



Devotees carrying earthen pots filled with holy water on head marching towards the Yagyan Mandap of the newly built Maa Tarini temple Consecration ceremony of Belasundari village of Keonjhar district

## Sri Lanka to import 300,000 tonnes of rice from India to counter price rise: report

COLOMBO(KCN): Sri Lanka has decided to import 400,000 metric tonnes of rice from India and Myanmar in a bid to

the consumers who are continuously forced to buy rice at higher prices in the market due to cartel tactics by several large rice millers, the report said.



stabilise the price of rice in the local market, the official media on Tuesday quoted a senior official as saying. "Moves are underway by the Trade Ministry to import 300,000 metric tonnes of rice from India and 100,000 metric tonnes from Myanmar until May," Trade Ministry's Additional Secretary Gilma Dahanayake told state-run Daily News newspaper. The ministry made this decision to help

The rice supplies will be imported in tranches of 20,000 metric tonnes. They will be released to the market on a regular basis, the report said as the island nation faced a severe forex crisis.

In Sri Lanka, one person eats 104.5 kilograms of rice each year. The national rice demand is estimated to be 2.1 million tonnes, the report said. "Four million metric tonnes of paddy are required to meet this need. A tonne of rice shipped is expected to cost USD 445 million. The Central Bank has been requested by the Trade Ministry to issue foreign exchange to meet the requirement of envisioned rice import," the report said.

## Ahead of panchayat polls, BJP rakes up Mamita murder issue again

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): With panchayat elections round the corner, the BJP on

score political points. BJP workers including women marched towards the

government for its failure in arresting key suspects of the case including Minis-

lice near Sishu Bhawan chhak when they tried to break the barricade and head towards Naveen Nivas to gherao the Chief Minister. Tension prevailed at the spot for some time and a woman activist fainted during the demonstration. She was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital by the police. Coming down heavily on the State government for shielding the Minister and a few other high profile persons who were frequenting the



Tuesday raked up the Mamita Meher murder case by taking out rallies and staging demonstrations across the State to

Chief Minister's residence Naveen Nivas from Raj Mahal square to protest on the issue. They raised slogans against the

ter Dibya Shankar Mishra, a close associate of prime accused Gobinda Sahu. The party workers scuffled with the po-

## 'Lion, deer cannot drink same water': BJP, Congress on five MLAs joining ruling alliance

SHILLONG(KCN): "How can a lion and a deer drink from the same water source at the same time?" wondered Meghalaya BJP chief Ernest Mawrie. "How can the MLAs decide on such a sensitive matter without consulting the MPCC or the party high command in



Delhi?" questioned state Congress general secretary Deborah Marak. A day after all five Congress MLAs in the state joined the BJP-backed ruling Meghalaya

Democratic Alliance (MDA), which brought the two arch foes together in a ruling coalition anywhere in the country, their state leaders are a befuddled and angry lot.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's TMC alone now occupies the entire opposition space in the state assembly. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, however, said the decision by all the five Congress MLAs to join the ruling MDA will not affect the ties between his National People's Party (NPP), which leads the coalition and the government, and its allies including the BJP. "How can a lion and a deer drink from the same water source at the same time? Never heard, right? The BJP and the Congress are complete opposites in ideology and functioning, and on this we will be meeting Chief Minister Conrad Sangma soon to seek clarification," Ernest Mawrie".



## Shiju H Pallithazheth graces the book by Griffins Publication

Chennai (KCN): Griffin Publication, a leading international publishing house launched the book "The 10X wheel of life " in the glorious presence of the chief guest, international best selling author of "Katashi Tales" and Motivational Strips founder Shiju H Pallithazheth. Dr. Raja Rajeswari Seetha Raman , the Sr.advisor for Malay Literature and Translation in Motivational Strips was the guest of honour invited from Malaysia.

Griffin publications, one of the best publishers in India , launched the maiden book of sri. Gurushrinvas G , an upcoming author and entrepreneur from Madurai, India. In the virtual book launch sponsored by popular news portal 'News Now nation', had invited poets and writers of international repute.

Shiju H Pallithazheth, the founder of the world's most active writers forum, Motivational Strips spoke about the relevance of motivation as a necessity in life. He highlighted that one should grab any source with greed when it comes with motivational aspects. He said at many times one succumbs to negative vibes but it's only when one learns it's as a source to understand life and world better, that one can find a easy solution. The guest of honour Dr Raja Rajeswari Seetha Raman highlighted on the strength of the book "10 X Wheel of Life" while both the dignitaries congratulated the author Gurushrinivas G, a budding corporate professional from the state of Tamil Nadu in india. The managing director of Griffin Publication Mousumi Kalita Sachdeva welcomed the guests and said that the 10 X Wheel Of life is one of the most

promising project for the publishing house understanding the demands for motivational vibes during the lukewarm pandemic era. She also thanked the large mass of readers who



have always welcomed projects of Griffin Publications.

The event proceeded with Author Gurushrinivas highlighting his experience of collective vital inputs for the book from the senior citizens who resided in an old age home run by his mother. He said that the book was a result of the analysis done after interviewing the senior citizens.

The book launch was notable with the presence of popular dignitaries from Motivational Strips such as its Media Spokesperson Sreekala P Vijayan, Regional Director Mary Lynn Luiz and Chief Administrator for United States and Canada Melissa Begley.

## Naveen Patnaik govt best example of cooperative federalism, says PM Modi

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Notwithstanding differences between the BJP and BJD over several political issues, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday praised Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik for being on the forefront of reforms in all sectors undertaken by the Centre.

In his reply to the motion of thanks on President's address in Rajya Sabha, Modi said, "I congratulate Odisha Chief Minister for



working shoulder to shoulder with the Centre in implementing all reforms in the mining and coal sectors."

Citing best examples of cooperative federalism, the Prime Minister said, "There was a time when our natural resources were used to fill up the treasury of some people in the country. We have seen those days and the issue was part of a larger debate too. With reforms brought by the BJP in coal and mines, now the natural resources are boosting the

economy of states."

He said that the BJP government in 2000 had initiated mining reforms and mines were auctioned in a transparent manner. "The reforms in the mining sector have led to significant increase in revenue from Rs 14,000 crore to Rs 35,000 crore and whatever revenue was generated from auction went directly to the states," he added.

Other benefits of the reforms include transfer of valid licence without any charge, sale of 50 per cent annual output minerals in the open market and 50 per cent rebate on early operationalisation of mines. "This is cooperative federalism and Odisha is the first State to have introduced the reforms. Therefore, I congratulate the Odisha Chief Minister for his government working shoulder to shoulder with the Centre," the Prime Minister said.

In 2019, Modi had also lauded Naveen and his government for the disaster mitigation efforts during cyclone Fani. Naveen was also the only Opposition Chief Minister who had extended full support to the idea of 'One Nation, One Election' saying that frequent polls affect the pace of development and also rock the spirit of cooperative federalism.

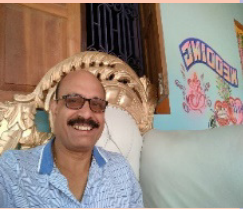
The BJD has been supporting the Narendra Modi government on all important issues starting from presidential poll and GST bill in 2017 to Triple Talaq bill in 2019 for which it has often been accused by the Congress of having a tacit alliance with the BJP.



Aspects of Love

RK Biswal

Between brother & sister  
Its share affection  
Laughing and teasing



For parents it  
In its purest form  
Demands devotion and respect  
And it is very worm

With friends and mates  
Its unselfish sharing  
The ups and downs of life  
And mutual caring

With teacher it is  
Based on trust  
While obedience and good  
Manners is a must


Between man & woman  
It's a magical thing  
Giving meaning to life  
OH, love lights everything.

ROURKELA-769015

Tribute to Latamangesh Kar

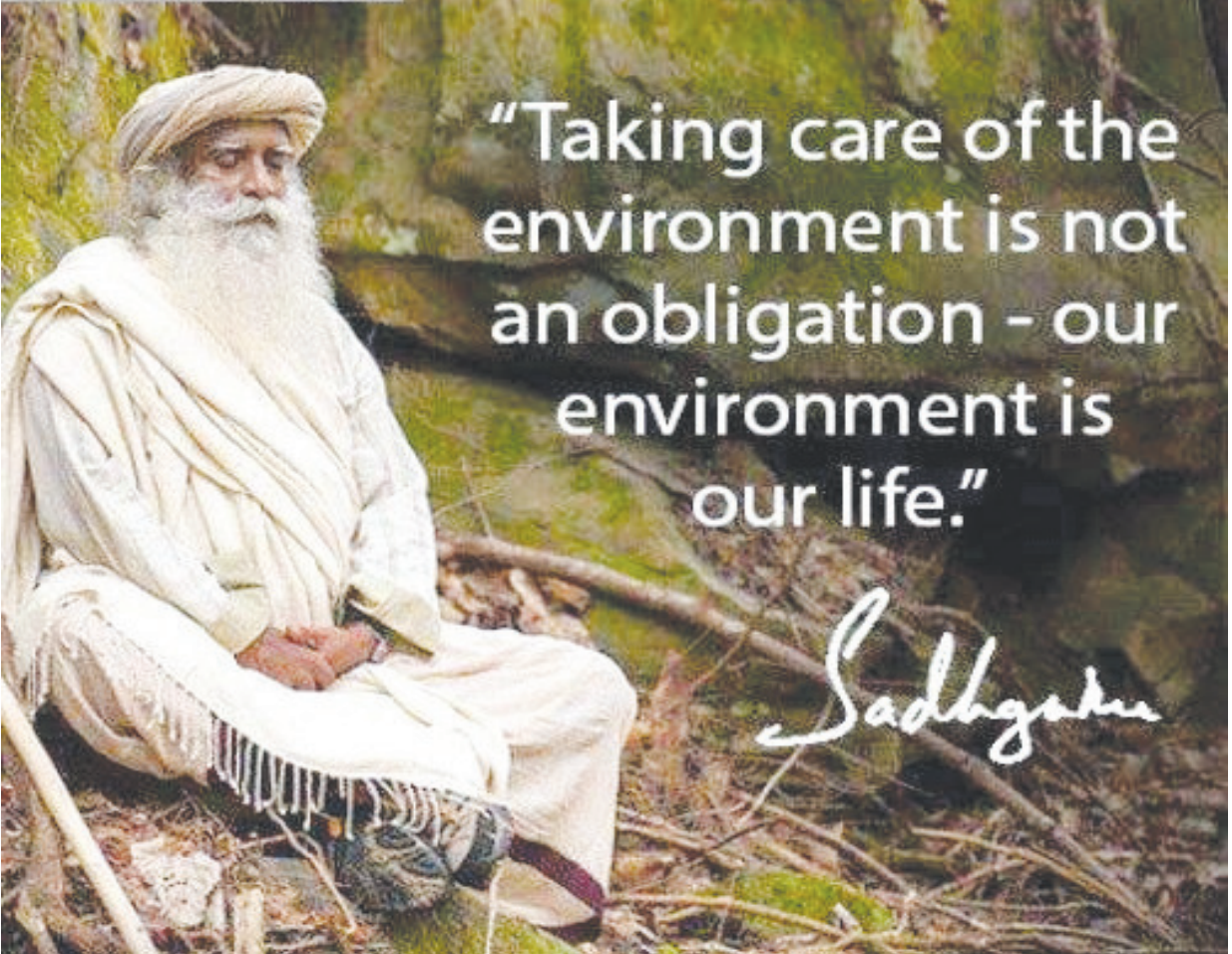
Uma Shankar Prasad

O,MY Melody Queen!  
I hear thy song eternal and sleep  
Peacefully in the lap of your music (I)  
You are the Precious Gifts from Heaven  
Your tone and Music is the inseparable  
Accompaniments of human life ( II )  
You came as the incarnation of Mother  
SARASWATI to the world, The Nightingale  
And melody queen of the world, only  
For singing of sweetness of love ( III )  
Your Divine music can touch to every human  
ears  
Against wars and terror, death and disaster  
Your voice will be Panacea ( IV )  
Your entire life from birth to death  
Dedicated to music  
My love and regard flows towards you  
And pray Almighty, Give your  
Soul SALVATION ( V )



Poet and Columnist, Khorda

BhaktiSansar.com



“Taking care of the  
environment is not  
an obligation - our  
environment is  
our life.”

Sadhguru

# How art and culture can help us rethink time

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) Olafur Eliasson placed melting iceberg pieces in front of the Tate Modern in London (Credit: Getty Images) 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

mentation. 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

Ella Saltmarsh and Beatrice Pembroke

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. Art and culture can remind us that radical change has happened in the past. It can both inspire us as to the scale of previous change and it can remind us of the values and behaviours needed to make change happen. For example, drama that retells previous movements of change like gay rights (Milk), civil rights (12 Years a Slave), or women’s rights (Suffragette) can make us feel more courageous, willing to put more on the line and take action. It can feel like the world we live in is the only option. Art and culture can expose us to a multiplicity of possible futures Art can also help us challenge the status quo. Cultural theorist Mark Fisher wrote of art’s

leges. 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) Olafur Eliasson’s the Weather Project in the Tate Modern prompted meetings, celebrations, relaxation, noisy acts of protest, and silent contemplation (Credit: Getty Images) 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 solu-



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’

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



research. In an immersive “factory of the future” they grappled with their role in the shape of the future through storytelling and experi-

level rise (Credit: Pekka Niittyvirta and Timo Aho) It’s likely that acting in the interests of the long



role in challenging “the monopolisation of possible realities”. It can feel like the world we live in is the only option. Art and culture can expose us to a multiplicity of possible futures. 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 privi-

tions, 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. (Concluded)



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'Shakeela' trailer falls flat, lacks the punch expected in a star biopic



The trailer of Indrajit Lankesh's Hindi language film "Shakeela" doesn't hold much to impress. From using modern-day Hindi music to cliched film sets, it feels like a repackaging of Vidya Balan's 'Dirty Picture' except that this version fails to bring the charm Vidya brought to the

screen. The film, as described by the filmmakers of 'Shakeela', is "inspired by life events of a famous star Shakeela who predominantly starred in southern cinema." It features Richa Chadha as the titular adult actor who was one of the biggest stars of the 1990s ar-

iving from Kerala who went on to act in several adult films in languages spanning Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada, while Pankaj Tripathi is the male lead. The film is described to "portray the hardships of the actress as she had to face a lot of criticism, insults and betrayals from

her own family members and the film fraternity who were influential in getting her films banned." The main reason for the success of 'Kinnarathumbikal', one of the films that catapulted her into the limelight, was solely her screen presence and energy, and with no other male lead in the

movie. Trying to fill in the gaping hole left by Silk Smitha in the low-budget softcore industry, Shakeela made her own mark with around 250 movies in her kitty -- heralding the 'Shakeela Tharangam' (The wave of Shakeela). Meanwhile, the Shakeela that

Indrajith is trying to portray doesn't look like she has much story to tell. The screen-space also seems to be overpowered by star cast Pankaj Tripathi. Let's hope the full length movie holds more than what the trailer showed. The film is produced by Sammy Nanwani and Sahil Nanwani, with music by Meet Bros and Veer Samarth.

Priyanka Chopra reveals husband Nick Jonas likes her 'natural' looks, calls him 'appreciator'

WASHINGTON(KCN): Nick Jonas has

Chopra. The actor re-

2019 and revealed how her husband is

natural or a more glamorous look.

"there are days when he likes a really natu-

went all out for the event, wearing a sheer black top with a pussycat bow, a white blazer paired with a matching pair of pants. Adding a pop of colour to the whole look, she opted for striking pink eye makeup with a matching bold lip colour.

Earlier this month, Priyanka joined her fellow J sisters Sophie Turner and Danielle Jonas in celebrating the first night of their husbands' 'Happiness Begins' tour. All three women rocked Jonas Brothers T-shirts.

The actor shared that it was "really cool" that they all decided on coordinating their outfits since they "have such distinct personalities."

ral thing."

The 'Mary Kom' actor added, "He's an appreciator. He's someone who can appreciate both things."

In honour of Beautycon, Priyanka

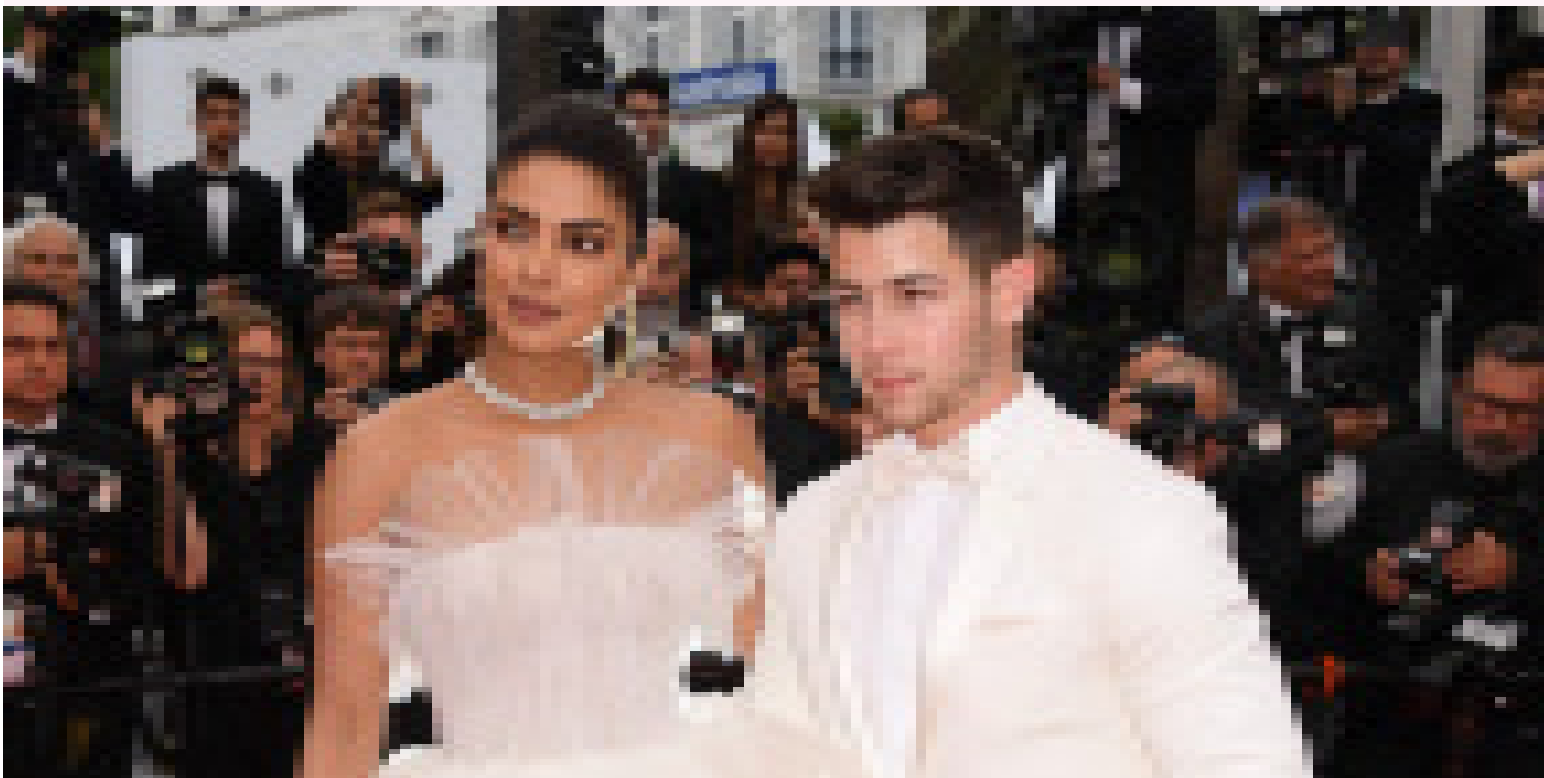
Just 'normal' to exclude women in decision making process: Adil Hussain

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.



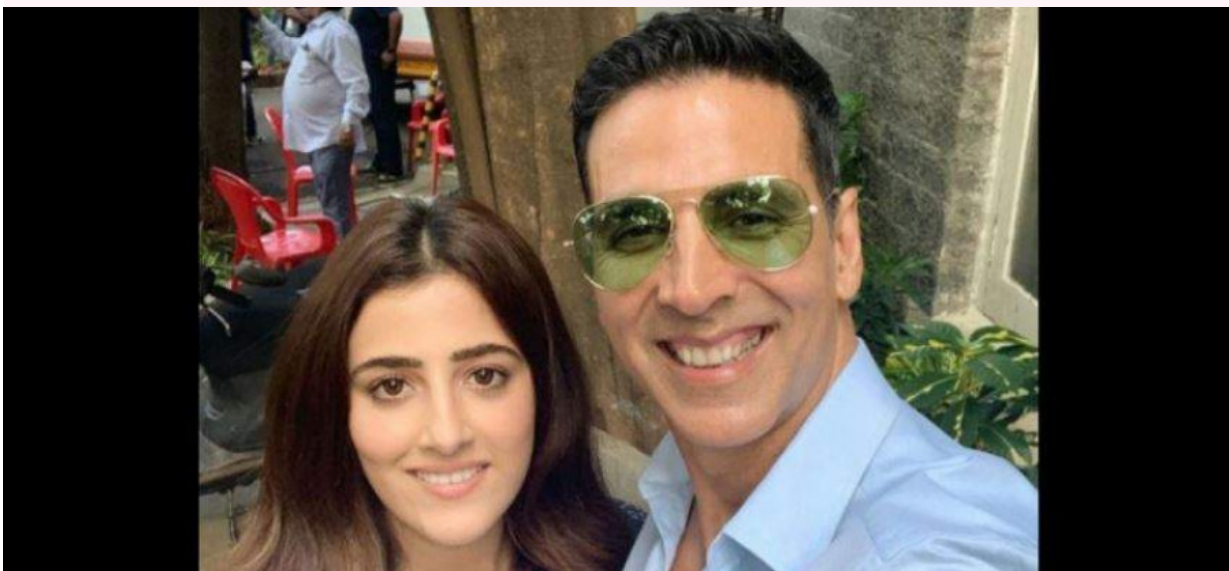
nothing but love and admiration for his wife Priyanka

cently spoke to People at Beautycon Festival Los Angeles

full of admiration for her whether she decides to go for a more

"He likes a bit of both," the 'Quantico' star, said, adding that

Akshay Kumar shoots with Kriti Sanon's sister Nupur for music video



MUMBAI(KCN): Actor Akshay Kumar on Sunday shot for singer B Praaks new single with actress Kriti Sanon's younger sister Nupur.

It is reported that the romantic song is

written by Jaani. B Praak has previously lent his voice to the song "Teri Mitti" in Akshay's film "Kesari".

ALSO READ: Akshay Kumar has a namesake actor in

London!

The song will also feature renowned Punjabi singer Ammy Virk.

A lot of pictures are doing the rounds on the internet in which Akshay is seen

posing with Nupur and Ammy at the St. Xavier's college in Mumbai.

On the work front, Akshay will be seen in "Housefull 4" and "Good Newwz" this year.



# Why can't Ansari become APJ Kalam ?

While residing inside his grand majestic bungalow of Lutyens' Delhi, Mohammad Hamid Ansari has again commenced saying that the Muslims of



India are feeling insecure. In a seminar of the American Muslim Council, he reiterated what he is saying today. He said that Muslims of India have felt insecure since 2014. In a country where everyone has complete freedom of speech, one is free to say anything. However, one cannot help but wonder if he would say such things if he had become the President after the Vice-President? This question in itself may seem a bit hypothetical to some. But, this is a question of grave significance. The nation is curious to know that after Ansari Sahib himself rose as the spokesperson of Muslims overnight, has he planned to travel from village to village to spread the light of education among Muslims? The country also expects him to call upon the Muslims to present their side to the government regarding employment and better health facilities in a democratic manner. As he has never worked among the poor-Guruba Muslims or actively taken initiatives to help his brethren, there is a lingering uncertainty regarding how many Muslims will heed his advice. As an officer of the Indian Foreign Service, he lived abroad for decades. The same was also the case for other ambassadors of India in many countries. Even when they stayed in India, they enjoyed exclusive government facilities and lived a comfortable life. After being relieved from the post of Vice President, Mohammed Hamid started living in an extravagant government-allotted bungalow in the heart of New Delhi's elite area. In

addition, they also enjoy several government facilities and top-notch security. Even though they do not miss any opportunity to berate the current central government, directly and indirectly, they do not have any shame in taking

R.K.Sinha



government privileges provided by them. They are coming across as convenient revolutionaries. It would be meaningless to expect any kind of sacrifice from them. Ansari Sahib was the Vice President. When I was a member of the Rajya Sabha, he was also the honorable Chairman, so he should also be asked why he represents the interests of Muslims alone. Why hasn't he expressed any concern about the Dalits, Backwards, and Adivasis or any such person standing in the last line of the society? Why does he want to be like Asaduddin Owaisi, Azam Khan, or Farooq Abdullah? Why does he not stand up for everyone? He only seems to care about Muslims. Has Ansari Sahib ever raised his voice against the rampant corruption in the Waqf boards? He could have done all this as the Vice President of India but remained silent. He was also silent on the dreadful practice of triple talaq among Muslims and never spoke in favor of Pasmanda Muslims. Everyone knows that Muslims are divided into Ashraf, Ajlaf, and Arzal categories. Shaikhs, Syeds, Mughals, and Pathans are called Ashrafs. Ashraf are those

Muslims of Afghan-Arab origin or those who converted from the forward castes of Hindus. Altaf is a class of Muslims that converted from professional castes. The third class consists of those Muslims with whom the rest of the

Muslims do not consider their own. They are called Pasmanda Muslims. In theory, there is a practice of casteism in Islam as it challenges the leprosy of caste. Despite this, in practice, the entire Muslim society is trapped in the quagmire of caste. Among Muslims, different castes have their separate graveyards. Non-Punjabi Muslims are prohibited from entering the cemetery of Punjabi Muslims in Delhi. Shias and Sunnis have their separate graveyards. Why does Ansari sahib not raise his voice against such discrimination? For how long will he avoid answering such questions? The nation as one demands answers. Ansari Sahib represents those Muslims of India who lived their lives in comfort and luxury. They only talk about rights but start sweating bullets when reminded of their duties. As Mohammed Hamid hails from the same affluent Muslim noble family as the infamous Mukhtar Ansari in Ghazipur one can understand his magnitude of wealth and prosperity. He never bothered to increase the income levels of small farmers of Darbhanga, of a punctured person in Delhi, or of Muslims working in a mosque in Bihar Sharif. Ansari

Sahib and Salman Khurshid can wear their sherwani and participate in any seminar at the India International Center. Ansari and Salman Khurshid are two sides of the same coin. One must remember that Salman Khurshid also recently compared Hindutva with terrorist organizations ISIS and Boko Haram. While addressing a Congress rally in Azamgarh Uttar Pradesh on February 10, 2012, Salman Khurshid said, "When I showed the pictures of Batla House encounter to Sonia Gandhi, her eyes started watering and asked me to consult the then Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. He had made a mockery of the martyrdom of a brave police officer like Mohan Chandra Sharma, who had sacrificed his life fighting the enemy. Like Ansari, Salman Khurshid also never bothered to raise the issues of Pasmanda Muslims. The country gave everything to these people, but they remained displeased. Ansari sahib should self-reflect and question himself what he has given to this country. Maybe then he will feel a little ashamed of what he has done. He needs to realize that when the entire country respects Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam as its hero, why would no one give him even a speck of the same. India needs more heroes like Kalam Sahib. Leaders like Ansari and Salman Khurshid will come and go in hundreds and be forgotten. History will erase such selfish, mean, and cowardly people from existence.

(The writer is a senior editor, columnist, and former MP)

# Home Remedies for Thick Eyebrows

The eyebrows play an important role in determining the look of both the eyes and the face. In fact, they frame the eyes, so keeping them well groomed is as important as eye make-up. Keep the shape as natural as possible. Sometimes, one has sparse or thin eyebrows due to hereditary factors, or it may be due to protein deficiency. So have adequate protein in your diet and include a small bowl of sprouts daily. They contain amino acid and help growth of brows. The current trend in eyebrows is the natural looking, thicker eyebrows. The classic curved eyebrows are also popular. For a young teenager, the eyebrows should be natural, without too much shaping or very high arches. If the arches are rounded, it helps to bring balance to sharp features and an angular face shape. For a mature woman, the outer corner of the brows may be lifted, i.e. the end of the brows should curve slightly upwards. It gives a lift to the face too. While plucking eyebrows to shape them, one should be careful. Tidy the brows regularly by brushing them into shape. You will need one of those tiny eyebrow brushes. Pluck out stray hairs between the brows and along the

bottom of the brows. Never pluck hair from above the eyebrows. If you have very thin or sparse eyebrows, it may become a problem and you may wonder how to encourage the growth of eyebrows. It is said that if you daily apply a little castor oil with a cotton bud on the eyebrows, they may become thicker. But, it may take time. Applying coconut oil is also said to help. You can apply it on the brows and leave it on all night. Curry leaves are also said to help. Keep curry leaves in hot water and leave it to cool. Then make a paste of the curry leaves and apply on the eyebrows.

Shahnaz Husain



from the aloe vera growing in your house. The gel obtained from the plant itself is the leaf pulp and is found in the inner portion of the leaves. First wash the leaf well and observe total hygiene while extracting the gel. Some herbal products for enhancing eye glamour, like helping the growth of eyelashes or eyebrows are also in market. They are clinically tested and contain plant extracts, like trifala, brahmi, sophora, soya oil, wheat protein, methi seeds and Vitamin E. It not only defines natural looking brows, but also repairs sparse eyebrows and intensifies growth. Ideal for

grooming the eyebrows, the formulation increases density and restores growth. To determine the shape of the eyebrows, sit in front of the mirror and hold a pencil against your nose, going straight up, just above the inner corner of your eye. Where the pencil touches, is where your eyebrow should begin. Then hold the pencil diagonally from the base of the nose towards the outer corner of the eyes, going just past it. This is the point where it should end. The highest point of the brows should be just above the iris. While your brows are growing, you can also redefine your brows using an eyebrow pencil. First brush the brows into shape and then make short feathery strokes with the eyebrow pencil. The point of the pencil should be sharp, so that you can make light strokes. Avoid harsh black lines. Follow the direction of hair growth while making the short feathery strokes. Brush the eyebrows again afterwards. The current trend in eyebrows is the natural looking, thicker eyebrows. Eyebrows with high arches, with medium to thick shape are still ruling fashion trends. The classic curved eyebrows are also popular.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India



# 'Can't call him gentleman': Sule slams Karnataka BJP MLA's remark as Hijab row reaches Parliament

NEW DELHI: NCP leader Supriya Sule on Wednesday termed as "shameful" a Karnataka BJP

Later realising that his remarks would stir controversy, the political secretary to the chief minister said

Karnataka, I would ask her for justice. I hope she would intervene. Whoever that MLA is. This must be

and colleges must be followed.

"If anyone wants to wear a hijab, we have no objection to it, but



MLA's remarks that rape cases are increasing as some dresses worn by women 'excite' men, as she accused the saffron party of moral and thought "policing". Raising the issue while participating in the debate on the general budget 2022-23, Sule said the remarks by M P Renukacharya need to be condemned by the House. Amid the ongoing hijab row, the BJP MLA claimed that rape cases are increasing as some dresses worn by women 'excite' men, as he tried to make his case for girl students in colleges to either wear uniform or dress that fully cover their body.

that he would apologise to women, if his statement has hurt them. Raising the issue, Sule said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is a very dignified lady and they both have daughters that they are proud of. "There is a gentleman. Can't call him gentleman. An MLA of BJP from Karnataka has said rapes are increasing because of women's clothing. If hijab is worn, BJP has a problem, if one wears other clothes, they have a problem. They will do moral policing as well as thought policing," the Nationalist Congress Party leader said. "Because the minister is elected from

condemned, everyone has a wife and children in their houses. We should not tolerate this and unanimously the House must condemn it," she said. "If any man says women get raped because of their clothes, it is shameful, it is condemnable," Sule said. Complimenting the finance minister on the saree she wore while presenting the budget, Sule said "we don't judge each other on clothing". Meanwhile, amid the ongoing row over wearing hijab by some students in Karnataka, Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij on Wednesday said there is no objection to the headscarf, but the prevailing dress code in schools

if they want to go to school and college (wearing hijab) then they will have to follow the dress code prevalent in those institutions," Vij, a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, said. "And if one does not follow that (the dress code) then they can stay back home, no problem," he added. Protests for and against the hijab had intensified in parts of Karnataka and even turned violent at some places on Tuesday after the state government last week issued an order making uniforms prescribed by it or management of private institutions mandatory for its students in schools and pre-university colleges.

# Iran unveils new missile with reported region-wide range

TEHRAN: Iran unveiled a new missile. It is called Qadr-2, which has been independently verified. It does not seek



veiled a new missile on Wednesday with a reported range that would allow it to reach both U.S. bases in the region as well as targets inside its archfoe Israel. State TV reported that the missile has solid fuel and a range of 1,450 kilometers, or 900 miles. It is called Qadr-2, which has been independently verified. Israel's closest point to Iran is some 1,000 kilometers, or 620 miles, away. The report comes as negotiations continue in Vienna to revive Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers. Iran, which has long said

nuclear weapons, insists its missile program is only a deterrent. Iran has missiles that can travel up to 2,000 kilometers, 1250 miles. Earlier in January Iran tested an engine for a solid-fuel rocket designed to launch satellites.

# Advisory for Indian citizens in Canada issued in the wake of the truckers' strike

NEW DELHI: After the Mayor of Ottawa declared a state of emergency following

place such as downtown Ottawa, parts of Toronto and Vancouver, which are

assistance to citizens in need.

ALSO READ | Canada PM Justin Trudeau,



weeklong protests by truck drivers over Covid-19 restrictions, an advisory has been issued for Indians living in Canada and for those intending to travel to the country. The advisory says there is a need to exercise a high degree of caution and remain alert. People have been advised to avoid areas where demonstrations and large gatherings are taking

facing road blockages, demonstrations. The 'freedom truck convoy' began as a movement against a national vaccine requirement for truckers crossing the border from the US. There have been allegations that US groups are supporting this movement. The Indian High Commission in Ottawa has set up an emergency helpline number for providing

Trudeau, family shifted to secret location amid flaring COVID vaccine protests. "Indian citizens in Canada are also encouraged to register with the High Commission in Ottawa or the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver or over a portal called Madad. They have been advised to reach out in case of an emergency," the advisory

who is under isolation due to Covid, tweeted, "Canadian have their right to protest, to disagree with the government and to make their voices heard. We will always protect that right. But let us be clear. They don't have the right to blockade our economy, our democracy or our fellow citizens' daily lives. It has to stop."

# Possibility of new COVID-19 variants really high, warns WHO

GENEVA: Describing the new COVID-19 variants as the "wild card", a top World Health Organisation official has warned that the Omicron will not be the last one and the possibility of other new variants is really high. During a question and answer session live-streamed on WHO's social media platforms on Tuesday, the WHO COVID-19 Techni-

ant of concern on November 26, 2021, several lineages have been identified. These include Pango lineages BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2 and BA.3, which are all being monitored by WHO under the umbrella of 'Omicron'. "BA.2 is more transmissible than BA.1 so we expect to see BA.2 increasing in detection around the world," Van Kerkhove said.



cal Lead Maria Van Kerkhove said that the global health agency is tracking four different versions of Omicron. "We know a lot about this virus, but we don't know everything. And quite frankly, the variants are the wild card. So we are tracking this virus in real-time as it mutates as it changes.... But this virus has a lot of room to move," she said. "Omicron is the latest variant of concern. It will not be the last variant of concern that WHO will speak about. The next one, you know, that will come hopefully, it will take some time to get there. But with the level of intensity of spread, the possibility that we will have other variants is really high," she said. "So we need to ensure that we again, not only increase vaccination coverage, but we also take measures to reduce the spread," she added. Since the designation of B.1.1.529 as a vari-

According to the UN health agency's weekly epidemiological report, released on Tuesday, the Omicron variant is increasingly dominant - making up nearly 97 per cent of all cases. "The prevalence of the Omicron variant has increased globally and is now detected in almost all countries. However, many of the countries which reported an early rise in the number of cases due to the Omicron variant have now reported a decline in the total number of new cases since the beginning of January 2022," it said. Globally, during the week of January 31 to February 6, the number of new COVID-19 cases decreased by 17 per cent as compared to the number reported during the previous week, while the number of new deaths increased by 7 per cent. As of February 6, over 392 million confirmed cases and over 5.7 million deaths have been reported globally.



# Election battle between two leadership of one party in Joda block

Barbil (KCN): People alleged that there would be an election battle between BJD vs BJD in Joda block in the district of Keonjharduring current Panchayat election. A mine-rich, industrially prosperous region has always been a matter of discussion during election. Those

candidate of their choice, while Menakshi Mahant, the present Champua MLA has candidates of different choice. This clearly finger out the opinion difference among leaders in the party. It is learnt that in the B h u y a n R o i d a panchayat, Mannath Oram is fighting in the elections with the

panchayat, Dhru-bacharan Naik is contesting the election with support of Kush and Sana while former Sarpanch Mangal Munda is contesting the election with the support of Meenakshi. There will be fierce tensions between them in the upcoming elections. In Chamakpur

contesting against him. In Anseikala, Sabitri Chater is contesting with the support of Meenakshi, while Pushpanjali Oram is contesting with support of Kush-Sana. In Kandara Panchayat, Hemlata Naik is contesting with Kush-Sana's support, while Meenakshi-backed



whose supported candidates can win more votes would have dominancy to control in mining business. All leaders tied their knots to forefront the election battle. Sana Mahakud and Kush Apat were known to be strong opponent during previous election joins hands to support

support of Meenakshi while Tulsi Bobanga is fighting for the same seats with support of Sana and Kush. Similarly, in Birikala panchayat, Jemamani Munda is contesting with the support of Meenakshi while Harabati Naik is contesting with the support of Kush-Sana. In Deojhar-

panchayat, Banita Naik is contesting with the support of Meenakshi, while Sushpita Munda is contesting with Sana-Kush. Similarly, in Guali Panchayat, former Sarpanch Dabar Munda is contesting with the support of Meenakshi while his son Manoj Kumar Munda is

candidate Reena Naik is contesting. The opinion difference of these leaders would put party in problem and result might go against them, expert opinions. However this election battle would decide the future of their existence in the party some intellectual commented.

## Truck blazed, driver and helper narrowly escaped

Barbil(KCN): A truck on National Highway 520 near Naradpur under Champua police station in Kendujhar district

driver and helper of the vehicle were escaped, and the front of which the drivers are not properly trained. More ever because



was set on fire around on Tuesday. According to reports, the truck, vide number OD-09-A-3321, was parked in Naradpur when the truck cabin caught fire for some reason. Fortunately, the

of hectic competition of iron ore transportation and burden of loan instalment also compelling lorry owners to ignore such issues says A u t o m o b i l e engineer Sayan Kumar.

## OSBCL Donates 5 Cr To CMRF

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha State Beverages Corporation Limited (OSBCL), a Public Sector unit donated Rs.5 crore to Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Chief Secretary



Suresh Chandra Mahapatra in the presence of Development Commissioner, Pradeep Kumar Jena received the cheque of this amount from Chairman OBSCL, Sushil Kumar Lohani in the State Lokseba Bhawan today.

Presenting the Cheque, Mr.Lohani said that the Corporation contributed Rs 5 crore to CMRF in the month of June during the financial year (FY) 2021-22. With today's contribution, the Corpora-

tion contributed a total of Rs. 10 crore to CMRF in the Current Financial Year. On this occasion Mr.Lohani also presented a cheque of Rs.6.26 crore to Chief Secretary towards the dividend to Government for the year 2020-21.

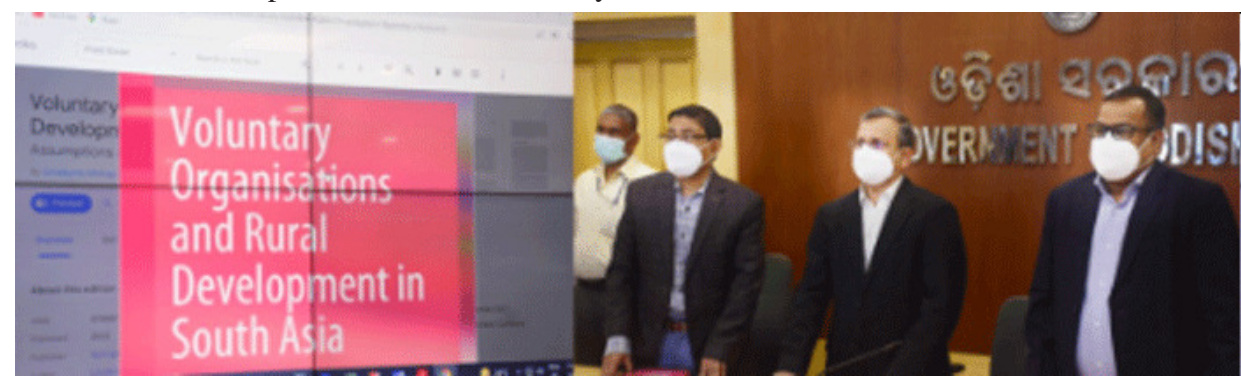
## Book on Voluntary Orgs & Rural Devp Unveiled

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra unveiled the book titled Voluntary Organisations and Rural Development in South Asia: Assump-

the role of voluntary organisations (VOs) in rural development. It addresses the existing knowledge gap for developmental task sharing with non-government civil society

of its kind published by Springer Nature. On this occasion author Dr Mohapatra said, "The independent global experts of Springer who examined the work from

sity, Asit Tripathy, Former Chief Secretary and Present Chairman WODC; Prof Achyutananda Samanta, Founder KIIT and KISS University; and, other



tions and Realities authored by Dr. Umakanta Mohapatra, PRO to Chief Secretary. Bishnupada Sethi Principal Secretary School and Mass Education, and Information and Public Relations graced the occasion.

The book has been published very recently by a leading Global Publisher Springer Nature. Mr. Mahapatra also launched the e-version of the book. The book is an independent and multi-pronged assessment of

players in the developing nations, more particularly South Asian nations.

The volume running over 228 pages delineates the locale of VOs among other third sector civil society players; and, provides evidence based knowledge about the structure, functioning, effectiveness, community base, public image, GO-VO equation, strength, challenges, present dynamics and future trend of the grass root VOs. The volume originating from an empirical work in Odisha is first

various angles ranked it "A First Rate Work". Besides, the work has also received high note endorsements from Prof T. N. Pandey, Professor Emeritus, University of California, USA; Dr. Irina L. Pervova, Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia; Prof B.N. Nayak, Director MBA, University of Creative Arts, U.K.; Prof D.R. Sahu, Lucknow University and Former Secretary Indian Sociological Society; Prof B.B. Mohanty, Pondicherry University; Prof N. Rath, Utkal Univer-

minent personalities". Experts have viewed the book as very useful for researchers, students, policy makers, executives, NGOs, civil society actors and those interested in achieving inclusive development through people's partnership. The book is available in Google Books, Springer.com, Amazon, Google Play Store, pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov, booktopica.com, and blackwells.co.uk. The students and researchers can have a brief of the book through Google books.



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## Will be able to launch beta version of ONDC in few months: Minister Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) will give an opportunity to small retailers to compete with big firms and its beta version is likely to be launched in few

the past few years, large companies have almost taken a complete stronghold on e-commerce business and small retailers do not get equal opportunity to be able to engage with e-commerce due to weak financials and strong financial muscle of large firms.

create the technology and in another few months, we will be able to do a beta launch and this system will give opportunity for small retailers to stand up in competition against big companies," Goyal said. He added that the platform will provide

wants to procure any product to get a lot of options", he added. ONDC received its certificate of incorporation as a private sector non-profit company on December 31, 2021. A number of established companies have integrated with the platform and the



months. As UPI is to the digital payment domain, ONDC is to e-commerce in India. It will enable buyers and sellers to be digitally visible and transact through an open network, no matter what platform/application they use. Goyal said that over

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, he said there are start-ups and small shops that are an important part of the ecosystem that provides retail shopping. "We are in the process of the governance structure of ONDC. We have taken technocrats to help us to

opportunities for new start-ups to start creating a network of sellers, provide service to local areas, and increase competition. Like "you can Google any information and get a series of options, the same way it (ONDC) will be easy for somebody who

government has already set up a nine-member advisory council, including Nandan Nilekani from Infosys and National Health Authority CEO R S Sharma, on steps required to design and accelerate the adoption of ONDC.

## Government open to 'some tinkering' in capital gains tax regime: Revenue Secretary

NEW DELHI: The government is open to 'some tinkering' in the varied rates and holding period for computation of capital gains tax on shares, debt and im-

plicated" in terms of varied rates and period of holding across the assets and hence needs a relook. "We need to rework the capital gains structure for rates,

and number two is the period for which it is. I think it is too complicated...that we have created. For real estate, we have made it 24 months, for shares 12 months, for

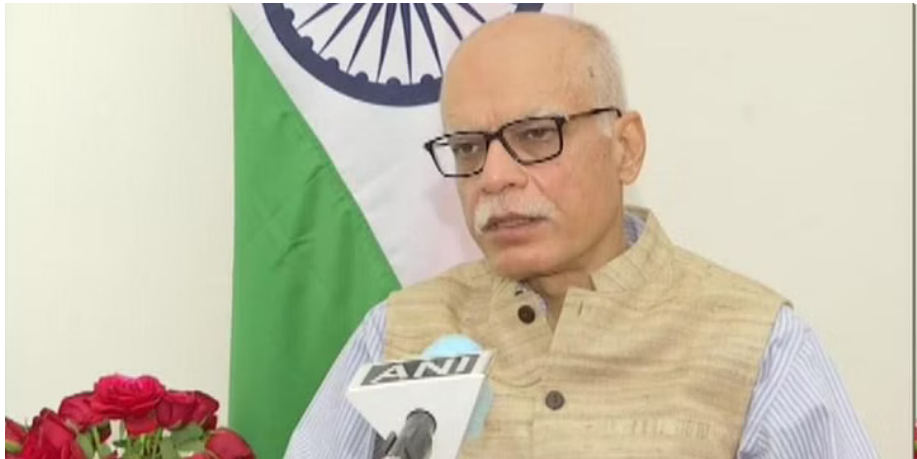
asset, the long-term or short-term capital gains tax is levied. The Act provides for separate rates of taxes for both categories of gains. The method of computation also differs for both the categories.

In general, when an asset is held for more than 36 months, it is termed as a long-term asset, otherwise short-term.

However, equity shares or units of equity oriented mutual funds held for more than 12 months are considered long-term, whereas house property has to be held for 24 months to be considered a long-term capital asset. Short-term capital gains are chargeable to tax at normal slab rates applicable to the taxpayer, except where such gain is arising from sale of equity shares in a company or units of equity oriented mutual fund or unit of a business trust (where STT has been paid), which is chargeable to tax at the rate of 15 per cent.

holding period, We would be open to some tinkering in it the next time we get an opportunity," Bajaj said at a CII event. Asking the industry chamber to also conduct a study on what are the prevailing rates of capital gains tax across the world, Bajaj said, the department has already studied the rates in other nations like India and the developed world. "Number one is rate

debt it is 36 months. We need to work on that," Bajaj said. Observing that when any such tinkering is brought about, there would be a segment of taxpayers who would stand as gainers, while there would be a segment who would lose out compared to their present tax provision, the Secretary said, adding "that becomes the most difficult part". Depending upon the period of holding an



movable property, in a bid to make it simple, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said on Wednesday. Under the Income Tax Act, gains from sale of capital assets, both movable and immovable, are subject to 'capital gains tax'. The Act, however, excludes movable personal assets such as cars, apparels, furniture from this tax. Bajaj said the current capital gains tax structure is "too com-

## India is in discussion with ASEAN to start FTA review: Minister of State for Commerce and Industry

NEW DELHI: India is in discussion with the 10-nation bloc ASEAN for initiating the review of the free-trade agreement in goods between the two regions to seek

tries for initiating the review of ASEAN-India trade in goods agreement to seek more market access for Indian products," she said in a written reply to the Lok

impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and higher import tariffs in key markets such as the European Union and the United Kingdom as compared to zero duty ac-

Taxes and Levies (Rs 5,286 crore), Rebate of State Levies (Rs 330 crore), and Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (Rs 2,568 crore) and other



more market access for domestic products, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said the market access issues and trade barriers being faced in ASEAN (Association of South-east Asian Nations) countries and China are being regularly taken up with individual countries through bilateral engagements.

"The Government of India is in discussion with ASEAN coun-

Sabha. In a separate reply, she said that to increase exports including apparel exports, India is actively negotiating regional trade agreements (RTAs)/ FTAs with a number of countries including the UAE, Australia, Canada, Israel and the UK.

"Ongoing FTA negotiations will also provide more favourable market access to products exported from India," she said. The minister said that textile and apparel export growth has been facing adverse

cess in these countries to competing countries like Bangladesh and Cambodia.

Replying to a question on export dues, she said the government has released Rs 56,027 crore in order to clear pending export incentive dues to exporters.

This is for various schemes Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (Rs 33,010 crore, Service Exports from India Scheme (Rs 10,002 crore), Rebate of State and Central

legacy schemes like Target Plus Scheme, Focus Product Scheme.

"It is estimated that such benefits would be disbursed to more than 45,000 exporters, out of which the majority would be in the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) category," Patel said. Clearance of dues under these schemes is dependent on meeting the eligibility criteria by the applicant exporter, whose applications are scrutinised for any deficiency.

## LIC did not pay dividend to government; used free reserves to increase paid-up capital: Centre

NEW DELHI: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) did not pay any dividend to the government in the last financial year and used the free reserves to increase its paid-up capital, which has now risen to Rs 6,325 crore, the



government told Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. In 2019-20 fiscal, the insurance behemoth, which is set for an Initial Public Offer (IPO), paid Rs 2,610.75 crore as dividend to the government from profits pertaining to FY 2018-19.

Citing data received from LIC, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said no dividend was paid in FY 2020-21 as the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) had instructed insurers to refrain from dividend payouts from profits pertaining to the financial year ending March 31, 2020.

The directive from Irdai came in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic so that the companies could reserve capital to meet contingencies, if any.

"Government, on an application made by LIC, permitted LIC to utilise the free reserves of LIC towards increasing its paid-up capital. As a result, the paid-up capital of LIC increased to Rs 6,324.99 crore, as on December 31, 2021," Karad said in a written reply.

The central government is expected to file draft papers for the mega IPO of LIC with

market regulator Sebi this month.

The embedded value of LIC is estimated at over Rs 5 lakh crore.

Replying to another question Karad said all public sector banks and major private sector banks have informed that no revision in charges have been made for cash deposit beyond Rs 10,000 and withdrawal of Rs 25,000 in savings as well as other accounts with effect from January 1, 2022.

Notably, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) owned by the Department of Post revised charges on cash withdrawal and deposits beyond the free limits from January 1, 2022.

### Ahead of panchayat polls, BJP rakes up Mamita murder issue again

Continued from page-1

school where Mamita was the principal in-charge, BJP State general secretary Lekhashree Samant-singhar said that it is a matter of shame that the police has not submitted the chargesheet even after 120 days of the incident. She further alleged that instead of taking action against the accused, the government is trying to suppress the Opposition voice by using police force. "The State government is the major obstacle in the way of delivery of justice to the victim's family," she said.

The police detained several leaders of the BJP including Sam-antsinghar, Bhubaneswar district BJP president Babu Singh. Mamita, a resident of Jharni village under Turekela block of Balangir district who worked as a teacher at the Sunshine English Medium School at Mahaling in Kalahandi district, had gone missing on October 8, 2021. The dead body was exhumed from the school ground on October 19.?



## Arsenal gaffer Mikel Arteta hits back at Aubameyang, saying he was 'solution, not the problem'

LONDON (KCN): Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta said on Wednesday he was the "solution, not the problem" following former captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's departure from the club after a series of disciplinary problems. Aubameyang left the Emirates Stadium for Barcelona last week after agreeing a contract termination with the English side, allowing him to sign for the Catalan giants on a free transfer. The 32-year-old

Gabon international had not played for Arsenal since December, when he was stripped of the cap-



taincy by Arteta after returning late from an agreed break. Asked at his unveiling as a Barca player what had happened in London, Aubameyang said: "I

don't think I did anything wrong. I think (the problem) was just with him. He wasn't happy. I was

calm and that's it." But Arteta countered those claims as he addressed reporters on the eve of Arsenal's Premier League trip to Wolves. "You ask the question

directly to me, so I respond," he said.

"I am extremely grateful for what Aubameyang has done at the club, for his contribution since I have been here and the way I see myself in that relationship is the solution, not the problem. "What I am saying is that I've been this solution, 100 percent, I can look in the eye of anybody.

"I do lot of things wrong, for sure. But the intention all the time is the best -- and not for me, it is for the club and for the team."

The onus on scoring the goals to keep alive Arsenal's top-four ambitions in the absence of Aubameyang now falls on Alexandre Lacazette and Eddie Nketiah.

Both men have less than six months remaining on their contracts but Arteta has backed them to fill the void even though Lacazette has scored just three Premier League goals this season and Nketiah is yet to get off the mark in the league.

"Auba's trajectory at the club and the importance of his goals is unquestionable," Arteta said, confirming Lacazette would captain the side for the time being.

"But we have other players, and we believe we have other qualities in different ways to try to accomplish the amount of goals that we need in the team. That's what we are going to try to do.

## 'Remember the name': Carlos Brathwaite names his daughter after Kolkata's Eden Gardens

NEW DELHI: West Indies all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite and his wife have been blessed with a baby girl, and the former captain has named his daughter after the iconic Eden Gardens, where he hit England's bowler Ben Stokes for four back-to-back sixes to win the



T20 World Cup for the West Indies in 2016.

The 33-year-old batter took to Instagram to announce the arrival of his baby daughter and revealed that he had named her Eden Rose after Kolkata's Eden Gardens, the most memorable venue of his cricketing career.

Former West Indies cricketer Ian Bishop was in the commentary box when Brathwaite pulled off a memorable run-chase with 19 runs required in the final over. Bishop, during the commentary, famously said, "Carlos Brathwaite, Remember the name...," after the winning six by

the Caribbean batter. Brathwaite shared some pictures of his new-born daughter with an adorable caption.

"REMEMBER THE NAME Eden Rose Brathwaite D.O.B 2/6/22. You were worth the wait, you gorgeous little girl. Daddy

promises to love you with all his heart," Brathwaite wrote, referring to Bishop's iconic line.

Praising his wife, Brathwaite said, "You are strong, you are resilient and I know you'll be an amazing mother. Love you both." Out of action from the national team, Brathwaite played his last international match in India in August 2019. Brathwaite, who has been part of Delhi Capitals, Kolkata Knight Riders, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Big Bash League side Sydney Sixers, has been shortlisted for the IPL 2022 mega auction as well.

## Dipika Pallikal, now a mother and interior designer, back on squash court after four year

NEW DELHI: One of India's finest squash players, Dipika Pallikal is back on the court after four years, a break she needed to start a

I'm enjoying the space of extra responsibilities of just going back home after training and being with the kids."



family and to do "something different" in her life with her career graph "stagnating". Blessed with twins last October, the 31-year-old has been training hard for the last couple of months with the focus on the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games later this year. Pallikal, who established an interior designing business in her time away from the game, is aiming to create more history at the two multi-sporting events.

She is expected to take part in the doubles events in the Birmingham Games before gradually increasing her workload to also play singles in the Hangzhou Games.

Pallikal and India's highest ranked player Joshna Chinappa had won India's first ever gold in CWG history at the Glasgow edition back in 2014.

Speaking to PTI on motherhood and come-back, Pallikal said she was fortunate to have had a support system which allowed her to take time off from the game back in 2018.

The former world number 10 was ranked in the top-20 when she took the break but she was not able to move up the ladder, making her decision easier. Being mother of twin boys is "double the hard work" but Pallikal, married to cricketer Dinesh Karthik, is enjoying this special phase of her life.

"Yeah it is hard (being a mother and professional athlete) but I don't want to emphasise on it. Obviously, it's hard with the sleep cycle of the kids and it is double the work because of twins.

"My husband is also an athlete, and he's away training and playing. So a lot of responsibility lies on me but obviously I'm very lucky to have had to have a solid system, a family, that helps me with my scheduling that I still go for training in the morning and the evening.

"...it's all the same like before but have get up for a feed at 3am before training. But I knew well before that I wanted to come back and play. I had wanted to do this even before I had kids and I know it was going to be double the hard work that I had to do after I get kids.

"It's been exactly that, it's not been easy, but

A knee injury last year and the pandemic also delayed her return but Pallikal can't complain with COVID wreaking havoc in lives of millions around the world. With the kids by her side, she feels more grateful than ever.

"It's a very new way to look at life. How do

I say it's a very new outlook to life. It has always been squash squash squash since I was 10, me wanting to be the best in the sport.

"But so many things happened in life in the last two years. I have learn to appreciate life and I appreciate the smaller things. So for me to just be back on court standing on both my feet and playing that is giving me happiness," said the Padma Shri and Arjuna awardee.

Pallikal could make her competitive return alongside Joshna in the Women's Doubles World Championships in Glasgow in April.

The Chennai-based player plans to return to the PSA professional tour only after the Asian Games.

She expects to back to her best after another month of training.

Her selection in the Indian team for the two big events is subject to her performances in the trials which will be held in due course, SRFI secretary general Cyrus Poncha has said. Pallikal was 27 when she stepped away from the game.

Four years later, she remains young enough to compete at the highest level.

Her longtime teammate Joshna, who is 35, has played her best squash in the last couple of years and only seems to be getting better with age.

Talking about more the decision she took in 2018, Pallikal added: "I wanted to take time off for many reasons. I felt stagnated in results, I was at a level where I wasn't very happy with.

"Another reason was wanting to start a family. And definitely trying to do something different. I had been playing squash since I was 10. I had not done anything other than squash.

"It might not have been the right time back then. It might have been the right time.

"It might have been the right age. It might not have been the age. But I felt that I was stagnated and I sat down and I truly felt I wasn't going to move up. So for me it was very important (to make that call)."

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