

State Seeks FBI Support

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday said the State Crime Branch is seeking the help of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the USA for behavioral analysis of accused in Minister Naba Kisore Das murder case. The Chief Minister has made a statement in the Odisha Legislative Assembly amid ruckus by the Opposition over the sensitive case. The CM has informed the House about the progress made in the Crime Branch probe and slammed the Opposition for politicking such a sensitive case. The State Crime Branch is seeking the help of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States of America, as they have

the best expertise in behavioral analysis in such cases, he said. "We have requested the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to facilitate an evaluation of the behavior of the accused by the behavioral support unit of the FBI of the USA," Shri Patnaik said. On January 29, 2023 around 12:35 pm, Naba Kishore Das, then Health Minister was fired at by an ASI of Police Gopal Das from his service weapon. Despite best efforts, the then minister could not be saved. The accused officer has been immediately dismissed from service and all efforts will be made to bring him to justice, he said. To ensure transparency in the CB investigation, CM Shri

Patnaik said, on request of his Government, the Orissa High Court has nominated one retired judge Justice J.P. Das to monitor the investigation. The Crime Branch has been asked to do a thorough and scientific investigation to establish the truth in the case. The CB has taken services of the best forensic experts in the country in this case, he said, adding, the State Forensic Science Laboratory, the Central Forensic Science Laboratory at New Delhi and the Gujarat State Forensic Science Laboratory at Gandhi Nagar are assisting the Odisha Crime Branch. To examine whether the accused is telling the truth or is being deceptive, several tests including psychiatric evaluation, narco-



analysis, forensic psychological assessment and layered voice analysis of the accused were conducted, the Chief Minister informed. He assured the House that no stone will be left unturned in ensuring a full, fair and open investigation in the case with the assistance of the best forensic experts in India and abroad. The Chief Minister strongly criticised the

Opposition especially the BJP for politicising the sensitive case. "In the aftermath of this terrible incident, the manner in which this very sensitive case is being politicized has shocked me as well as the people of Odisha. It is disturbing to see the baseless and malicious allegations that are being made," he said. Stating that the whole police investigation will be subjected to

judicial scrutiny, the CM questioned what is the need to do politics in the case and make baseless and malicious allegations? Odisha has a tradition of a very mature and high level of political discourse. The level of political discourse in this case is disturbing. Politics on a sensitive crime is not a good sign for our democracy, he further said, He alleged that the Opposition, especially

the state BJP that has no other agenda except politicising heinous crimes and demoralising state's police force which is the pride of Orissa. Such unfortunate tragic incidents involving an individual in uniformed service have happened in the past whether, army or central paramilitary forces, but it has never led to defaming of the entire force, he pointed out. The country always stands by its brave forces. Unfortunately, the state BJP has tried to defame the entire police force of Odisha. The State BJP has insulted the youth of Odisha and people will not forgive them for this, said the Leader of the House. Digging at the Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra

(without naming him), Shri Patnaik said, "Assaulting a lady police officer on duty by a person holding high constitutional post is deplorable and disgraceful. Odisha has always respected its women and will never forgive this shameful behaviour." The Chief Minister said his Government's only aim will be to bring the perpetrators of such crime to justice and give the strictest punishment. However, Shri Patnaik has not informed the Assembly about the motive behind the murder of the Minister. "People of Odisha have trusted me with responsibility, time and again, and I continue to uphold their faith without fear or favour," he told the Odisha Assembly.

Six Dead, 7 Injured After Truck Hits Auto-Rickshaw On Odisha-Andhra Border



Rayagada(KCN): As many as six persons died and three others sustained critical injuries after the auto-rickshaw they were travelling in was hit by a speeding truck near Chalapadam Shiva temple on the Odisha - Andhra border. According to reports, the deceased persons were identified as Melaka Amudama, Huika Lakshmi,

Huika Narsama, Malaka Venkathy and Malaka Sarada of Antivalsa village in Komarada, Andhra Pradesh. Besides, seven seriously injured people have been admitted to the local Parvathipuram hospital. Sources said, 13 persons from Bangaramma village of Komarada in Andhra Pradesh had come to Tumbalasa

village this morning by an auto rickshaw to fix a marriage. On their way back this afternoon, a speeding truck hit the auto near Choulapadam Shiva Temple. A truck coming from the opposite direction at high speed hit the vehicle head-on, leaving four women and an elderly man dead on the spot. On being informed, police reached the accident spot, recovered the dead bodies and shifted the injured to Parvathipuram hospital. Parvathipuram SP V. Vidyasagar reached the spot and assessed the situation.

Congress Will Come To Power In 2024: Mallikarjun Kharge

New Delhi: Citing expunction of remarks and suspension of an MP, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday alleged that the government has made Parliament a "rubber stamp" with members not allowed to raise voice of the people and demand a JPC probe into the Adani-Hindenburg issue.

He said everyone will work jointly and definitely, the Congress together with friendly parties, will form the government in 2024.



Addressing the Indian National Trade Union Congress plenary session, Kharge also urged people to save democracy and Constitution, saying if this was not done then "dictatorship will come and finish everyone". The Congress chief raised the Adani issue, accusing the government of working for the welfare of crony capitalists. "Government has made Parliament a rubber stamp. When we want to put forward our views, we are not allowed to do so. Our people got notices, one woman MP was suspended, why? They were raising the voice of the people and against Adani," he said.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas sets example in Mass Drug Administration



Bhubaneswar(KCN): To continue the momentum on, the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) has been executed at AIIMS Bhubaneswar campus today in association with District Health Administration, Khurda. To begin with, AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr. Ashutosh Biswas set an example for all by consuming the DEC and Albendazole tablets in the presence of Khurda CDMO and other senior officials. After initiating the process, Dr. Biswas urged all to complete their doses for eliminating the Lymphatic Filariasis. Under the National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control, an annual dose of DEC and Albendazole is administered through mass drug administration (MDA)

in all 256 endemic districts in India. Out of 256 Filaria prone districts, Odisha has 20 endemic districts including Khurda, said Dr. Biswas. AIIMS Bhubaneswar has set up a dedicated MDA Corner in OPD foyer for free distribution of DEC & Albendazole tablets to patients and their relatives. Also, faculties, students, staffs and families residing in the premises of AIIMS Bhubaneswar are also being distributed the drugs by a dedicated health team. Today, more than 544 persons have consumed the drugs at AIIMS Bhubaneswar. Among others DEAN (Academic) Dr. P R Mohapatra, DEAN(Research) Dr. Binod Patra, faculty from CMFM Dept. Dr. Binod Behera took part in the MDA process

and consumed the drug. The programme witnessed the presence of Khurda CDMO Dr. Aratabandhu Nayak, DMO Dr. Jeebanta Kumar Achari, VBDS Deepak Kumar Nayak, Susmita Samantaray, District Officer PCI Jobkimson Pradhan. It may be noted here that Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India had launched the National Programme to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis in 2004. However, MDA is contraindicated for Pregnant women, Children below two years and seriously ill patients. In a recent meeting chaired by Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has set a goal to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, three years ahead of Global target.

Heat Is On: Mercury Shoots Up To 38-Degree C In Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With the mercury soaring to 38-degree Celsius on Tuesday, Bhubaneswar on Tuesday recorded the state's highest temperature of the year so far, an IMD official said. Bhubaneswar on Tuesday recorded the highest maximum temperature of the year in the state, said Uma Shankar Das, scientist at India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Bhubaneswar centre. As per the prediction of different



weather agencies, the temperature will remain a little high this year compared to last year, he said. The all-time high

maximum temperature in Bhubaneswar in February was recorded in 1963 when it went up to 42.7-degree Celsius.

In February last year, the maximum temperature recorded in the city in February was 34.5-degree Celsius, Das

informed. On Tuesday, Angul town recorded a maximum temperature of 37.1-degree Celsius, while it was 37-degrees Celsius in the coal town of Talcher. Western Odisha towns Bolangir and Boudh each recorded a maximum temperature of 36.9-degree Celsius, followed by Sonepur (36.8), Jharsuguda (36.8), Malkangiri (36.5), Sambalpur (36.5), Hirkud (36.3), Titlagarh (36), Baripada (36) and Bhadrak (36).

MY HEART ON THIS VALENTINE

Sneha Sharon

Oo How I wonder
Everytime I look at the couples'
Outside the fenster

Having a sweet swap
each time the eyes meet
assuring eternal intimacy

Some stay
Some depart
As the season changes
Outside the fenster

My heart romps
Every spring
Rejuvenating the passion inside me
Because on closing the drape
It's always me and you

It's been 17yrs now
This is me and my text book
the immortal mortal constant
in my every wax and wane
My heart even on this Valentine

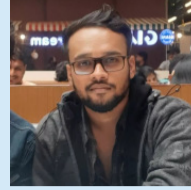
**Student, Bhawanipatna,
Kalahandi, Odisha, India**



Magic of mornings

Nandighosh Kuanr

From a slumber deep and long,
I used to wake up with a yawn,
Till something changed within me,
And now I'm up before the dawn.



The sky is dark, the world is still,
And all around me, it's quiet and chill,
But I'm filled with a sense of peace,
As I watch the morning slowly release.

The sun, it peeks from behind the hills,
And the sky, it glows with a golden thrill,
The birds, they chirp and sing their song,
And I feel like I truly belong.

I breathe in deep the morning air,
And feel my worries start to wear,
As the day ahead, it stretches wide,
And I'm ready to take it in stride.

So here I stand, before the sun,
A new day begun, a new life begun,
And I thank the change that's come my way,
For helping me greet the morning each day.

Dagarpada, Balasore

Quotation of the Day

**IF YOU
RESIST CHANGE,
YOU RESIST
LIFE.**



Culture of Odisha

Apart from its architectural marvels, beautiful and scenic locations, tourist attractions, abundant natural wealth, the state of Odisha is also known for its exquisite, unique and vibrant culture and is truly a pride for India. People belonging to various religions and castes live together in peace and harmony with each other. They celebrate various festivals and fairs with pomp and gaiety, adding to the cultural exquisiteness of this state. The rich historic traditions and cultural heritage are reflected through various celebrations accompanied by folk songs and music, arts and crafts, architecture, practices and lifestyle of the people here.



Silver Filigree

The intricate silver filigree works, called as 'Tarakasi', is quite popular in the Cuttack district of Odisha. Rich in patterns and exquisite designs, anklets, arm jewellery, necklaces, toe rings are quite popular and are in great demand, especially among the tourists visiting Odisha. The jewellery worn in the classical dance of Odissi, as well as the jewellery used as the backdrop in pandals as well as to adorn Goddess Durga, during Durga Puja is usually made out of Tarakasi work.

Applique Work

Pipli in Odisha state is said to be the birth place of applique work. Dating back to about 850 years, this vibrant and colourful art form of Odisha is a manifestation of the rich and varied culture and traditions and craftsmanship of the local artisans in Odisha. Applique

objects including canopies used during festivals and in temples, lamp shades, garden and beach umbrellas, kitchen accessories, bed and table linen, handbags and other furnishing items are available in plenty in Pipli, Bhubaneshwar and other adjoining areas.

Wood Carvings

Wooden works are among the most sought after handicrafts in Odisha. The toil and meticulous efforts of the skilled artisans here are reflected through the intricate and exquisite designs and carvings on the wood work, that catch the fancy of the visitors. Apart from utilitarian items like bowls, plates, and ashtrays, various other items including statues of gods, toys, masks, boxes are in great demand among the tourists visiting Odisha. The beautiful wood carvings on the temple ceilings, beams and doors and motifs can be witnessed at Charchika temple, Buguda, Banki, Birncharayan temple, Kapilas, Siva temple and the Laxmi Nrusingha temple at Berhampur.

Weaving



patronage of Emperor Ashoka, during the period from 261 BC to about 12th Century AD. The early medieval Odishan sculptures include various stupas, monasteries, small Buddhist images, depiction of Boddhisatva and Avalokiteswara in various forms etc.

The flawless Buddhist sculptures of Lalitgiri, Udayagiri and Ratnagiri reflect the artistic brilliance and genius of the artists. Apart from Buddhism, sculptures pertaining to various other sects including Hinduism, Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Shaktism, depicted by various forms of goddess Durga can be observed in the temples here.

The temple sculpture in Odisha mainly consists of the cult images and decorative motifs adorning the walls of the temples. The images of Ganesh, Kartikeya and Durga on the walls of Siva temple, called as Trivikra Nrusimha, Varaha and the ten avatars on the walls of the Vishnu Temple are a must see, for those who wish to get a glimpse of the grandeur of Odishan sculpture. The sculptures of yakshas and yakhis, nayika and mithuna figures, processions with musicians, elephants, horses, soldiers, human figures, as well as those based on ordinary themes like hunting, dancing, games, family life can be seen in the temples. Erotic sculptures, semi – divine beings, fables and stories, various flora and fauna are depicted in a highly realistic manner in the temples. The beautiful sculptures of Muktesvara, Rajarani and Lingaraja temples in Odisha exude a charm that captivates the visitors and takes them into a dream like trance.

Temple Sculpture in Odisha

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Culture of Odisha

Oriya, one of the oldest languages in India is the official language of this state and is spoken by majority of the population here. It bears a close resemblance to Maithili, Bengali and Assamese languages. English is widely spoken among the educated masses and visitors. Other languages that are popular among the people in Odisha include Hindi, Urdu, Telugu, Bengali etc.

Arts and Crafts of Odisha

When it comes to art and craft forms, the artisans of Odisha are widely appreciated for their talent and creativity. The rich and varied cultural heritage of this state is reflected through its vibrant and artistic and alluring handicrafts. Under the patronage of various rulers, diverse and beautiful art and craft forms have flourished in this region and bear in them strong imprints of various religions along with subtle, yet firm influences of tribal culture and traditions. For the art lovers, this state is thus a treasure trove of souvenirs, that appeal to the modern tastes of the younger generation, yet retain their ancient cultural and traditional essence.

The weavers of Odisha are known for their distinctive style and painstaking efforts, that are exhibited in the fabrics. The 'ikat' fabric created using the intricate 'dye and tie' technique is popular all over the world. The tussar silk fabrics of Sambalpur, Berhampur, Mayurbhanj and Nuapatna in Odisha are known for their unmatched beauty and striking features. The Bomkai cotton saris from Ganjam district are known for their bright tribal patterns and designs. Similarly, different regions in Odisha have their own style of weaving and make different types and patterns of textiles.

Stone carving

When it comes to stone carving, the accuracy and precision of the artisans in Odisha are unparalleled. Through intricate carvings, these craftsmen have the capability to bring to life even the mute stones. The stone carvings in Puri and Konark Temples in Odisha speak volumes about the craftsmanship and skill of the stone carvers in Odisha. While in Odisha, do visit Bhubaneshwar, Lalitgiri, Puri, Khiching to experience the magic of the enchanting stone carvings here.

Sculptures of Odisha

The culturally exquisite state of Odisha is known for its rich temple sculptures, with aesthetic and artistic images and decorative motifs. The temple sculptures of Konark temple depict the architectural brilliance and eloquence of the sculptors here. The majesty and beauty of the sculptures here tend to captivate and enthrall the audience here and the charm exuded from these sculptures is perceived as the remainder of the brilliant artistic sculpture prevalent in Odisha.

Buddhist Sculpture in Odisha

Buddhist Temple Sculptures in Odisha

The Buddhist sculptural art form was given an impetus in Odisha under the



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Shalin Bhanot, Eisha Singh, Monalisa to Headline Lead Roles in Ektaa Kapoor's 'Bekaboo'

The well-known faces of the entertainment industry Shalin Bhanot, Eisha Singh, and Monalisa have been roped in to play the lead roles in the new fantasy drama 'Bekaboo'. It also features Zain Imam and Shivangi Joshi in prominent roles.

Shalin, who was recently seen on the popular reality show 'Bigg Boss 16' and is known for his participation in 'Roadies 2', and 'Nach Baliye 4', said: "I want to thank my viewers for the overwhelming amount of love they've showered on me during my stint in

'Bigg Boss 16'. I'm grateful to have Ekta Kapoor offer me a lead role in 'Bekaboo' just before my exit from the house. I feel that I won the show before the winner was announced."

While talking about being part of the show, he added: "Exploring the fantasy revenge drama genre is a first for me and I will be seen essaying the role of a rakshas, who is about to discover the secrets of his lineage. This show is about to reinvent the fantasy genre and elevate it to a whole new level on TV.

The show revolves around two separate worlds of fairies (pari



and demons (rakshas).

Expressing her excitement about playing the role of Pari in the show, 'Ek Tha Raja Ek Thi Rani' actress Eisha Singh shared: "I'm

thrilled about playing the part of Pari. It's a dream role that marks my homecoming to the channel that has pioneered the fantasy genre on television. 'Bekaboo's

about what it takes to save the multiverse and it allows glimpses into many fascinating worlds that have their set of rules."

On the other hand,

Monalisa, who worked in a number of Bhojpuri, Hindi, Bengali, Odia, Tamil, Kannada, and Telugu language films, said that she is happy to explore a new genre and play a negative character. "This show brought the opportunity to not only explore a new genre but also play an antagonist, who is greedy for power over the multiverse. I will be seen in an entirely different look, and I can't wait to know what the audience thinks about it," she concluded. Monalisa was also seen in TV shows such as 'Nazar', 'Namak Issk Ka', 'Nach Baliye 8', 'Smart Jodi' and many more.

Abhishek Bachchan, Vicky Kaushal to host 2023 IIFA Awards



Bollywood stars Abhishek Bachchan and Vicky Kaushal will host the 2023 edition of the IIFA Weekend and Awards, the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) announced on Tuesday. The International Indian Film Academy Awards return to Yas Island, Abu

Dhabi, for the second consecutive year and will be held from May 26 and 27. In a statement, Bachchan said he is ecstatic to host IIFA Awards.

"IIFA is like family to me and it gives me immense pleasure to celebrate the very best of the extraordinary range

that Indian cinema has to offer. "With IIFA's gigantic global fan following, it is indeed an annual pilgrimage and an absolute honour to entertain and meet the fans there and connect with them globally. I look forward to hosting the IIFA Awards," the 47-year-old actor said.

Kaushal, 34, said he is looking forward to sharing the IIFA stage with Bachchan. "I feel hugely privileged, my journey with IIFA goes back by seven years to my first film, 'Masaan' when I won the Best Debut Award, followed by Best Supporting Actor for 'Sanju' and Best Actor for 'Sardar Udham' last year," he added.

The annual gala will be held in collaboration with the Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), and Miral, Abu Dhabi's leading curator of immersive destinations and experiences.

Bollywood stars Salman Khan, Varun Dhawan, and Kriti Sanon will perform at the IIFA Weekend and Awards 2023.

Hindi Remake of SS Rajamouli's Chatrapathi Wraps Up Shooting



The Hindi remake of filmmaker SS Rajamouli's 2005 hit film 'Chatrapathi' has concluded shooting, the makers announced on Tuesday. Popular Telugu actor Bellamkonda Sreenivas is making his Hindi film debut with the project, backed by producer Jayantilal Gada of Pen Studios.

VV Vinayak, who earlier directed Sreenivas in 2014's "Alludu Seenu", is helming the remake.

According to a press note, the movie has been mounted on a massive scale and shot extensively on grand sets in Hyderabad. The film is now gearing for its nationwide release.

Released in 2005, the Telugu action drama movie featured Prabhas and Shriya Saran in the lead roles.

The movie explored the theme of the exploitation faced by immigrants who come to India as it followed the story of Sivaji (Prabhas), who overcomes oppression and reunites with his long lost mother and brother.

Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan Crosses Rs 1,000 Crore Worldwide, creates history



Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Pathaan' has created history by becoming the first Hindi movie to cross the Rs 1,000 crore mark at the worldwide box office in phase one of its release, Yash Raj Films (YRF) said on Tuesday. According to the studio, the Siddharth Anand directorial raised Rs 1.25 crore nett in India (Hindi - Rs 1.20 crore, dubbed versions - Rs 0.05 crore) on its fourth Monday yesterday.

"The total worldwide gross is an incredible Rs 1000 crore (India gross: Rs 623 crore, overseas: Rs 377 crore)" YRF said in a press note. YRF

claimed that 'Pathaan' has become the highest grossing Hindi film worldwide in the history of Hindi cinema in its initial run.

Aamir Khan's 'Dangal' is the highest-grossing Indian film with a reported earnings around Rs 2,000 crore. In its initial run or phase one of the release, the movie earned over Rs 700 crore. In its second phase, when it was released in theatres in China, the film's box office crossed the Rs 1,000 crore mark in worldwide gross.

Other films that crossed Rs 1,000 crore mark at global box office include "Baahubali 2: The Conclusion", "RRR" and "K.G.F:

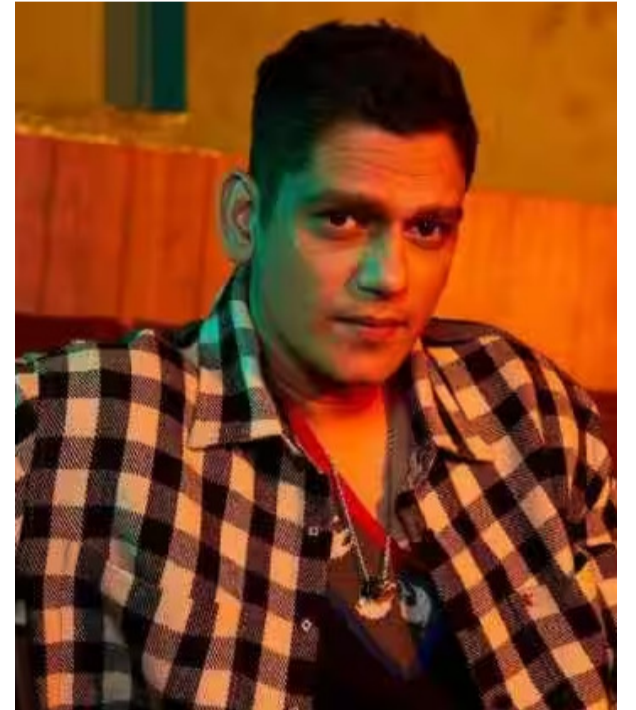
Chapter 2".

'Pathaan' follows the titular spy (Shah Rukh) who comes out of exile to stop terrorist group Outfit X from launching a debilitating attack on India. The stylish action thriller also features John Abraham, Deepika Padukone, Dimple Kapadia and Ashutosh Rana. 'Pathaan' is Shah Rukh's first big screen release as a lead in over four years after 'Zero' (2018). It is the fourth movie in producer Aditya Chopra's spy universe, following Salman Khan's 'Ek Tha Tiger' and 'Tiger Zinda Hai', and 'War', featuring Hrithik Roshan.

Vijay Varma Gears up for Berlin International Film Festival 2023 as 'Dahaad' is all set to be Premiered

Every time Vijay Varma comes into the frame, he has stolen the show with a brilliant performance. Vijay has always been versatile and has won people's hearts with his exciting performances and he is going global again with his Web Series Dahaad is all set to screen at the 2023 Berlin International Film Festival. film of Vijay after Monsoon Shootout, Gully Boy, Ok Computer, and Suitable Boy, which will be premiered at the International film festival. Dahaad is all set to become India's first Web series to premiere at Berlin Film Festival. The actor made a presence on the prestigious stage along with the team.

As Vijay is gearing up for Berlin Film Festival let's look back at his previous projects which were appreciated internationally - Monsoon Shootout was screened at the Cannes Film Festival, followed by one of the



most amazing performances Gully Boy was screened at the Berlin Film Festival then he has Ok Computer at Rotterdam and Suitable Boy at Toronto Film Festival!

This Vijay Varma starrer is set in a small town in Rajasthan and is an 8-episodes slow-burn crime drama. Created by Reema Kagit, and Zoya Akhtar, Dahaad is directed by Reema Kagit and Ruchika

Oberoi. The show stars also star Sonakshi Sinha, Gulshan Devaiah, Sohumi Shah, Yogi Singh, Sanghmitra Hitaishi, R a t n a b a l i Bhattacharjee, Nirmal Chiraniyan, Vijay Kumar Dogra, Abhishek Bhalerao, and Waris Ahmed Zaidi. We just cannot value Vijay and his dedication to his passion - acting through which he has made us all proud and happy!

LARGEST DEMOCRACY'S DEAFENING RESILIENCE



Lo and behold! A few months from now, we will see India becoming the world's most populous country. More than 1.4 billion people would walk on our landscape like ants. The 'Most Populous Country' tag is a responsibility as well as a liability. Having celebrated its 75 years of independence, this has become the most crucial era for India, the era of Amrit Kaal. With 25 years to complete a century of its independence, it needs to capture the gist of the essential Indian potentiality rising above the crude regimentation of religion, region and linguistic disparities. In its race to move beyond the imaginations of tomorrow, India's focus should be on assuming the status of a global guru with the combination of its scientific, civilisational and economic might—something that would survive for

centuries. Irrespective of blurry lights of social conflicts desensitising its vision and dreams, India should focus on incessant progress, which the country should know will not be possible without all the stakeholders on board. India's largest youth population is the youngest in the world. But India's civilisational background gives it the status of the mother of all traditions that survive on the face of the earth. This demographic advantage is a blessing as well as a challenge that India needs to confront. It is a blessing because its youth population holds the key to transform its potentialities to dream-fulfilling results. It also poses a herculean challenge to the country in mobilising its resources for satisfying the demands of its population. With more than half of its total population under age 35, India's resource mobilization and utilization with social welfare knocking all the doors irrespective of differences ranging from socio-

cultural to socio-political to socio-spiritual, gives it a mammoth challenge. The challenge, at least in the perspective of India gets deeper when its pluralistic and diverse social framework goes into intense paroxysm, when all its common aspirations for welfare get hijacked by illusory mindset and planted narratives. On the other hand, we should not be unmindful of noticing the warnings of discontent looming large between religions and politics illicitly drawn closer to religious consolidations as they ideologically legitimize their estrangement from the cultural foundations of the country. India's vulnerability is that it is a miniature globe with its multiplicity of faiths and its susceptibility to aggressive inequalities and unfriendly dichotomy which is formidably high. Its well embroidered democratic framework for a free society had probably failed to dismantle the disparities. With its G20

presidency becoming a reality, India's focus is also to amalgamate the warring religious ideologies across the globe through one golden civilisational catchphrase- One Earth, One Family, One Future. On 14th February India witnessed the early ripples of its G20 leadership getting acceptance and admiration. At the virtual launch of the Air India- Airbus deal, French President Emmanuel Macron applauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership saying, "India, under your leadership clearly can be the one to mobilise the whole world and help us to address the tremendous issues we have in front of us." As the global humanity faces severe climate crisis with uninterrupted religious radicalization causing unrest all over the world and an infuriating war abysmally crushing the dreams and resources of millions of people; call for India's leadership will not only be for its political interventions but the globe as a whole is in need of India's emergence as a

■ M.R.LALU

civilisational magnet; inclined to show the way for amity. India's population in 1921 in its present landscape was 251 million while it climbed to 340 million in 1947. Numbers say that the population of India doubled between 1947 and 1981 census and the year 2001 brought the country to an astonishing one billion mark. Surpassing China in population does not push India to an adequately well placed situation. Emerging as the fastest growing economy, India needs to prove its efficiency in self-sufficiency. Glimpses of its competence could be seen when a ravaging pandemic brought nit-picking moments to humanity. The global community was conspicuously shattered by Covid 19 while human sustenance began to languish and dead bodies piled up with gut-wrenching silence seizing life everywhere. But India's vaccine drive could spearhead positivity and revive hope. A strong political

leadership with a global vision for wellbeing could spear-eagle great global impact within a short span of time. Prime Minister Modi's leadership is known for its candid upbringing of values by raising the ancient Indian philosophy giving it a global grandeur. Though its Amrit Kaal is known to bring resonance of India's progress with greater vigour and might, its susceptibility to reel under the hostile influence of sectarian violence cannot be disregarded. Motivated narratives are planted to pluck the entrails of India's civility for exposing it as a volcano of intolerance. Narratives to frame the government under Prime Minister Modi as discriminatory on the country's minority will surface before India sink into its next national elections. The Indian constitution guarantees civil liberties including freedom to propagate religion and freedom of expression. Stray incidents in India

would ignite deliberate outrage against it on global platforms. Fresh narratives would spring with vituperative vocabulary. The latest in the line of humiliation of India was the BBC documentary on Modi. A multiparty democracy such as India would definitely have political polarisation and that makes it more vulnerable than any other nation. Freedom of expression is an impulsive catchphrase normally used to undervalue the Modi government at the centre or project it as demonic. India's majoritarian image has been framed for belittling its democratic essence since 2014 and recrimination levelling against it as a persecutor of the minorities has been planted with well defined intention. To say Modi has been an apostle of partiality does not stick since his initiatives are for the benefit of all. But it is true that the accusations are valid for all those who stand against him in India and internationally, for that was due to

their spectacular downfall and hostile mentality. But the government and the country as a whole should be aware of the looming threat from agencies inside and outside capable of spreading wild narratives. Modi's unflappable conduct in public life is seen conquering the evil-minded accusations and it looks like the Prime Minister is all set to dispel the defaming narratives as India has all right to emerge as a global influencer. The Amrit Kaal, as he says, would turn out to be the defining period of India and for the international community it is to find reasons to get attracted to what India can globally present. We need to take our values of democracy with our defending demography.

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

The Right to Peace

Vinod Chandrashekhra Dixit



23rd February is celebrated as the World Peace and Understanding Day which focusses on a few specific themes to give it universal importance, such as basic education, literacy, and equality, economic and community development, disease prevention, and so on. The day is celebrated to honour the formation and the

contribution of the Rotary Club over the years. Living together in peace is all about accepting differences and having the ability to listen to, recognize, respect and appreciate others, as well as living in a peaceful and united way. Peace and Harmony is the basic requirement of any nation. The citizens of a country feel safe and secure and can prosper only if a peaceful environment is maintained. The Day is a significant occasion to

commemorate to promote a sense of unity and recognise the importance of peaceful life and is observed to restore unity in a fractured society and to maintain a peaceful dignity among groups. With a new vision, we can collectively generate and convey a profound change to build the society of tomorrow and propose a tool to express, loud and clear, this will to learn better living and doing together. The more numerous we are to choose "living better

together", the more our commitment will change the world. Though the people of our country live peacefully with each other, often the peace is disturbed owing to some political, social, economic and religious factors. Price rise and unemployment also creates unrest among the people. People often come forward to protest against these issues due to which the normal functioning of the society is disrupted. Equal respect to all the religions is a way of promoting peace and harmony in the

country. The concern of the humankind for peace can be assessed by taking into account the fact that all religions, all religious scriptures and several religious ceremonies are committed to the cause of peace and all these advocate an elimination of war. People belonging to different religions rejoice each other's company and celebrate all the festivals with equal zeal. In schools, at work places and various other places, people study and work together harmoniously. One

elementary way of defining peace has been to say that peace is absence of war. While it was successful in preventing a global war, we have failed to prevent local wars and in fact gave rise to several tensions, stresses, strains and crises in international relations. It is only when each citizen recognizes the dangers of disunity, would there be complete peace and harmony in the country. The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and

diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony. The purpose of this day is to promote peace through a harmonious living together regardless of nationality, gender, language or religion. Peace and harmony are the building blocks of any society. Only if there is peace and harmony in the country would there be growth and development. We must remember that the government cannot be held

responsible for maintaining peace and harmony in the country. Each one of us should take it as our responsibility to nurture feelings of brotherhood with fellow citizens. In contemporary times, the most urgent and important international objective has been to preserve protect and defend peace against terrorism.

B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society, Jodhpur Tekra Satellite Ahmedabad - 380 015

Tribal Youths Share their Woes Regarding Lack of proper livelihood on Second Day of 14th TYEP

Kolkata: On the second day of 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (February 21, 2023), all the participants were taken from the Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Kirangan, Salt Lake to the venue of the programme, i.e., Swami Vivekananda Karmatirtha Complex in Shyambazar, where they had their breakfast and then the academic sessions started serially. The very first session of the day was taken by Dr. Arindam Bhattacharya, Leader Trainer and former State Training Commissioner, Bharat Scouts and Guides. The topic of his session was science and technology. This was to make the tribal youth participants aware about our

journey in the field of science and technology as a country. In this session, decade wise all the achievements of India were discussed starting from 1947. For example, in the 1977-87 phase, how India developed its first test tube baby, about Dakshin Gangotri in Antarctica and about Rakesh Sharma being the first Indian to travel in space. Then in 1987-97, APJ Abdul Kalam developed the country's missile system and also this time DNA Fingerprinting came into existence in India. How in 1997-2017, we developed Chandrayan mission and also Mission Mangal was discussed. Also how from 2017 onwards till date, during the COVID 19 times, India was able to



develop its own vaccine and how that helped save so many lives across the world. The second session was taken by Sh. Debasis Karmakar, Additional Secretary, Development- MD (D), West Bengal Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation Ltd, Government of West Bengal. The topic for this session included problems of tribal areas and issues of e m p l o y m e n t

generation and m a i n s t r e a m development of tribal youth. In this interactive session, the youths were also asked to share with the rest of the participants issues pertaining to their own areas in their States and made others see different perspectives of similar problems. Lack of education, less interaction with the fruits of civilisation, antinational factors, hunger and drought,



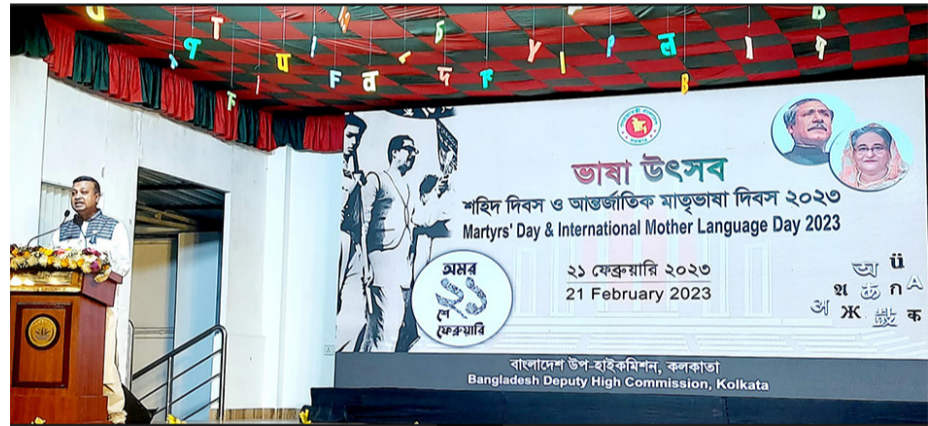
lack of good opportunities for livelihood changes are some of the causes pushing some of the youths. Thereafter, the previous District Youth Coordinators who had retired from their respective posts came together on one stage to share with the tribal youths their works done in NYKS West Bengal and how the organisation has played a positive role in the character

building of youngsters and forged then ahead for their community development and societal change. After this, the participants were given the kits which were handed over to them by the SD, NYKS, WB, DD and DYO's present at the event. After which they had their lunch break. After lunch break, the session was taken by Sh. Arindam Bhattacharya on

patriotism and nation building. Especially in tribal areas, Maoist and other insurgency activities are often heard of. So, all these issues were discussed in detail. Thereafter, the session was taken by Sh. Asish Roy, MSW, PGDBM, Diploma in Youth Work and Retd District Youth Coordinator. His topic of discussion was threats by divisive forces and role of youth in combating the menace. It was an interactive session whereby participants shared their personal views on this issue as well. The last session of the day was taken by Sh. Kamini Kumar Guchhait, Master Trainer on the theme of Jal, Jangal and Zameen who

discussed how intricately all these three elements are with each other and how important it is to maintain the fine balance between the three for the sustenance of all. And most importantly how these young tribal youths can play the most vital role in this. The day ended with the cultural performance by teams from Howrah district who showcased their traditional dances to their tribal friends which was then followed by dances from Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh. Thereafter the participants had evening snacks followed by dinner after sometime. Then they returned to the Salt Lake Stadium.

International Mother language Day celebrated by Bangladesh DHC in Kolkata



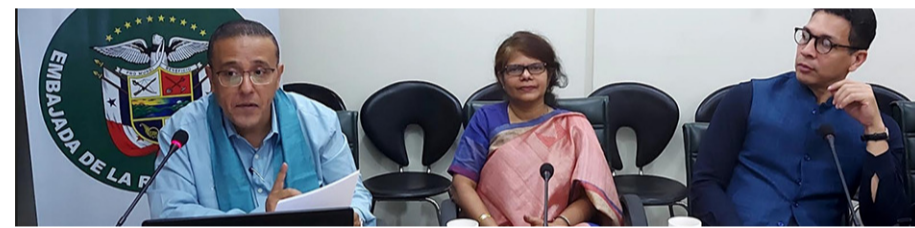
Kolkata(Partha Roy: International Mother language Day celebrated by Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata on 21st February 2023. "Prabhat Pheri " was organised by Bangladesh DHC in Park Circus area to remember the Martyrs of Bengali language. Wreath were placed at "Shahid Minar" at Bangladesh Deputy High Commission premises. In evening, a lecture was organised to highlight importance of International Mother language Day and struggle of Bengali community in Pakistan since 1947 to assert their right and to establish Bengali as official language. Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata Janab Andalib Elias welcomed the guests. President of Press Club of Kolkata Shri Snehashish Sur addressed the august gathering emphasized importance of usage of mother language in every day life and highlighted great sacrifices of Bengali community to protect and preserve their mother language despite dialect variations. Snehashish

Sur remembered noted lawyer and pioneer in Bengali language movement in Constituent Assembly of Pakistan in late 1940s Shri Dhirendranath Dutta. Bangladesh Supreme Court lawyer S M Abraham Lincoln a "21st February Medal" awardee spoke on sacrifices & struggle of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman since late 1940s after establishment of Pakistan to promote Bengali as official language of Pakistan which lead to establishment of Bangladesh. ICCR Kolkata collaborated with Bangladesh Deputy High Commission and presented slide guitar show. US Consul General Ms. Melinda Pavek read poetry on freedom struggle. Cultural performance by diplomatic missions of China, France, Japan, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, Germany were presented during cultural evening at Bangladesh Deputy High Commission. Noted singer Sumit Roy presented multilingual song including Italian language. Students from Bangladesh presented

song and dance. Consul General of China, Consul General of France, Consul General of Japan, Consul General of Thailand and other members of diplomatic community in Kolkata attend Martyrs' Day & International Mother language Day 2023 which is also known as "Bhasa Utsav".

ICCR celebrates 60 years of establishment of Diplomatic Relationship between India and Panama

Kolkata(Partha Roy:India & Panama are two countries located in two different continents separated by oceans but have cordial bilateral relations for past 60 years since 1962 when India established its Embassy in Panama. It all started in the 19th century when the Indian diaspora arrived in the Caribbean to take care of the jobs in the sugar and cotton plantations. Two countries have maintained friendly relations based on mutual respect, shared values and common interests. India & Panama have cooperated in several areas including trade and investment, culture, education and technology. The two countries have signed several bilateral agreements to enhance cooperation in several



areas of mutual interests. Cultural exchange and Education are key areas of cooperation between India and Panama. The two countries have a rich cultural heritage and have been promoting cultural exchanges to enhance mutual understanding and appreciation of each other's culture. The exchange of students has been instrumental in strengthening people to people ties between two countries. In area of technology, India and Panama have been exploring the ways to collaborate and share knowledge. To celebrate 60 years of

Establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Panama, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Kolkata, Embassy of Panama, New Delhi and Indo Hispanic Language Academy, Kolkata organised a lecture titled 'Synchronization of the verses of the poetry of Rogelio Sinan: an approach to the maestro' by Prof. Rodolfo de Gracia Reynaldo from Panama in Kolkata on 21st February 2023 which was also International Mother language Day observed by UNESCO. Prof. Rodolfo de Gracia Reynaldo is a Master in

Hispanic Lexicography & specialist in Panamanian Literature. Ms. Minakshi Mishra, Zonal Head (East), ICCR, Government of India delivered the welcome address and Mr. José Antonio Fraiz, Third Secretary, Embassy of Panama in New Delhi delivered the introductory note. Prof. Rodolfo de Gracia Reynaldo delivered lectures at Viswa Bharati Santiniketan and will be delivering lecture in JNU and will participate in conference in Delhi. Rogelio Sinán was the pseudonym of Panamanian writer Bernardo Domínguez

Alba. He was a Consul of Panama to Calcutta in 1938. He has written short fiction, plays and novel, but is best known for his poems. His work has been termed Avant-garde and he is a winner of the Premio Ricardo Miró. Six years away from the centenary of the first book of poetry by Rogelio Sinan (Onda, 1929) and the sixtieth anniversary of his last collection of poems (Saloma sin salomar, 1969)it was intended to bring the Indian audience closer to this Panamanian poet. Rogelio Sinán during his stay in Kolkata in late 1930s attended meetings at Santiniketan and in Kolkata where Rabindranath Tagore and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose were present.

IIT Kharagpur Researchers Reveal Atmospheric Pollution in Rural India Using NO2 Measurements from Satellites

Kolkata:Researchers from IIT Kharagpur conducted an analysis of the rural air quality using satellite measurements of NO2 in India. Prof. Jayanarayana Kuttippurath and Research Scholar Ms. Mansi Pathak of Centre for Ocean, River, Atmosphere and Land Sciences (CORAL) of IIT Kharagpur analysed the significant impact of urban pollution on the air quality of rural India by differentiating and assessing the depth of air pollution in rural India in the study titled "Air Quality Trends in Rural India: Analysis of NO2 Pollution using Satellite Measurements". The analysis carefully delineates the rural and urban regions of India, to examine the unheeded rural air pollution. Most air pollution assessments till date, discussed only

the urban air quality issues. This analysis exposes increasing trends (0.05-0.44x1015molec./cm2/yr) of NO2 in the rural regions of India. Rural sources account for 41% of the overall NO2 pollution in India of which 45% and 40% are from transportation and power sectors, respectively. As the sources of NO2 are well coupled to the industrial and economic upliftment of a nation, the analysis for the rural regions show distinct seasonal changes with the highest value (2.0 x 1015 molecules per cm2) in winter and the lowest in monsoon (1.5 x 1015 molecules per cm2) seasons. This study (<https://doi.org/10.1039/D2EM00293K>) suggests the need for taking action towards improving rural air quality to reduce the

impact of air pollution on the large rural population of India. Although NO2 is a non-abundant gas, its indirect impact on global climate change is likely to be greater, with a net cooling effect attributed to the oxidation-fueled aerosol production. NOx levels in the troposphere can alter ozone formation, contribute to nitrate aerosol formation, and acid deposition and affect regional climate. "What we observe is that there is a decline in air quality in rural India in terms of our NO2 analysis, which is not beyond the threshold levels now, except in regions such as Delhi and suburbs, lower IGP and eastern India. However, given the positive trend in NO2 concentration, the high rate of urbanisation and relocation of industries

to suburbs, growing population and development activities, other regions of India would also cross the pollution threshold to impact the health of its people, and thus, our massive rural population. This is the real concern and it is the right time to take appropriate actions to control the atmospheric pollution in rural India," suggested Prof. Jayanarayana Kuttippurath, CORAL, IIT Kharagpur, the lead researcher of the study. Air pollution is one of the biggest problems in India's major cities. Comparison of pollutant-wise highest health risk values show that NO2 is about 19 times more harmful than Particulate Matter (PM)and about 25 times more risky than that of SO2. The population residing in the regions of high NO2, such as, in

the proximity of power plants, industries, cities, and in the areas above the permissible limit, is prone to be at high risk of adverse health effects such as asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia and cardiovascular diseases. "We usually think the atmospheric pollution exists only in cities or it is just an urban threat. The air quality standards in rural regions are often neglected. However, our analysis suggests that it is high time to shift our focus to rural regions and examine the pollution levels and health issues of rural India. This is of paramount importance for a country like India, as rural areas have about 67% of the country's population (947 million) as of 2020 and public health today stands out to be the utmost priority

globally," said Ms. Mansi Pathak, Research Scholar, IIT Kharagpur, the lead author of the paper. Although other Indian rural regions are under permissible limits of CPCB, the increasing trends in NO2 would surpass the standards in future if no controlling measures are implemented, which is a serious concern. Regulations similar to the Bharat Stage norms (for limiting vehicular emissions) need to be implemented in thermal power plants and industries located in both rural and urban regions, to restrict the overall NO2 pollution in rural India. Introducing new natural gas-fed power plants or using selective catalytic reduction (SCR) in older power plants can also reduce emissions, and thus, the NO2 pollution in rural India.

Corrupt Officers /Engineers should not be spared

Ranchi(KCN) :The Hemant government should immediately suspend the Chief Engineer of the Rural Works Department, Virendra Ram. "The above things were said by Vijay Shankar Nayak, Central Vice President Co-Convenor of Adivasi Mulvasi Janadhikar Manch, Jharkhand Bachao Morcha. He further said that such engineers should never be spared, who are involved in corruption nurtured in the BJP

government, so that the corrupt engineers may get the message that no engineer/official involved in corruption will be spared in the Hemant Soren government. "Mr. Nayak further said that ED should arrest all the officers and leaders who give protection to such corrupt engineers so that the nexus of the contractors of the officers and leaders in Jharkhand under the rule of the Bharatiya Janata Party, which looted



the government treasury. It was going to be busted through the contractors. Could "can" "may" "be able" "manage" "He also said that there are many such Virendra Rams in the state who are making the state hollow day by day. Today

Hemant government will have to show this to the people of Jharkhand that Hemant Soren government can never compromise with corruption, therefore immediate action should be taken against all the engineers on whom departmental action has been pending for years. "Mr. Nayak further said that the state government should put an end to the old tradition of the Bharatiya Janata Party of giving the

responsibility of many departments to an engineer in the form of additional charge, under any circumstances. Even an engineer with a clean image has been seen that cases are going on against departmental action monitoring on many engineers and they are being made to sit in important positions of the state. This trend should be stopped without delay so that corruption can be stopped in Jharkhand.

Pious Lady Rukmani Debata is no more

Cuttack Sadar,(KCN) : Cuttack Sadar 42 Mouza villagers of Dadhibamanpur renowned farmer Seshadev Debata's Wife Pious Lady Rukmani Debata (75) died. For her death local people paid condolences. In her dead body all family members Husband Seshadev Debata, Amulya Debata, Kishore Nanda, Bijay Kumar Debata, Elder son Advocate Dharjyadhar Debata, Bikash, Manoranjan Tapash, Subhashish, Jani, Jan, Ameresh, Felu, Chintu, Litu present. Village cremation ground dead body sanskar done as per Hindu religion. Elder son Dharjyadhar conducts cremation ceremony as Mukhagni traditionally.



Timeline For Red Zone Roads

Bhubaneswar : Odisha Government seems determined to complete Red Corridor Connectivity with the timeline so that people living in the Left Wing Extremists (LWE) affected areas will avail hassle free movement facility. Accordingly the State Government has asked the officials of Malkangiri and Koraput districts to complete 11 road projects undertaken under the Road Connectivity Plan in LWE Affected Areas (RCPLWEA). The Chief Engineer (World Bank Projects) has written a letter to the Superintendent Engineers (R&B) Divisions of Malkangiri and Koraput in this regard. The Chief Engineer directed the Superintendent Engineers to make all-out efforts to complete the RCPLWEA works by March 2023, without fail. Out of 11 projects worth Rs 116.21 crore, nine



projects of Rs 108.28 crore have been undertaken in Malkangiri district, while another two road projects of Rs 7.93 crore are being executed in Maoist-affected areas of Koraput district. Similarly, out of the nine projects of Malkangiri district, six projects were approved in 2018-19 under Phase-I and three in 2020-21 under Phase-II. Of the Phase-I projects of total length of 84.19 km, road work at 22.99

km has been completed. Similarly, three road projects having a total length of 37.57 km sanctioned under Phase-II, work at 12.37 km has been completed. The two road projects of 12.96 km were sanctioned for Koraput district in 2020-21 under the Phase-II of RCPLWEA, of which work at only 1.10 km has been completed, sources said. So, the Chief Engineer has directed the field-level officials to

expedite the road construction work and complete it on time. Road Connectivity Project of Left Wing Extremism affected Areas (RCPLWEA) was started in 2016 to improve connectivity in 44 LWE affected districts in 9 States including Odisha. The scheme later extended up to March, 2023 for completion of these projects, which are very critical from communication and security point of view.


Mantra For PRI Members

Bhubaneswar: Chandra Shekhar Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India has said that constant efforts are taken up to sensitize Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) about achievement of Major Goals under Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Dr. Kumar was addressing the National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Gram Panchayats through Adopting Thematic Approaches. He elaborated that this National Workshop strived to sensitize the PRIs about the major goals under the LSDGs Theme 3 on Child Friendly Panchayat, 100

Percent enrolment in the school/Anganwadi, Reducing Drop-out ratio, 100 Percent Birth registration and birth certificate and 100 Percent Registration of pregnancy, Full ANC and PNC, 100 Percent Aadhar Enrolment, 100 Percent Institutional Delivery, Quality Education, 100 Percent Immunization of children. Similarly 100 Percent child labour free, No Trafficking cases, (k) Ensure protected environment from all kinds of violence against children, and the major goals under Theme 9 on Women Friendly Panchayat : 100 Percent immunisation of pregnant women, 100 Percent Birth registration of girls, 100 Percent marriage registration, Safe commutation for


school/college going girls, Reduce crimes against women and girls, Women's participation in all six statutory committees and Mahila Sabha on a regular basis, Improve participation of women in socio-political, economic activities and participation in community-based organizations. Dr. Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj in his address highlighted that resources under various Women & Children specific schemes (Mission Shakti, Kishori Shakti Yojana, NRLM, Ujjawala, One Stop Centre, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day-Meal Scheme, National Health Mission,

Poshan Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Ayushman Bharat (National Health Protection Mission), ICDS, Mission Vatsalaya, Sukanya Samridhi Scheme) being implemented by Central and State Governments need to be converged at Gram Panchayat level to saturate the requirement and attain SDGs through local level interventions. Dr. Kumar also emphasized on proper convergence of all flagship schemes at Gram Panchayat level adopting 'whole of government and whole of society' approach ensuring transparency and accountability and usage of digital technology to localize and achieve the SDGs by 2030.



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Okaya EV launches feature-packed E-Scooter Faast F2F, priced at INR 83,999 (ex-showroom) offering 80 km range on a single charge

New Delhi: Okaya EV, India's fastest-growing electric vehicle brand, has unveiled a new electric scooter "Faast F2F". With a remarkable range of 70-80 km on a single charge and a top speed of 55 km/h depending on the load, it's ideal for city rides. Okaya Faast F2F is designed for those who are seeking for a dependable, economical, and pleasant city scooter. Exceeding the expectations of the consumers, the scooter is powered by 800W-BLDC-Hub Motor, paired with 60V36Ah (2.2 kWh) Lithium ION -LFP battery that meets the highest safety standards, and comes



with a 2-year warranty on the battery and motor. Okaya aims to provide an affordable range of electric scooter with the launch of Faast F2F, targeting students, young professionals, and home-makers, in an effort to increase the adoption of electric

vehicles. Apart from its performance, Okaya Faast F2F is equipped with Telescopic Front Suspension and Spring Loaded hydraulic Rear Shock Absorbers for smoothest ride. Remote Key, Digital Instrument

Clusterhaving all the essential informationand Stylish DRL Head-lamps and edgy Tail-lamps are the o t h e r distinctive features of Okaya Faast F2F. Commenting on the newly launched Faast

F2F E-Scooter, Mr. Anshul Gupta, Managing Director, Okaya Electric Vehicles said, "With the launch of Okaya Faast F2F we have set the new standard for top-quality and reliable EVs in India several notches higher. With its distinctive and reliable

safety features, we have appealed to a much wider range of consumer segments. Comfortable and stylish Okaya Faast F2F is energy-efficient and equally supported by our competent after-sale services. We are confident it will emerge as the perfect choice for the people looking to switch to electric mobility at affordable price."

The feature-packed e-Scooter Okaya Faast F2F is priced at Rs 83,999/- (ex-showroom) and it will be available in six colours: - Metallic Black, Metallic Cyan, Matte Green, Metallic Grey, Metallic Silver and Metallic White.

Virecords top download speed of 5.92 Gbps during the ongoing 5G trials in Pune

Mumbai : Vodafone Idea (Vi) and Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) today announced achieving a technology milestone during the ongoing 5G trials by demonstrating a peak download speed of 5.92Gbps. The new speed record by Vi, was achieved on a single test device during its 5G trials in Pune, Maharashtra, being conducted on a combination of mid-band and high-band (mmWave) 5G trial spectrum using Ericsson Massive MIMO radios, Ericsson cloud native dual mode 5G core for Standalone architecture and NR-DC (New R a d i o - D u a l

Connectivity) software. With 5G Standalone NR-DC software, Vi can deliver latency-sensitive and high-performing applications such as AR/VR and 8K video streaming as well as innovative new use cases for consumers and enterprises once it deploys 5G on its commercial network.

Earlier during its 5G trials and use cases' showcase in Pune, Vi had demonstrated speeds of over 4 Gbps. The new speed record of 5.92 Gbps has been achieved using the Govt allocated 5G spectrum for the trials.

Commenting on this achievement, Jagbir

Singh, Chief Technology Officer, Visaid, "The trial demonstrates how Vi is constantly testing and preparing its network for new 5G based applications that will rely on the low latency, reliability and high speeds of 5G. Given the growing consumer demand for immersive media and video streaming services, the 5G speeds that we have demonstrated will help us prepare for the mobile broadband speeds and greater network capacity requirements of customers, as we ready for '5G for a Better Tomorrow' in India."

Vi's focus on leveraging new

technologies and partnerships for a better tomorrow for its users has led the company to showcase a wide range of 5G use cases during the 5G trials in Pune and Gandhinagar, to make enterprises and citizens smarter.

Amarjeet Singh, Vice President and Head of Customer Unit Vi at Ericsson says, "Achieving this technology milestone of 5.92 Gbps download speed by leveraging Ericsson's 5G Standalone NR-DC software and cloud-native dual-mode 5G Core represents a milestone in India's evolution to 5G Standalone with mmWave. Based on our

global 5G deployment across 121 live networks, we are confident we can help our customers like Vi seamlessly evolve their network to 5G."

5G is expected to account for 39 per cent of all mobile subscriptions in India by 2027 according to Ericsson Mobility Report, November 2021 edition. 5G is on track to become the dominant mobile access technology by subscriptions globally by 2027. By this time, 5G is expected to account for around 50 percent of all mobile subscriptions worldwide - covering 75 percent of the world's population and carrying 62 percent of the global smartphone traffic.

Business icons confer with Utkal Tycoons Awards

Bhubaneswar: Noted business icons of Odisha conferred with Utkal Tycoons Award in an exotic platform organizes by Utkal Updates and Addiction Fashion Management today at WelcomHotel by ITC Hotels, Bhubaneswar. As part of Epari Sadashiv Jewelry presents Odisha's unique award show and fashion fest 'Utkal Tycoons Awards with Bhubaneswar Runway Week Season-6, numbers of well known and successful face of Odisha business fraternity got thumping applause for their wonderful contribution to the economy of Odisha.

Their contributions were recognized and awarded.

Program starts with lighting of lamp by organizer Sushree Sangeeta Sahu, John Ajay, Gaurav, Sridhar Epari and Sunil Murarka. Surya Narayan Patra, Speaker, Odisha Assembly attended as chief guest and Sulochana Das, Mayor, Bhubaneswar as guest of honour. Today, Utkal Tycoons Awards conferred to Rashmi Sahoo, Director, Frozit; Nirupama Biswal, Director, Gayatri Devi Group; Kabir Taneja, Director, Spirit Toyota; Ratnamala Swain, real estate player; Sukirti Pattnaik, MD, Indulge

the Saloon; Sreejet Patnaik, MD, Mother's Public School; Harshavardhan Didwania, Co-founder and MD, EeVe Scooters; Pradeep Pansari, Director, Rajhans, Rajiv Swain, MD, Odisha Hotel; Punya Prakash Parida, MD, Embassy and Biraja Prasad Rout, founder, Biggies Burger.

To uplift the fashion statement of Odisha to higher level Bhubaneswar Runway season-6 also organized where eminent fashion designers showcase their creativity and woo the audiences with their authentic design statements. 30 models participated in the event

to showcase designs. Ollywood celebrities like Elina Samantray and Bhoomika graced the occasion as guest designers and brands like Priya's (Priya Mohapatra), Tasa Wings (Sipra Das), TP Garments (Savitri Panigrahi), AJ Fashion Realm (Selina Dashon) and Reemly Design Studio (Reemly Studio) participated and showcase their designs. Priya's By Priya Mohapatra showcases handloom collection "EKATRA" which is amalgamation of sambalpuri handloom fabric and pipli applique work. AJ Fashion Realm

by Selina Dason has showcased summer collection which is inspired by gorgeous butterfly hamadryas. Sipra Das's Tasa Wing has brought collection 'Fusion' which is inspired form 'the galaxy' is fit for festive season, evening party and wedding season. Reemly's Design studio is showcasing the Bridal Collection "Rooh" at Bhubaneswar Runway Week 2022 (season 6). TP Garments are here with some of our evening gowns collection, rich in colours, unique designs, patterns, and Using shades nude, grey, navy blue, teal blue.

Mahindra Promises, "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel

Pune : Mahindra's Construction Equipment Division (MCE), a part of the Mahindra Group, today announced their unique and disruptive customer value proposition "Get Highest Productivity Per Liter of Fuel or Give M a c h i n e B a c k" Guarantee for their BS4 range of Backhoe Loaders - Mahindra EarthMaster.

The new range features the proven and reliable 74 HP CRI Mahindra Engine and many other technological advancements, besides the cutting-edge iMAXX Telematics solution, all of which together, ensure guaranteed better fuel efficiency. Given the fact that fuel is one of the major element of the operating cost (nearly 50%), with unique features as Banana Boom, joystick lever, robust design, and bigger buckets, EarthMaster range is well suited for all types of backhoe applications,

be it mining, trenching, crushers, building construction or any other work in construction industry. Mahindra BS4 Backhoe Loader - EarthMaster, with this competitive advantage will provide them an edge, complete peace of mind and scale up their CE business, delivering higher prosperity.

Speaking on the occasion, Jalaj Gupta, Business Head, Commercial Vehicles Business Unit, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited said, "The 'Guaranteed Higher per litre productivity (or Give Back Machine)' Promise is a landmark move in the construction equipment space. Given the spiraling fuel prices, there wasn't a better time to introduce this Customer Value Proposition. We firmly believe that it will reaffirm our customers' faith in Mahindra's ability to create technologically

advanced, class-leading products and set higher standards for the Indian CE industry. The Service Uptime Guarantee further reinforce our commitment to our customers and our confidence in our products and after-sales capabilities."

Jalaj Gupta further added, "Our new BS4 machines have delivered higher fuel efficiency, which is the outcome of Mahindra's superior technological prowess rooted into a deep understanding of the Indian customer. Additionally, MCE is offering Service guarantee to ensure higher uptime for our customers through guaranteed speedier turnaround of the machine. The state-of-the-art iMAXX Telematics technology is further helping lower the Cost of Ownership by providing a firm control to the owners over their machines, remotely."

ICICI Lombard launches Professional Indemnity Insurance for Doctors

Mumbai: ICICI Lombard, one of the leading private general insurance companies has launched Professional Indemnity Insurance for doctors. This new offering covers all specializations, provides instant policy issuance, and comes equipped with transparent and competitive pricing, a hassle-free claim process, and legal counsel services support in case of claims.

As professionals, doctors are vulnerable to human errors where they can be held liable by the kin of the patients. As a solution to situations of such nature, this policy has been curated to provide support to medical practitioners against the scope of various human errors that can happen while rendering professional services to patients.

Speaking on the same, Mr. Sanjeev Mantri, Executive Director, ICICI Lombard said "Doctors and healthcare professionals are prone to uncertainties and risks while they are in the forefront to save lives. Error, omission, or

at times unintentional negligence are a part and parcel of their professional life. Any aggrieved person possesses the right to claim damages for medical negligence against them. In such cases, our Professional Indemnity insurance safeguards doctors against all professional risks such as legal defense costs, compensation claims, injury among others, as well as against invalid claims. As a company, we are inclined towards protecting the interests and providing the best financial and legal security to the medical practitioners as they truly deserve the same."

Professional Indemnity insurance supports doctors both legally and financially in the event of a law suit. The key features of this offering comprises of coverage against legal liabilities such as defense costs incurred during investigation, cost of representation, and compensation for claims arising out of bodily injury or death caused due to error, omission

and negligence. It will also provide coverage against invalid claims where there is no fault of the practitioner by covering the legal fees and settlement compensation to be paid against the claims awarded by the court, or in cases of medical malpractices allegations and legal suit due to breach of confidentiality allegations.

ICICI Lombard, among other companies, delivers end-to-end wellness solutions to its valued consumers through its insurance products. Doctors are focused on giving their best when it comes to saving lives. However there are uncertainties which can put their job at stake. The professional indemnity insurance for doctors under the SME category is an innovative offering from this leading general insurance company and goes on to show their focus on delivering a stellar experience to their customers. The product is available with our traditional distribution partners as well as our website www.icicilombard.com

Vedanta Aluminium sweeps awards for fly-ash utilization

New Delhi: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has scored a hat-trick of awards at the 11th edition of Fly Ash Utilization Conference Expo Awards by Mission Energy Foundation for efficient management of fly-ash. Vedanta Power Plants at Jharsuguda (Odisha) won in the >=500 MW and <=500 MW categories respectively, and Vedanta's Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary BALCO won in Captive Power Plant category. Around 160 companies participated in the competition, and Vedanta Aluminium led

the way for its significant steps in ensure gainful utilization of fly-ash in circular economy avenues.

Fly-ash is a by-product of thermal power generation using coal, which caters to electricity requirement of Vedanta's aluminium smelters. The inherent properties of fly-ash find impactful usage in the cement, construction & infrastructure industries, to offer three-fold benefits in terms of cost, quality and sustainability. The company supplies fly ash from its Jharsuguda and BALCO plants to cement industry for the

production of low-carbon 'green' cement. Besides improving product quality, in cement manufacturing, every tonne of fly-ash used can help save around 700-800 kg of carbon emissions, 4.2 million KJ of energy, and 341 litres of water.

Similarly, Vedanta Aluminium is working with hundreds of local brick manufacturing MSMEs near its operations in Odisha and Chhattisgarh, transitioning them away from mud bricks. Bricks made of fly-ash are not only lighter and stronger than traditional clay bricks, but also play a

crucial role in preserving nutrient-rich topsoil from being used as raw material. This amounts to estimated savings of 1.9 metric tonnes of topsoil for every tonne of ash brick manufactured. Besides, ash brick manufacturing is an eco-efficient process, contrary to the energy-intensive process of producing clay bricks in brick kilns that results in substantial greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, for every tonne of ash bricks manufactured, an estimated 5900 kg of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions are avoided. It also makes for a healthier working

environment for those involved in the brick manufacturing process.

The company has also entered a long-term partnership with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for building greener roads with fly-ash in Odisha. To find out innovative ways of utilizing this industrial by product, Vedanta Aluminium also conducts technical & business workshops with global waste utilization experts to create greater awareness on the benefits of using fly-ash in cement construction and develop the market for such products.

RapiPay launches De Dhana Dhan Offer

New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar: RapiPay Fintech Private Ltd, one of the leading fintech companies in India, has announced the launch of RapiPay De Dhana Dhan offer pan India for its 5 Lakhs + agents, also known as, Direct Business Outlets (DBOs). The new scheme incentives thousands of lucky DBOs daily with prizes such as Smart TVs, Smartphones, mobile accessories and cashbacks. To become eligible, DBOs need to do AEPS or Recharge transactions

on RapiPay between 6am - 12pm in the morning and 5pm to 11pm in the evening. The first winner of Smart TV is from Darbhanga (Bihar) and he has been awarded his 55 inch Smart TV with much fanfare and celebration on 12th May 2022. Similarly, every week winners of TV and Smart phones are being gratified instantly so that they don't have to wait for their prizes for long. Mr. Nipun Jain, CEO, RapiPay Fintech Ltd. said "We believe, it is important to bring excitement in the business with regular incentives for

our DBOs, RapiPay's De Dhana Dhan Offer is a step towards that. An effective incentive scheme like this does not just improve customer experience and build your business, but also helps with DBOs retention. Moreover, as a category leader, we are committed to grow the Assisted Payments space and take the financial inclusion to the last mile. "RapiPay is one of top players in AEPS and Micro ATM services. It has witnessed 200% growth in AePS and Micro ATM transactions from April 2021 to March 2022.

Tata Group bags title rights of WPL

Durham snap up Tristan Stubbs for 2023 T20 Blast

New Delhi: After Tata IPL, it will also be Tata WPL. The Tata Group, one of the premier corporates in the country, has bagged the title rights of the Women's Premier League (WPL). The deal is understood to have been clinched between the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the group on Tuesday (February 21).

Cricbuzz understands that Tata Sons, the holding company of the conglomerate, will have the title rights for the first five years and the products that will be leveraged during the league will be Tata Motors and Tata financial service.

The Tata group already holds the title rights of the Indian Premier League (IPL) after Vivo, the Chinese handset manufacturer, pulled out of the agreement. The value of



the WPL title sponsorship is yet to be confirmed.

The on-boarding of the title sponsor is a major step for the WPL and the BCCI, which called for tenders late last month. The BCCI already has a broadcaster - Viacom 18 - in place for the league, the maiden edition of which will run from March 4 to 26 and will be held entirely in Mumbai. The BCCI hit a jackpot of sorts by selling the franchises to five top

business houses in the country. It earned Rs 4670 crore from the sale of the five teams. Adani Group, Reliance, RCB (Diageo), Delhi Capital and Capri Global have the teams in the league which will have 22 games for the first three years. The top BCCI brass could not be immediately reached for a comment but Cricbuzz has confirmation from multiple other sources, including the current

stakeholders of the WPL and the corporate house.

The tender document for the title rights was up for sale till February 9 as per a BCCI statement, which had read, "The detailed terms and conditions governing the tender process including eligibility requirements, process for submissions of bids, rights and obligations of the title sponsor, etc. are contained in the 'Request for Proposal' ('RFP')"

which will be made available on receipt of payment of a non-refundable fee of INR 1,00,000 (Indian Rupees One Lakh Only) plus any applicable Goods and Services Tax. The procedure to procure the RFP documents is enlisted in Annexure A to this notice. The RFP will be available for purchase till February 9, 2023. "Later on Tuesday night, Jay Shah confirmed the development, saying the sponsorship has taken the WPL to the next level. "I am delighted to announce the #TataGroup as the title sponsor of the inaugural #WPL. With their support, we're confident that we can take women's cricket to the next level. @BCCI @BCCIWomen @wpl20 (sic)," the BCCI secretary said in a social media post.

New Delhi: Young South African batter Tristan Stubbs has penned a deal with Durham for the 2023 T20 Blast, the club confirmed on Tuesday (February 21). This will be Stubbs' maiden stint in the county circuit.

The 22-year-old, who has quickly gained a reputation for being a hard-hitting batter, burst onto the international scene by smashing a 28-ball 72 against England in his maiden T20I innings. He has played 13 T20Is so far for the national side striking close to 165.

"I'm really excited to join Durham for the T20 Blast this summer," Stubbs said. "I have spent some time with Brydon (Carse) during the winter and he's only had good things to say about the club. I can't wait to get over to Durham and meet up



with my new teammates. Having played in England last summer I know how much the fans love their cricket so it should be a really fun and successful summer."

Stubbs' rapid rise saw him get picked by Mumbai Indians in the IPL and by Manchester Originals in the Hundred. He was also a part of the Sunrisers Eastern Cape squad that

won the inaugural SA20 recently.

"We are extremely pleased to have secured the signing of Tristan Stubbs," Director of Cricket, Marcus North said. "At 22, he already has experience playing for South Africa and in major T20 franchise leagues around the world where he has produced some world class performances."

Shoib Akhtar Feels Injured Shaheen Shah Afridi Should Have Bowled 2 More Overs in T20 World Cup 2022 Final, Says 'Main tod Deta Ghutna'



New Delhi: Former Pakistan pacer Shoib Akhtar has slammed fast bowler and Lahore Qalandars captain Shaheen Shah Afridi for not bowling his full quota of overs against England in T20 World Cup 2022 final last year. Afridi went off injured mid-way through England's chase of 138 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground while attempting to take a catch of Harry Brook in the 13th over of the innings.

At that stage, Afridi still had a couple of over to bowl. Akhtar believes that Afridi should have played through his pain and completed his spell in the final.

"Ye tha vo moment jahan par aap superstar ban sakte the. Agar main

hota, to main Pakistan ke liye mar jaata. Mai tod deta ghutna, ghutna jud jayega baad mein. Ye lamha vapas nahi aata. (This was the moment, where you could have become a superstar. Had I been in his place, I would have sacrificed by life for Pakistan's sake. I wouldn't care if my knee broke, it would have healed again. But, this moment would have never come back again)," Akhtar told Suno TV.

This isn't the first time that Shoib Akhtar is airing his views on this. Following the final last November, the 47-year-old Akhtar had told Zee News, "When your main bowler becomes unfit, then it creates problem for you. Shaheen (Afridi) was never fully fit, but we

cannot put the entire blame on him as he bowled well in the past 2-3 matches. But this is World Cup final. Even if the leg breaks. Whatever happens, happens. Just keep running and do something. But this was not in our fortune."

The 23-year-old had been included in the Pakistan squad just ahead of the tournament in Australia, having recovered from the same injury he picked up in the final.

English commentator Alan Wilkins has spoken out in support of Afridi. "It's an admirable thought but it is also a long time after the event. @iShaheenAfridi couldn't have bowled on one leg even though he's got the biggest heart in the team!" Wilkins tweeted. Afridi was subsequently ruled out of international cricket for a couple of months and has only returned to active cricket in Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2023 earlier this month.

Bandra Bandstand, Mumbai to Host the Red Bull Showrun

Bhubaneswar: Red Bull India and Oracle Red Bull Racing are all set to enthrall F1 enthusiasts with the Red Bull Showrun here in Mumbai along with racing legend & 13-time F1 grand prix champion David Coulthard. The spectacle can be witnessed on the scenic roads of Bandra Bandstand in Mumbai on Sunday, 12th March 2023 10 am onwards with David Coulthard driving the iconic Oracle Red Bull Racing F1 car, the RB7.

Red Bull Racing remains the only team to win all the Indian GP during its three-year stint at the Buddh International Circuit. This is not the first time they will be bringing their Showrun to the country — their last appearance in India was at the Hyderabad



Showrun in 2015, with Coulthard behind the wheel. Red Bull athlete and Lithuanian freestyle stunt biker Aras Gibieza will also be seen showing off his daredevil act in between the Red Bull Showrun along with a host of other acts. These include the Super Car showcase by the Super Car Club. Speaking about his return to Mumbai and

driving the F1 car on Indian soil once again, David Coulthard said, "Namaste India! I am very excited to be coming back to your wonderful city again. It's been a while since my last trip to Mumbai, but it feels like I never really left. India has gained such a strong fan base for F1. I am sure when I drive those dazzling streets at Bandstand, I will see a huge turnaround of the

crowd. Looking forward to seeing you all in Aamchi Mumbai on the 12th of March." After captivating the crowd in the first ever Showrun at Bandra Worli Sea Link in 2009, David returns to the maximum city that never sleeps after 14 long years. Red Bull Showrun aims to bring motorsport fans closer to the Formula 1 Car. The Mumbai Showrun comes at the back of a

golden year for Oracle Red Bull Racing, with Max Verstappen dominating the F1 scene with the largest points haul by any driver in F1 history. With the growing popularity of F1 globally & the recent success of Red Bull Racing, this Showrun is a perfect experience to give the Indian audience a glimpse of scintillating F1 action.

UEFA Champions League: Karim Benzema Scores Twice in Real Madrid Rout of Liverpool to Match Lionel Messi's Massive Record

New Delhi: While both Real Madrid and Liverpool are rightly considered Champions League royalty, there can only be one king. Down by two goals after 14 minutes at Anfield, defending champion Madrid came back to win 5-2 on Tuesday (February 21) and take a commanding lead into the second leg of the round of 16 matchup.

The Vinicius Jr. and Karim Benzema scored two goals each to stun the hosts — Liverpool conceded four goals in a home European

match for the first time — and confirm the Spanish giant will take some stopping in its defense of the trophy. "We played with personality, we produced goals. We want this Champions League again," Benzema said. "And that produced a match which was lovely to play in and for those who were watching."

Benzema also matched PSG star Lionel Messi's record in scoring for 18 successive seasons in the UEFA Champions League tournament. If anything, this Madrid team looks more complete than the one that beat Jurgen Klopp's team in last year's

Paris final. Yet this win echoed the memorable comebacks that led to that record-extending 14th Champions League title. There was the chaotic defending that allowed Liverpool to race into a 2-0 lead as Darwin Nunez struck with a backheel in the fourth minute and Mohamed Salah doubled the advantage thanks to Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois' blunder. Then came the rousing fightback, led by one of European football's emerging stars in Vinicius and sealed by an aging icon in Benzema.



Eder Militao was also on the scoresheet when he headed Madrid into a 3-2 lead just after halftime. The 22-year-old Vinicius became the youngest player to score two goals against Liverpool at Anfield since Johan Cruyff for Ajax in 1966 when the Dutch great was 19.

The Brazilian international is establishing himself as Madrid's star player and, in the face of a typically daunting Anfield atmosphere, he rose to the occasion. "Vinicius right now in my opinion is the most decisive player in world football, the man who

can make the biggest difference and if he can keep this consistency let's hope he can continue in this vein," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. Just as the visitors looked in danger of buckling under the pressure, Vinicius produced a moment of magic with his first goal in the 21st. Exchanging passes with Benzema just inside the box, there didn't look to be any obvious danger until he flashed a low shot through a crowd of legs and into the bottom corner.