture can create spaces that temporarily suspend the established order, norms, and privileges. This was a facet of the recent *Extinction Rebellion* climate protests in the UK, which used art and culture to transform the roads and bridges they occupied in central London. The striking pink boat in Oxford Circus, Samba bands, poetry, and impromptu performances from musicians all contributed to creating spaces that felt radically different from the norm.

Olafur Eliasson's the *Weather Project* in the Tate Modern prompted meetings, celebrations, relaxation, noisy acts of protest, and silent contemplation (Credit: Getty Images)

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Ultimately, we believe that challenging short-termism will involve reauthoring some of the deeper narratives that animate our society, the collective beliefs that shape our direction of travel – from narratives about our place in the natural order of things to those which drive our economic paradigms. The stories we live in justify the status quo, make institutions feel inevitable, legitimise certain kinds of solutions, and make our world feel preordained. These cultural narratives are often foundational to the structures that incentivise short-termism, whether at the individual, political, corporate or financial level. For examples of this kind of narrative shift work, see recent work on poverty by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the oceans by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and The Pop Culture Collaborative, which is underpinned by the belief that "activists, artists, and philanthropists can encourage mass audiences to reckon with the past and rewrite the story of our nation's future."

Culture is foundational. It is the soil from which our civilisations grow. If we want to ensure that humans have a long, thriving future on this planet, then we need to work at the level of culture as well as politics, science, technology, finance and infrastructure. If we can work with art and culture to stretch our time frames so that we care about the long-term future, then hopefully as a species, we will have a future in the long term.

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Signing 'Indian 2' has been a step up in my career, says Kajal Aggarwal



CHENNAI (KCN): Actress Kajal Aggarwal, who teams up with actor-filmmaker Kamal Haasan for the first time in the upcoming Tamil film "Indian 2", says signing the project has been a step up in

her over a decade-long career.

Last seen on screen in Telugu film "Kavacham", Kajal has already begun prepping for her role in "Indian 2".

"I'm really thrilled to be part of

the project. I'm quite excited about my role and the skills I will get to learn on the job. I see signing 'Indian 2' as a step up in my career," Kajal told IANS along the sidelines of the launch of beverage brand 7Up's

new campaign, 7Up Ponneram.

Ponneram translates to golden times in English. Kajal said her career's golden times started when she signed S.S. Rajamouli's "Magadheera".

"My golden times started when I signed 'Magadheera'. I have seen many ups and downs in my profession but it was only after I did 'Magadheera' did my career catapult to the next league. It earned me a lot of recognition which I enjoy even today," she said.

Talking about what excited her most about the association with 7Up, Kajal said: "It's a brand a lot of us can easily identify and relate with. I like the fact that it's a very clear beverage. It's also a drink that lets you take a step back and chill. I treat success or failure by taking a step back and I believe it gives you a lot of clarity."

On the career front, Kajal is keenly looking forward to the release of "Paris Paris", the Tamil remake of Kangana Ranaut's "Queen".

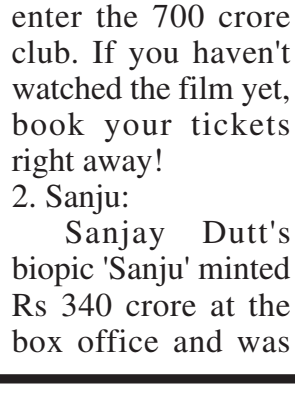
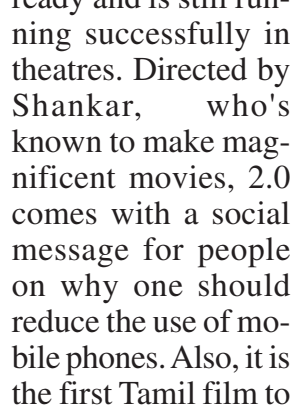
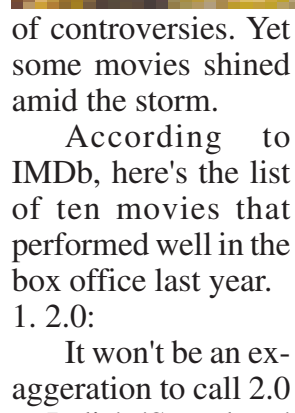
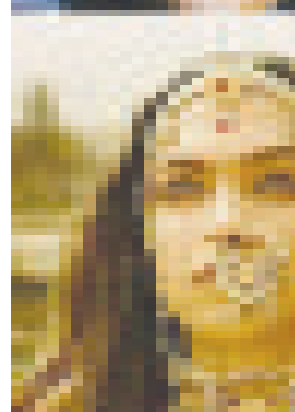
"Paris Paris" will be Kajal's first release of 2019.

"When I was offered the 'Queen' remake, I saw it as a story that can be explored in many languages. It's a simple story of a simple girl that I could connect with on many levels. I'm sure there are a lot of girls across different parts of Tamil Nadu who will relate to this story and I'd be glad if this film empowers them," she added.

From 2.0 to Raazi, top 10 Indian movies based on worldwide gross

2018 has been an eventful year for Indian cinema. From Sanju to Sarkar, the industry faced a row

of controversies. Yet some movies shined amid the storm.



declared as 'double blockbuster' film. The movie showed the different phases of the controversial

ing Rs 293 crore. 4. Race 3:

'Our business is our business, none of your business' line

and the government freebie schemes.. A few scenes were deleted from the movie too. The matter was

ceived hilarious reactions on social media as well. Later, Aamir Khan apologised for failing to entertain

but it leaves you with a thought to ponder. 9. Rangasthalam:

With the right mix of content for a commercial flick, Rangasthalam made it big in the box office by collecting Rs 151 crore. The story is about how a young man with hearing impairment and his brother decide to dethrone their village's president who's been ruling the village for 30 years.

10. Raazi:

An adaptation of Harinder Sikka's 'Calling Sehmat' novel, Raazi is based on the true story of an Indian spy, who gets married into a Pakistani family of military officials to spy on Pakistan during the Indo-Pak war of 1971. It's easily Alia Bhatt's career best. The movie minted Rs 121 crore in the box office against the budget of Rs 30 crore.

It's been a great year for Indian cinema which took us on a journey of emotions, from laughter to tears, sometimes of joy. Though a lot of films didn't make it to this list, good films silently made it into the hearts of the audience.

Just 'normal' to exclude women in decision making process: Adil Hussain

MUMBAI (KCN): Actor Adil Hussain has offered support to the growing group of female artistes who are asking the reason for women's absence from the Bollywood delegation of producers and actors that recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues faced by the film industry.

On Tuesday, an 18-member panel, including Akshay Kumar, Karan Johar, Ajay Devgn, Siddharth Roy Kapur, Ritesh Sidhwani and CBFC chief Prasoon

Joshi, met Modi to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage.

The meeting of the delegation came under fire on Wednesday for its exclusion of female representation with some activists and filmmakers pointing out that it was 2018 and asking, "Where are the women?" Adil took to Twitter to criticise the panel that met the prime minister, saying it has become the habit to exclude women from the decision making process.

from the movie took the internet by storm and hundreds of memes were made on it. Based on relationship and royalties, this is the first film in the series that Salman Khan was a part of. Race 3 was critically panned and failed to do the expected business. But inspite of being a flop, it managed to mint Rs 166 crore in the box office.

5. Sarkar: Sarkar's plot is about a successful businessman from the USA coming to India to cast his vote on election day. To his shock, he finds out that his vote has already been cast by someone else. So he decides to take up a political battle against the miscreants and how he survives the race makes the rest of the story. Directed by AR Murugadoss, the movie got into a huge row and was criticised by the ruling Tamil Nadu government for allegedly misrepresenting AIADMK's late leader J Jayalithaa

later settled in Madras HC. It was much hyped that actor Vijay may begin his political career after this movie. Sarkar was well received by the Tamil audience and it made Rs 151 crore in the box office. 6. Baaghi 2:

This Tiger Shroff-Disha Patani starrer failed to impress audience due to its poor storyline line. Despite that, the movie minted Rs 161 crore in the box office and became a blockbuster. The story is about an army man trying to save his ex-lover's kidnapped daughter. The Baaghi series will have a third part 'Baaghi 3,' which will be out on March 6, 2020.

7. Thugs of Hindostan:

The film set in the 18th century earned Rs 130 crore in the box office against the 275 crore budget ending up a huge disaster at the box office despite having strong star cast including Aamir Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, Katrina Kaif. The film re-

Dissolving Chemicals In Ground Water Is Worrying

According to the recently released Central Ground Water Board report, the groundwater in 249 districts of 18 states of the country is saline, while in 370 districts of 23 states, fluoride was found to exceed the normal standard. Arsenic is reported in 154 districts in 21 states. Similarly, cadmium was found in groundwater in 24 districts, lead in 94 districts, iron in 341 districts and nitrate in ground water in 423 districts of 23 states. High nitrate content has been found in groundwater

in 59 districts of the agricultural state of Uttar Pradesh, 19 of Punjab, 21 districts of Haryana and 51 districts of Madhya Pradesh. This problem is arising in these districts due to indiscriminate use of fertilizers and unscientific techniques of irrigation. The increasing amount of nitrates in the water is increasing the digestion process and shortness of breath. In response to a question asked in Parliament, the Ministry of Jal Shakti gave details of groundwater pollution on the basis of the report of the Central Ground Water Commission. According to this, due to the dissolution of deadly chemicals in the ground water of more than 400 districts of the country, there has been a serious crisis of clean and pure drinking water. In many districts, where already fluoride, arsenic, iron and heavy metal was more than the prescribed standard, the content of nitrate and iron is increasing in most of the districts. Anthropogenic encroachment has been attributed to the increase in nitrates in groundwater. It is noteworthy that nitrate is increasing more in the groundwater of those states where indiscriminate use of fertilizers is being done in intensive farming. The quality of drinking water is being affected due to heavy metals and other hazardous chemicals dissolving in the water. If the polluted ground water is not stopped in time, then there will be a drinking water crisis.

Man knows very well that without water there is no existence of life. It has also been said that if there is water, there is tomorrow. Despite this, human beings are doing the work of contaminating the water through their activities. As human beings are exploiting natural resources on a large scale with their materialistic lifestyle. It is known that natural resources are limited, it is natural to create a crisis due to its unlimited use. Human beings have done terrible destruction of the kingdom of nature to fulfill their needs. As a result, despite having water on almost three-fourths of the earth, the latest UNO report shows that half of the world's population is not getting safe drinking water. In India, the situation is even more dire. The increase in nitrate content in groundwater under such dire circumstances is worrying.

However, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry said that

according to a notification dated 24 September 2020, several strict provisions have been made for the quality of groundwater nationwide. These include setting up sewage treatment plants and shutting down all sources of sewage into reservoirs and rivers. Under this notification, the Central and State Governments are jointly operating the Jal Jeevan Mission. So that people can be supplied clean and pure drinking water from tap to their homes. Significantly, this mission was started in August 2019. Under this, water supply is to be ensured to all rural households of the country by the year 2024.

If we do not take care in time, then polluted water will work to spoil our health infrastructure. According to the report of the health organization, water is the cause of about 80 percent of diseases. Similarly, according to Ayurveda, water is a sedative of many diseases. Human factors like increasing population, urbanization and industrialization have polluted our environment. Today the increasing use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides has polluted all the sources of water like ponds, wells, rivers and even the ocean. Groundwater, which is a major source of water supply in the country. The presence of nitrates in it is worrying. The havoc of nitrates in the ground water of many states is making the water poisonous. Therefore, there is a great need for proper efforts and public awareness in this direction.

For information, let us tell you that there are many such compounds formed by the combination of nitrate, nitrogen and oxygen, which are found in many food items especially vegetables, meat and fish for human consumption. In fact, nitrates are the end products of air fixation of organic nitrogen. It has been observed that due to excessive water solubility of nitrate and low holding capacity of soil particles, water flowing from fields due to excessive irrigation or excessive rainfall carries nitrate along with it to wells, drains and canals. Thus, the drinking water of humans and animals gets polluted by nitrates. The population of our country has crossed one billion. Therefore, maximum use of chemical fertilizers is being done for the production of excessive food grains to feed such a population. The consumption of nitrogenous fertilizers in the country has also increased greatly over the years. Scientists in many places of the country have considered nitrogen fertilizers as the effective factor of increasing nitrate concentration in groundwater. It has also been observed that in rural areas, only nitrogen fertilizers are used instead of balanced fertilizers, due to which such a situation has arisen.

I would like to tell that the high concentration of nitrate in drinking water affects human, cattle, aquatic life and industrial sector also. Water plays its role in both curative and curative form.

Alee Khan

In fact, nitrate itself does not cause any adverse effect on health,

but its reduction to nitrite certainly makes even a small amount of it fatal. When nitrate enters the body through water or food, it is converted into nitrite by bacteria in the mouth and intestines, which is a strong oxidising agent. It converts the ferrous form of iron available in the hemoglobin present in the blood to ferric. Thus, hemoglobin is converted into methemoglobin, due to which hemoglobin loses its ability to transport oxygen. In severe cases, internal respiratory obstruction can occur, the symptoms of which can be recognized by the greenish-blue color of the skin and mucous membranes. It is also called blue baby or cyanosis. This conversion is twice as fast in young children as they are more susceptible to methemoglobinemia. Milk also gets nitrate poisoning from the drinking of high nitrate-rich water by mothers of young children who are breast-feeding. Russian scientists (Petukov and Ivanov) have also observed the effects of nitrate poisoning on the central nervous system. They observed these effects in Russian children only at nitrate concentrations of 105 to 182 mg per liter. Similarly, adverse effects on the heart vascular system have also been observed due to high nitrate concentration in drinking water. As it has been mentioned that when nitrate reaches our body through food or water, it gets converted into nitrite. This nitrite again reacts with secondary amines, amides and carbamates to form N-nitroso compounds which are highly carcinogenic. Research results have shown that there is a close relationship between high nitrate-rich water and gastric cancer. Ecological studies also show that high amounts of nitrates in food or water are helpful in causing cancer. In such a situation, it can be said that increasing amount of nitrate in water invites various types of diseases.

The increasing amount of nitrate in water also adversely affects the health of cattle. A study has shown that nitrate poisoning has been observed in milch cattle like cow, buffalo, goat etc. Oats, millets, maize, wheat, barley, sudan grass and rye grass are the plants in which nitrate content is high. If the fodder is grown in such land in which organic and nitrogen content is high and nitrogen fertilizers have been used in excess or fertilizers like urea have been sprayed around in a hurry, then in such a situation nitrate poisoning becomes more in these fodder. Nitrate poisoning produces gastric intestinal perforation in animals. Sudden death due to this has also been observed in animals grazing in pastures. There is a sudden outbreak of the disease with symptoms such as severe pain, drooling, sometimes flatulence and polyuria. Rapid breathing and shortness of breath, rapid pulse, staggering and lowering of temperature are also other symptoms of this disease. Scien-

tists at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute Izzatnagar (Bareilly) have observed severe nitrate poisoning in calves and chronic nitrate poisoning in goats by eating Para grass. Highly nitrate rich water in dry areas of the country, When thirsty animals drink more water together during summer, nitrate poisoning develops in them which sometimes leads to their death. Lack of milk and abortion have also been observed in many milch animals by drinking water containing nitrates. Thus, the presence of nitrates in water affects the health of human as well as cattle to a great extent.

Now the question is how to reduce the presence of increasing nitrate in water? Why are governments not taking a serious look at the presence of nitrates in water? It is worth mentioning that water has been made a state subject. Therefore, the governments of the states are working to be more lax towards the increasing pollutants in the water. At the same time, the attitude of the central government has always been indifferent. In such a situation, there is a need to make water a subject of the Concurrent List. Bringing the subject of water in the Concurrent List will help in developing a comprehensive action plan. Better conservation, development and management of water, including groundwater, will be possible through consensus between the Center and the States. Further, in view of the havoc of nitrate in water, its excessive concentration should be reduced. Due to the high solubility of nitrate in water, its removal from water is a difficult task. Nitrate pollution has become a major problem in agricultural countries, whose elimination is absolutely necessary. Based on the survey conducted at present, the concentration of nitrate in ground water of 16 states of our country is more than 45 mg per liter. Among these, the value of total soluble solids in groundwater of many states is also high. There is a need to adopt alternative methods to obtain nitrate free water in drinking water supply. In such areas where the nitrate level in water is low, efforts should be made to supply water by digging tube wells, widening flat wells or getting water from more depth. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Water Resources, in collaboration with the Central Pollution Control Board, should develop an effective mechanism to identify critically polluted areas located in dark blocks. Steps should be taken to reduce and control dumping of industrial waste into surface water and underground aquifers. Also, a system should be put in place for regular monitoring of industries to which No Objection Certificates (NOCs) have been issued by the Central Ground Water Authority. This will ensure that the conditions mentioned in the NOC are being followed. All State Pollution Control Boards should put in place suitable and effective monitoring mechanisms. Today the conservation of water should be our special issue or concern, so that this problem can be prevented from taking a formidable form.

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Grindmill Singing: A grassroots feminist oral tradition

The lives of gods, goddesses and mythical figures motivate these women to call out misogyny and condemn the character assassination of pubescent women, child marriage, dowry, infidelity of husbands, stripping of land rights and other forms of harassment they are subjected to.

An ode to the human condition: The Grindmill Songs Project

The traditional stone mill is relegated to a holy status by these women- 'an unquestioning god' worshipped before powdering haldi (turmeric pods) for weddings, child-naming ceremonies and other social functions. It marks the cornerstone of faith where they enshrine their

deepest thoughts, fears, joys, and perhaps, the only place where they feel duly rewarded.

The sheer abundance of these songs posited the need for a methodic collection of data, classification and archiving that inspired the

idea of Grindmill Song Project—a repository of well over

110,000 folk songs collected over two decades from across 1107 villages and districts in Maharashtra and 17 villages in Karnataka. Founded by social activists and distinguished scholars late Hema Raikar and Guy Poitevin in 1987, this ambitious project con-

Aindrisha Mitra

tinued under ethno-musicologist Bernard Bel along with translator Asha Ogale and other team members who put together more than 120 hours of recorded audio. They have also been acknowledged by UNESCO for their work.

“The classification of song texts revealed remarkable

stability of these texts, both in respect with the place and time of performance. It is not uncommon to find the same ovi (with slight syntactic variants) in villages at more than 200 kilometres distance, and some texts have been traced for intact transmission over several generations,” observes Bel in his paper Prosodic Patterns in the Performance of Grindmill Songs, co-authored with Geneviève Caelen-Haumont and Raikar. He also notes that it is through the process of documentation that the grind mill corpus can be better distinguished from spoken word or ordinary speech.

In 2016, the project was taken over by the People's Archive of Rural India, founded by rural affairs journalist P. Sainath. The following year onwards, PARI started publishing the digital recordings of these songs along with the transcripts, translations, and details of singers on its website. Currently, PARI maintains a storehouse of about 65,000 songs translated to English and recorded by a total of 3302 performers.

Besides sensitizing their audience about this century-old oral tradition, this archive en-

ables free access to the material collected painstakingly over decades and lends the grindmill singers a wider audience.

women-around-a-grindmill_112221115132.jpg

Women singers around a grind mill. Pic credit- PARI GSP Team

Like most oral traditions, grindmill songs too face threats of ossification. Thanks to rapid industrialization, the advent of motorized mills has fast replaced the hand-operated version and also doubled down on the possibility of the revival of the tradition of grind mill singing.

Migration has served as another important factor causing thousands to flock to towns and cities in a bad harvest or a drought year in search of work and opportunities. This further obscured the purpose of traditional mills and the acts of spontaneous singing around them.

However, with the ongoing efforts of social researchers, the grindmill repository continues to be stocked with newer additions. “Even though Covid restrictions have limited our travels to the destinations for groundwork, the archiving process continues at the backend,” assures Waikar who remains deeply committed to expanding the scope of this beleaguered tradition.



European Union, Germany send new warnings to Russia over Ukraine

The head of the European Union's executive commission warned Russia on Wednesday that the bloc has a battery of additional sanctions

cellor, Olaf Scholz, reinforced von der Leyen's message Wednesday, telling the lower house of the German parliament that "any violation of

The EU would coordinate any sanctions package with the United States and Britain. If some nations see an attack as imminent,

Ukraine, where Ukrainian forces have been fighting Russia-backed separatists since 2014. Scholz warned that more talks "must not be misun-



ready if Moscow decides to invade neighbouring Ukraine. On the eve of an EU summit on the issue, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that beyond scaling up and expanding existing sanctions, the EU can adopt "unprecedented measures with serious consequences for Russia." Von der Leyen told the European Parliament that there are already economic sanctions in place targeting Russia's finance, energy and sectors because of its annexation of Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula in 2014 and actions since that the West sees as increasingly aggressive. She did not elaborate on what form any new sanctions would take. Germany's new chan-

territorial integrity will have its price, a high price and we will speak with one voice on this together with our European partners and our trans-Atlantic allies." U.S. intelligence officials say Russia has moved 70,000 troops toward Ukraine's border and is preparing for a possible invasion early next year. Moscow denies it has any plans to attack Ukraine and rejects Western concerns as part of a smear campaign. In draft conclusions for Thursday's summit of EU leaders seen by The Associated Press, the 27 nations promise that "any further military aggression against Ukraine will have massive consequences and severe cost in response."

others, like France and Germany, believe there is still time for diplomacy to work. Scholz called for talks on the Ukraine-Russia tensions. "We must be prepared frequently to attempt to reach an agreement, attempt to break out of the spiral of escalation," Scholz told German lawmakers in an address Wednesday. French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will have talks with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Brussels later Wednesday. In 2015, France and Germany brought Russia and Ukraine to the negotiating table and brokered a peace agreement that helped end large-scale hostilities in eastern

derstood as a new German 'Ostpolitik,'" referring to West German Chancellor Willy Brandt's policy of détente toward the communist Eastern bloc in the early 1970s. There "can only be a European 'Ostpolitik' in a united Europe" that is based on principles of international law and order that Russia committed itself to but violated with the annexation of Crimea, the chancellor said. Efforts to reach a political settlement to the separatist conflict, which has killed more than 14,000 people in seven years, have failed. Sporadic skirmishes continue along the tense line of contact. Russia so far refuses to meet France and Germany for more peace talks on the conflict.

2022 UP polls: BJP launches massive feedback drive, says Yogi gov't fulfilled all promises

LUCKNOW: UP CM Yogi Adityanath claimed that his government had fulfilled all the promises made in the party's Sankalp Patra released before the 2017 assembly elections. The BJP, meanwhile, launched the feedback campaign -- UP No. 1 - Sujhaav Aapke, Sankalp Humara -- on Wednesday to draw people's suggestions to be included in the party's 'Sankalp Patra (manifesto) for the 2022 assembly polls. Yogi pointed out that before 2017, all recruitments were controversial while his government, during the last 5 years, had given government jobs to more than 4.5 lakh youths with full transparency. "Casteism and nepotism in appointments were at its peak during the previous regime. When the result of deputy collector was declared by the UPPSC in 2015, of total 86 appointments, 56 belonged to a particular caste disrespecting merit," claimed the CM adding that during the process, members of one family used to go out for extortion.

"Our government has fulfilled all the promises made in Sankalp Patra issued in 2017. We are now seeking suggestions to be made a part of our party's Sankalp Patra for the 2022 election. This is the first government which has issued its report card periodically to prove that we have fulfilled our promises," Yogi



said while launching BJP's massive public outreach programme 'Akanksha Peti' (expectation box) in UP's No-1 campaign. to get the people's feedback. The party had conducted a similar exercise in 2017. This massive drive will be conducted in all 403 assembly seats of the state where people will be asked to write their suggestions on a piece of paper and drop it in the 'peti' (box) which will be kept at 30,000 places in the village and urban areas of the state.

ALSO READ | Will religion help BJP in UP polls? Opinions divided over Kashi Vishwanath corridor Those who can't give their suggestions this way will be able to send their suggestions and feedback through various mediums, including email, SMS, phone call and social media platforms. A toll-free number will

also be issued by BJP. The CM said that the BJP had released a 'Sankalp Patra which was different from the traditional manifesto. "Sankalp wahi jiska koi vikalp nahi' (there is no alternative to a resolution). Announcements are made but 'Sankalp' has to be adopted as resolve and implemented with full honesty," he said. The CM claimed that during the last five years, the state had undergone a complete transformation and its perception before the

country and across the globe had changed. Comparing the works of his government with the earlier ones, he said "Earlier governments used to open fire on the farmers but we waived off the loans of the farmers to get them out of the circle of debt," he said. The CM said that UP used to be known for cow slaughter, cattle smuggling and illegal slaughterhouses running with impunity during previous regimes, but the BJP government came to power in 2017 and all the illegal slaughterhouses were closed. "Our govt worked for cow protection. Under the 'Mukhya Mantri Besahara Gauvansh Sahbhagita Yojana', the state government gives Rs 900 per month to volunteers to take care of stray cattle," he said. Similarly, the CM also listed policy of procurement, clearance to cane arrears of 10 years, reopening of sugar mills, and management of COVID-19. He also referred to the law and order situation in the past when parents of the girls used to avoid sending them out but now the scene had changed, he claimed.

UK's highest court rules against gender-neutral passports

LONDON: A British activist lost a legal challenge at the UK's highest court Wednesday to the

ing for legal and social recognition of Britons who identify as non-binary, said there should be an X option

gender recognition certificates provided and other official records. It is therefore the gen-

proach to the issue. Some countries, including the United States, Canada and Denmark, issue or



government's policy of not allowing gender-neutral passports. Christie Elan-Cane brought the case to the Supreme Court, arguing that the requirement for passport applicants to indicate whether they are male or female breaches human rights laws. Elan-Cane, who has spent years campaign-

for applicants who identify as neither strictly female nor male. A panel of judges unanimously dismissed the appeal, saying the gender of passport applicants is a biographical detail that can be used to confirm their identity by checking it against the birth, adoption or

der recognized for legal purposes and recorded in those documents which is relevant, Supreme Court President Robert Reed said. Reed said no UK law recognises a non-gendered category and allowing the passport change would leave the government without a coherent ap-

plan to allow passports with non-binary gender markers in recognition of the rights of gender non-conforming citizens. Elan-Cane said the UK was on the wrong side of history, and the case would be taken to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.




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Ex-servicemen irked over limited canteen access in Balasore

BALASORE: Ex-servicemen under the aegis of Veteran Soldiers Welfare Association staged a demonstration in front of Balasore Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur

been expanded to include General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF), National Cadet Corps (NCC) units, Comptroller of Defence Account (CDA) staff and employees

headquarters, Chandipur. While a sub-canteen has been set up inside the technical area by PXE, it is accessible only to PXE employees. "Once stocks arrive

hours and even after that they sometimes don't get basic items despite stocks being available. This clearly points at a discriminatory attitude," said an agitator. Along side,



here on Tuesday protesting discriminatory treatment meted out to them in accessing canteen stores. Sources said, a canteen store department (CSD) was established by the Ministry of Defence in 1948 to serve soldiers in the Armed Forces. The services of the unit have now

of others related departments. At least three CSDs have been set up at the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) in Chandipur. One is managed by the ITR, the second by Proof and Experimental Establishment (PXE) and the third by station

at the DRDO canteen, first preference is given to serving defence civilian employees and veteran soldiers have to manage with whatever items are left," alleged Maheswar Behera, convener of the association. "Old veterans are being made to wait in the queue for

Rs 1,000 is deducted from their pension towards availing health facilities at the local poly clinic but most of the times there is a short supply of medicines at the store. Repeated pleas to the concerned departments and officials have fallen on deaf ears, the protestors alleged.

Demand for tourist special train to have boarding point at Rourkela



Rourkela (KCN): Social Activist and President of Rourkela Jagran Manch Amitabh Samal wrote to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday and said that Indian Railways Catering & Tourism Corporation (IR-CTC) has launched Special Tour Packages "Pilgrim Special Tourist Train", for Western India in the month of January 2022 and Bharat Darshan Tourist Train towards North India with visiting Mata Vaishnodevi in March 2022. To-

wards Gujarat in Western India having boarding points in Odisha at Brahampur, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Talcher Road, Anugul, Sambalpur and Jharsuguda only on 21st January' 2022. Towards North India visit with Maata Vaishnodevi having boarding points in Odisha at Brahampur, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Cut-tack, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Bhadrak and Balasore only on 19th March 2022. Samal requested to allow extension of

the said train covering Rourkela and pleaded to make a boarding point at Rourkela as well either or run a different tourist special which will cover Rourkela, which can avail tourists to visit Jyotirlinga in Somnath, Dwaraka Dheesh Temple, Jyotirling at Nageswar, Temple of Krishna at Bet Dwaraka, Akshardham Temple and Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad and Statue of Unity - The World's Tallest Statue to be visited in Gujarat in mid-January, 2022. And tour-

ists to visit Mata Vaishnodevi at Katra, TajMahal and Fort at Agra, Krishna Janmabhoomi at Mathura, Golden Temple and Wagah Border in Amritsar and Mansa Devi Temple and Ganga Aarti in Haridwar to be visited in Bharat Darshan Tourist Train on 19th March 2022. He further said that People in large numbers will get an opportunity to visit these great tourist places from boarding point of Rourkela. He sent it's copy to Chairman cum MD of IRCTC Rajni Hasija and GM of East Coast Railway.

Two prominent BJP leader in Champua Constituency join BJD with a grand welcome

Barbil(KCN): In the Champua assembly constituency of Kendujhar district, two front line leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have joined the Biju

the party and joined to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and fought for Telkoi assembly seat by BJP ticket. Though he get defeated from BJD candidate, but his

party for the betterment of Odisha as well" Similarly, MitrbanuMahakud had been working in the Biju Janata Dal and later joined the

Bharatiya Janata Party to join Naveen Patnaik's Jan Mangal program. He has vowed to prove his allegiance to the forthcoming panchayat elections.



Janata Dal. Dhanurjay Sidhu and MitrbanuMahakud have recently joined the Biju Janata Dal in a merger party. It is learnt that Dhanurjay Sidhu had already won Champua Constituency on behalf of the Congress party once earlier. He later left

popularity did not go down well there. While asking his joining into BJD, he said, "I am inspired by the ideals of the Naveen Patanaik led Biju Janata Dal. He will be more happier if he would extend his hand in promoting the welfare programme of the

Bharatiya Janata Party. He is very popular among people for his intellectual speech and his involvement in various welfare activities for the downtrodden. He has led many agitation for the interest of people. However, he later left the

He was welcomed by the Biju Janata Dal in a huge welcome rally today. In a colourful procession from the local BhadrasahiChowk to the SerandaTarini Temple a procession was organised. They visited lordess MaaTarini and begged her blessings.

CB To Investigate Palei Murder

Bhubaneswar: Following politics over

an ASI will assist Mishra in the probe,

the murder. BJP leader and

bers of Palei have directly accused in-



murder of Chitta Ranjan Palei, the security guard of senior BJP leader and State Planning Board Sanjay Deputy Chairman Sanjay Das Burma, DGP Abhay ordered on Wednesday ordered Crime Branch investigate into the case. "Director General of Police, Odisha has ordered that investigation of Puri Sadar case No 424 dated 12.12.2021 to be taken over by the Crime Branch, immediately," read a press release issued by the Police headquarters. ADG Crime Branch Sanjeeb Panda said, "On the direction of DGP, we have taken over the case. An investigation team has been formed under the leadership of DSP Sisir Kumar Mishra, who will be the investigating officer in the case." Three other police personnel including one inspector, one sub-inspector and

Panda said. The team will soon leave for Puri to take over all required documents from the district police, he said, adding, "As it is a murder case, we will investigate on all angles." The body of Palei was found floating in the Nuanai river in Puri district on December 13 afternoon, two days after he had gone missing after attending a function organised by an aide of Das Burma on December 11 night. Police said there were multiple injury marks on the body. The deceased's wife, Priyanka, has demanded that Das Burma should be investigated by the police for the death. Family member of Palei had met Puri SP and also demanded CB probe into the death case. In a presser, the BJP had demanded this after family members of Palei blamed the BJD leader for

Bramhagiri MLA, Lalitendra Bidyadhar Mohapatra has demanded the removal of Das Burma from the State Planning board for a fair inquiry into the case and to examine the call records of Das Burma, his PSO Biplab Dalai, Jaganath Sarangi and the deceased. "The family mem-

volvement of Das Burma in the murder case. As Das Burma is holding a constitutional position, the Chief Minister should force him to resign from the position of vice chairman of the State Planning Board as soon as possible in the interest of fair investigation," the BJP leader demanded.

Special train between Howrah and Puri

Kolkata (KCN): Keeping in view the extra rush of the passengers during Christmas, it has been decided to run a Special train between Howrah - Puri-Howrah leaving Howrah on December 24, 2021 and leaving Puri on December 25, 2021. The 03005 Howrah-Puri Special will leave Howrah at 11.50 pm at night and will reach Puri at 09.35 am the next day. In the opposite direction, the 03006

Puri-Howrah Special leaving Puri at 2.00 pm will reach Howrah at 11.45 pm at night, the same day. The special train will have o-ne First AC, o-ne AC 2-Tier, three AC 3-Tier, six sleeper class and three general second class coaches and will have stoppages at Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road stations between Howrah and Puri.

Meta, CBSE expand partnership to enable over 10 million students to embrace immersive tech

NEW DELHI: Meta (formerly Facebook) on Wednesday said it will expand its partnership with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to provide a curriculum on digital safety and online well-being and augmented reality (AR) for over 10 million students and 1 mil-

lion educators in the country over the next three years. Additionally, in line with the government's vision of universalizing education, Meta and CBSE will democratise the high school curriculum by allowing students access to quality educational content online through modules which would be made available on CBSE's website. The announcement was made by Meta founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg at Meta's Fuel for India, 2021. "I'm really excited about this partnership and I think it's a huge opportunity to (invest in) this entrepreneurial spirit and bring some of these tools around the metaverse, and training to the education system here in India," he said. The first phase of 'FB

for Education' initiative was launched in June 2020, aimed at preparing students and teachers for the future of work and creating a safe online environment and learning experience. It witnessed over 500,000 students show interest for digital safety and online well-being and Immersive education will also enable students with different learning challenges and lack of access to lab resources to learn in an engaging manner. CBSE will aim to empower students in the under-served regions of India through its community skill centers



more than 14,000 teachers apply for training in augmented reality. The partnership will also aim to empower educators with new age tools and skills needed to nurture the Generation Z and Generation Alpha students into responsible digital citizens. Aligned to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Meta and CBSE will collaborate on content curation and development of curriculum integrating immersive technologies, AR and Virtual Reality (VR) that is relevant for the evolving digital landscape by introducing these as skills subjects for students. By integrating AR experiences into the curriculum, students will be able to collaborate more actively and create using emerging technologies of the future.

making these new age skills available to the youth and help them become creators in the digital economy through equitable access to resources. Dr Biswajit Saha, Director (Skills Education and Trainings) at CBSE, said the pandemic has impacted lives all around. "The learning process has undergone an unforeseen shift. This drastic change has brought along a wall of challenges in facilitating the process of learning. With the assistance of Meta, we hope to build on our online teaching and curriculum capabilities and make them available to students across the country," Saha added. This partnership will help equip our teachers with requisite skills to effectively use online tools for student engagement, Saha noted.

making these new age skills available to the youth and help them become creators in the digital economy through equitable access to resources. Dr Biswajit Saha, Director (Skills Education and Trainings) at CBSE, said the pandemic has impacted lives all around. "The learning process has undergone an unforeseen shift. This drastic change has brought along a wall of challenges in facilitating the process of learning. With the assistance of Meta, we hope to build on our online teaching and curriculum capabilities and make them available to students across the country," Saha added. This partnership will help equip our teachers with requisite skills to effectively use online tools for student engagement, Saha noted.

PSU bank employees to go on two-day strike from Thursday; services likely to be hit

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: Close to nine lakh employees of various state-run banks will go on a two-day nation-wide strike beginning Thursday to protest against the government's move to privatise two public sector lenders, union leaders said. Most of the banks, including State Bank of India (SBI), have already cau-

tioned their customers about the strike's possible impact on banking operations like cheque clearance and fund transfer. A conciliation meeting before the Additional Chief Labour Commissioner on Wednesday failed, so unions are going ahead with their planned strike, All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) General Secretary Soumya Datta said.



would assure that the Bank Privatisation Bill (Banking Laws Amendment Bill, 2021) would not be tabled during this session of the Parliament, we would be inclined to reconsider the strike but the government could not give any such assurance to us," Venkatachalam said. Unions tried their best to avert the strike to avoid inconvenience to public but the government was

not forthcoming, he said, adding that the strike has been called to defend and preserve PSBs. UFBU's Convenor (Maharashtra) Devidas Tuljapurkar said around nine lakh bank employees and officers from various public sector banks, old generation private sector banks and regional rural banks will participating in the strike. Public sector banks have always been at the forefront in implementation of various government schemes, including demonetisation, Jan-Dhan Yojana, social sector insurance schemes and Mudra schemes, he told reporters on Wednesday. He claimed that if PSBs are privatised, then bank branches in rural and backward regions will be closed and implementation of all the government schemes meant for socially and economically weaker sections will get affected. Tuljapurkar said bank employees right from sweepers to senior executives in scale 5 will observe the two-day strike and protests would be held across the country. In Maharashtra, around 60,000 bank staffers will go on strike. On Monday, all public sector lenders including SBI requested unions to reconsider their decision and refrain from participating in the strike in the interest of customers, investors, and banks. Considering the ongoing pandemic situation, resorting to a strike will cause great inconvenience to the stakeholders, SBI had said.

Luxury brand Chanel chooses Unilever's Leena Nair as CEO

FRANCE: The luxury fashion house Wednesday, where she received scores of back home as a sign of the rising stature of



Chanel has chosen Leena Nair, an industry outsider from India and longtime executive at Unilever, to be its new CEO. Nair said in a Twitter post that she was "humbled and honored to be appointed the Global Chief Executive Officer of @CHANEL, an iconic and admired company." The news made a huge splash in India, Nair's birthplace on

congratulations and compliments to her announcement, one calling her a "serial glass-ceiling breaker." While Nair, 52, is not a part of the Paris fashion scene, Chanel has a wide range of products in addition to its fashion designs. Nair, who was heading Unilever's human resources, is due to step into her new role in January. Her appointment is seen

Indian business leaders, especially women. In her social media posts, Nair has described India-born former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi as a friend and mentor. British consumer goods giant Unilever describes Nair as its first woman, first Asian, and youngest-ever chief human resources officer. She joined Unilever in 1992 in India and advanced up the ranks.

RBI imposes penalty on PNB, ICICI Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday said it has imposed a

penalty of Rs 1.8 crore on Punjab National Bank (PNB) and of Rs 30 lakh on ICICI Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.



In a statement, the RBI said the Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE) of Punjab

National Bank (PNB) was conducted by it with reference to its financial position as of March 31, 2019. Following the ISE and examination of other documents, the RBI found contravention of its provisions relating to the pledge of shares by the PNB. In the case of the ICICI Bank, the RBI said the statutory in-

Ready to accept demand of revoking suspension of MPs if they apologise: Government

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Members of several Opposition parties including the Congress, Left, DMK, Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, Shiv Sena, AAP and others stormed the Well of the House Wednesday holding placards and raising slogans in support of their demand. They also held placards reading "save democracy" and "suspend me" and criticised the "dictatorial" behaviour of the government. While leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge raised the demand several times, the government and the Chair said the suspensions will not be revoked till they apologise for their actions.

As many as 12 Opposition Rajya Sabha MPs were suspended on November 29 for the remainder of the winter session for their "unruly" behaviour and "attacking" secretariat staff inside the House on August 11, the last day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament. Leader of the House Piyush Goyal said they respect the sentiment of members, but they also have seen the way lady marshals were "insulted and attacked" in this House.

"The government is ready to consider their request but they have to apologise for their acts of attacking the lady marshals and for the way they have behaved with the people who are protecting the security of this House," Goyal said.

"It is a matter of shame that they are not even ready to repent for their actions," he also said. He said all the staff deployed there serve the members help run the house in order.

"After attacking and strangulating the marshals, all they have to do is apologise. That is the least courtesy they can show to those who are serving this house," Goyal said.

"But if they expect that they will attack the marshals and insult lady marshals and then also they have the right to come back, I think that is irregular. It is quite unfortunate that senior members of the opposition are not willing to repent the acts of their colleagues," Goyal said.

Earlier, Sushmita Dev (TMC) raised the issue of suspension saying "it is totally undemocratic and illegal".

Several other Opposition members also spoke in favour of revoking the suspension of their colleagues and said they should also be allowed to participate in the discussion in the house.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said the short duration notice was called over the request of the opposition members including Sushmita Dev, Nadeemul Haque, G K Vasan etc.

"These all the opposition party members...we allowed the discussion on their request and started the debate. Despite, on such an important discussion, they do not want to participate," he said, adding the Opposition did not allow them to run Question Hour in the morning.

Over the suspension of the 12 opposition members, Joshi said they had violently attacked the security staff of the house.

CM Naveen Patnaik urges NITI Aayog to recommend the Centre for special assistance to Odisha

Continued from page-1

women through Self Help Groups." He further said that Odisha has its own health assurance scheme for cashless treatment in empanelled hospitals with wider coverage to reduce out-of-pocket health expenditure. "We are the third-largest contributor to the PDS rice pool of the Country. We have pioneered a conditional cash transfer system for pregnant women and lactating mothers," he added.

Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman congratulated the Chief Minister for the increase in State's per capita income, improvement in agriculture and mining along with managing the fiscal deficit below five percent.

He also advised the State to improve its mining production from one percent to more than two percent.

He proposed the State set up an SDG monitoring unit and suggested switching to chemical free agriculture in the state.

Stating that every state has its own priorities and specificity, Kumar said that the Niti Aayog is keen to partner with Odisha for formulating a State-specific development blueprint.

The Ashes: Australia takes perfect day-night record to Adelaide

ADELAIDE: While there were initial question marks over opener David Warner's fitness for the second match of the Ashes series, there are no doubts about Australia's superiority in day-night tests. They're a perfect eight from eight as they go into the pink-ball test against England beginning Thursday at the Adelaide Oval. Warner had a few reprieves on his way to scoring 94 runs in the series-opener at the Gabba in

Brisbane, where Australia beat England by nine wickets. But after taking two hits in the ribs while batting, Warner didn't field for Australia in England's second innings. He still appeared to be in discomfort while batting in practice at Adelaide, but on Wednesday captain Pat Cummins said Warner "will be right." "If he thought he couldn't be as good as he normally is, he wouldn't be playing," added

Cummins. Teammate Travis Head, who cemented his spot as Australia's No. 5 by scoring 152 in Brisbane, earlier predicted Warner wouldn't miss it. "I flew home with him a couple of days ago. His family came into Adelaide, which was nice," Head told Australian Associated Press. "And he felt like he was in a good space. Obviously he was a little bit sore . . . so I think for him it was just rest. I think he's ready to go." Cummins also confirmed that right-arm paceman Jhye Richardson will return to the test side for the first time since February 2019 to replace the injured Josh Hazlewood in the only change for Australia.

Cummins said the 25-year-old Richardson was in the "upper echelon" of fast bowlers. "He swings the ball both ways, he's a bit faster than you think . . . and he's really consistent," Cummins said. "He's more than ready to go." While Australia's record in day-night tests is perfect, England has just one win in four attempts. The win came in its first day-nighter at home against West Indies in 2017.

England will get two chances with the pink ball in this series — the fifth test in Hobart, which was moved from Perth because of COVID-19 restrictions in Western Australia, will also be a day nighter. Going into Adelaide, allrounder Ben Stokes allayed concerns about the knee injury that hampered his bowling at Brisbane last week, after coming through a nets session.

The 30-year-old Stokes bowled just 12 overs at the Gabba, his first test match since March, and was in obvious discomfort during his latter spells after appearing to jar his left knee while chasing a ball to the boundary. But he was back to full pace Tuesday, where he bowled for an hour. "We will find out over the next couple of days," England captain Root aid. "He obviously

had a bit of a jar in his knee in the last game. Hopefully it's something he's shaken off now, and he can get back to full intensity and all options are on the table. We will have to manage that and see where we are at."

All options means veteran pace bowlers Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad are back in the selection mix after being omitted for the first test at the Gabba. Both were reported to be fit, but England went for a different combination with a view to rotating its attack depending on conditions throughout the five-test series.

The 39-year-old Anderson, who claimed his first five-wicket haul in Australia in the corresponding day-night test four years ago, bowled for 40 minutes in the nets Tuesday. It hurts more when it comes to the difficulty of earning points away from home. England has lost 10 of its last 11 tests in Australia, and has not won a match Down Under since a victorious tour of 2010-11. England was swept 5-0 in 2013-14 and lost 4-0, with one match drawn, in 2017-18.

And to make matters more difficult, no England team has recovered to win an Ashes series in Australia after losing the first test since captain Len Hutton's squad in 1954-55.

In that series, which featured six-day tests — with a rest day included — five-hour match days and eight-ball overs, England lost the first test at the Gabba by a whopping innings and 154 runs but recovered to win the series 3-1 to retain the Ashes.

Lineups:

Australia: David Warner, Marcus Harris, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Travis Head, Cameron Green, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins (captain), Nathan Lyon, Jhye Richardson, Mitchell Starc.

England: to be named

The tenth term interstateknocks out football tournament concluded in Kainsi



Barbil (KCN): The 10th Annual Inter-State Knockout Football Tournament has been held at Kanata Mini stadium in Champua Block, Kendujhar District. BJP state executive member Dr Murali Manohar Sharma joined in the final match. Kendujhar District Minority cell president Mahatab Allam was the guest of honour. District Executive Members Siddharth Singh, Prakash Malik, Ramesh Chandra Pradhan were the chief guests. Thirty-two teams from the states of Odisha

and Jharkhand took part in the tournament, which was held under the direct supervision of the Kainta Sunrise Club. The final match was played between Jharkhand Warriors and Raju XI Naradpur. The winning team Jharkhand warrior was awarded with 1 lakh rupees along with trophy while the runners up team Raju XI awarded with Rs 70000.00 along with trophy. Till last minute the meeting was tie and the winner team declared in penalty score.

Hadn't won ICC title, removing me as ODI skipper logical decision, says Virat Kohli

MUMBAI: India Test skipper Virat Kohli on Wednesday

selectors before he was removed as the captain of the ODI

up till December 8. The chief selector discussed the Test

my contribution in whatever vision they set for the team."



said that he understands why he was removed as the ODI captain and termed the call as 'logical'. Last week, Kohli was replaced by Rohit Sharma as the white-ball skipper. "I can understand why, the reason, we haven't won an ICC tournament. Whether the decision they took is right or wrong, there's no debate. It's a logical decision which I understand," said Kohli during a virtual press conference.

Kohli also said that no prior communication happened between him and the

team. "Whatever was said about the communication that happened during the decision that was made was inaccurate. I was contacted one and half hours before the selection meeting on 8th for the Test series," said Kohli while replying to a query from ANI.

ALSO READ: Virat's comments shocking, everything needs to be sorted soon, says former selector

"And there was no prior communication with me since I announced the T20I captaincy decision

team to which we both agreed. Before ending the call, I was told the five selectors decided that I would not be ODI captain. To which I replied 'okay fine'," he further said.

Talking about Rohit Sharma, Kohli said: "Rohit is a very able captain, tactically very sound. We've seen that in the games he's captained for India and in the IPL with Mumbai Indians as well. So along with Rahul bhai, who is a very balanced coach and great man-manager, both will have my absolute support and

"I will be there to support that 100 per cent and continue to be a guy who can push the team in the right direction going forward in ODIs and T20Is. Well, I can't comment if me not being captain will leave a positive impact on my batting, those things no one can predict. I have taken a lot of pride in performing as a captain for the team and I've done the best that I could. I think what I know is my motivation levels to perform won't dip at all, I will always be prepared and eager to perform in the same manner," he added.

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