

Maha Shivratri: Devotees throng Shiva temples across Odisha to offer special prayers

Bhubaneswar(KCN):All the Shiva temples across Odisha are decked up for the grand Maha Shivratri – the great night of Shiva on Saturday. Since early morning, devotees have started thronging Shiva shrines in different parts of the state to offer prayers to Lord Shiva.



In view of the heavy rush of devotees, temple administrations in the state have made special provisions including mandaps where the devotees can offer their prayers and perform

rituals. In Bhubaneswar, the 'Mahadeepa' of Lord Lingaraj will be raised atop the temple at around 10 pm. Around 32 platoons of police force have been deployed for maintaining law and

order and crowd control. Similarly, the rituals at Dhabaleswar Shrine in Cuttack began early for the Jagar Jatra. The doors of the temple were opened much early and the bathing rituals

of the Lord were performed as per rituals. Today, Baba Dhableswar will wear fragrant flowers to let the devotees have darshan in 'Badasinghara Besha'. As per the schedule, 'Sankhudi Bhoga'

will be offered to the Lord by noon and in the evening, Shivratri rituals of Baba Dhableswar will begin. Anticipating a huge rush of devotees on the occasion of Maha Shivratri, restrictions have been clamped on the use of Jhula or the hanging bridge and boats. A temporary road has been created to facilitate the devotees to reach the Dhableswar temple. A huge rush of devotees has also been witnessed at the famous Lokanath shrine in Puri.

Odisha CM, 5 Cabinet Colleagues To Visit Bargarh Today

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and five of his cabinet colleagues are scheduled to visit Bargarh district tomorrow (February 19).



The Chief Minister will inaugurate and lay stones for several developmental projects at Padampur, Paikmal and Jharbandh blocks during his visit to Bargarh district tomorrow, said an official. According to sources, the Chief Minister will arrive at Satibhata airstrip at Padampur at 11 am tomorrow. Then, he will travel to Jharbandh in a chopper. "The Chief Minister will inaugurate some projects and lay stones

for others at an event at Jharbandh. A video film on the developmental projects in the block will be screened on the occasion. The Chief Minister will hand over cheques to Mission Shakti Women Self-Help Groups at the event," said the official. Planning and Convergence Minister Rajendra Dholkia, Padampur MLA Barsha Singh Bariha, Baramba MLA Debi Prasad Mishra and

Bhatli MLA Susanta Singh will attend the Chief Minister's Programme at Jharbandh, added the official. The Chief Minister is scheduled to reach Paikmal at 12.30 pm. He will inaugurate and lay stones for various developmental projects at the block. Industry Minister Pratap Keshari Deb, Water Resources Minister Tukuni Sahu, Handlooms and Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Rita Sahu among others will speak on the occasion, sources said. The Chief Minister will reach Padampur at 3.45 pm and felicitate the members of women SHGs at an event in the block.

Nirmala Sitharaman Says All GST Compensation Dues Will Be Cleared

New Delhi: The government will clear the entire goods and services tax, or GST, compensation dues of ₹ 16,982 crore from its own pocket today, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said after a meeting of the council that sets GST rates. "We have announced today that the entire due on the pending balance of the GST compensation will be cleared as of today. In other words, the entire pending balance of the GST compensation - a total of ₹ 16,982 crore - will be cleared," Ms Sitharaman said. "Although this amount



is not really available in the compensation fund as of today, we have decided to release this amount from our own resources and the same amount will be recouped from the future compensation cess collection," said the Finance Minister, who on February 1 presented her last major Union Budget

before the general election next year. Ms Sitharaman said this payment will clear the compensation dues for five years. The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act 2017 allows the government to charge a cess that will be paid to the states to make up for money lost since July 1, 2017, when the GST was implemented. The switch to GST had led to loss of revenue for several states, for which they need to be compensated for five years counting from July 2017.

Job Fraud Racket Busted

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police has busted an Inter-State Job Fraud Racket, which was operating in 17 states including Odisha. Dharampal Singh, the Mastermind behind the fraud racket was arrested from Bihar, said Inspector General, EOW, Jai Narayan Pankaj here on Saturday. The job racket was operating by the name Gramin Rojgar Kalyan Sansthan in 17 states in the country. The scamsters had developed the website resembling a

government website displaying the government like job advertisements, said Inspector General, EOW, Shri Pankaj. The fraud organisation has its registered office in New Delhi and other offices in Mumbai, Bhopal and Dehradun. So far, they have duped more than Rs 6.6 crore of the job aspirants, he said. The amounts collected from the candidates were landed in different accounts ultimately managed by the mastermind Dharampal Singh,

who was arrested. Dharampal happens to be the secretary of Gramin Rojgar Kalyan Sansthan, Shri Pankaj said. He further informed that the scamsters were using six to seven shell/sister companies for routing and money laundering the ill-

gotten money. They have also routed the money through a Mumbai-based film production company, Sumitra Production, he added. Speaking about the modus operandi of the job fraud organisation, Shri Pankaj said the GRKS invited applications for various jobs like district and block coordinator, computer operator, block surveyor etc. prescribing the educational qualification and the remuneration for the individual posts.

The advertisement also contained the name of the website www.grks.org, and the job seekers were required to submit their application through online only. To gain the confidence of the job aspirants, they also offered reservations and concessional fee as it is done for government jobs, he added. They were giving advertisements in local newspapers in the states and used to conduct online exams and interviews too. Interestingly, in their website they also warn the job seekers about job fraud.



BJD Seeks Samir Reply

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Governing Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Saturday sought reply from Odisha BJP President Samir Mohanty on allegations made by senior BJP Lawmaker and Leader of Opposition Jaynarayan Mishra. Shri Mishra, while speaking to media persons today, said leaders before him were managed by the ruling Party and he could not be similarly managed; therefore, the ruling Party is after him. Armed with this statement of Shri Mishra, BJD MP Sasmit Patra said, "It is extremely unfortunate that Shri Mishra has cast serious allegations against former Leader

of Opposition and BJP MLA Pradipta Naik who is recovering from a health condition, that he was being managed as he was the LoP before Shri Mishra." It is also extremely sad and unfortunate that he is alleging that former Deputy Leader of Opposition and former BJP MLA Late Bishnu Charan Sethi who was also a leader before him was being managed, Dr Patra said. The BJD leader further said that Shri Mishra is also alleged that BJP Chief Whip Mohan Majhi is being managed since he is also a BJP leader in constitutional position in the Vidhan Sabha before Shri Mishra appointed as the LoP.



Odisha BJP President Samir Mohanty, who was attacked by chappal by Shri Mishra in the past should speak up and reply on behalf of the BJP MLAs and the former BJP Leader and Deputy Leader of Opposition and present BJP Chief Whip, Dr. Patra demanded. "Shri Mohanty should

now act against this hardened criminal and murderer Shri Mishra who had him beaten up and has now started attacking his own party leaders as well," added Dr. Patra. Speaking to media persons earlier in the day, Shri Mishra dared the government to handover the Naba Das murder case to CBI.

"If the state government is so clean, why are they fearing a CBI investigation in the murder case?," asked Shri Mishra. The state government's claim that it is a court-monitored probe is also completely false, he said. The Leader of Opposition has alleged that the ruling BJD leaders are in tension and worry as their all plans to suppress the murder case have failed. "Their attempts to manage me also failed. For which, they are making personal attacks on me," he further alleged. Shri Mishra informed that he will raise this issue in the Assembly during the upcoming budget session.

NIA raids PFI hideouts in Rajasthan, seize weapons

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is conducting raids since Saturday morning at the hideouts of Popular Front of India (PFI) in connection with a terror funding case. The NIA, sources said, raided the houses of PFI members at seven locations in Rajasthan and arrested several of its members. During the raids, digital devices, airguns, sharp weapons and incriminating documents were seized. The NIA probe is underway in Jaipur, Bundi, Sawai Madhopur and Kota. The agency conducted three raids in Kota, while other places raided include Jaipur, Sawai Madhopur, Bundi and Bhilwara. The NIA raided the



house of Imran Rangrez, a resident of Gulnagari in Bhilwara, early on Saturday morning. Rangrez is a social activist of the SDPI and also a former PFI worker. However, the NIA team did not give any inputs in this regard to the local police. Sources said that the NIA team reached Kota early on Saturday morning and conducted raids in the Rampura police station area. According to information received

from NIA sources, accused Sadiq Saraf, a resident of Baran, and Mohdammad Asif, were arrested in the raids conducted earlier in Rajasthan. "They were working for PFI and were holding senior posts in the organisation. Recently we recorded a statement of the accused who disclosed us about them. We have also gathered evidences after which raids were conducted," an NIA source said.

The 945th Coronation day of Chodaganga Deva Celebrated at Puri

Puri (KCN): The 945th Coronation day celebration of Emperor Anantavarman Gangeswara Chodaganga Deva was held at the Badu Mahapatra Jaaga at Chudanga Sahi. Jointly organised by the Rediscovering Lost Heritage, INTACH, and IHAR, the gathering saw many eminent heritage experts and historians including local residents of Puri. An ancient stone panel that had the image of Chodagangadev was consecrated and puja was performed. This was the first time in

centuries that his coronation was commemorated. An outstanding ruler, he was known for his religious tolerance. The construction of the Jagannath Temple at Puri and his efforts to unite all religious faiths under a single cult i.e. the Jagannath Cult; was a watershed moment in the religious history of Odisha. His seventy-year reign was a golden period in the history of Odisha. His military genius is evident from the extent of his empire, it extended from the Ganga till the

Godavari. Deepak Kumar Nayak, founder of the 'Rediscover Lost Heritage Group' had rediscovered the old image at the Jagaghara a few months earlier. The image had been worshipped for years as one of Lord Rama, but a proper study of the iconography had established that it was Chodagangadeva. According to Nayak, a similar image was seen in Mukhalingan in Andhra Pradesh which bore the same iconography. Deepak Nayak had earlier observed the coronation day



celebration of Gajapati Kapilendra Deva in June last year. He also said that celebrations of the coronations of other

great Odia kings too will be made. Dr. Biswajit Mohanty, an INTACH member said that a proper statue of the great King

Emperor should be set up both in Puri and Bhubaneswar. He said proper studies need to be made to identify other heritage sites and

structures which remain neglected. Anil Dhir, Head of IHAR's Odisha Chapter said that the missing gaps in Odishan history should be filled up. Proper place of pride should be accorded to the great rulers who had established the identity of Odisha but have been relegated to the back pages of history. Nine members of the Badu Mahapatra Jaaga were felicitated for their notable contributions to preserve this ancient heritage related to Odisha's history. An

art rendition of the image of Chodagangadeva, created by eminent artist Bibhu Patnaik was presented to the Jagaghara. A joint project will soon be launched by Rediscovering Lost Heritage, INTACH, and IHAR for undertaking the documentation of all the monuments of the Odishan kings in Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. The rich history of the Kalingan influence in South India needs to be studied and documented.

Nomira village in Keonjhar soon attract the world for pillow lava



Barbil, 18th Feb(KCN): The pillow lava site of Nomira village in Joda village in Keonjhar district of Odisha is declared as geotourism spot by Government of India. After this declaration Geological Survey of India stepped forward to protect this spot. In this context an public awareness campaign was organised near the spot where Deputy Director General Dinesh Kumar Rai, GSI, DFO Keonjhar DD Hanumant, KK Nayak, Director GSI, eastern region were present. Followed by inauguration ceremony Onsite interactions, Lecture on Activities of Geological Survey of India with audio-visual display was seen. Mr Rai briefed on Evolution of Earth

and Significance of Pillow lava where Mr Nayak LECTURED on the draft "Geoheritage Sites and Geo-relics (Preservation and Maintenance) Bill, 2022". Mr Hanumant appealed the audience in his speech for the perseverance of the site saying the site is of earth's importance. It is to note that the Geological Survey of India has identified 26 sites as National Geological Monuments. Most of them are in geographically rich states like Rajasthan, Odisha, Karnataka, Andhra, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. Pillow_Lava found at Nomira, Keonjhar in Odisha is one of those historic sites. These unique geographical features are embedded with significant scientific, cultural,

educational or historical value. Government of India followed by an appeal of UNESCO planned to protect most of the Sites which have become redundant and deserted due to lack of proper attention. Nomira is also an unknown wonder in Keonjhar in one such corner. There is, which almost no one knows about this. In 1976 the Geological Survey of India declared Nomira as a National Geological Monument and TISCO put up a Marble plate at the site but later forgot about it. In 1942 the PillowLava site was discovered by British geologists Jones and Dunne. This is claimed to be the second place in the country where such a structure has been found... The other one was near

Maradhali, a small village in Chittadurga district of Karnataka. Lava erupts from volcanoes and mixes with seawater and rapidly solidifies to form an almost spherical or spherical pillow shape. It is assumed that this happened 2.8 billion years ago, when the area was covered by seas and provides an important clue to the evolution of the Precambrian Peninsular India. Nomira is one of the best-preserved pillow lava sites in the world. Such pillow basalts are also found in mid-oceans or where sub-oceanic volcanoes originate in the ocean. This is the case with recent Hawaiian volcanic eruption. The flowing lava, when it reaches the ocean, cools so quickly that part of the flow separates into rounded bodies a few feet or less in size. This site would be useful for students and researcher a lot if preserved with utmost care, said some intellectual. Even though it is late, the government is now active and it is hoped that the bill brought for its protection will be passed in both the Houses soon and will be implemented.

Premium Global Mattress Brand King Koil India unlocks its first ever exclusive store in Bhubaneswar by M/s Coir India

Bhubaneswar: The Temple City of Bhubaneswar is all set to welcome its world renowned King Koil mattress brand store in the city on 21st February 2023. The store will be inaugurated in the auspicious presence of Dr. Rashmi Patra and other eminent personalities marking another milestone in the annals of the

historic city. It goes without saying that a sound and qualitative sleep is important for a healthier and happier. And having a good night's sleep is important for brain function, muscle repair, and metabolism. KingKoil India, one of the oldest mattress brand in the world relies on technology -SLEEPID 2.0, a biotech

application or algorithm to evaluate a customer's body condition by taking into account various factors. Mattresses are made from different materials and come in all shapes and sizes. Just a simple look at King Koil's product line-up will give you an idea of the number of sleeping solutions. From memory foam to latex mattresses, customers

have access to some of the best mattresses. Choosing the right mattress for your sleeping requirements can be a confusing task, given that a mattress is not something you buy every day. There are several factors that affect the quality of sleep you get every night, and the type of mattress is one of the important ones.

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Manoj Bajpayee Drops Hori Mein Song From Family Drama Gulmohar



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

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

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

received mixed reactions from fans as they expected an update about 'The Family Man Season 3'. Helmed by Rahul Chittella, the film stars Manoj Bajpayee, Sharmila Tagore, Simran, and Suraj Sharma in the lead roles and is all set to stream exclusively on Disney+ Hotstar from March 3, 2023. The most striking trivia about the movie is that it marks the comeback of legendary actor Sharmila Tagore on the big screen, after a long gap of 12 years. Gulmohar is a Star Studios production in association with C h a l k b o a r d

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

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

Ever since the teaser of Underworld Ka Kabzaa is out, it generated quite a stir amongst the audiences to watch this action-packed film. Keeping the interest level at a peak, makers drop another song, Namaami Namaami from the most awaited film. 'Namaami Namaami' is the introductory song of Shriya Saran in Underworld Ka Kabzaa. Being a divine and piety song, it emphasises the culture of Amarapura province and how Shriya worships Nataraj (Shiva) with 'Namaami



Namaami'. Sung by Aishwarya Rangarajan, the song leaves you with love and affection towards lord Shiva. Lyrics of Namaami Namaami are penned by Deepak Bharti and the music is directed

by Ravi Basrur. Underworld Ka Kabzaa is a story about the Mafia World and the journey of Arkeshwara in the underworld. The film features Shriya Saran, Upendra and Kiccha Sudeepa in pivotal roles and is all set to hit theatres on the 17th of March 2023 in Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam. The film is produced by Anand Pandit Motion Pictures in association with Sri Siddeshwara Enterprise and Alankar Pandian and directed by R. Chandru.

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



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

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

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

ties. Head of a loving, joint family, business tycoon- Rajendran (Sarath Kumar) involuntarily pits his three sons against each other in his pursuit to find a worthy successor from amongst them. While the two older sons Jai (Srikanth) and Ajay (Shaam) choose a more unexpected divisive path of destruction, the youngest son- Vijay (Vijay) opts to keep his family together, while defending it from the clutches of a prying enemy. Commenting on the streaming premiere of the film on Prime Video, Thalapathy Vijay, said, "Varisu is an extremely special film for me.

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



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

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

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

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

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

Krushna Abhishek has been in the news for his tumultuous relationship with Govinda. The two may not be in talking terms at the moment but Krushna has only good things to talk about his mama and the kind of equation they share with each other. "He is my mama and I know sooner or later we will be back together. I always believe that blood is thicker than water and it has the power to reunite us," Krushna said in his new interview. He also shared that he is waiting for Govinda to come up to him, give him gaalis and sort things out between them. The comedian also wishes to have an emotional reunion with Govinda just the way Jaya Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan had in Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham. "I am waiting



aisa kuch hojaye. Hum kahin na kahin mil jayenge aise (we will meet like that sometime soon)," he told The Indian Express. Krushna then went on to recall the time when he and Govinda actually met in a Dubai mall. "Once I was out shopping when the shopkeeper told me that Govinda mama was just there. So I called him and I saw him. Then like in a film scene, I actually ran in slow motion toward him. And then my maami (Govinda's wife Sunita Ahuja) came in that very moment," he shared with a laugh. However, the comedian said that he considers Sunita maami like his mother who has every right to be angry and upset with him. Calling Govinda and Sunita as his family, Krushna shared that he has stayed with them for 8-9 years and he is certain that one day everything will be just fine.

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FAILING NARRATIVES AND DEPLORABLE STALEMATES



M.R.LALU

The crass cacophony in the parliament these days does not endorse the power and glow of India's parliamentary traditions. Rahul Gandhi's blitzkrieg on the Adani meltdown and his questions on the Prime Minister's closeness with the business tycoon, have created some hair-raising moments. The Congress has taken this opportunity to project the reinvented leader in Rahul Gandhi, who has returned from his lengthy stride across the country. The Bharat Jodo Yatra had increased his responsibility as a leader. Away from power, every political party becomes paranoiac and a composite feeling of hopelessness hover over its imaginations. India's principal opposition the Congress has also been going through such a mental agony. Whatever the ruling

dispensation does is taken as immature, illegitimate and anaesthetized by the Congress. The pandemonium in the parliament was a blindfolding exercise. Scripting his own stories of development, the Modi magic has risen beyond the vituperation his opponents could frame for him. Not only in the parliament has the Congress triggered its guns against the Prime Minister; it has grabbed chances all over the country. Sonia Gandhi's 'A silent strike on the poor' in the Indian Express on 6 February was one of those attempts, an article exposing the paranoia her party and family have been susceptible to. She pretends to have known the real trauma of the Indian polity after receiving inputs from her son who had returned from his revival yatra. Every field of social wellbeing of the society, according to her, is trampled and the Modi government has a mottled view on the actual requirement of the country. The

budget session of the parliament was sunk in violent, uproarious and profane epithets and the country witnessed chicanery of the opposition during the Prime Minister's speech. Throughout her article she accuses Modi for fraternizing with Adani and throws stones at him for being anti-poor. But what was more unconvincing about her article was, when she said "The promise of independence was of a good life for every Indian, not only to satisfy their basic needs but to have equal opportunities to empower themselves socially, economically and politically." An ideal assessment on the performance of the Congress regime in post-independent India gives us glimpses of its pick pocket administration with hundreds of scams derailing India's reputation. During the long period of the Congress Raj, three members of her family directly ruled the country for about three decades. India witnessed its most disastrous days of political anarchy when

the country was under the direct control of her family. It also witnessed the largest blood bath single handedly perpetrated by her party when Indira Gandhi was shot dead. The anti-Sikh riots followed by the assassination of Indira Gandhi killed thousands of Sikhs. India's UPA regime was known for its scams and scandals and corruptions. Sonia Gandhi had conveniently forgotten her party's failure to satisfy the dream of 'good life' of Indians, as what she claims was the goal of independence. Modi's premiership in 2014 began with his regime determinedly addressing the basic necessities of the country. Modi's image as the Prime Minister was put to scrutiny when he spoke from the ramparts of Red Fort about women empowerment and his government's initiative in providing sanitary napkins at 1 rupee. Breaking the taboo, he became evocative on the health hazards of

poor women during their menstruation period. The country heard him preach his MPs to use their funds to build toilets for girls separately. His call for separate toilets for girls had saved millions of girls from being dropped from schools. He became the first Prime Minister to stir up issues that his predecessors preferred to brush under the carpet with condescension. He became a trend setting Prime Minister who addresses issues that remained abandoned for decades. The acceptance Modi enjoys in India and abroad has been the result of his honest interventions to fulfil the requirements of the normal citizens. A chain of welfare projects such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Shramwajayee Yojana and many more in the line have tremendously impacted the lives of millions of people. Most economists are of the opinion that the

Finance Minister has delivered a balanced budget with a long term vision. But throughout the budget session the country witnessed deliberate chaos shattering the constitutional stature of the parliamentary proceedings. Decades of Congress rule failed to do anything to improve the living conditions of Indians but the efforts for nearly a decade by the Modi government not only improved the socio-economic conditions but also India as a nation could reinvent its strength with its ancient cultural values gaining international recognition. The damage that the Congress regime caused on Indian society was so deep that a regime with an honest approach and vision would at least take 20 years to rectify them. Modi could successfully connect his mind with most of the ordinary Indians and could do more to satisfy their needs. No initiatives in the direction of changing the fortunes of the people will be completely perfect but

Modi's success is his consistent effort to bring about the change. I have vivid memories of my childhood being spent fetching drinking water from distant places. The government those days quenched the thirst of the villagers with mobile water tanks. High altitude areas of Kerala never imagined that uninterrupted water connectivity to houses was possible. But today, this has become a reality. Same is the case with electricity. The Modi government could actualize this and beyond for the common man. In her article, Sonia Gandhi bemoaned about the plight of the poor in the country. The government's war footing initiatives could successfully arrest the Covid 19 pandemic in India vaccinating almost everybody in the country. Records say that India had distributed over 94 million doses of Covid vaccines to almost 94 countries. This has been a phenomenal achievement for a developing country. India's compassionate

humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka, Nepal and Afghanistan and the latest in Turkey shows its decision making capacity at a faster pace well before the international community responded. The trigger-or the pretext behind the outrageous hullabaloo in the parliament and elsewhere is the outcome of an utter helplessness of parties that failed to strengthen their roots. It is of vital importance for the parties to maintain decorum in their political behaviour. For the ruling and the opposition, interactions to convince each other are must. Plagued by beleaguered propositions and warmongering, parliament sessions are a huge waste of time and money.

(Freelance Journalist/Author of "India @ 75- A Contemporary Approach") Meppurathu House Puthusserimala P.O Ranni Pathanamthitta District Kerala State Ph:8414918976

Letter To Editor

Sir,

Rescue of Donkeys needed

Donkeys are sensitive, intelligent creatures with strong bonds with their families, these gentle animals under threat across the country now.

According to reports in the country, there is a lot of illegal donkey trafficking, slaughtering, and selling of donkey flesh taking place. Many young and adult donkeys have their throats slit when they are still conscious. Some are also slaughtered by children across many states. According to reports, most donkeys are slaughtered in various locations across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Donkeys are smuggled into Andhra Pradesh and Telangana from other states under the cover of darkness to avoid police interception. It's high time to save these. Concerned parties should conduct immediate investigations and raids to rescue donkeys. There is a widespread belief in the country that donkey flesh and blood can cure diseases. As a result, illegal slaughtering operations are taking place. According to reports, the donkey population dropped by 50% in last five years. Donkeys are entitled to better treatment than this.

VijayKumar H K Environmentalist Raichur, Karnataka

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS ROLE FOR THE GROWTH OF INDIA



Uma Shankar Prasad

I might add."

Globality, men are more likely to start new ventures than women. Empirical evidence suggests that women have lower hubris and a higher level of humility, which negatively affects their risk-taking behaviour and limits their engagement in entrepreneurship. If only women were as immodest and over confident as men! In fact, our very own Indian icon, Kiran Mazumdar shaw, remarks on her journey as an entrepreneur. "you have to keep challenging the status quo, I was doing something quite path-breaking. I couldn't look or turn to anybody at that stage. I realised I was doing it alone. I realised I was doing something very different and just managed to do things with a lot of common sense, with a lot of determination and a lot of foolish courage,

Government intervention improved financial access and access to education led to an increase in women-owned enterprises from 14% to 20% in the last decade. However, there are several challenges that women entrepreneurs face that are not common for their male counterparts. According to a report by Master-Card, In India's business environment is not favourable for female entrepreneurs. There are several social, technical and financial barriers that hinder the growth of women-owned business. To begin with, some firms are registered as women-owned due to financial and administrative reasons but are actually managed and operated by men. Moreover, a larger share of women-owned firms is a single-person enterprise, generates lower revenues and is smaller in size than those owned by men. Most women are still pursuing business activities on the side as they continue to do majority of the household chores. They are also often the primary caregivers

taking care of the children and elderly. The nature of business that women are involved in are also different from those of men, so their need for credit and the corresponding credit cycles are different. Women in rural areas also often need permission from a male member in their family before stepping out of the house and are often accompanied by a male relative for a trip to the neighboring bank due to safety concerns or social norms. Women's accesses to financial resources is also limited because of several reasons. More women save than borrow to start, operate or expand a farm or business in India and globally. The informal, social network as a source of funding is often less available to women and often limited to women from high income families. Borrowing from family members or friends to start a business is not an option for many in the agriculture sector or subsistence entrepreneur in India. Moreover, women have lower bargaining

power on use of household income and savings. This makes their access to independent, formal financial sources very important. However, according to World Bank's Global Index database, more Indian men reported borrowing from a financial institution or using a credit card than women. This gender gap exists because of several issues associated with access to financial markets and products. Even though women have equal property rights, they don't usually inherit property from their family. Consequently, women do not have access to collaterals to borrow money from formal financial markets. Limited access to formal financial markets often has a negative impact on their credit ratings and in turn, it affects their ability to secure lower interest rates. It is essential to customise loans with smaller ticket sizes, lower interest rates and financing structures that can cater to the needs of businesses owned by women. While technology has the

potential to improve the efficiency of operations of a woman's business, their access to technology itself is limited. Restricted access to electricity and absence of a robust, ubiquitous digital network are common stymles to the digital financial revolution in India. Moreover, fewer Indian women have access to a mobile handset or internet than men. Women are also less likely to use smart phones or experiment with new financial products and a new technology. It has been observed that while women are aware of social media applications, they are not as informed about financial tools and applications that can help them expand their business. Gender-gap in education outcomes has reduced significantly in the country, but a gender-gap in financial literacy can negatively affect business efficiency. These challenges limit women from using financial tools digitally and their productivity as entrepreneurs. Improving access to financial

tools using digital technology is effective for increasing female participation in entrepreneurship. However, this is only part of the solution. There are several other social and economic challenges that need reforms. The Government, private sector and non-profit organisations have launched several schemes and initiatives to help women-owned businesses. Mandatory procurement from 3% women-owned MSME firms or skill-training and certification programmes catering to women entrepreneurs are some examples. A reliable care-economy with safe, affordable and accessible daycare for children and elderly; social protection schemes like health and business insurance plans; and equal participation of men and women in household chores are some social reforms that can help women entrepreneurs become a part of India's growth story in the coming decade.

Columnist, Khordha Mobile No- 6370675562

Google India Lays Off 453 People From Various Operations: Reports



New Delhi: Tech giant Google is learnt to have sacked around 450 employees across various departments in India. The employees were reportedly informed of their termination through mail late at night on Thursday. The mail was sent by Sanjay Gupta, Country Head and Vice President of Google India, according to moneycontrol. Hindu businessline, which also carried the report quoting its sources, reported that Email

sent seeking comments from Google India did not elicit any reply. It is not clear whether the 453 layoffs include the 12,000 job cuts announced by Google parent company Alphabet Inc. last month. At the time, Sundar Pichai, who is CEO of Alphabet Inc., said the job cuts were made in a bid to act decisively as the company's growth slowed. "If you don't act clearly and decisively and early, we can compound the

problem and make it much worse. These are decisions I needed to make," Mr Pichai said, according to Bloomberg. Google is the latest among the Silicon Valley behemoths looking to lighten payrolls after years of abundant growth and hiring. Yahoo Inc is reportedly planning to lay off more than 20% of its total workforce as part of a major restructuring of its ad tech unit, Axios reported, citing company executives. Earlier in January, Microsoft announced 10,000 job cuts or nearly 5 per cent of its workforce. Amazon also is cutting 18,000 jobs. Meta let go over 11,000 workers last year, 13% of its workforce, in its first major layoff.

Amendment relating to delay in payment to MSME may be counter productive- Jain

Kolkata (KCN) :The Finance Minister has proposed Amendment of section 43B of Income Tax Act to provide that the amount of purchase of goods or services from MSME will not be allowed as Expenditure if payment is not made within prescribed time limit of 15 days. The time for payment in case of an agreement with MSME may be upto 45 days. The payment beyond the prescribed time may be disallowed under section 43B by the Income Tax Department. In case of Sales tax, GST etc, payment made within due date of filing Income Tax Return is



allowed but such relaxation will not be allowed in case of delay in payment to MSME, said tax advocate Narayan Jain addressing a meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta at Hotel Hindustan International Saturday evening. In some cases if the delay occurs then the income of the purchaser of goods and

services will stand to be enhanced due to disallowance and entail much tax liability, which may not be practical for a business to pay. If the supplier MSME has also purchased from other MSME and the payment is delayed beyond permitted period, then disallowance shall also

result in his hands as well thus causing cascading adverse effect, explained Jain. It needs to be reviewed said Jain. "It has also been proposed to tax receipts income from insurance policies (other than ULIP for which provisions already exists) having premium or aggregate of premium above Rs

5,00,000 in a year in case of policies issued on or after 1st April, 2023. Income is proposed to be exempt if received on said Jain. However the receipt will be exempt in case of the death of the insured person. "Amitabh Mohan President of Rotary Club of Belur chaired the meeting and Anand Agarwal Secretary thanked all members, on this occasion Ravi P. Sehgal, HK Bubna, RamaLingam, Naveen Khandelwal, SK Lohia, Ajai Agarwal, Ashok Kedia, Ramesh Tewari, Manoj Agarwal, Kishan Kejriwal, Indra Goenka, BL Dugar also actively participated.

Soma Bhowmik:-Ganesh Chandra Bhowmik scores an unbeaten century Turns 100 years young on 19th of February, 2023

Kolkata :Sri Ganesh Chandra Bhowmik took birth 100 years ago, on the 19th of February 1923, in the then princely state Coochbihar. He completed his study from Jenkins School which is now a hundred and sixty two years old Institution. Sri Bhowmik retired as a Deputy Magistrate in Coochbihar. He remained a very respectable and honoured public servant. A true music lover, he devoted his time in teaching

music and also visited many places as an examiner of "Prachin Kala Kendra" He is a very fun loving and humourous person. He is celebrating his hundredth Birthday at Kolkata with his son, two daughters, brother, many nephews, nieces,

daughters in law, sons in law, grand childrens and great grand .Sri ganesh Chandra Bhowmik's large family, people in Coochbehar and his numerous friends and well wishers Wish him a long and healthy life.. This article has been contributed with deep reverence and affection for Shri Ganesh Chandra Bhowmik by his daughter in law Ms Soma Bhowmik. Ms Soma is an acclaimed artiste and a sensitive poet.



New Delhi: Former Chief Justice of India Justice U U Lalit said on Saturday the collegium system of appointment of judges is a near perfect model which is "foolproof". Speaking at an event organised by 'Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms' (CJAR) on "Judicial Appointments and Reforms", Justice Lalit said a rigorous process is involved in recommending names for judgeship of constitutional courts. "According to me, we don't have a system better than the collegium system. If we don't have anything qualitatively better than the collegium



system, naturally, we must work towards making it possible that this collegium system survives. Today the model as per which we work is a near perfect model," the ex-CJI said. Justice Lalit, who retired in November 2022, said judiciary is in a better position to adjudicate on the merits of the potential candidates as they have seen their work over

the years. "When the matter reaches the SC collegium, there is a fully perfect situation, whether the name be accepted or not to be accepted. It's not as if it is a whimsical exercise taken by someone. It's a foolproof arrangement," he said. The collegium system where sitting judges appoint judges to the constitutional courts

has become a major bone of contention between the judiciary and the government. Wading into the debate over the collegium system, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar recently said by scrapping the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), which was established by an Act of parliament, the Supreme Court severely compromised parliamentary sovereignty and disregarded the mandate of the people. The NJAC Act, which sought to overturn the collegium system of appointing Supreme Court and high court

judges, was struck down by the top court which termed it as unconstitutional. Mr Dhankhar's remarks came amid frequent run-ins between the government and the judiciary. Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju has often criticised the collegium system over its alleged opaqueness and called it "alien to the Constitution". A bench of the top court had recently wondered whether the collegium's recommendations for appointment of judges were being withheld by the government because the SC struck down the NJAC Act brought in to replace the collegium system.

DVC Receives IAC Corporate Award



Kolkata:Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has been awarded with the winner of "Pioneering Work in Creating

Future-Ready Inclusive Organization" in the Public Sector category of IAC Corporate Awards 2023 by the Industry Academia

Conference. The award was received by the respected Member Secretary, DVC today at New Delhi.

Sharad Pawar's Advice To Uddhav Thackeray After He Loses Shiv Sena Symbol

Pune, Maharashtra: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Chief Sharad Pawar remarked on the loss of the "bow and arrow" symbol of his ally Uddhav Thackeray faction on Friday, stating that it would not have any major impact. He also stressed that the people would accept the new symbol. Mr Pawar's remarks came after Election Commission of India (ECI) ordered that the party name "Shiv Sena" and the party symbol "Bow and Arrow" will be given to the Eknath Shinde faction. The NCP chief asked Mr Thackeray to accept the Election Commission's decision and take a new symbol. "It's the decision of the Election Commission. Once a decision is



given, there can be no discussion. Accept it and take a new symbol. It (the loss of the old symbol) is not going to have any major impact as people will accept (the new symbol). It just would remain in the discussion for the next 15-30 days, that's it," Mr Pawar said. He recalled the Congress having to change its symbol from two bullocks with a

yoke to hand and said that the people would accept the new symbol of Uddhav Thackeray faction like the way they accepted the Congress' new symbol. "I remember Indira Gandhi also faced this situation. Congress used to have a 'two bullocks with a yoke' symbol. Later they lost it & adopted 'hand' as a new

symbol & people accepted it. Similarly, people will accept the new symbol (of Uddhav Thackeray faction)," he said. In a major setback to the Uddhav Thackeray faction of Shiv Sena, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday allotted the party name "Shiv Sena" and the symbol "Bow and Arrow" to the faction

led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. While the Shinde faction welcomed the decision of being recognised as the real Shiv Sena, the Uddhav Thackeray faction said they will move the Supreme Court. The Uddhav Thackeray faction accused the Election Commission of haste and said the decision shows "it works as BJP agent". The Commission observed in its order that the current constitution of the Shiv Sena party is undemocratic and has been "mutilated to undemocratically appoint people from a coterie as office bearers without any election at all". It said such party structures fail to inspire confidence.

BJP sends memo to President, seeks dismissal of Naveen-led government

BHUBANESWAR: Even as police service associations are mounting pressure on the state government to take stringent action against leader of Opposition (LoP) Jayanarayan Mishra for his alleged assault on a lady police officer, the BJP on Thursday said the attack on Mishra is another government sponsored attempt on the life of the BJP leader.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan questioned the issue of morality raised by the ruling BJD, "when half a dozen ministers and leaders of



the party are directly involved in murder cases and other scandals". "The government is preaching morality when the law and order situation in the state is at its worst. This is like the pot calling the kettle black," Pradhan remarked.

On a two-day visit to the state, Pradhan told mediapersons that a cabinet minister was shot dead in full public glare by a police ASI. After the incident, Mishra withdrew his personal security officer as he lost his faith in the state police. "What crime did he

(Mishra) commit that the state government used three different service associations of the state police to demand an apology from him," the union minister questioned. The government kept

silent when the minister of state for Home described state police corrupt and BJD MLA Soumya Ranjan Patnaik also expressed doubt about his PSO. "It has now become clear that the ruling BJD has

targeted Mishra," he said. Expressing his displeasure over the manner in which Mishra has been treated by the state police, Pradhan said, "Mishra has not become the leader of Opposition by

the mercy of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. He has been elected by the BJP Parliamentary Board." BJP national general secretary and Odisha in-charge D Purandeswari said a false case has been filed against Mishra. "He was shoved and punched by a woman IIC. Even the LoP is not safe in the State," she alleged. The party also sought the dismissal of BJD government for the fast deteriorating law and order situation in the state.

In the third and concluding day of its

agitation over the issue, BJP staged a dharna near Raj Bhawan and later submitted a memorandum addressed to the President of India though Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal seeking removal of the ruling BJD from government. Addressing the protest rally, state BJP president Samir Mohanty said the state government is trying to stifle the voice of the Opposition (BJP) as it is exposing the wrongdoings of the government. Coming down heavily on the government, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi said, "I am not feeling safe in the state where a government could not protect its cabinet minister what to talk about the general public." The chief minister being in charge of the Home portfolio should step down on moral ground. He should own up the responsibility after the murder of Das, the Bhubaneswar MP said. Party MPs Suresh Pujari and Pratap Chandar Sarangi, and other senior leaders of the party also denounced the government.

BSKY Boon For People

Bhubaneswar: The State Government's flagship health scheme 'Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojna' has helped a patient undergo bone marrow transplantation and the family is grateful for the benefit.

"Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik saved my mother from certain death," said Sumant Kumar Sahu of Naubak village in Jajpur district.

He said, "My mother Snehalata Sahu (52) was constantly having fever. Legs were aching. she was always late. Various preliminary tests revealed that my mother's hemoglobin is decreasing. Platelets

also decrease. After that we saw the medicine specialist. Various tests revealed that my mother has blood cancer. Disturbed by this, our father passed away on January 17, 2021 due to a heart-stroke. "We are three siblings. I am the eldest. I was studying and helping my father in his work. No idea what to do. We had BSKY Card that gave us courage. After asking the people of the village, we got to

know about my mother's treatment and took her to SUM Hospital," he said. A picture of the card was stamped at the counter. I went to that counter. The Swasthya Sathis helped us, he added.

Sumant said were directed to Dr Priyanka Samal, Professor of hematology department, got the tests done and the chemo therapy and medicines were provided free.

After examinations bone marrow transplantation was suggested. But by then the BSKY limit of Rs 5 lakh was almost used up, he added. As we brothers and sisters were worried, the Swasthya Sathis in the hospital helped us. More funds were approved and my mother underwent the transplantation. The doctor and the nurses took care of my mother.

"Now we have returned home with our mother. She is fine. About Rs 10 lakh was spent on treatment. "We are eternally grateful to the Chief Minister," he added.



SOA Pacts With GMR



Bhubaneswar: Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited (GKEL), Dhenkanal, for mutual benefit.


As per the MoU, SOA will interact with GKEL for the purpose of getting familiarized with industrial exposure for industry ready problems and live training program for students and faculty members. GKEL will support short and long

term training of students of SOA every year as per the mutually agreed terms. SOA will extend academic and research support to GKEL personnel on a case-to-case basis by facilitating their visit to its laboratories and other facilities.

In order to fulfill the objective, a number of projects along with ancillary activities like seminars, workshops etc will be organised. The MoU, which will be effective from the date of its signing, will remain valid for 36


months and extended subsequently if both parties felt the need. The MoU was signed between Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Pro-Vice Chancellor of SOA and top officials of GKEL. Pramod Kumar Panda, SOA's Chief Administrative Officer, Prof. Renu Sharma, Additional Dean (Student Affairs), Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), Dr. Sujit Kumar Dash, Training and Placement Head, ITER, Mr. Sumit

Mitra, Head, Career Development Cell, ITER, Dr. Saroj Acharya, Head of Department, Mechanical Engineering, ITER, Dr. Binod Kumar Sahu, Head of Department, Electrical Engineering, ITER, Dr. Nirajan Nayak, Head of Department, Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Dr. Shakti Prakash Jena, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, were present during the signing of the MoU.



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Duroflex launches Summer Story'22

Bhubaneswar: Duroflex, India's leading sleep solutions brand, has recently launched the 'Summer Story 22' Collection in the bed linen category. The brand has been at top of its game in providing intelligent sleep solutions to its consumers for years and now wishes to make sleep spaces – a place of creative expression as well. The brand had recently launched a couture bed linen collection with India's legendary designer – Rohit Bal. It is now back with a lively summer collection that has design stories for all tastes.

Summer is all about fresh colours and light moods. The new 'Summer Story' collection is crafted to bring in a burst of summer colours into your sleep space while striking a fine balance

between style and health. This entire collection will truly allow one to soak in the beauty of a summer afternoon within the comfort of their bedroom in a trio of design stories – Chroma, Sanctuary & Nostalgia.

Chromacollection is about adding a pop of colour to your sleep space in unique in house designs. Inspired by nature and the growing love for flora in urban households these days, the Sanctuary collection aims to make a personal nirvana at home. The design forecasts in the country show a comeback of the old style furniture, motifs as well as décor. Riding on this vintage vibe, Nostalgia collection is like a sweet walk down the memory lane with prints and patterns that make you feel right at home.

Speaking about the launch of new bed linen

range, Smita Murarka, Chief Marketing Officer, Duroflex said; "We forayed into the category last year with the goal of becoming a complete sleep solutions provider for our consumers. This season, we wanted to offer a new range of designs that reflect the cheery and delightful mood of the Indian Summers. Summer Story 22 collection is the first of our seasonal collections that we plan to introduce with every new season."

Duroflex Bed Linen range will be available at all retail outlets as well as e-commerce and marketplaces. Apart from multi-brand outlets, the range will be available on the Duroflex website, Amazon and Flipkart as well. The price range starts from INR 1099 with a special inaugural launch offer of a 15% discount.

TPNODL Expands Customer Care Network with New Center at Bhadrak

Balasore, TP Northern Odisha Distribution Ltd. (TPNODL), a joint venture of Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, inaugurated a Customer Care Centre (CCC) at Bhadrak, today. With the opening of this new CCC, TPNODL now has a chain of three highly efficient Customer Care Centres with one at Balasore and one at Baripada.

The Bhadrak customer care center was inaugurated by Mr. Bhaskar Sarkar, CEO, TPNODL in presence of Mr. Dushyant Kumar Tyagi, Chief Commercial, Mr Nilesh Chandrakant Potphode, Chief Operations, Mr. Vinod Kumar, Head Customer Services and Mr. Srikanth Padhi,

Superintendent Engineer, Bhadrak among other officials and guests.

The center will be managed by a team of trained staff well versed in handling an entire scope of customer service offerings such as new connection applications, monthly bill payments, customers' queries and concerns along with other customer related services thereby, strengthening TPNODL's commitment of offering excellent services to all its consumers.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bhaskar Sarkar, Chief Executive Officer, TP Northern Odisha Distribution Limited said, "With an

aim to provide better experience to our customers, we have inaugurated our new Customer Care Centre at Bhadrak today and two more centres to be dedicated in this week. We are extremely delighted to serve the people in these areas by offering them an easy access to a gamut of services through our innovative solutions, all under one roof."

It is noteworthy that consumers can also directly call to TPNODL's toll free number 1800-345-6718/1912 for any of their concerns or download 'My Tata power mobile app' for any of the services pertaining to electricity in northern Odisha.

FALI BRINGS INDUSTRY LEADERS TOGETHER TO NURTURE THE NEXT GENERATION

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

agriculture.

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

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

Over its first eight years, FALI has

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

Tata Motors introduces the new Nexon EVMAX at INR 17.74 lakh

Bhubaneswar: Committed to the rapid electrification of mobility in India, Tata Motors today launched an extension to India's bestselling EV in the personal mobility segment, the new Nexon EV MAX, in Bhubaneswar. Available across dealerships in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri & Berhampur (Dion Automotives) the Nexon EV Max has been launched at an attractive starting price of INR 17.74 lakh (ex-showroom All India). With this launch, Tata Motors is taking the lead to enhance the appeal of EVs and expand the market with a new offering for customers who are

looking for longer intercity travel. The new Nexon EV MAX is powered by high voltage state-of-the-art Ziptron technology and will be available in two trim options – the Nexon EV Max XZ+ and Nexon EV Max XZ+ Lux. It will come in 3 exciting colours – Intense-Teal (exclusive to the Nexon EV MAX), Daytona Grey and Pristine White. Dual tone body colour will be offered as a standard.

Equipped with a 40.5 kWh Lithium-ion battery pack, the Nexon EV Max offers 33% higher battery capacity, delivering an anxiety-free ARAI certified range of 437 km (under standard testing conditions),

which ensures uninterrupted inter-city travel. The Nexon EV MAX produces 105 kW (143 PS) of power and delivers an instant torque of 250 Nm available at push of the pedal, resulting in 0 to 100 sprint times in under 9 secs. Taking the charging experience to the Max level, the Nexon EV Max will be available with options of a 3.3 kW charger or a 7.2 kW AC fast charger. The 7.2 kW AC fast charger can be installed either at home or at workplace, which helps in reducing charging time to 6.5 hrs. Making it an irresistible proposition, the Nexon EV MAX will support a faster charging time of 0 - 80% in just

56 mins from any 50 kW DC fast charger.

Territory Sales Manager, Tata Motors Ltd - Sabyasachi Das, Mayor Smt Sulochana Das, DGM SBI - Anand Bikram, DGM Indian Bank - Zonal Manager (Bhubaneswar) - V Shankar Raju, Dealer Principal - Manoj Kumar Sahoo, CEO, DION Automotive - Satyam Pattnaik and Tata Motors Regional Manager (East-4) - Sisir Srivastav present at the launch event.

Commenting on the launch, Mr. Vivek Srivatsa, Head, Marketing, Sales and Service Strategy, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd. said, "We at Tata Motors are

committed to the rapid electrification of mobility in the country, and are humbled by the overwhelming response that we are receiving from our customers. Keeping customer centricity at the core and dedicated to bringing in newer products at regular and quick intervals, we are elated to launch the new Nexon EV MAX – an SUV that offers all EV users MAX freedom to undertake regular and uninterrupted long distance travel. This SUV offers more range, more power, and faster charging while improving the overall driving efficiency, providing an uncompromised EV ownership experience."

TPSODL warns customers against the fraudulent messages for updating KYC

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bhubaneswar: TTK Prestige, India's leading kitchen appliances company, has launched an exciting 'Anything for Anything' exchange festival on July 31st 2022.

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

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

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

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

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

that will help to fulfil their academic dreams. The candidates registering for CST 2.1 will have to take a 60-minute online test in the MCQ format (Multiple Choice Questions), which will have no negative marking. The General Knowledge and Basic English section shall be compulsory for all students, while the other two subjects shall be according to the students' respective streams of study. Interested candidates may register on or before 28th May, 2022 at the Registration Link <https://adtu.in/scholarship/>. The test is scheduled for 29th May '22. Registration is FREE.

"It gives us immense pleasure to announce a massive hike in provision of fund under "Scholarship for meritorious students" on competitive basis in

AdtU. The total scholarship from an amount of Rs. 1 Crore in 2021 is raised to Rs. 5 Crore this current year keeping in view the large increase in number of applications and deserving candidates for admission in AdtU. AdtU is committed to support in fulfilling the dreams of meritorious students for acquiring knowledge and university degree. This scholarship is open for students across different states of India and administered through a "Common Scholarship Test" held nationally. This scholarship scheme is an outcome of the University management contributing towards a greater cause for a better society through education," said Prof. (Dr.) N.C. Talukdar, Vice Chancellor, AdtU.

Blood Donation Drive at Tata Steel Kalinganagar

Kalinganagar: A blood donation drive was organised by Contract Safety Management Team of Logistics Operations Department, Tata Steel Kalinganagar (TSK) in association with Central Red Cross Blood Bank, Cuttack at Green Transport Park, Tata Steel Kalinganagar on Thursday.

Despite the scorching heat of summer, employees of Tata Steel and various vendor partners voluntarily lined up to donate blood during the whole day. A total of 334 units of blood were collected through the programme. The blood donation drive with the theme 'Blood is not for Road' was inaugurated by Mr C L Karn, Chief, Logistics Operations, TSK in the presence of Mr R S Mishra, Chief Safety (Operations), TSK, Mr Pramod Kumar Thakur, Head, Outbound Logistics, TSK, Mr Manoj Kumar Pradhan, Head, Inbound Logistics & RMHS, TSK and Mr Bismay Kumar Behera, Head Mechanical Maintenance RMHS, TSK Among others present on the occasion were Dr Raghunath Behura, Medical Officer, Central Red Cross Blood Bank along with senior officials of Tata Steel Kalinganagar.

Gosai Furniture opens new store in Bhubaneswar

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

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

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

2nd Test: Nathan Lyon, Travis Head Put Australia In Control vs India

New Delhi: Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin added another significant chapter to India's lower-order fightbacks as their priceless 114-run eighth-wicket partnership put the hosts on an even keel against Australia on an engrossing second day of the second Test here on Saturday. Thanks to Axar's invaluable 74 off 115 balls and Ashwin's 37 off 71 balls, India, who were in complete mess at 139/7, recovered well to end their first innings at 262 in 83.3 overs, just one run behind Australia's 263. At stumps, Australia were 61/1 in their second

innings, taking a handy 62-run lead. Had the two all-rounders not bailed the hosts out, Australia would have been far more happy than they actually were at stumps on Saturday. Travis Head (39 batting), opening for a concussed David Warner, and Marnus Labuschagne (16 batting) attacked the Indian spinners, knowing that defending wasn't an option. They picked up a handful of boundaries in the process. As has been the script over the past few years, batter No.6 (Jadeja), No.8 (Ashwin) and No.9 (Axar) were at the forefront of the

recovery act after specialist batters were caught in two minds on whether to attack or defend against the Australian spinners led by Nathan Lyon (5/67 in 29 overs), who grabbed his 22nd five-wicket haul. There were no demons in the track but a few cracks on the good and short-of-good-length spots on both sides of the strip led the ball to keep low.

Most top-order India batters were adjudged leg-before on the front-foot, barring skipper Rohit Sharma, who was bowled playing across the line. The worrying trend was India batters

playing the Australian spinners with their pads as the first line of defence. However, Axar and Ashwin applied the strategy to consistently counter-attack the bowlers despite the fall of seven wickets. Instead of plonking the front-foot forward, they used the pace of the deliveries from Todd Murphy (2/53 in 18 overs) and debutant left-arm spinner Matt Kuhnemann (2/72 in 21.3 overs), to score runs. Axar got his third fifty -- and a second consecutive one in the series -- with a six over cow corner off Kuhnemann and another over extra cover off Murphy. He also hit a six

off Lyon, but his standout shot was a back-foot punch through the covers off Pat Cummins. Ashwin too was determined at the other end and did not let go of the scoring opportunities as Australia lost the initiative after dominating the better part of the first one-and-a-half sessions on Saturday. India lost wickets in a heap in the morning session before Virat Kohli (44 off 84 balls) and Ravindra Jadeja (26 off 74 balls) steadied the innings in the post-lunch session by adding 59 runs for the fifth wicket. But once Murphy, playing his second Test, and debutant

Kuhnemann dismissed the duo in quick succession, things went downhill quickly for the hosts. The difference one saw between the Australian spin attack in Nagpur and Delhi could be due to the pace of the Kotla track. Credit must be given to stalwart Lyon and the two young spinners for keeping up the pressure despite losing three referrals in the first hour of play two. Kohli, who played with a lot of composure and was looked good for a big score, would consider himself unlucky that he had to head back due to an umpire's

call. Kuhnemann's arm ball seemed to be brushing the leg-bail and India's No. 1 batter looked distraught as there was no conclusive evidence on whether the ball hit the pad first or the bat. Before that, a Murphy slider caught India's most consistent Test batter Jadeja plumb in front. In the morning session, KL Rahul's bad patch continued while Cheteshwar Pujara had a forgettable first innings outing in his 100th Test. Only Rohit Sharma (32) looked in good touch as a vintage Lyon was in his element, troubling the top-order repeatedly. Rahul (17),

who survived two DRS appeals, was trapped leg-before as Lyon tossed one from round the wicket and got it to deviate enough and find his pads. Rahul's run of failures will again spur the debate about whether young Shubman Gill should have been given the opportunity to play in the ongoing Test. Rohit seemed to carry from where he had left in the first Test and was also playing the sweep shot to good effect. However, he played across the line to a straighter one from Lyon and was castled in the process.

MLC inks deal with New South Wales to partner in Washington DC franchise

New Delhi: Cricket New South Wales (CNSW) have announced a multi-fold partnership with USA's multi-million dollar T20 league Major League Cricket (MLC), slated to commence on July 13. As per the agreement, CNSW will link up with the Washington DC franchise as the high-performance partner. CNSW will oversee the franchise's cricket operations initiatives including setting up of a player roster and development of a high-performance division relating to coaching and sports sciences.

The franchise will be based out of their proposed \$20m home in the heart of George Mason University, about 20 miles from Washington DC, set to be operational in 2025. CNSW will unite with Sanjay Govil, an Indian



American tech entrepreneur and the mastermind behind the upcoming facility at GMU, to form the ownership group at the yet to be named franchise. It is understood that while there were other IPL teams vying for a pie in the Washington DC franchise, Govil, the lead investor at the franchise,

chose CNSW as a partner after a few months of active deliberations.

"This partnership with Cricket New South Wales will turbo-charge the launch of our Washington D.C.-based MLC team, supporting our high-performance plans with their wealth of experience and expertise as one of the most

renowned cricket organizations in the world. We're excited to develop this partnership and hit the ground running ahead of Major League Cricket's launch season this year," said Govil.

While CNSW will have an active role to play in the Washington DC franchise, the broader strategic partnership with

MLC will allow room for major player development and exchange initiatives with the Major League and Minor League being played in the Australian winters. The deal also further outlined possibilities for US based players to ply their trade in the CNSW premier competition.

"With the global cricket landscape currently undergoing significant transition, we view the United States as a market with immense growth potential," said Lee Germon, CEO of CNSW.

"Our productive engagement with MLC in recent months makes it clear there is a firm alignment on a shared vision for the league and we look forward to progressing this relationship ahead of MLC's launch season".

Tamim Iqbal returns for England ODIs

Dhaka: Regular skipper Tamim Iqbal has returned to the ODI squad for the upcoming series against England at home, the Bangladesh Cricket Board confirmed on Thursday (February 16) while announcing the squad for the first two games.

Tamim was earlier ruled out of both the Tests and the ODIs against India recently due to a groin injury and his last appearance for the national side came more than six months ago in an ODI in Harare. The 33-year-old featured in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League but was rested for his side's last two fixtures keeping the England series in mind.

Uncapped batsman Towhid Hridoy was included in the squad by the selectors on the back of his performances in the BPL whereas Taijul Islam has also made a



comeback to the 50-over squad. Yasir Ali, Anamul Haque, Nurul Hasan and Nasum Ahmed, who were a part of the ODI squad for the India series, failed to make the cut this time. While Nurul and Anamul were excluded on the basis of their form, chief selector Minhajul Abedin confirmed that Yasir's chances of making it to the squad still remained alive. "We still can include one cricketer in our squad and we will consider that on the performance of the practice game and we are

trying to see whether Yasir could make it through performing there or not," Minhajul said.

England will arrive on February 24 to play three ODIs and as many T20Is.

Squad: Tamim Iqbal (Captain), Litton Kumar Das, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Afif Hossain, Mahmud Ullah, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Ebadot Hossain Chowdhury, Taijul Islam, Towhid Hridoy

Buck stops with Bavuma after Shukri shake-up

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

forced him out of the series in Australia, and Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton, Wiaan Mulder and Senuran Muthusamy are back in favour.

Last month came the news that bowling coach Charl Langeveldt would join Punjab Kings, and it was first reported last week - and repeated in the press on Friday - that JP Duminy was being lined up to replace batting coach Justin Sammons.

Outside the dressing room, the selection chief has been sacked. Or, in the flowery words of a CSA release, they had "decided to release Victor Mpsang of his role". The other selector, Patrick Moroney, will in future be confined to under-19 duty. For now at least, squads and teams will be picked by Test coach Shukri Conrad and his white-ball counterpart, Rob Walter, with input from the captains. Conrad and Walter are themselves new arrivals having been appointed last month to



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

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

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

crack. 'Klaasie' is, in my opinion, not just a batter that we can stick in the field. I've always viewed him as a wicketkeeper-batter, so for me it was a straight shootout as to who I wanted. And that's 'Klaasie'. That's unfortunate on someone like Kyle."

And on the uncapped Coetzee's retention, which came at the expense of Ngidi: "It's quite simple for me. I think Gerald Coetzee needs a good run. We all know the promise that he holds, and now's as good a time as ever to unleash him. Without giving too much away, I'd like to think that I'd be in a position to play all our quick bowlers in Centurion. Depending on what the Wanderers throws up, that XI might change. It's purely Gerald ahead of Lungi right now."

And on the elevation of De Zorzi, the leading batter in domestic first-class cricket this season with 489 runs at 122.25 in five innings and a best effort of 304 not out:

"Tony's career has gone in one direction, north rather than south. He's someone I identify as a future captain. The fact that he's scored a mountain of runs is no surprise to me."

And on the axed Van der Dussen, Erwee and Zondo: "I don't think anybody is in a position to say there's never a way back in. You can never say never. But changes had to be made and I made them. What must they do to come back in? Score lots of runs at domestic level at a good strike rate. If you want to play internationally you've got to dominate domestically not only the amount of runs but at the rate at which you score them."

And on why a squad for two Tests on the Highveld should include three spinners in Keshav Maharaj, Simon Harmer and Muthusamy: "I'm old-fashioned in terms of a batting line-up. I want seven batters. So I want to increase our allrounders stocks. Allrounders don't only

have to be seam bowlers, they can also be guys who bowl spin. In Wiaan and 'Sen', we get that balance. If I want to play four quicks because I think the pitch is going to be a certain way, it gives me the option to play 'Sen'."

Conrad and Walter will hold a lot of authority, but Enoch Nkwe, CSA's director of cricket, saw value in the modern idea of giving coaches more clout: "I've always believed the coach should have more of a say in selection, as long as it's in line with CSA's bigger strategy. It is going to be an interim phase, something we want to trial. But I believe the two coaches are the best positioned people to talk about selection." Bavuma is still the ODI captain but he has given up the T20I leadership in the wake of South Africa's disastrous World Cup campaign in the format in Australia in October and November. His successor in that format has yet to be named.