

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES FIRST CONVOCATION OF SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI NATIONAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY



NEW DELHI (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed the first convocation of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University in New Delhi today (December 5, 2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Sanskrit has been the identity and bearer of our culture. It has also been the basis of our country's progress. She stated that the

grammar of Sanskrit gives an unparalleled scientific basis to this language. It is a unique achievement of human talent and we should be proud of this.

The President said that Guru or Acharya has been given utmost importance in the Sanskrit based education system. She expressed confidence that the students of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University will follow

this tradition and move forward with gratitude towards their teachers. And, the teachers will also bless and inspire students throughout the life.

The President said that wise people use their intellect to accept the best things. Unwise people adopt or reject something on the advice of others. She advised students to keep in mind that whatever is scientific and useful in our traditions has to be

accepted and whatever is stereotyped, unjust and useless has to be rejected. Conscience should always be kept awake.

The President said that the National Education Policy 2020 envisions that our youth should make their rightful place in the 21st century world by keeping faith in Indian traditions. Education is considered meaningful only in progress based on life values ??like morality,

religious conduct, charity and all-good in our country. She stated that it is not difficult to achieve anything in this world for those people who are always engaged in the welfare of others. The President said that all-inclusive progress is the hallmark of any sensitive society. She urged Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University to encourage girl students and provide them more opportunities to showcase their talent.

Odisha Tops DA Case



Cuttack (KCN): Odisha Vigilance topped among all the States in detection and registration of DA (Disproportionate Assets) cases in the country, as per recently published Crime in India-2022 by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Director Vigilance Yeshwant Kumar Jethwa is regularly monitoring the cases and Odisha Vigilance has registered 85 cases relating to disproportionate assets against corrupt public servants in 2022, while Karnataka and Bihar were ranked second and third by registering 56 and 48 DA cases during the year, the NCRB report stated.

The same year, Odisha registered 118 trap cases and arrested many tainted officers while accepting bribes. The total number of cases registered under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (PC Act) in the

State increased from 265 in 2021 to 287 in 2022, the report said.

Similarly, with registration of 84 corruption cases on the allegation of criminal misconduct (misappropriation of government funds), Odisha Vigilance was third among all the States in the country.

In the year 2022, chargesheets were filed in 321 cases which was also third highest in the country.

Sources in the Odisha Vigilance Directorate said that movable and immovable assets of

over Rs 174 crore owned by 91 public servants and 56 private people were unearthed during search operations last year. Registration of DA cases requires painstaking groundwork in collection of relevant information regarding assets and financial transactions of corrupt public servants and indicates the proactive aggressive approach of an anti-corruption agency in combating corruption, an official said.

In October, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had administered the oath of honesty and integrity to government employees to kick-start the vigilance awareness week. Addressing the occasion, the CM had said: "My Government has adopted a zero-tolerance approach to corruption so that public services are made available to the people of the state in a fair and transparent manner."

Gajapati received 8.5 mm rainfall, followed by 8.3 mm in Koraput, 3.9 mm in Ganjam, 2.5 mm in Malkangiri and 1.5 mm in Rayagada between 5.30 pm Monday and 8.30 am Tuesday, the Met Department said.

IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra had said Monday that though there will be no major impact on Odisha, heavy rain is likely at some places in the eastern state Tuesday. "The system is likely to move nearly northwards parallel and close to south Andhra Pradesh coast and cross it close to Bapatla during the next four hours as a severe cyclone with a

coast moved northwards with a speed of 12 kmph during the past six hours and lay centered at 8.30 am of Tuesday at a distance of about 40 km northeast of Kavali, 80 km north-northeast of Nellore, 80 km south-southwest of Bapatla and 140 km south-southwest of Machilipatnam, an IMD bulletin said.

"The system is likely to move nearly northwards parallel and close to south Andhra Pradesh coast and cross it close to Bapatla during the next four hours as a severe cyclone with a

maximum sustained wind speed of 90-100 kmph, gusting to 110 kmph," it said.

Authorities have deployed five teams of ODRAF (Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force) and eight teams from the fire

Revanth Reddy to be Telangana chief minister, swearing-in Thursday

New Delhi (KCN): Telangana Congress chief A Revanth Reddy will be the new chief minister of the state.

Announcing the decision at the party headquarters here Tuesday, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said the swearing-in will take place December 7 in Hyderabad.

"After considering the report of observers and after discussion with senior leaders, the Congress president has decided to go with Revanth Reddy as the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in Telangana," he said.

Revanth Reddy was the frontrunner for the top post in the state after the party staged a stupendous victory in assembly elections by winning 64 seats in Telangana, upstaging the BRS.



Venugopal said the Kumar and K J George, besides AICC general secretary in-charge Manikrao Thakre, Shivakumar and Thakre were present as Venugopal announced the party high command's decision on Telangana. He did not answer queries on how many ministers would be sworn in and whether there would be any deputy chief ministers.

Cabinet Nods Puri Land Settlement



Bhubaneswar (KCN): With an aim to resolve decades-old land dispute in Puri and Jatni area, the State Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today approved the proposal of Revenue & Disaster Management Department for amendment of the Odisha Government Land Settlement Rules, 1983.

The amendment will be made to provide the manner for settlement of land earlier leased out by Puri Municipality under the Odisha Municipal Act, 1950 or under any other law which was in force at the time of granting of such lease, with the persons presently in occupation of such land, said Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena.

ACS Revenue & Disaster Management, Satyabrata Sahu was present during the Media Briefing.

The Cabinet has decided to lay procedure for conversion of lease-hold into free-hold of the Government land leased out for homestead purpose in favour of homestead-less persons in areas coming under the jurisdiction of Bhubaneswar Tahasil and Jatni Tahasil of Khordha district, he said. It was also decided to enhance the annual

family income limit of poor class people as specified under Rule 3 (3) (1) of the said Rules from the existing Rs.8,400 to Rs 3,00,000 and also to enhance the annual family income slab of middle class people as specified under Rule 3 (3) (ii) of the said Rules from the existing "between Rs.8,400 and Rs.30,000 to "between Rs 3,00,000 and Rs.8,00,000.

"This will help resolve the long pending land issues of Puri Municipality and waste land lease for homestead

purpose in Bhubaneswar and Jatni Tahasils of Khurda district," the Chief Secretary stated. The Cabinet, which approved a total of 10 proposals, has decided to exempt arrear Motor Vehicle tax and penalty pending against more than 50,000 vehicle owners who want to scrap and de-register their vehicles.

Similarly, the Secondary Board High School, Cuttack will be taken over by the State Government with effect from 1 January 2024 to provide infrastructural development as well as quality education in the school.

Odisha's southern districts receive more rain as cyclone 'Michaung' nears landfall



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Gajapati and Ganjam – the state's Special Relief Commission (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu said. Meanwhile, the IMD issued a yellow warning of heavy rain for one or two places in Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Nayagarh, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri and Rayagada districts on December 6. It had also warned of squally weather conditions, with wind speed reaching 35-45 kmph, gusting to 55 kmph along and off the Odisha coast in Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri and Jagatsinghpur districts from the evening of December 4, and it is likely to gradually increase to 40-50 kmph, gusting to 60 kmph, from the evening of December 5 for the subsequent 12 hours. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into deep sea along and off the Odisha coast during December 4-6. 'Michaung' had wreaked havoc across Chennai and adjoining districts Monday, causing flooding and disrupting normal life.

Show-stopper performances of Odissi and Kathak mesmerise audience on the finale of 34th Konark Festival

Konark(KCN): The finale of 34th Konark Festival 2023 filled the winter air with energetic performances of Odissi and Kathak. General Manager, East Coast Railway Shri Manoj Sharma, OTDC Chairman Dr. Lenin Mohanty, Former Bureaucrat Shri Ashok Tripathy, Chairperson Konark NAC Ms Sanjukta Tripathy and President OSNA Guru Aruna Mohanty inaugurated the evening show by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The first half of the show saw Kumkum Mohanty and Group from Geeta Govinda Charitable Trust,

Bhubaneswar. The troupe performed Abhinaya - Maa Bhavani which depicted Maa Bhavani as the destroyer of demons "Shumba Nishumba" and how her power extended to save Lord Shiva's powerful meditation by destroying the Mahishasura, the Doyen of the Devils, in one of the Hindu pantheons. Mancha Pooja, Pallavi in Raag Hansadheani, and Abhinaya Maa Bhabani are three Abhinaya pieces composed by late Pandit Bhubaneswar Misra and Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra. The last sequence Abhinaya - an episode from the

Ramayana epic "Bichitra Ramayana" was written by Biswanath Khunita. The second set of performances saw Luna



Poddar & Group of Kolkata performing Prerna Centre of three Odissi dance recitals of SURYA

nature and emotion, flowing like color, river, time, seasons, and life. During the finale of the 13th International Sand Art Festival being held in Chandrabhaga beach, sand artists participating in the festival for the past five days were felicitated for showcasing the best of this unique artform at the Konark Festival. The theme of the day was "Wonders of the World for the international artists, Monuments of India for participating states, Temples of Odisha and Manabasa Gurubara" for participants from Odisha based on which captivating sand sculptures were created.

National Seminar on 'Translation: Practices and Possibilities' at CUO



Korput,(KCN): A two-day National Seminar on the theme 'Translation: Practices and Possibilities' was inaugurated at the Department of Odia Language and Literature (DOLL) of the Central University of Odisha at the Sunabeda Campus on 5th December 2023. Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University inaugurated the seminar and presided over the inaugural session of the Seminar. Prof. Tripathi in his presidential address stressed the need for compiling data in translation works in Odia and other languages. He also spoke on Anubad Samikya Samiti especially for Odia, Hindi, and English as the need of the hour. The CUO is geared up to be the center point in translation studies across the world, he believed. Prof. Basanta Kumar Panda, Director, Center

of Excellence for Studies in Classical Odia, Govt. of India attended as the Chief Speaker. Prof. Nrusingha Charan Panda, Registrar I/c and Dean School of Languages; Prof. Kalidas Mishra, Department of English, Sambalpur University and Shri Krishna Singh, Eminent Social Activist attended as the Guests of honor. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Rudrani Mohanty, Associate Professor and HOD, Dept. of Odia Language and Literature (DOLL), CUO, and Convener of the National Seminar. She welcomed the guests and briefed about the importance of organizing the seminar. Translation provides an avenue to access the world, she pointed out. The Chief Speaker, Prof. Basanta Kumar Panda highlighted the contribution of Atibadi Jagannath Das and Rabindra Nath Tagore as inspirational figures for translation. Even in the age of multilingualism, translation maintains its own identity. He added that translation is a bridge between cultures. The Guest of Honour, Prof. Kalidas Mishra, in his speech highlighted the importance of coordination between literal translation and sense translation. The world itself is an example of translation by our Creator, he noted. Prof. Nrusingha Charan Panda, said that translation is the art and workshops on translation are the need of the hour. He further said we can reach the mass through translation works. The guest of the ceremony, Shri Krishna Singh, said that translation should be looked at from a global perspective and we should publish more books on translated works. The formal vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Alok Baral, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Odia Languages and Literature, CUO. Also present on the occasion were Prof. Prakash Chandra Pattenayak, Professor, Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Tribal Studies, Dr. Pradosh Swain, Dr. Ganesh Sahu and Dr. Satyanarayan Sarangi, Faculty members, DOLL, CUO, Dr. Ramendra Kumar Parhi, Head I/c, Dept. of Education, Dr. Sourav Gupta, Head I/c, Dept. of Journalism & Mass Communication, Dr. Sanjeet Dash, Assistant Professor, DELL, CUO, Dr. Chakradhar Pradhan, Associate Professor, HOD, Dept. of Hindi, Dr. Sony Parhi, Faculty J&MC, Dr. Telaram Meher, Guest faculty, J&MC and other guests of the audience Dr. Shankuntala Baliaisingh, Dr. Ratnottama Das, Dr. Mridula Mishra, Dr. Bijayanananda Singh, faculty members, researchers, and students.

Odisha to include Millets in Biotechnology policy: Minister Panda



Panda said that better interventions, supportive industrial policy, special bio-park and startup ecosystem in Odisha encourage education, research and innovation, entrepreneurship, product development and manufacturing to enable

the state to become one of the top biotech innovation and investment destinations in the country. Principal Secretary, Science & Technology Department Chithra Arumugam, said the state government promotes biotech startups through technology incubators. She said Bharat Biotech will manufacture vaccines in coming days from the special biotech park built by the state government at Andharua, near Bhubaneswar. The state biotechnology policy, Arumugam said will be revised in order to bring major developments in this field. 10 startups including the Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) and Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster (BCKIC) participated in the exhibition organised by the Science & Technology Department.



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Wildcard Manasvi Mamgai Gets Evicted From Salman Khan's Show

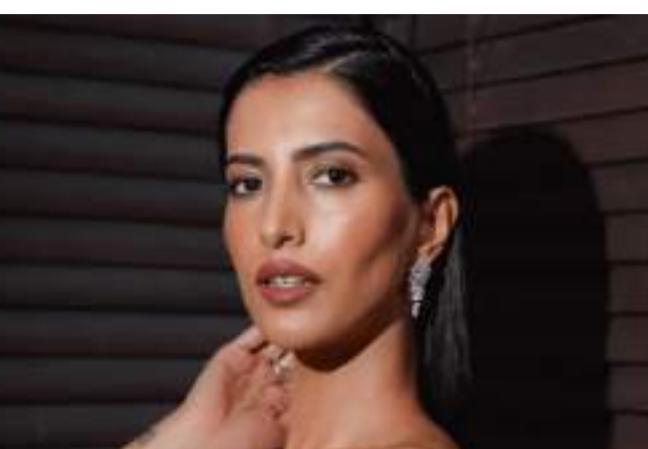
Bigg Boss 17 Weekend Ka Vaar episode brought a lot of excitement, drama, and revelations with it. In the latest episode, Salman Khan reveals the names of the contestants who breached the contract before entering the show and made shocking revelations about them. The conversation started with Salman Khan questioning the contestants regarding who knew each other before entering Bigg Boss 17. He suggested the contestants not to lie.

Salman then asked the contestants who connected with each other before entering the show. Vicky Jain then confessed that he called Neil two days before going inside Bigg Boss. Salman then asked Isha Malviya if she called someone before entering the show, and she mentioned that she called Abhishek Kumar. Salman asks Samarth if he knows about it and the latter accepts. Neil and Vicky talk about their recent alteration. Mannar and Jigna Vora

talk about Munawar and say that the latter has been maintaining a different approach towards Ankita and Vicky. Mannara says Vicky talks very

differently about the couple when he is in the room, away from them, but is different in front of them. She says that he speaks to them even after getting nominated. Salman welcomes singer King on the stage. King sings 'Tu Aaja', one of his most popular tracks for the Bigg Boss housemates. He makes housemates play 'Dil Ka Darwaza' with each other. The cast of 'Dori' - Amar Upadhyay, Sudhaa

Chandran, and Mahi Bhanushali come on the Bigg Boss stage and promote their upcoming TV show. Salman talks about the nominations. He says five people are nominated - Sana Raees Khan, Manasvi Mamgai, Arun Mashetty, Isha Malviya, and Samarth Jurel. He announces that Manasvi has been eliminated due to lowest number of votes. Manasvi bids her adieu to the house and walks out. Meanwhile, Abhishek, Arun and Sunny Arya get into another heated argument.



Shah Rukh Khan Unveils New Dunki Posters Featuring Taapsee Pannu, Vicky Kaushal, Anil Grover

Released on Shah Rukh Khan's birthday, the Dunki Drop 1' indeed came as an absolute treat for the audience and fans with its endearing narrative and went on to touch millions of hearts.

Drawn from real-life experiences, 'Dunki' is a saga of love and friendship that brings together these wildly disparate stories, and provides hilarious and heart-breaking answers. On November 4, two posters of 'Dunki' were released that introduced 5 characters of the ensemble cast together, featuring, Shah Rukh Khan, Taapsee Pannu, Vikram Kochhar, Anil Grover, and Vicky Kaushal. The two new posters of the film show the joy of friendships and the challenges the lead cast go through together to achieve their dreams.

Sharing the posters on social media, Shah Rukh Khan wrote, "Hum bulkul usi tarah dikh rahe hain jaise Raju sir ne apne 'Ullu ke patthon' ko imagine kiya tha... Inke baare mein bahot kuch share karna abhi baaki hai..." (We look exactly the way Raju sir (Rajkumar Hirani) had imagined his 'Ullu ke patthon' to be. There is still much more to share about them).

The first poster shows Shah Rukh Khan accompanied by Taapsee, Vicky, Vikram and Anil, all dressed formally and holding files, as they confidently head for an interview. The second poster depicts the same group navigating a rough terrain in an isolated area. While the others look lost and confused as they are stuck in the middle of a desert, Taapsee appears to be unfazed by the physical strain is seen smiling while looking at Shah Rukh. In both the photos, Shah

Rukh is seen leading the group. A Red Chillies Entertainment, and Rajkumar Hirani Films presentation, produced by Rajkumar Hirani and Gauri Khan. Written by Abhijat Joshi, Rajkumar Hirani and Kanika Dhillon, Dunki is slated to release this December 2023. The film is based on the concept of Donkey Flight, an unlawful backdoor entry technique for nations like the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America. Shah Rukh will be seen in the role of a man named 'Hardy' in 'Dunki', who desperately wants to move to London along with his buddies. 'Dunki' will release in India on December 22, 2023 and will clash with Prabhas' Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire at the Box Office.



Samantha Ruth Prabhu Climbs 600 Steps Barefoot, Prays to Palani Murugan

Samantha Ruth Prabhu climbed 600 steps of the Palani Murugan temple in Tamil Nadu on February 13 draped in an all-white churidar-kurta and offered prayers at the temple.

She also lit a camphor diya and tweeted on the same. She was

accompanied by her 'Jaanu' movie director C. Premkumar and other friends. The actor, who suffers from Myositis, an autoimmune disease condition that causes acute muscular pain, has started shooting for the web series 'Citadel' in which she shares screen space with Bollywood

actor Varun Dhawan.

'Citadel' is the Indian

version of the international sci-fi action

web series of the same

name created by the

Russo Brothers. In the

international series,

Priyanka Chopra plays

the lead.

The Indian web series

is directed by the

on April 14.

Karan Johar reviews 'The Romantics', asks Aditya Chopra if he can share their personal pictures clicked over the decades



just a legend of romance ... a connoisseur of chiffon, music and beauty... a maestro of musicals... he was also a pillar of belief and conviction... is there any conviction left today? We are burdened by media commentary... box office opening ... analytics (all probably relevant to the technology and times) but where did good old fashioned conviction vanish," shared Karan Johar.

He went on to state how the series made him reflect on his own journey and added, "The rom doc reminds us of the past that seemed so organic and



heartfelt... Makes me want to go back to that zone of filmmaking I am so deeply inspired by the YRF story... it's

origin and it's journey.... Having learnt everything I know from the corridors of the studio I stand blessed and watching The Romantics made me so self aware ... of my strengths and my failings.... Thank you @smritimundhra for weaving a narrative out of the archives and actually making an audience go through the many emotional beats through the 4 episodes...just brilliant!"

Paying an ode to

Alia Bhatt Recalls Getting Emotional With Kriti Sanon Before Receiving National Award

Alia Bhatt recalls the getting emotional with Kriti Sanon before receiving the national award, says "It was just two young girls living the dream and feeling a moment of gratitude."

The national film award ceremony happened recently in Delhi where Kriti Sanon and Alia Bhatt were honored with the best actress award for their path-breaking performance in 'MiMi' and 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' respectively.

Recently, Alia Bhatt shared the memorable moments she had with Kriti. "If I had to recall, exactly what happened, it was quite a lovely moment that Kriti and I shared together. She was standing in front of me and she looked back at me and said 'I just wanted to give you a hug' and I just hugged her and we both got emotional. It was just two young girls living the dream and feeling a moment of gratitude and with gratitude sharing it with each other. Literally we both had tears in our eyes after that moment. Then we had to get out of the hug because we will start weeping over here, which we don't want. So yes, that was actually quite a special moment."

Kriti Sanon and Alia Bhatt indeed delivered the best performance of their career with 'MiMi' and 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' respectively. While both actresses proved the mettle of their acting, they also showed how strong powerful characters can change the game for themselves, and today both of them are standing as the leading ladies of the industry. On the work front, Kriti will be seen in Rhea Kapoor's 'The Crew' and an untitled film with Shahid Kapoor and Alia Bhatt will be seen in 'Jigra'.



Chopra scions, Aditya and Uday, KJo added, "And finally my Best friend has a face and how beautifully articulate was he!!! Adi does that mean I can post all the images we have shared over decades that you have threatened to never speak to me if I put out ??? #justasking #loveyou A di congratulations to my dearest friend @udayc for being such a force behind this."

WORLD HINDU CONGRESS AND THE GLOBAL SHIFT IN DEMOGRAPHY



There has been a lot going on in the news lately, the events in Gaza and the protest against the Israeli aggression and much more. In India, the election fever in five states has successfully been spread to the rest of the country and predictions to see its outcome as a semifinal before the 2024 battle has also begun. The Uttarakhand tunnel crisis made occasional ripples while political mudslinging from the states going to polls took the headlines. Silent, yet making a global impact on the essence and presence of the Hindu religion, the World Hindu Congress has come to an end in Bangkok, Thailand. Conducted for three days from November 24 to 26, one of the largest intellectual gatherings of the Hindus has now become a platform for its people from across the globe to assemble and discuss the issues and propagate the values. This time the Congress maintained

its theme "Jayasa Aayatnam Dharmah which means "Dharma, the Abode of Victory." Ever since its first assembly in Delhi in 2014 there has been significant progress in passing awareness on the challenges that the Hindu society faces globally. The Congress assembled in Chicago in 2018 the second time and the present one in Thailand was the third. Undoubtedly, its first gathering in 2014 must make us infer the sense of urgency with which the Modi government must have given it a beginning. The significance of such an intellectual gathering was intended to discuss matters that concern the Hindu community across the globe with adequate guidance being framed while giving it a nudge in order to consolidate its political bargaining powers and to strengthen its cultural as well as spiritual depth.

Contradictory to the present political posturing of the opposition parties in India, the World Hindu Congress came out with a startling declaration. The WHC decided to denounce the term Hinduism and

declared to embrace Hindutva and Hindu Dharma to refer to the world's oldest and eternal religion. Dharma for all positive reasons is a better term suitable to refer to the Hindu way of life in the Indian context. The religious texts that the Hindus consider holy are deep reference guides on aspects of Dharma and the world began to seriously ponder on those subjects of spiritual contemplation as Christianity and Islam had failed to naturally flourish maintaining a justifiable momentum of inclusion and coexistence. War savagery, ethnic unrest and intense religious radicalization took hold of the human conscience making amiable coexistence a Himalayan challenge and search for better ideals began to gain thrust. Hindu religious philosophy fits in this vacuum. And it is seen as an adequate alternative which can profess, propagate and promise solutions to a deeply divided world. The term Hinduism, according to the Hindu Congress is defined as an oppressive and discriminatory attitude of belief. The

declaration in the Congress preferred the word Hindutva as the accurate term that includes all that the word "Hindu" implies. Now, the political opposition that often stands against the eternal values of the Hindu Dharma will have to discover new phraseology to frame more abusive vocabularies against it. Probably, compelled by the recent vitriolic attacks on Sanatan Dharma, the WHC called for more closeness among organizations that stand for the Hindu cause and ideally put forth its commitment to bring them together with more openness chiseling their unity. To politically corroborate it, the Hindu unity has always been a tricky conflicting affair. Those who stood to make it viable had stumbled politically with meager progress being made in the beginning. But the impact of the efforts got pronounced to a reasonable and visible range ever since Modi came to national politics with his relatively modified and an intensified

version of the Hindu way of politicking. Of course the challenges that the majority in the country is frequently made to face need better calculations to defend. Often the Hindus have to face confrontational political arrogance from multiple corners and the ethnic confusion and the disarrayed existence of caste and gender disparities often pushed it harder to the corner of political irrelevance. Warmongering in the name of exclusive religious beliefs have turned the world into a space of horror and uninterrupted disgraceful maligning by certain groups and individuals hold Hinduism also deeply vulnerable internationally. Attacks on Hindu temples and centers in some countries could be seen as an intolerant tendency vehemently articulating its disgraceful alignment worldwide with hostile forces that for years have been waiting for the fall of a congenial belief system. The demographic scenario all over the world has dangerously

been altering. Pew Research Center's recent findings have some alarming facts to fire up our thoughts for a world that is largely going to tilt in the Islamic way by 2050 with its population possibly outnumbering Christianity. According to it, the newborns in Islam will outnumber the Christian births by 2035 and the former would gain a steady momentum in its population by drastically altering the present demographic status. Being the fastest growing community, Muslims by 2050 will make up to 10% of the overall population of Europe. Of an expected total population of 9.3 billion by 2050, the Muslim population is projected to increase by 73% while the Hindus and the Christians will keep an average momentum of 35% population growth. Anger and outcry in the streets of different European countries against Israel's retaliation in Gaza was an indication of the adverse impact on the European free world's democratic freedom and values. The Hindu

population is projected to arrive at 1.4 billion worldwide while the Jews, probably the smallest religious group, are expected to stay at 16.1 million. So, the challenges to catch-up with the pace of Islam are multiplying and India with its multicultural social design remains more exposed to aggression and rift among various religious groups. Challenging democracy and its powerful monarchy, almost 300000 protesters crowded in the streets of the United Kingdom and they sloganized for the eradication of Israel soon after the Israeli retaliation began post October 7 Hamas horror. Open criticism on the Jihadi sympathizers and their grouping in the streets of the country had resulted in Suella Braverman's expulsion from the Rishi Sunak cabinet. Literally, the trend booming with rapidity corners the anti-Jihadi narratives as far right and a media caucus is deliberately glorifying its exclusivist radicalized madness. Expectations have been raised and alarming bells were sounded in the WHC

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Gajraj's wrath

Dr. Laxman Sahoo

seen in any village, town, industrial area or street to satisfy their hunger. Their rates of violence and premature death in the last two-three years are alarming. From Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and other states, there are often very scary pictures and stories of elephant attacks. Even now, gruesome pictures of their orgies have emerged from many states. In the last two-three years, the truth has come to light about the elephants of Madhya Pradesh-Chhattisgarh living in their own herds. They travel hundreds of kilometers at night and cause danger everywhere.

Many people think that gazelles wander away from the forest in search of food, which is not true. In fact, they return to their old place, which was once their abode. But now they have become concrete jungles or fields and barns of our progress. Elephants have

amazing memories. They also transfer their traditional practice weight and memory from generation to generation. Some wonder how they got into the population, gardens or fields, mines? But forgetting that they have returned remembering their original places, which we now occupy. This is a true story of conflict between elephants and humans. Secondly, due to the rapid destruction of forests, various animals and birds in the forest such as monkeys, deer, sambar, wild boars, dogs, jackals and other so-called animals are invading the human habitations.

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change told Parliament in March this year that more than 1,500 people have lost their lives due to elephant attacks in India in the last three years. The data shows that there has been a slight increase in human conflict. 585 people died due to elephant attacks in 2019-2021, 461 in 2021-2021 and 535 in 2022. Many people were also disabled due to the

attack, the exact number of which is not known. The death toll shows that every year around five hundred people lose their lives in our country while hundreds of elephants also die. This astonishing number is ten times higher than that of humans who are preyed upon by animals such as tigers or leopards. From 2015 to 2020, about two and a half thousand people have been killed by elephants. In February 2019, Parliament was told that 1713 humans and 373 elephants had died in the past three years. The fact also came to light that most of the 226 elephants died due to electrocution. 62 elephants died after hitting the railway tracks, while 59 were killed by poachers and 26 by poison.

Billions of rupees have been spent on compensation for elephant and human deaths. But the fact is that humans are creating obstacles in the path of elephants. A survey found that there are 88 routes in India. 'Rite of Passage', an eight-hundred-page study published in 2017, contains important

information on how elephants have been traveling for centuries. It contains information about 101 Indian corridors of elephants. Out of them, 28 are in South, 25 are in Central, 23 are in North East, 14 are in North West Bengal and 11 are in North West India. Agriculture was started in two of the three corridors, while railway lines or roads were built in two-thirds. Two corridors have been disrupted by mining and quarrying that have led to eleven canals. Alteration or elimination of corridors creates many obstacles to the free movement of elephants. Because of this, the angry elephants started returning to their old habitat.

In today's densely populated areas, they began to migrate in search of food and water. In the past three years, the number of elephants has increased from 100,000 to 150,000. The forest department does not seem to be serious about proper diagnosis. If this is not an irony, then what is it that, even armed with modern resources, we have not found any safe or effective way to attack or control elephants? Is it the responsibility of high-paid and high-ranking forest officers to prepare documents for violence, assault and compensation?

Whether anything actually happens on the ground or not, but we are always at the top of the paper filling. Surely something impossible and possible must be avoided and some truth must be revealed. So day by day the terrible anger of Gajraj and the increasing number of deaths are happening, it must be stopped. Truly Gajraj is a very beautiful and intelligent creature, till yesterday he was our companion, today he became a friend again

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Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund

Kolkata, (KCN): In a written reply to the unstarred question raised by MPs Shri Ajay Kumar Mondal, Ms Iocket Chatterjee, Smt Navneet Ravi Rana and Shri Sunil Kumar Pintu in the Lok Sabha today regarding the welfare schemes and new initiatives started for the betterment of fishermen and fisheries industries, the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Purushottam Rupala stated that the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing a flagship scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with an investment of Rs. 20,050 crore for a period of five years with effect from Financial Year 2020-21 to 2024-25 for holistic development of fisheries and aquaculture

and welfare of fishermen is at the core of the scheme. The fishers welfare related activities supported under PMMSY inter-alia include; livelihood and nutritional support for socio-economically backward active traditional fishers' families during fishing ban period, insurance cover to fishers and fishing vessels, boats and nets to traditional fishermen, communication/tracking devices, sea-safety kits, support to traditional fishers for acquisition of deep-sea fishing vessels, alternative livelihood activities like seaweed culture, training & skill development, providing cold-chain and marketing facilities and also fishing harbours and fish landing centres facilities for safe landing and berthing of fishing boats/vessels and

smooth operation of post-harvest activities. The Department of Fisheries, he said, during the last financial years (2020-21 to 2022-23) and current year (2023-24) accorded approval to the proposals of various States/UTs and other implementing agencies to the tune of Rs. 17118.62 crore including the proposals of Government of West Bengal, Maharashtra and Bihar for development of fisheries and aquaculture including the activities related to welfare of fishermen. It is estimated that about 10.97 lakh fishers, fish farmers and other stakeholders are benefited under PMMSY including 4553 beneficiaries in West Bengal, 17117 in Maharashtra and 66,072 in Bihar. It is to be noted that besides, to promote easy access to credit facility

for aqua-culture farmers, fish farms and fishing activities, the Government of India during the FY 2018-19 extended the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to fisher and fish farmers to help them to meet their working capital needs. So far, a total of 1,69,476 KCCs have been issued including 1387 in West Bengal, 19,733 in Maharashtra and 9809 in Bihar. The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has so far accorded approvals to a total of 121 proposals of various States/UTs at a total outlay of Rs. 5588.63 crore for creation of fisheries infrastructure including the proposals amounting to Rs. 27.99 crore of Government of West Bengal, Rs. 943.69 crore of Government of Maharashtra and whereas the Government of Bihar has not submitted any project proposal so far under FIDF. The district-wise details of projects approved for the State of West Bengal and Maharashtra under FIDF are furnished at Annexure-I and Annexure-II.

State Governments, Union Territories and State entities for development of identified fisheries infrastructure facilities. The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has so far accorded approvals to a total of 121 proposals of various States/UTs at a total outlay of Rs. 5588.63 crore for creation of fisheries infrastructure including the proposals amounting to Rs. 27.99 crore of Government of West Bengal, Rs. 943.69 crore of Government of Maharashtra and whereas the Government of Bihar has not submitted any project proposal so far under FIDF. The district-wise details of projects approved for the State of West Bengal and Maharashtra under FIDF are furnished at Annexure-I and Annexure-II.

Purandar Mishra Elected to Chhattisgarh assembly Will be lone Odia MLA in New Assembly



Raipur/Bhubaneswar, (KCN): President of Greater Odia Samaj of Chhattisgarh State and Bhartiya Janata Party's candidate Purandar Mishra had a landslide victory from Raipur North Assembly Constituency. Shri Mishra defeated his nearest rival Kuldeep Singh Juneja of Indian National Congress by a whopping margin of 23052 votes. While Shri Mishra pulled 54279 votes, Shri Juneja could manage only 31227 votes. Shri Mishra would be the lone Odia MLA in the newly elected Chhattisgarh assembly. Shri Mishra also holds the position of Chief Patron of the Chhattisgarh branch of World Odisha Society. Shri Mishra has founded the largest Jagannath Temple in the state of Chhattisgarh at Gayatri Nagar in Raipur which comes under his constituency. The entire Odia community from nook and corner of Chhattisgarh, devotees of Lord Jagannath across the globe and worldwide members of world Odisha society became jubilant and euphoric after receiving the news of Shri Mishra's election-winning news today afternoon. Thousands of Odia and non-Odia gathered in the evening at the Jagannath temple in Gayatri Nagar to celebrate Shri Mishra's thumping victory with pomp and splendor and much fanfare. Congratulations and best wishes have been showered in from Sri Mishra's fans, followers, and well-wishers from Odisha, all over the country and abroad, non-resident Odia leaders from India and abroad have also sent goodwill messages to Sri Mishra congratulating

DEVELOPMENT REPORT OF PM-KISAN IN WEST BENGAL

Kolkata, (KCN): In a written reply to the unstarred question raised by MP Shri Sunil Kumar Mondal in the Lok Sabha today regarding the development report of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme launched by the Government especially in the State of West Bengal for the F.Y. 2022-23 and 2023-24, the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar stated that the Pradhan Mantri

Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a Central Sector Scheme, being implemented w.e.f. December 1, 2018. The Scheme aims at providing financial assistance to all landholding farmer families across the country, subject to certain exclusion criteria, to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs. Under the Scheme, an amount of Rs. 6000/- per year is transferred in three-four installments each of Rs. 2000/- directly into the Aadhar seeded bank accounts of the farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Under the PM-Kisan Scheme, over 2.80 lakh crore has been transferred to over 11 crore farmers across the country including West Bengal. In West Bengal, PM-Kisan Scheme was onboarded in FY 2021-22 and since then 51,14,346 farmers have received benefits worth over 7380.46 crore.

Kolkata, (KCN): In a written reply to the unstarred question raised by MP Smt Aparupa Poddar, regarding the status of MGNREGS jobcards, the funds allocated to West Bengal, the amount due for the State in the last three years in the Lok Sabha today, the Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti stated that State/UT-wise details of new job card issued to households under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee

Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) in the financial years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 are given at Annexure-I. The Minister also stated that State/UT-wise details of funds released under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in the financial years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 are given at Annexure-II. She said, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven wage employment Scheme which provides for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by

providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Request for Job card by a household in Rural Area is a continuous process. Also, updatation / deletion of Jobcard is a regular exercise being conducted by the State Governments, she added. The Minister detailed out the financial allocation status pointing out that financial allocation of Rs. 60,000 crores has already been made for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) for the financial year 2023-24 at Budget Estimate (BE) stage. Further, an amount of Rs. 10,000 crore has been provided by the Ministry of Finance as an advance from the Contingency Fund of India. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 66,994.17 crore has been released as on 28.11.2023. She said, Ministry seeks additional funds from the Ministry of Finance as and when required for meeting the demand for work on the ground.

The Minister said, As per data available in NREGA Soft and PFMS an amount of Rs. 5553 crore is the pending liability under wage and material components for the State Government of West Bengal. Release of funds to the State of West Bengal has been stopped from March 9, 2022 as per provision of Section 27 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 due to non-compliance of directives of the Central Government.

'One Flag, One PM, One Constitution' Not A Political Slogan: Amit Shah

an apparent reference to the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr Shah went on to state that "one symbol, one head, one constitution" was not an election slogan. "We had been saying since 1950 that a country should have one PM, one flag and one constitution and two will not do and we have done it," he said. Soon after Mr Roy ended his speech on the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation

Status of MGNREGS Jobcards and Funds Due for Allocation in West Bengal

Cultural Exchange Programme with US Poet at Sahitya Akademi

New Delhi (KCN): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday asserted that the concept of "one flag, one head, one Constitution" was not a political slogan and the BJP firmly believes in the principle and finally implemented it with regard to Jammu and Kashmir. Responding to a remark by Trinamool Congress' Saugata Roy in the Lok Sabha that "ek nishan, ek pradhan, ek samvidhan (one flag, one head, one constitution)" was a "political slogan", Shah wondered how a country



could have two prime ministers, two constitutions and two flags. While responding to a remark from the opposition benches, Mr Shah said, "Whosoever did it was wrong. Narendra Modi has corrected it. Your approval or disagreement does not matter. The entire country wanted it." This comment was made in

(Amendment) Bill and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said while the TMC leader mentioned Syama Prasad Mukherjee, he should have also recalled his sacrifice.

Mr Roy said he had taught in a college named after Mukherjee and "ek nishan, ek pradhan, ek samvidhan" was his slogan and it was a "political slogan". Mr Shah then rose to hit back at the TMC member.

"Sachin Pilot's Phone Tracked During 2020 Rebellion": Ashok Gehlot's Aide

New Delhi: Outgoing Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's OSD Lokesh Sharma on Tuesday alleged that the then deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot's movements and phone were tracked and monitored by the Gehlot government in the run-up to and during the rebellion Pilot had staged in 2020. There was no immediate reaction from Congress leaders Gehlot and Pilot or their aides on the allegations.

Mr Sharma, who was denied a ticket to contest the Rajasthan assembly polls and has been criticising Mr Gehlot for the party's defeat in the elections, also said if the incidents of September last year, when a legislature party meeting was not allowed to take place by Gehlot loyalists, had not happened and the Congress observers had carried out the agenda for which they had come, the picture in Rajasthan would have been different. The Congress leadership wanted to effect a leadership change and bring in Mr Pilot as the chief minister. He said the differences between Mr Gehlot and Mr Pilot "harmed" the party's prospects. "When the political crisis of 2020 had come and Pilot ji had left with his 18 MLAs, then in such a situation, the government does put its machinery in to use and everyone is monitored, where do these people go, who do

they meet and who do they speak with. So that is done and in that manner their monitoring was also done," Mr Sharma alleged. He claimed that the monitoring was happening from before the rebellion as there was some idea that such a thing could happen. Asked about the details of the monitoring, Mr Sharma told PTI, "I said monitoring was being done continuously which includes all these things -- movement, who are

they speaking with, those things were being tracked and monitored." Mr Sharma claimed that elections could have been fought better and the main reason for defeat was that ticket distribution was not done properly. BJP Wins Big In Rajasthan As Ashok Gehlot's Welfare Schemes Fail "There was no anti-incumbency against the government but people did not want to see many of the MLAs return as their representatives. Eminent Bengali poet

Kolkata, (KCN): Sahitya Akademi organised a cultural exchange programme at its city office auditorium on Monday (December 4, 2023) with renowned English poet Dante Micheaux of USA. The welcome address was delivered by the Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Eastern Region, Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh. He spoke in brief about the writings of the poet.

Shri Subodh Sarkar while speaking on the poet, explored the connection between USA, Kolkata and Santiniketan. He also referred to notable American poets like Allen Ginsberg and others. Dante Micheaux read out many of his poems, including 'Song into Holiness', 'Song of the Hijra', 'Prantik Station' and 'The Second Beautiful Harvest'. His poems display his understanding of Indian

culture through the employed imagery. Dante spoke about his earlier encounters with Indian culture and how he was brought among a section of Indian diaspora. At the end of the poetry reading session, Dr Sarkar presented the Bengali translation of two of those poems followed by an interactive session. Shri Kshetrabasi Naik, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of thanks.

ASI to install steel support for Natamandap beam of Shri Jagannath Temple

CUTTACK: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will install a stainless-steel box beam for strengthening the cracked beam inside the Natamandap (dancing hall) of Shri Jagannath Temple at Puri. Indicating this in a report submitted in the Orissa High Court on Monday, amicus curiae NK Mohanty said ASI had started the process and taken necessary steps for purchase of stainless-steel material required for fabricating the box beam.

"The ASI has finalised the design of the box beam. This design is also needed to be vetted by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA). For this the technical expert committee of SJTA is expected to hold a meeting this week," Mohanty said. The high court is monitoring repair and renovation inside the Natamandap as part of adjudication on a PIL for conservation of the 12th century shrine filed by Abhisek Das, a resident of Cuttack in 2016.



DRIP Care For 45 Dams

Bhubaneswar(KCN): As many as 45 dams have been included under Government of India's Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) in three different phases, Union MoS for Water Resources, Bishweswar Tudu said on Monday.

While replying to an unstarred question of Rajya Sabha MP Sasmit Patra, the Union Minister said the DRIP Phase-I was implemented during April 2012 to March 2021 with financial assistance from the World Bank with the objective to improve the safety and operational performance of selected dams along with accompanying dam safety institutional strengthening.

Under the scheme, physical rehabilitation of 223 dams located in 7 States including 26 dams from Odisha were undertaken at the cost of Rs 2567 crore, he said.

After completion of DRIP Phase-I program, Government of India has taken up DRIP Phase-II & III scheme. The scheme envisages



rehabilitation and safety improvement of 736 dams located in 19 States, with a budget outlay of Rs 10,211 crore. The scheme is of 10 years' duration, Tudu said. Out of the total proposed cost for DRIP Phase-II & III, Rs 7,000 crore is an external loan and Rs 3,211 crore would be borne by the respective participating States and the three central agencies. The Phase II is currently operational since October 2021 with budget outlay of Rs 5107 crore, and being co-financed by the World

Under DRIP II & III

Scheme, he said, Odisha Water Resources Department is one of the implementing agencies. PST of 13 dams costing Rs 65 crore has been submitted by the State Government to the Central Water Commission (CWC) for approval of the World Bank.

PSTs for 9 dams costing Rs 53 crore have been approved by the World Bank, wherein rehabilitation works at 6 dams costing Rs 31.67 crore have been awarded by the State and are under implementation, the MoS stated.

Further, the rehabilitation works at selected dams, would help in enhancing safety and operational performance of the dams, in turn ensuring that the given dam serves its intended purpose sustainably.

Also, the scheme has provision for preparation of dam specific operation and maintenance manuals as well as emergency action plans, which will help in improving the disaster resilience of the dams as well as the downstream community, he added.

BMC Fines Rail Centre



Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on the Managing Officer of the East Coast Railway Community Centre for dumping waste at public places. Not only this, the Railway Staff Benefit Community Hall at Mancheswar, which had dumped wet and dry waste, was sealed in the presence of BMC Commissioner, Vijay Amrta Kulange.

This morning, the Commissioner had made a surprise visit to Ward 9 area. During a visit to the community hall and market area in Mancheswar area of the Railways, they found wet, dry and plastic waste scattered on the roadside. In particular, it was clear that the wet, dry and plastic waste coming out of the community hall had been deliberately dumped on the roadside. The

Commissioner had directed that the community hall be sealed on the spot after it was found that the staff in charge of the community centre of the East Coast Railway was handling the waste in a shoddy manner.

The rule of segregation of waste wet and dry has been strictly implemented for all kalyan mandaps and community halls in the BMC area and will be applicable in this regard

Taking note of the amicus curiae's report, the division bench of Acting Chief Justice BR Sarangi and Justice MS Raman fixed December 18 for further monitoring of the progress of the repairs.

Earlier on November 15, the court had asked the amicus curiae to submit a report after every 15 days, while directing ASI to start the work for strengthening the cracked beam inside the Natamandap from the next day.

In his report Mohanty said ASI had started



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Odisha Government Announces Ground Breaking Subsidy Scheme at Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Government has unveiled an ambitious Special Subsidy Scheme to boost the stainless-steel Industry within the state. This momentous announcement was made during the inauguration of the Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023 (GSSE 2023) in Mumbai, further solidifying Odisha's commitment to becoming the 'Stainless Steel destination' for the world.

The GSSE 2023 event, was inaugurated by esteemed dignitaries including Shri. Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Odisha; Mr. Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless Ltd.; Dr.

Aruna Sharma, GSSE Steering Committee Member and Former Secretary, Ministry of Steel; and Ms. Anitha Raghunath, Director, Virgo Communications and Exhibitions.

In his inaugural address, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr. Abhyuday Jindal said, "It won't be an exaggeration to say that stainless steel is omnipresent, and even for a big event like the G20, stainless steel adorned the roads. Be it the art installations in Lutyens Delhi or the security barriers, stainless steel made its presence felt. It was a historic moment to witness stainless steel reach the moon when the Chandrayaan-3 made a



soft landing on the lunar surface recently." He also touched upon the industrial park in Odisha by his company, and said it is the first-ever stainless steel Industrial park in India with the vision to strengthen the industry.

A special report on stainless steel titled 'India's Amritkal' by SteelMint was unveiled at the event. According to the report, the stainless-steel industry struggled to regain equilibrium due

to the lingering impact of weakened global and domestic demand. This demand contraction reverberated throughout global melt-shop production, with the first quarter of CY23

RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

Mumbai: RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India.

Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing Indian market.

"Keeping with our

honourable Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar India, this collaboration with Plastic Legno's deep experience in world-class toy manufacturing coupled with our strong footing in the global toy retail industry would open new doors and unparalleled opportunities for toys manufactured in India. It is imperative for RBL to build design to shelf capability for a strategic advantage over the competition and to be an accelerator in building a robust toy manufacturing ecosystem in India not only for domestic consumption but also for global markets," said the spokesperson of Reliance Brands Limited.

RBL has a strong play in the Toy industry with its portfolio of Hamleys, the British toy retailer and homegrown toy brand - Rowan, making RBL one of the leading

toy distributors. Hamleys currently has a global footprint across 15 countries with 213 doors and is India's largest chain of toy stores.

"We are very privileged to have RBL as a partner in this Joint Venture. We are confident that Plastic Legno's experience in Toys production and Hamley's commercial outreach, will complement one another to enable the JV Company to achieve greater heights and successes. We have important development plans to implement, always in the spirit of creating a cultural background in this specific sector in India. We are ready for the challenges of the future, but when there is a group like RBL alongside, we are sure that together we can do a great development," said Paolo Sunino, Co-owner, Sunino Group.

Aditya Birla Group formally launches TMRW - a Digital First 'House of Brands' venture in the Fashion & Lifestyle space

will set-up a nimble and agile founding team with the right skill sets and capabilities. Prashanth comes with extensive experience in Digital & Technology across strategy, growth and investing. He also brings to the fore rich entrepreneurial experience in helping build and scale new age ventures in Digital & E-Commerce.

Ashish Dikshit, MD of ABFRL said, "The formal launch of our D2C business, TMRW, is a key milestone for the company. This venture has the potential to become a significant growth engine by tapping into the new wave of entrepreneurial energy in India. Our aspiration is to build a portfolio of 30+ brands in the next 3 years. With the launch of this venture, we intend to double down on our ongoing program of strategically attracting new pools of capital that are seeking investment in high-growth businesses. We are confident that this

foray will successfully meet the aspirations of digitally native consumers and also create long-term value for investors and other stakeholders."

Prashanth Aluru, CEO and Co-Founder, TMRW said, "I am excited to embark on this journey to build TMRW - a long-term enduring platform that will be home to the leading disruptor brands that provide the new age digitally savvy consumer what she is looking for across Fashion & Lifestyle. With the backing of the Aditya Birla Group and the right profile of long-term investors we will bring in, we are confident of powering the growth of several brands that shape the next phase of digital commerce growth till 2030 and beyond. With a new age Digital first DNA, at TMRW, we will jointly create an ecosystem of the most-loved disruptor brands partnering closely with highly competent founders."

The shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of

Two-Wheeler Total two-wheeler sales grew from 154,416 units in May 2021 to 287,058 units in May 2022. Domestic two-wheeler sales grew from 52,084 units in May 2021 to 191,482 units in May 2022.

Motorcycle sales grew from 125,188 units in May 2021 to 148,560 units in May 2022. Scooter sales of the Company grew from 19,627 units in May 2021 to 100,665 units in May 2022.

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Three-wheeler of the Company grew by 28% from 12,473 units in May 2021 to 15,924 units in May 2022.

The domestic two-wheeler sales include TVS iQube Electric sales of 2,637 units in May 2022.

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Hosur: TVS Motor Company sales was at 302,982 units in May 2022. The year-on-year growth is not comparable due to the low base of sales in May 2021 because of the localised lockdown imposed by the Government of India during that period.

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Motorcycle sales grew from 125,188 units in May 2021 to 148,560 units in May 2022. Scooter sales of the Company grew from 19,627 units in May 2021 to 100,665 units in May 2022.

The shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of

Three-wheeler of the Company grew by 28% from 12,473 units in May 2021 to 15,924 units in May 2022.

The domestic two-wheeler sales include TVS iQube Electric sales of 2,637 units in May 2022.

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ECB announces launch of independent Cricket Regulator

New Delhi: The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced the launch of Cricket Regulator, an independent body which will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the game's regulations, enforcement of adherence to those regulations and providing relevant information and education. An independent cricket regulatory board will oversee the Cricket Regulator and will be ring-fenced from the rest of the ECB, the board announced.

The Cricket Regulator will be responsible for different areas of work that had previously been in ECB's remit, including safeguarding, integrity (anti-corruption, misconduct, anti-Doping) and anti-discrimination.

The formation of the Cricket Regulator was recommended in the report published by the Independent Commission for Equity



in Cricket (ICEC). "The launch of the Cricket Regulator seeks to bring further independence to the regulatory processes within cricket, to give greater assurance around the separation between this area and the remainder of the ECB," the ECB stated. Effective immediately, the Cricket Regulator will handle investigations when a case is reported and will decide if there is enough evidence to present it to the Cricket Discipline

Commission. As per the ECB's response to the ICEC report, the Cricket Discipline Commission will be repurposed as the Cricket Discipline Panel in 2024. Dave Lewis will take charge as the interim director of the Cricket Regulator. Lewis is a former police chief with 30 years of experience as a police officer, with a wide variety of roles including Senior Investigating Officer, Head of Criminal Justice, Head of Local

Policing, and Regional ACC leading serious organised crime and counter-terrorism policing in the South-West. Lewis has been tasked with setting up the Cricket Regulator and a permanent successor will be appointed in 2024 in an open recruitment process. Lewis will report to Nic Coward who is the chair of the Cricket Regulatory Board. "It is important that the game has the best processes in place in

order to enforce regulations. The ICEC Report recommended that we introduce further independence to the game's regulatory process and the Cricket Regulator overseen by an independent Cricket Regulatory Board will do that," said ECB Chief Executive Officer Richard Gould. "The Cricket Regulator is ring-fenced from the ECB, and that separation will ensure that their work is distinct from our work as the game's promoter."

Dave Lewis, the Cricket Regulator's interim director, added: "The Cricket Regulator will cover a wide range of matters on which the game has set clear standards, including anti-discrimination. The team and I are clear about the importance of meeting high standards in ensuring people across the game know what is expected of them, and having the best procedures in place, to protect and promote the good of the game, and everyone involved."

The deal with the streaming giant approximately two weeks after Pat Cummins' team lifted the World Cup in Ahmedabad on November 19. With this agreement, Australians can access their country's defense of the World Cup only digitally, as opposed to traditional linear channels, during the tournament in South Africa next month), and the solitary World Test Championship match (Final). The deal runs for four years, till 2027, and the first major event of the rights package is Twenty20 World Cup in June 2024, in the Caribbean and the US. The Age first reported this development on Monday morning.

Given the long broadcast history for cricket in Australia, a traditional television sports outlet like Channel 9, Fox or even Seven have not managed to bag the rights. Fox and Seven jointly hold the Cricket Australia rights. Given that there is no Australian law compelling broadcasters to share content in the public interest with any free-to-air channels, Amazon Prime is not obligated to distribute the matches to any national channels. Consequently, the public will need a subscription to watch these global games.

Maia Boucher, Danielle Gibson earn maiden central contracts

New Delhi: The England Women Central Contracts for the 2023/24 season have been announced by the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board). The one-year contracts have been awarded to a total of eighteen players.

Maia Boucher and Danielle Gibson have earned central contracts for the first time, whereas bowlers Mahika Gaur and Lauren Filer and wicketkeeper-batter Bess Heath have been awarded development contracts - which are awarded to back the players that the board think will play an important roles in the future of women's cricket in the country.

The aforementioned contracts last until October 31, 2024. The contracts have several new clauses to aid players, such as remuneration advancements including enhanced family provision entitlement, a bonus structure that rewards success against higher ranked oppositions, increases to the value of retainers and pay parity with England's men's team.

England Women Central Contract List: Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Maia Boucher, Alice Capsey, Kate Cross,



Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Tash Farrant, Danielle Gibson, Sarah Glenn, Amy Jones, Freya Kemp, Heather Knight, Emma Lamb, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Issy Wong, Danni Wyatt

England Women development contract list: Bess Heath, Lauren Filer, Mahika Gaur

"The Central Contracts are awarded to the players we feel will play a significant role over the next 12 months and beyond," said Jonathan Finch, Director of England Women's Cricket. "We are at the start of an unprecedented busy period of international cricket and the group reflects the requirements of the multi-format schedule we face."

"Maia Boucher and

Danielle Gibson have been part of our group over the summer, have performed well and will be important players for England moving forward. The introduction of development contracts is a key step for us and allows us to support a wider group of players in their ongoing development and workloads. "After a record-breaking Ashes summer, we have a really exciting 12 months of cricket ahead and we feel this group of players will form the foundations of our side that will take us through various bilateral series, and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup."

Old Video Of MS Dhoni's Fangirl Hugging And Kissing Him Goes Viral

New Delhi: MS Dhoni had long locks. He was only 24 and just starting out in international cricket. He was not even the captain back then but a youngster trying to make his place in the Indian cricket team's dressing room. The knock of 148 runs vs Pakistan and 183 vs Sri Lanka had immensely helped him retain his

place in the team. Dhoni, off the field, was also making place in the hearts of many fans of Indian cricket, including women. Before he got married in 2010 with the love of his life Sakshi Sinh Rawat, Dhoni was the most popular bachelor of the Indian cricket team. He was a favourite among his female fans. A video

'Bangladesh gave us a blueprint' - Ish Sodhi

New Delhi: New Zealand are well aware of what to expect in the series deciding second Test against Bangladesh at the Shere Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka, beginning on December 6.

Bangladesh are leading 1-0 in the series, which is part of ICC Test Championship, after defeating the tourists by 150 runs at Sylhet.

Compared to Sylhet, the wickets in Dhaka tend to favour the spin bowlers more. Their decision to rest most of the pacers in the nets at the BCB Academy premises and bowling more spin at their batters, including a few part-timers indicates they know what to expect. According to Ish Sodhi, they have got the blueprint to be successful in this part of the world following their defeat in the opening Test.

"Yeah, obviously tough to come out on the losing

side in that first game in Sylhet but I think as the Test sort of progressed we sort of found a bit more rhythm," Sodhi said following their first practice session in Dhaka.

"I think the way that Bangladesh played, they certainly outplayed us, but upon reflection, I think they gave us a blueprint on what's successful in these conditions, and hopefully we can apply that to this next Test match."

The presence of experienced players in the group will help New Zealand recover from that loss in the first Test, according to the leg spinner. "You know, off the back of a loss, but with the experienced heads here, you know, we've been there, we've done that, we know how to sort of apply ourselves into the next



games, and hopefully that's something that we can commit to really well and, yeah, apply to this next game," he added. Sodhi also expects a bigger crowd for this game especially with the home side on the cusp of a famous series win. "Yeah, I suppose there's a bigger population at Dhaka, and certainly

coming on the bus, you can see it's a lot more of a congested city, so certainly expecting a few more people to come to this ground, and it does get really rowdy.

They get behind their team massively," said Sodhi.

"It's a huge sport in this country. It's met with a lot of passion, so hopefully we get a bit of a taste of that in this Test match, and it's always exciting, especially in Test cricket, when you do get big crowds, because you get used to it in white ball cricket, but in red ball cricket, it's extra exciting."

Sodhi is hopeful of returning home on a positive note having spent a lot of time away from the family. New Zealand played in Bangladesh by the end of September before arriving in India for the World Cup, post which they returned to Bangladesh for the ongoing series. "Yeah, it'll be nice to finish strong," he admitted. "You know, like you say, it's been a really, really long time away, and, you know, it's been a really successful last six or so months for the team, but it can come with a lot of emotions. "Roller coasters of, like,