

Odisha Minister Naba Das cremated with full state honours

JHARSUGUDA(KCN): The mortal remains of Odisha minister Naba Kishore Das were on Monday consigned to flames with full state honours here in the presence of thousands of people, who bade a tearful adieu to the departed leader.

Amid chants of 'slokas', his son Bishal Das lit the funeral pyre, as a large gathering of

gone to attend an event. The ASI is believed to be suffering from a mental disorder.

Among those present at the funeral were Finance Minister Niranjana Pujari, Agriculture Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain, MLA Dibya Shankar Mishra, Bargarh MP Suresh Pujari and industrialists from Jharsuguda.

Earlier in the day, thousands paid homage to Das, as his mortal remains reached here from Bhubaneswar.

Many shops, business establishments and educational institutions in the district remained closed on Monday, with locals pouring out on the streets to shower flowers on the hearse carrying the departed

leader's remains, which drove through the streets of Jharsuguda town on its way to his home Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik visited the leader's residence, where people from different walks of life had also gathered to pay tribute to the 60-year-old leader, who dominated the political landscape in western Odisha for at least three decades.



MPs, MLAs and industrialists paid tributes to the popular BJD minister.

The last rites were held at the Kherual Crematorium. The Odisha government has also announced a three-day state mourning as a mark of respect to Das.

Das breathed his last on Sunday evening, hours after he was shot by an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) at Brajaraj Nagar, where he had

'BJP leaders scared to walk in J-K': Rahul Gandhi dares Amit Shah to hit Srinagar's streets

SRINAGAR(KCN): A day after daring Union Home Minister Amit Shah to walk from Jammu to Srinagar's Lal Chowk, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday claimed that no BJP leader can take a walk on the streets of Kashmir not because the people would not al-

curity personnel are having with me should not have been required. If the situation is so good why don't the BJP people walk from Jammu to Lal Chowk? Why doesn't Amit Shah walk from Jammu to Kashmir if the situation is so secure? I don't think that argument

"PM Modi, Amit Shah, and RSS have not seen violence. We walked here for four days. I can guarantee you that no BJP leader can walk like this here, not because the people of J-K will not let them walk, but because they are scared," Rahul Gandhi said.

Kashmir in a vehicle and not on foot during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, and said that Mahatma Gandhi taught him to live fearlessly and hence walked on foot.

"Security people had told me to go to Kashmir in a vehicle and not on foot. 3-4 days back, the administration told me that if I go on foot, a grenade would be hurled at me. I thought to give an opportunity to those who hate me, to change the colour of my white t-shirt to red," Gandhi said. Meet the Meerut farmer who looks like Rahul Gandhi from a distance

"My family taught me, and Gandhi ji taught me to live fearlessly, otherwise, that is not living. But it happened just as I expected, the people of J&K didn't give me a grenade but only love," he said.

Congress had earlier claimed a security lapse in the Bharat Jodo Yatra which had entered Kashmir last week. Rahul Gandhi alleged that the police personnel who were supposed to manage the crowd during the Yatra were nowhere to be seen.



low them to do so, but because they are scared. Rahul Gandhi had on Sunday dared Amit Shah and other BJP leaders to take a walk from Jammu to Lal Chowk if the situation is so good in the Union Territory.

"Target killing and bomb blasts are happening in Jammu and Kashmir and if the security situation has improved then the conversation the se-

holds," Congress MP had said. Reiterating his remark during the closing ceremony of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Srinagar where the party hoisted the Tricolour at its office, Rahul Gandhi alleged that leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah cannot understand pain. Bharat Jodo Yatra helps Rahul Gandhi rebuild political image

North Korea denies arms dealing with Russia

SEOUL(KCN): North Korea on Sunday denied providing arms to Moscow after the United States said the nuclear-armed state supplied rockets and missiles to Russia's private military group Wagner.

Washington earlier this month designated the Wagner group as a "transnational criminal organisation", citing its weapons dealings with Pyongyang in violation of UN Security Council resolutions.



The White House showed US intelligence photographs of Russian rail cars entering North Korea, picking up a load of infantry rockets and missiles, and returning to Russia, according to national security spokesman John Kirby.

In a statement carried out by the official Korean Central News Agency, a senior North Korean official rejected the accusations, CONTINUED ON: P-7

Odisha Shines with Hockey success

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government very successfully hosted the FIH Odisha Men's

penalty shootout against former champions, Belgium. The hotly contested final match was

(January 29). However, due to the sudden, unprecedented, brutal attack on Health Minister

unfolded, the response to the event as a whole, has been tremendous, with fans from all over the world flocking to Odisha to soak in the atmosphere and support their teams. The tournament was held at two venues, the Kalinga Stadium and the radiant Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, built as quick as 15 months. The stadium was recently inducted into the Guinness Book of Records for being the largest seated hockey stadium in the world.

"For many of us it is



Hockey World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar - Rourkela, in a grand manner. Man of the Show is V K Pandian, Secretary to CM.

His Field Marshal R Vineel Krishna, Secretary Sports & Youth Affairs and Team Hockey Administration Stalwarts - Balwant Singh, Bhupendra Singh Poonia, N Thirumala Naik, G Reghu worked relentlessly to make this International Event a Grand Success.

Germany took home the coveted trophy following a thrilling

graced by the presence of Governor of Odisha, Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister of

Naba Das, the World Cup was concluded without any celebration and fun. Even



Jharkhand, Hemant Soren and Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera. The State had planned a mega celebration on the final day

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who is in sorrow, skipped the trophy distribution ceremony. As 44 matches of high-octane action

a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play in front of so many people," said Australian Captain Eddie Ockenden when

CONTINUED ON: P-8

PM Modi lauds milletpreneurs of Odisha in Mann Ki Baat

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the milletpreneurs of Odisha during his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat on Sunday. He emphasised to give special focus on millet farming and the use of products made of it.

Highlighting that the trade of millets has incorporated a new name milletpreneurs in Odisha, he said, "You must have heard the word entrepreneur, but have you ever heard the word milletpreneurs? Odisha's milletpreneurs are making headlines nowadays."

The prime minister said self help groups (SHGs) of nearly 1,500 women in the tribal dominated Sundargarh district are associated with Odisha Millets Mission. These women are making everything out of millet from cookies, rasgulla, gulab jamun, and even cakes, and due to high demand in the market, the income of women is also increasing, he maintained.

The appreciation from the PM came a day after the first commercial consignment of millets sourced from the women-led farmer producer organisations (FPOs) of the state reached the UAE market. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry facilitated the shipment of the maiden consignment of around one tonne of whole and flour of millet to Dubai.

Odisha Millets Mission is a flagship initiative launched by the Odisha government in

2017 to improve nutrition at the household level through the revival of millets in farms and on plates of tribal communities in the state. Traditionally the highly nutritious millets formed a substantial part of the diet and the cropping system in the tribal areas of Odisha. Millets that are more resilient to climate vulnerability require less water and are also cultivable in undulating terrain.

The Agriculture and Farmer's Empowerment department has been promoting millet crops because paddy that gained prominence in the PDS system has resulted in reduced consumption of millets, resulting in extreme



cases of nutritional deficiency.

The prime minister also established a unique connection between International Yoga Day and the International Year of Millets. He said both were decided by the United Nations only after the resolutions initiated by India. Describing the importance of Ramsar sites, Modi said the local community deserves appreciation for preserving the biodiversity.

"It is also a tribute to our age-old culture and tradition of living in harmony with nature. These wetlands are also an example of our natural potential. Chilika lake of Odisha is known to shelter more than 40 waterbird species," he added.

Shalimar - Sambalpur-Shalimar Tri-weekly express to be named as 'Mahima Gosain Express' Kolkata(KCN): The South Eastern Railway (SER) authority has decided to name the 20831/20832 Shalimar-Sambalpur-Shalimar Tri-Weekly Express (via Angul-Talcher) as "MAHIMA GOSAIN EXPRESS".

Khelo India Gets App New Delhi(KCN): Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has launched a special mobile application for the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 to ensure that participating athletes, coaches, support staff, parents of athletes and officials from all states participating in the Games have access to all information about the Games, on a click of a button. This is the first time that a dedicated App has been launched for the Khelo India Youth



Games. The App has a dedicated athlete login and supports the athlete right from the time of his or her registration into the games, through the entire course of the Games. The app gives the athlete a chance to check if his or her verified documents have been uploaded, before the start of the Games. This will ensure greater transparency for athletes in the registration process. As he or she registers for the games and arrives at the Games venues in Madhya Pradesh, the athlete can check the status of the issuance of their sporting kits, the hotel in which the athlete has to stay, transportation plan for athletes to and from the venue, as well as have important contact numbers where athletes can connect in case of an emergency. Further, to ensure that athletes have immediate responses to query raised by them during the Games, a Whatsapp Chatbot has also been created. For sports fans, the App gives access to match schedules, medal tally, address of Games venues and photo gallery. The App is available both for Android and Apple phones and can be downloaded free of cost.

Talk on Climate change

New Delhi(KCN): A bilateral meeting was held between the Indian delegation headed by Bhubender Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change and the



German Delegation headed by Ralph Brinkhaus for the German-Indian Parliamentary Group of the German Federal Parliament (Bundestag) in New Delhi today. Shri Yadav said our conversation focused on exploring pathways to sustainable development, particularly focusing on circular economy, tackling single-use plastic, forest management and climate resilience. In the meeting, the German delegation raised issues relating to impact of climate change on forests, trilateral cooperation in Africa on environment and climate, circular economy, alternatives for plastics, and how both countries may further explore bilateral cooperation in these areas.

Responding to the queries of the German delegation, Shri Yadav emphasised the importance of Mission LIFE launched by Prime Minister. He mentioned about the various steps taken by India for combatting plastic wastes, alternatives for plastics, conservation of endangered species and forests, forest surveys, agroforestry. Shri Yadav acknowledged and appreciated the efforts made by Germany in the areas of technology, water, circular economy, forestry through bilateral co-operation.

On query of trilateral cooperation in Africa, the Union Environment Minister stated that Ministry of Power is already undertaking various projects in Africa. But, for any trilateral cooperation in Africa on environment and climate, Ministry of External Affairs has to be consulted first. As for India's G-20, it will be guided by the motto of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, and the concerns of Global South also need to be addressed accordingly. Concluding the meeting, both sides agreed that they have common interests in many areas, and may further explore strengthening bilateral cooperation in new areas of biodiversity, climate change, energy technology among others.

Eminent Journalist Profulla Mohanty felicitated by District Administration.

Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : O U J Cuttack District President Eminent journalist Profulla Mohanty felicitated by District Administration on the great occasion of 74th Republic day celebrated at Barabati Stadium Cuttack in presence of Honorable Finance Minister Mr. Niranjan Pujari, Cuttack Collector respected Bhabani Sankar Chayani, DCP Pinak Mishra, DPRO Lalatendu Mahapatra & all officers. Moreover, Mr. Profulla Mohanty is a humble & sober person having vast knowledge in journalism, working for the betterment of society and being awarded by lots of organizations.



Suspect in Lahanda murder case died, family members accused police

The murder of spouse at Lasarda village under Bolani police station in the recent past has been



a challenge for police investigating matter and the police are desperate to find the accused in the murder case. It is heard that some suspects have been caught by the police, while the police has not publicly disclosed any information in view of disturbance in the surveillance process. Today, an incident has once again put the police on

suspicion. According to reports, at eight pm in the evening, after hearing the news that the suspect Milu Barik of Jururi village under Bamebari police station suspect in the murder case was in Rugudi area, Barbil police apprehend and brought him to Rugudi police station for interrogation. At 10 o'clock in the night, Milu's fell ill and Barbil police brought him to the TISCO hospital. But then the doctor declared him dead. On the other hand, the family members of the deceased accused him of beating him to death. It has been said by the police that the allegation from the family members is baseless and the post mortem has been conducted following all the guidelines in the presence of the Magistrate.

ASI Gopal Das who shot Odisha Health Minister grilled by Crime Branch

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police Gopal Das who shot at Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kishore Das is being grilled by a team of Crime Branch officers on Monday. Sources said Crime Branch A D G Arun Bothra is interrogating ASI Gopal at Reserve Police Line in Jharsuguda district. Northern Range IG Deepak Kumar is also present. On Monday, Brajaraj nagar police station inspector-in-charge Pradyumna Swain lodged a complaint against ASI Gopal stating that the accused who opened fire on the minister from a close range near Gandhi Chowk had a clear intention to kill him. The accused ASI's family members meanwhile have claimed he is suffering from psychological issues. They even accused his seniors of not allowing him to take leaves. Jharsuguda district's senior officers have acknowledged that the ASI was under medication but asserted that he was never denied to take leaves. An officer is allowed to take 20 casual leaves in a year. Gopal had reportedly taken 19



Pujari gets Health

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Following the untimely demise of Naba Kishore Das, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik allocated the Health and Family Welfare portfolio to Cabinet Minister Niranjan Pujari. The Chief Minister has given the



portfolio to Pujari after getting approval from Governor Ganeshi Lal. At present, Pujari is holding Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Departments. Health Minister Das was killed by a police ASI. The police official fired a single round of bullet from his official revolver aiming at the chest of Das. Though he was airlifted to Bhubaneswar for treatment, doctors failed to revive him. During the operation, the doctors found that a single bullet had entered and exited the body, injuring the heart and left lung and causing massive internal bleeding and injury. Meanwhile, Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik paid their tributes to the deceased Minister at the latter's official residence here. Assembly Speaker, several Ministers, MLAs and leaders from all political parties paid last respect to the mortal remains of Das here at Vidhan Sabha, Das's official residence, BJD party office, Jharsuguda Airport and his native place in Jharsuguda. The State Government on Sunday evening had announced three-day

mourning across Odisha as a mark of respect to the departed Minister. There will be no official entertainment for three days from January 29-31 throughout the State, an order issued by the Home department said. "It has been decided by the Gov-

ernment of Odisha that as a mark of respect, state honour would be accorded to the departed dignitary. The national flag will be flown at half-mast on the day of death in the State Capital and on the day of funeral at the place where it takes place," it said. On the other hand, the Crime Branch has started investigation into the high-profile murder case following registration of a case by Brajaraj nagar police station IIC. In the FIR, IIC Pradyumna Swain said the ASI Gopal Krishna Das, who was deployed for traffic clearance, came close to the vehicle of the Minister and opened fire from his service pistol from a very close range aiming at him with a clear intention to kill him. The Brajaraj nagar IIC along with Rampur Police Outpost constable KC Pradhan caught hold of the assailant. However, the accused ASI Gopal Krishna Das fired two more rounds of bullets from his 9 mm pistol during the tussle. Crime Branch ADG Arun Bothra started interrogating ASI Gopal Das at Reserve Line in Sundargarh. Northern range IG Deepak Kumar is also present there.

Fasting Program organised

Ranchi(KCN): According to the pre-announced program today, under the leadership of Jharkhand Bachao Morcha, a huge fasting program was organized in Ulihatu Panchayat, the birthplace of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, under the chairmanship of Jharkhand Bachao Morcha's central



convenor, MLA Lobin Hembram. Before starting the said fasting program, under the leadership of Jharkhand Bachao Morcha's central convenor co-MLA Lobin Hembram, a heartfelt tribute was paid to Lord Birsa Munda by garlanding him, and then a fasting program was organized there, saying that today I seek blessings from Lord Birsa Munda and got the power I have appeared in the birthplace of Lord Birsa to take the fight for the rights and rights of the Dalit tribal native society of Jharkhand to the destination and to fulfill the dreams seen by the agitators here, to respect their feelings. The subject of Ulihatu Panchayat development even today it is far away, the people of

this place are still forced to drink water from the daadi, and the things that have been written here in the inscription have also been wrongly written. Will take initiative towards developing it as a model village. On this occasion, he further said that Sidhu Kanu should be present as much as possible in Bhognadih, the birth place of Kanu Chand Bhairav, so that the fight for the rights and rights of Jharkhand can be speeded up. Virsa Munda's grandson Sukhran Munda was also specially present on this occasion. In making the program successful, Premchand Murmu, Mangal Singh Bobonga, LMN Oraon Adivasi Moolvasi Jan Adhikar Manch Central President Mr. Raju Mahato, Central Vice President Co-Convenor Jharkhand Bachao Morcha Vijay Shankar Nayak, Niranjan Herenj Toppo, Central General Secretary Ranjit Oraon Treasurer Gopal Mahato Central Secretary Mangleshwar Oraon, President of Women's Branch Vinita Khalkho Eren Kachchhap, Sangeeta Turkey, Vicky Pahan, Sushil Barla, Adam Munda, Sushanto Mukherjee, Raiyat Displaced Association Mesra, Rudia Hombai Panchayat leader Babulal Mahto Jhabu Lal Mahto Agam Lal Mahto Ganesh Mahto Karamu Munda Bhagu Mahto Malti Devi Sanjana Devi Jhurri Devi Shyam Devi Ravindra Mahto Shyam Lal Mahto were mainly present.

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Appealing to fans' inner writers, Anupam Kher offers autographed



NEW DELHI: Asking his fans to rejuvenate their inner writers, veteran actor Anupam Kher, offered them to send his autographed book 'Your Best Day is Today' on Tuesday. Kher hopped on to Twitter and shared a candid picture of him. Calling on his fans to give a suitable caption for the picture, he wrote "Mujhe meri ye tasveer pasand hai. (I like this picture of mine) I will send an autographed copy of my latest book #YourBestDayIsToday to the person whose caption for this pic I like the most!" Adding to the cation, he noted "Hindi or

English - apka caption kisi bhi bhasha me chalega! Chaliye! Apne andar ke lekhak ko jagaaiye!! (your caption will go in any language! Let's go! Wake up your inner writer,) with Hibiscus smiling face and heart-shaped smile emoticon. Within a few hours of being posted, fans of the former Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India started coming up with innovative captions and showcased their creative skills. A day ago, the 65-year-old star shared a clip of his mother lauding PM Modi and scientist's efforts for the new COVID-19 vaccines.

the former Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India started coming up with innovative captions and showcased their creative skills. A day ago, the 65-year-old star shared a clip of his mother lauding PM Modi and scientist's efforts for the new COVID-19 vaccines.

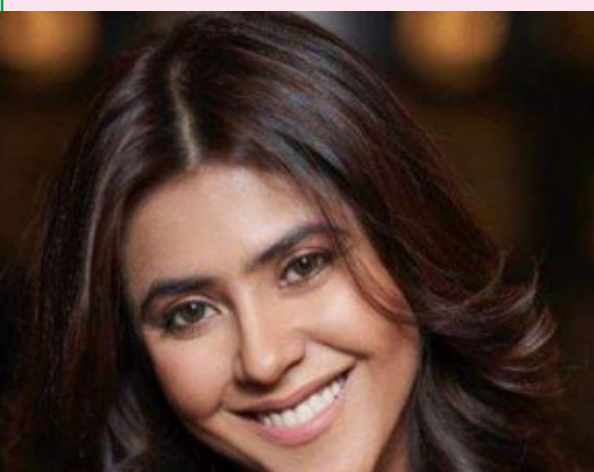
SC grants Ekta Kapoor interim protection from arrest in FIR over web series

NEW DELHI(KCN): The Supreme

leged objectionable content in her web

Kapoor. She had moved the apex court after the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, in November this year, dismissed her petition seeking that a case filed against her for alleged objectionable content in web series "XXX season 2" be quashed. The High Court had dismissed a petition of Kapoor seeking quashing of a case registered against her for alleged obscenity in a web series produced by her.

The complainant had alleged an episode of the series 'XXX uncensored' was obscene and caused annoyance to him, hurt his religious feelings and dishonored the Army. The case was registered at the Annapurna police station, Indore, under Sections 294 (Obscene acts and songs), 298 and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the India Penal Code and various relevant sections of the IT Act and the State Emblem Act.



Court on Thursday granted interim protection from arrest to TV producer Ekta Kapoor in an FIR against her for al-

series "XXX season 2". A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde granted interim protection to

blown!!! #AKvsAK is a phenomenal experience - @VikramMotwane take a bow my friend," tweeted

Phenomenal experience: Riteish Deshmukh praises Anil Kapoor, Anurag Kashyap's 'AK vs AK'

NEW DELHI(KCN): Actor Riteish Deshmukh lauded Vikramaditya Motwane's 'AK vs AK' and termed the

only you could do this, you are pure gold in this film but @HarshKapoor_has outdone your entire performance in one

around the story of a movie star and a film director who get into a public spat, following which the director retaliates by kid-

napping the actor's daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.



Netflix based film "a phenomenal experience". Deshmukh took to Twitter to share a poster of the movie, which features Anurag Kashyap and Anil Kapoor in lead roles. "Mind has been

Deshmukh. He then went on to heap praise on Kashyap, Kapoor, and his actor son Harshvardhan Kapoor who has a cameo in the film. "@anuragkashyap72 how good are you, @AnilKapoor Sir,

scene," the 'Housefull' actor's tweet further read. While Kapoor essays the role of a yesterday actor, Kashyap plays the role of a disgraced film director in the film. 'AK vs AK,' revolves

napping the actor's daughter and films the search for her in real-time. The Netflix India Original film was released on the platform on December 24, which also happens to be Anil Kapoor's birthday.

Aakanksha Singh joins team Mayday

Ajay Devgn's Mayday has been creating a massive buzz because of its interest-

the icing on the cake is that Ajay Sir is directing the film. It's actually happening!



ing star cast, which includes Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh and Angira Dhar. Talented actress, Aakanksha Singh has now joined the team. Aakanksha will essaying the role of Ajay Devgn's wife in the film. She joined the shoot yesterday. Aakanksha says, "It's like a dream come true to be a part of such a big and much-awaited film. I am so excited to share the screen with Ajay Sir and Amitabh Sir; and

It's an important role and I am lucky that the first mukurat shot of the film had me in it." Ajay Devgn took to social media to announce that the shoot had begun yesterday. "Happy to officially begin Mayday in a start-to-finish shooting schedule. Seek blessings from the Almighty and my parents. Nothing is complete without the support of all my fans, family and well-wishers. Releases on 29th April 2022 (sic)" he posted.

'Wanted to make a film on Indian Army with Shah Rukh Khan', says Director Kabir Khan

MUMBAI(KCN): Filmmaker Kabir Khan, who is gearing up for the release of his web series "The Forgotten Army: Azaadi Ke Liye", based on Indian National Army (INA), says he wanted to make a film on the subject starring Shah Rukh Khan. He added that Shah Rukh didn't charged a fee for the voiceover he gave for the series.

Shah Rukh didn't charge a single paisa for his voiceover assignment. "When I was making this series, I thought I should ask Shah Rukh (to be the narrator) because Shah Rukh's father had involvement with this army. His father knew General Shahnawaz Khan, who was an important part of INA. So, I knew he (Shah Rukh Khan) has sympathy and attachment with Azad Hind Fauj and I called him up. It's not an easy task to ask a superstar for a voiceover but Shah Rukh instantly agreed to do it. Usually, when you discuss a film with Shah Rukh, it's a long process, but in this case Shah Rukh literally did the voiceover for us on the second day. I don't know whether he would like me to reveal this, but he didn't take a fee from us. I think the kind of attachment he has with Azad Hind Fauj reflects in his act." Incidentally, Shah Rukh did a cameo in Kabir Khan's 2017 release "Tubelight", starring Salman Khan.

"Shah Rukh has very graciously given the voiceover. The series is based on a true story, so there is an introduction of a few minutes before every episode along with real footage, where he has lent his voice. I talked about it with Shah Rukh earlier as well, when this was a film script. Back then, I wanted Shah Rukh to do the film. We even had a few meetings but we couldn't take it forward," said Kabir while promoting the series along with its lead actors Sunny Kaushal and Sharvari Wagh. Kabir added that

Battle ready BJP and Impuissant opposition

A battle ready BJP? Does it rattle the rest of the parties that are eagerly waiting for a potential eradication of the saffron saga? It probably does. A repeat of 2019 in 2024 would further shake the existing ambiance of political aspirations of many warlords in India. Alarm signals from different corners of the country are evocative of the dangerous battle readiness of one political outfit, the BJP. More and more aggressive groupings of desperate naysayers would transform their perennial calumny into frantic hobnobs and undeniably in extreme situations, they would choose to merge their intentions and emotions intermingling in one heave of unity. Situation is slowly changing. We see it vividly but little speck of dust is withering the clarity. The 'Moditva', with its axiomatic collaboration with the Hindutva is all set to peel out the bulges of anomalies.

2024 will be a prestige battle for all parties. Impatience to stitch new coalitions is thickening in the air. The National Executive of the ruling BJP saw its ultimate leader's headmaster role. He admonished the party cohorts to remain vigilant before they spit contentious vocabulary on issues that would catch up fire with severe rapidity. He had special reference to the cancel culture against Hindi movies. The controversial 'Pathan' movie now would have a smooth sailing without any Hindu radical outrage. With the nine states due to go to polls before the National Election, Modi understands the electoral value of his image. He literally cautioned his party men to come out of the shadow of the Moditva and work hard taking the success stories of the government's initiatives ensuring the

last mile delivery to a larger audience.

He is aware of the discontent among the opposition and pacing towards a third term, the opposition parties would utilize their last ounce of energy to patch up new equations. With his party's humongous victory in his home state, one thing is clear that brand Modi's indomitability is his clarity of vision and his administrative acumen, a colossus for the last two decades. The Hindutva that his opponents accuse him of is the plank that he consecrated with his ethno-nationalist ethics. His policies and politics had an unequivocal impact on the larger welfare of the country and a huge audience is always ready to swallow his views without any ambiguity. This should worry the entire opposition.

Modi's moves throughout his tenure in the last eight years have been futuristic and he kept chasing his ambitious targets. His target oriented steps to put India on the pedestal of a developed nation were more convincing than the vilifying propaganda that his opposition came out with. Along with the country's emergence as a strong global player, Modi ensured its cultural renaissance on an international scale and his visits to different countries could transmute India's image from an average overcrowded country to one of the potentially democratic nations. The parties desperately trying to fence his popularity with vehemence could so far gain nothing. Their defamatory exercises to paint him as a divisive and hate-inciting majoritarian dictator always misfired. The position of the opposition on the Prime Minister often gets scrambled and underrated as the parties opposing him frequently fail to establish their indoctrinated views. Modi's prominence as a successful politician for the last two decades and his ability and agility to

M. R. LALU

remain popular in public opinion surveys with his reputation towering internationally cannot be the result of his political trickeries. Without a certain level of sincerity, no politician can stick to the popularity that he has been able to carry forward.

Impregnated with its animated vision of uniting the country, the Congress seems to have lost its credibility with its teeny-weeny temperament on the essence of Indianness. The party's long march to revive its lost reliability is at its last leg. Metamorphosed into his bearded holy man's appearance, Rahul Gandhi seems to have garnered the idea of Bharat Jodo from Adi Shankaracharya's spiritual strides across the landmass of India. The Congress leader's interactions with the media throughout his yatra produce a spiritual caricature of a political leader. His spiritual gimmicks do not qualify to match the deep-rooted spiritual sentiments of India. The whole makeover of the Gandhi scion appears to be a deliberate imitation of Narendra Modi, who has largely managed to attract the attention of the political and spiritual class of India. Rahul Gandhi's religiously enlightened version of the new avatar is seen quoting from the Vedas and other Hindu texts and referring to the Hindu deities. Running around the circles on an imaginary unification of India, the Congress and its revivalist should not forget its rabid acrimony on India's civilisational heritage throughout the decades of Congress Raj in India. The complete revival of the Congress before 2024 is not less than boiling the ocean. Interestingly, the Congress thinks that the BBC controversy on the Gujarat riots portraying Modi as a butcher will sell like hot cakes. Before the state elections and the national election, the party's shatterproof vigour is ready to expose

Modi through the BBC revelations. After the Ayodhya movement, it was the Godhra train carnage that got the Hindu sentiments emerging as a political unity. Modi's astounding post Godhra victory in 2002 in his home state exemplified this Hindutva sentiment gaining a fillip. His strongman image was cultivated through consistent hard work while his genuine visionary approach strengthened the country both militarily and economically. India's G20 presidency this year brings it a significant strategic role to play. The BBC documentary would probably be a shot in the arm for the BJP and Modi.

Taking a long stride across the country would not erase the Congress party's past karmas and their consequences. It had never shied away from demonising the Modi phenomenon. And whenever it did, the resultant impact was its defeat. Every time its anti-Modi rhetoric backfired and brought shame to the oldest political party. Indubitably, Rahul Gandhi's yatra does not hold any justifiable reason to whitewash the barbarity that one of the minority communities had at the hands of the Congress. It has conveniently forgotten the massacre of Sikhs post-Indira assassination. The majority of the BJP voters wouldn't be surprised as the BBC let its cat out of the bag. The British media with its colonial mindset has always been spiteful on India. At present, Modi's nationalist image is extremely capable of toppling this slanderous global agenda. Crying for spilt milk is futile. The Godhra accusation on Modi would not change the mindset of the Indian polity. It has its resolute plans for India and Modi is totally aware of the fact that every cloud has a silver lining. For him, there is still space to go for an extra mile before 2024 elections.

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Giving and getting thanks is our real bank balance

Thank you! A word that carries a different kind of subtlety. Sometimes it happens that just one word weaves the whole book and



thank you is such a word. A full word which is a wreath of any kind of cooperation, service. We are happy after getting someone's cooperation and a lot spreads inside us as well, he says thank you. Maybe your body

says thank you before you say thank you. That's why maybe a word like body language would have come. Because how to express such affinity, gratitude. That's why the word thanks must have been invented. The word thanks is derived from the Latin word gratia, which is related to the vocabulary of gratitude, graciousness and grace. This Latin root word refers to "kindness, generosity and the beauty of giving and receiving gifts". The word is derived from the amalgamation of blessed and promise. If you worship it, then it will come out - blessed, such an argument. Blessed means blessed or grateful. Dhanyam

Vaad = Blessed Vaad. This is the "all" word of Sanskrit. Let's understand this word - Thinks - rich, wealth provider, great part, opulent, fortunate and superior. It originated in the 12th century and in a broader context means 'I will remember what you did for me.'

The best way to express feelings quickly in return for any work is to express gratitude or thanks. This thanksgiving adds to the intensity of relations. Absence of thanks can sour relationships and create hindrance in doing service or any work in the same spirit in future. Gratitude is ever beyond the favor or the vanity arising from it. From a small to any big cooperation, in which the amount of selfishness is negligible, only the feelings generated after that represent thanks. It is said that the number of thanks you earn is your real earning. Because it is directly related to helping someone immediately and helping someone in any situation. Here someone is doing something for others in such a way that the mind of the person in front is being filled with a different kind of devotion for you. This reverence also strengthens one's faith. In a psychological experiment, a shopkeeper

Dr. Lokendra Singh Kot

held an annual function just to say thanks and also provided a feast to his customers. Due to this there was a 70 percent increase in their subscription. When thanks are received unexpectedly, there is more feeling of happiness in it. The feeling of gratitude received after doing some unknown help in an unknown place, among unknown people, is of a different extent. It fills us with enthusiasm, self-confidence. At such times, it seems that there is no stranger in this world, everyone is our own. If seen at a subtle level, it is so, we are all made for each other and only for each other. This is why emphasis has been laid on becoming blessed in all the religions. There are two sayings in Judaism that say, 'O God, I will always give thanks to you'. In Christianity, thanksgiving is considered a moral virtue that develops not only feelings and thoughts but also deeds and actions. Similarly Prophet Muhammad says if you give thanks for the abundance in life then it is assured that this abundance will continue. Sanatana Dharma says that those who are more fortunate have a higher level of well-being. Grateful people are happier, less depressed, less tired, and more satisfied with

their lives and social relationships. Happy people also have a higher level of control over their environment, personal growth, purpose in life, and self-acceptance. Happy people have more positive ways of coping with life's difficulties, are more likely to seek support from other people, reinterpret experiences and move on from them, and are more likely to find solutions to problems. Planning takes longer.

Many such studies show that people who have a strong sense of thanksgiving have better mental health and more character traits. There is a lot of qualitative development in such people. Thanks also falls into the category of contagious. If someone is thanking someone, then believe the truth, the third person is also automatically motivated for this. In fact, a small word leaves a positive deep impression on our mind. That's why it is necessary that many thanks come from our side and we can also give many thanks. Both receiving and giving thanks are our true bank balances that are going to go with us.

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Pradhan seeks special package from Centre for tourism infrastructure in Dhenkanal

BHUBANESWAR: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

spending and unrestricted movement of air traffic.

classified as an aspirational district, for accelerated and

beauty that attracted tourists around the year. Several tourist places in the district like Kapilash Hills, Joranda, Saptasajya and the other sacred temples here include Sunya Mandira, Dhuni Mandira and Gadi Mandira. Pilgrims in large numbers pour into Joranda fair for celebration.



has sought the intervention of his cabinet colleague and Culture and Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy for a special package for development of tourism infrastructure in Dhenkanal district. In a letter to Reddy, Pradhan said tourism and hospitality were one of the hardest hit sectors during Covid-19 pandemic. Now the time is ripe for unleashing massive growth in the tourism sector due to the strong domestic

Under the Dekho Apna Desh vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the tourism ministry has undertaken massive efforts towards increasing tourist footfalls from domestic and abroad through the development of tourist facilities and infrastructure.

"I want to take this opportunity of highlighting the massive potential for tourism development in the historically ignored Dhenkanal district of Odisha, which is

prioritised socio-economic development with monitoring by the prime minister's office," he said. Pradhan said, tourism is well-known as a force multiplier for socio-economic development, especially for generating livelihood at the grassroots level.

Stating that Dhenkanal is 60 km from Cuttack and 90 km from Bhubaneswar, he said the district is enormously rich in natural scenic

According to legends, Pandavas spent some days of their incognito living in the remote hills of Saptasajya. Raghunath temple attracts a large number of crowd every year on the day of Rama Navami," the letter said. "Keeping in mind the massive untapped potential of the tourism sector in Dhenkanal, and the welfare of the people living there, I seek your personal intervention in sanctioning a special package," Pradhan said.

Ayushman Bharat first and only scheme in world to give 80 crore people health coverage: Amit Shah

BHOPAL: The Ayushman Bharat Yojana, the Centre's flagship health scheme, is the first and only such complete mechanism in the world that provides cover of Rs 5

some 190 kilometres from here. "In the whole world, this (Ayushman Bharat Yojana) is the first and only example of providing complete health

per cent in the number of medical colleges, a one-and-a-half-time rise in the number of MBBS seats and a doubling of MS and MD seats will immensely strengthen

cure various types of ailments and give affordable treatment to the poorest of the poor, he said. Shah hailed MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh



lakh to 80 crore people, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday. Crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for this achievement, Shah also said the number of medical colleges had gone up from 387 to 596 across the country since 2014.

care coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh to 80 crore people nationwide," an official release quoted Shah as saying. Shah said the number of medical colleges in the country has increased from 387 to 596, the number of MBBS seats has gone up from 51,000 to 89,000 and the number of PG seats now stands at 60,000, up from 31,000, under the Modi government. An increase of 55

India's health infrastructure, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader said. The Union government has established 22 new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which will greatly benefit the poor, Shah added. The 50-bed SGML Eye Hospital, set up by Shri Swaminarayan Sansthan Vadtal in Ujjain, has been built at a cost of Rs 15 crore and will

Chouhan, who also attended the function in online mode, for starting the MBBS course in Hindi in the state, which he said was a first for the country and would provide new momentum to Indian languages. Paying tribute to Gandhiji on his death anniversary, the Union minister said the Mahatma not only propagated India's message of non-violence across the world but also established it.

Congress demands resignation of CM Naveen Patnaik over Naba Kishore's death

BHUBANESWAR: Congress stepped up its attack on the state government following the death of Health Minister Naba Kishore Das on Sunday with senior leaders demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

His party colleague Santosh Singh Saluja demanded the resignation of the chief minister over the issue. Condemning the ghastly incident, Saluja said it has raised question on safety and security of the people. If the government cannot ensure



security of a minister, how would the common man of Odisha feel secured, he added. Stating that firing on a minister by a policeman confirmed that there is no law and order in the state, Saluja asked how will the government justify the firing on a minister by an ASI.

over the issue. Alleging that this is for the first time such an incident has happened in the state when a police officer responsible for the security of a minister, opened fire on him, leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Narasingh Mishra said and pointed to what extent the law and order situation has deteriorated. It is now for the chief minister who is also the Home Minister to decide whether he will take moral responsibility for the incident or not, he added.

"Since the chief minister himself holds the Home portfolio, the Congress demands his resignation owning responsibility for the incident. It is a major incident that concerns the image of Odisha. My party holds the chief minister directly responsible for failing to provide protection to his cabinet colleague," he said.

Congress spokesperson Ganeswar Behera and MLA Suresh Routray also held the government responsible for the attack on Das by police personnel.

Gorakhpur temple attack: ATS court hands death sentence to accused Ahmed Murtaza Abbasi

LUCKNOW: An anti-terror court in Lucknow, on Monday, awarded death penalty to Ahmad Murtaza Abbasi, who was convicted

the temple as security in-charge, Abbasi attacked his companion constable Anil Kumar Paswan with a sickle injuring him and tried



to enter the temple forcibly. When other security guards stopped him, he also injured another sepoy Gopal Gaur and started chanting religious slogans while brandishing the sickle.

The FIR had also said that finally Abbasi was overpowered and his weapon along with

for attacking a security staff at Gorakhpur's Gorakhnath temple with a sharp-edged weapon in April, last year.

Abbasi was convicted by the special ATS court judge Vivekananda Sharan Pandey in Lucknow on Saturday. An Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) graduate, Abbasi had tried to forcibly enter the Gorakhnath Muthh premises of which UP CM Yogi Adityanath is head priest, on April 3, last year.

In the attack, two constables of the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) were injured. However, the attacker was overpowered by the security personnel and arrested. The Uttar Pradesh ATS had carried out the investigation in connection with the incident

According to the FIR lodged by head constable Vinay Kumar Mishra on April 4, last year while he was guarding Gate number 1 of

with his laptop and some radical literature in Urdu was recovered.

Prashant Kumar, Additional Director General of Police (ADG-Law and Order), had claimed that there could be a terror angle behind the incident. The Uttar Pradesh Home Department had also termed the incident as a part of a deep conspiracy saying that it could be a terror incident.

Later the investigation was handed over to UP ATS and investigation Officer Deputy SP Sanjai Verma filed the chargesheet in the case after the investigation.

The state government had arranged a lawyer for the accused who continued to claim that he attacked the security guards as he was mentally unstable but failed to substantiate it. The testimony of 27 witnesses led to Abbasi's conviction in the case.

Indian American pushes anti-caste discrimination law in Seattle

SEATTLE: Seattle City Council member Kshama Sawant wants to add caste to the city's anti-discrimination policy, saying discrimination takes place throughout the US based on the South Asian practice of assigning people their social status at birth. In announcing the proposal this week Sawant said South Asian American and other immigrant working people face caste discrimination in workplaces including in the technology and hospitality sectors, The Seattle Times reported.

"My office is proud to bring forward first-in-the-nation legislation for our city to ban caste-based discrimination, in solidarity with our South Asian and other immigrant community members, and all working people," Sawant said in a statement. "With over 167,000 people from South Asia living in Washington, largely concentrated in the Greater Seattle area, the region must address caste discrimination, and not allow it to remain invisible and un-addressed."

Seattle's anti-discrimination policy currently includes gender, age, race and sexual orientation. Sawant is the city's only Indian American council member and a socialist who recently announced

she will leave the council when her term expires at the end of the year.

"The fight for this legislation is also linked to the larger working-class fight against the ongoing brutal layoffs in the tech sector," Sawant said.

Child labour, caste-based discrimination, poverty closely interlinked in India: UN Special Rapporteur

In 2022, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing won an appellate court ruling allowing a lawsuit against Cisco Systems over caste discrimination to advance. The lawsuit alleges an engineer was denied professional opportunities, a raise and promotions because of his caste background.

The Alphabet Workers Union — which represents employees of Google's parent company — has signed on to support Sawant's ordinance, she said. Representatives for the union did not respond to requests for comment from the newspaper, but the union has issued statements condemning casteism in tech and at Alphabet in the past, including a statement endorsing the Cisco lawsuit.

Imran Khan to contest all 33 parliamentary seats in upcoming bypolls

Lahore: Pakistan's ousted prime minister Imran Khan will contest all 33 parliamentary seats in the bypolls to be held in March, his party has announced.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday evening, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice-chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the decision was taken during the party's core committee meeting. "Imran Khan will be PTI's sole candidate in all 33 parliamentary seats. The decision was taken in the party's core committee meeting which was presided over by

Khan at Zaman Park Lahore on Sunday," Qureshi said.

On Friday, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced that bypolls



to 33 seats of the National Assembly will be held on March 16. Khan's party had quit the National Assembly, the lower house of Pakistan parlia-

ment, en masse following his ouster from power in April last in a parliamentary vote of no-confidence. However, Speaker

Raja Pervez Ashraf did not accept the resignations and said he needed to individually verify if the lawmakers were resigning of their own

accord. Last month, the speaker accepted the resignations of 35 PTI lawmakers, after which the ECP de-notified them.

Subsequently, the speaker also accepted another 35 (and ECP de-notified them), and the remaining 43 resignations of PTI lawmak-

ers after Khan announced returning to the National Assembly to put Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to the test of a vote of confidence.

The ECP has yet to de-notify 43 PTI lawmakers. If the ECP de-notifies the remaining 43 PTI lawmakers, Khan's party would be virtually wiped out of the National Assembly. In October last year, Khan contested eight parliamentary seats after the speaker accepted 11 resignations of the PTI lawmakers. Khan won six of them. The federal coalition of nine parties (Pakistan Democratic Movement) has said it might not take part in the bypolls. If the PDM sticks to its decision the PTI may grab all seats without any problem. Of the 33 bypolls in lower house seats, 12 will be held in

Punjab province, eight in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, three in Islamabad, nine in Sindh, and one in Balochistan.

Earlier this month, Khan's PTI also dissolved the provincial assemblies in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces where his party was in power, to push the Shehbaz Sharif government to call for snap polls. The source has already moved the court against the caretaker chief minister governor for not giving the election date in Punjab. After the dissolution of an assembly, the caretaker setup has to hold polls within 90 days under the constitution. Qureshi has said it would move the high court in KP against the governor and caretaker chief minister for not giving an election date in the province.

40 killed in southwest Pakistan bus crash

QUETTA, Pakistan: At least 40 people died when a bus plunged off a bridge in southwestern Pakistan and burst into flames, a government official said on Sunday.

"The dead bodies...are beyond recognition," Hamza Anjum, a senior official of Lasbela district in Balochistan province, said at the accident site.

Anjum said three survivors had been rescued and the bus was reportedly carrying 48 passengers when it hit a pillar on the bridge and careened off course earlier on Sunday.



It had been travelling overnight between Balochistan's provincial capital of Quetta and the southern port city of Karachi.

"It is feared that the driver may have fallen asleep," Anjum said, also mentioning the possibility the driver had been speeding during the long-distance trip.

"We will investigate the causes of the accident," he said, adding that DNA tests would be used to determine the identity of the remains which had been "badly mutilated".

Ramshackle highways, lax safety measures and reckless driving contribute to Pakistan's dire road safety record.

Passenger buses are frequently crammed to capacity and seatbelts are not commonly worn, meaning high death tolls from single vehicle accidents are common.

In November, 20 people, including 11 children, were killed when a minibus crashed into a deep and water-logged ditch in southern Pakistan.

And last August, 20 people also perished on the outskirts of the city of Multan when a bus collided with an oil tanker.

According to World Health Organisation estimates, more than 27,000 people were killed on Pakistan's roads in 2018.

BRS decides to boycott Murmu's Parliament address

HYDERABAD: For the second year in a row, the BRS, which has 16 members in Parliament, has once again decided to boycott President Droupadi Murmu's speech to the joint session of Parliament on January 31 at the start of the Budget session, to protest against the alleged anti-people policies of the BJP-led government at the Centre and its alleged abuse of the Governor's office to

of rupees. In public sector companies like LIC, shares are being transferred to big businessmen like Adani aimlessly. The country is watching the hollowness of the companies which are losing lakhs of crores of rupees on a daily basis as the value of their shares plunged suddenly. It is clear that their profits are not all wealth," the CMO press release quoting Rao stated.



destabilise non-BJP ruled governments in states.

The boycott decision was reportedly taken at the BRS Parliamentary Party meeting convened by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao with the party's Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members at Pragathi Bhavan on Sunday to finalise the party's strategy for the Budget session of Parliament.

Although boycotting the President's address was not mentioned in the CMO's media statement, the party MPs under the condition of anonymity confirmed that the CM had instructed them to approach the floor leaders of non-BJP parties in both the Houses and persuade them to boycott Murmu's speech. Party insiders said the CM was confident that the Opposition parties would unite once again to protest the alleged anti-farmer, anti-people, and undemocratic policies of the BJP-led government at the Centre and boycott the President's address. In 2022, 16 opposition parties, including the TRS (now BRS) had boycotted former President Ramnath Kovind's address during the previous Budget session.

The CM reportedly voiced concern at the BRS meeting on Sunday that the situation in the country was deteriorating by the day as a result of the "flawed policies" being implemented by the BJP-led government at the Centre.

"The policies pursued by the BJP-led government have become obstacles to the development and integrity of the country. The Centre is giving arbitrarily the hard-earned people's money to their corporate friends. The Central government is showing special affection towards its friendly corporate forces and waived loans worth lakhs of crores


Further, it pointed out that the Centre was making irreparable losses by privatising the country's assets. Both Houses of Parliament should raise their voices against the "dangerous economic policies" followed by the Centre which is "helping the private sector to gain profits and people bear the brunt of losses", the CMO's release stated. "BRS MPs should strongly condemn the attitude of the BJP-led government which is harming the interests of the people of the country," it quoted the CM as saying.

Alleging that the BJP government was undermining the federal spirit and causing trouble to the states in several ways, the CM said, "The Centre should be forced to tell the nation what is the reason behind creating financial and other obstacles to Telangana which is running on the path of progress."


Slamming the Centre for the alleged misuse of the Governor's office, the CM said, "It is undemocratic that the Centre is using the Governors as their henchmen to weaken the states. The BRS MPs should strongly oppose in both Houses the evil policies of using the system of governors, who are supposed to be negotiators between the Centre and states while performing their constitutional duties, for their own political interests."

He reportedly told the MPs to expose the attitude of the Centre and the undemocratic policies of the Governors, "who are trying to obstruct state governance and development", and that the Governors are deliberately delaying the decisions made by the state Cabinet, the Assembly, and the legislative council as well.

The CM reportedly took a serious view of the Centre not fulfilling the promises it made to Telangana under the AP Reorganisation Act 2014 and instructed his MPs to raise the issue during the Parliament session. Among the other issues that the CM wanted his party's MPs to bring up in the Parliament were the increasing prices of essential commodities, fuel and LPG prices, and unemployment.



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Renault to reduce stake in Nissan, rebalancing alliance

TOKYO: French automaker Renault will slash its stake in Japanese partner Nissan as part of a deal rebalancing the rocky alliance between the two companies, the firms said Monday. The deal will also see Nissan take a stake in Renault's new electric vehicle

intended to "strengthen the ties of the alliance and maximise value creation", the statement issued simultaneously by both companies said. Renault will reduce its stake from 43.4 percent to 15 percent, the same size as Nissan's stake in its French

Nissan about future technology transfers to the Chinese carmaker, as well as details over the sharing of electric vehicle intellectual property, complicated the negotiations. Shaky union The agreement is expected to be signed next week following

together. Discussions have been held behind closed doors and the announcement was repeatedly previewed but then postponed. Still, analysts have described the rebalancing of the deal as a way to build confidence between Nissan and Renault, particularly after the fallout from the Ghosn scandal.

There is also scope for the firms to cooperate on electric vehicles, given Nissan's existing technologies and Renault's greater access to the European market.

After the deal is signed, the French automaker will not immediately sell the outstanding 28.4 percent of its Nissan shares because the current market value is lower than that registered in Renault's accounts. Instead, the shares will be placed in a trust for sale when prices improve, with no time limit placed on the process. Its voting rights will be "neutralised" for most decisions, the companies said, but it will retain rights to dividends and shares' sale proceeds until it sells.



venture Ampere, though the size of the investment was not immediately announced. The agreement comes after months of painstaking negotiations, and repeated delays, as the two firms sought to reset their decades-old alliance after years of tensions. The automakers called Monday's announcement "an important milestone" in "discussions on defining new foundations for their partnership". The agreement is

counterpart, in what the firms said would produce "a balanced governance". Nissan will also invest in Ampere, "aiming to become a strategic partner", the firms said, without specifying how large the Japanese automaker's stake would be. In November, Renault announced that it would split its operations in two -- Ampere, and a separate subsidiary for petrol, diesel and hybrid cars that will pair up with China's Geely. But concerns at

board approval from both sides. The international auto alliance began in 1999, when Renault rescued Nissan from bankruptcy. They were joined by Mitsubishi Motors in 2016, when Nissan took a 34 percent stake in its struggling Japanese rival. But the union was destabilised by the 2018 arrest of Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn, who claimed the charges against him were intended to prevent him from bringing the Japanese and French automakers closer

BMW bullish on expanding Indian luxury market

BMW, India's second largest German luxury car maker, is targeting strong double digit growth this year, including its electric cars, for which it has lined up over 16 new car launches this calendar year in Asia's third biggest economy. Despite challenges of global headwinds like recession, supply chain disruption amidst Russia-Ukraine war, the resilient Indian economy would continue to boost luxury car sales in high gear in India. Vikram Pawah, president BMW India, in an exclusive interview

with Michael Gonsalves, reveals the road map for the luxury car market and the BMW brand in India. Excerpts:



How is the luxury car market panning out in India? The premium car market in the country is expanding with good speed after a two-year lull induced by

the Covid pandemic. The growing number of billionaires, millionaires and successful businessmen and

women in the country are rewarding themselves with premium and super premium cars. India has a huge potential for growth in the coming years. This

year it will be a strong double-digit record growth year. Last year, our car sales jumped 35 percent at 11,981 units,

the best year till date. What is your strategy to push up your sales volumes? This year we have a strategy in place for sales growth as we will launch 16 new

Indian Oil launches welfare programmes for prison inmates

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation said it has launched the fourth phase of its social outreach campaign "Parivartan - Prison To Pride", wherein it will facilitate training programmes for prison inmates in various sporting activities. Launching the campaign in 17

very close to my heart. I look forward to thoughts and suggestions from the prison authorities on strengthening this outreach. As the Energy of India, we are well aware of our social responsibilities and reaching out to the future generation is among our foremost social priorities."



prisons located in nine states as part of the country's 74th Republic Day celebrations, Indian Oil chairman S.M. Vaidya said, "Parivartan is built on Indian Oil's core value of care. It builds on our other welfare and rehabilitation measures for prison inmates, such as fuel stations run by inmates."

Since its launch, Indian Oil's Parivartan has covered 37 Prisons spanning 20 states and 5 Union Territories, coaching over 1,750 inmates in three phases. He also announced the rollout of "Nai Disha - Smile for Juvenile", which would extend the benefits to over 2,500 young inmates at three Juvenile Correction Centres in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai.

"This outreach is

He also elaborated on the company's plans to enhance the ecosystem for the welfare of Indian prison inmates, with a special focus on women prisoners. The launch event, held on a hybrid platform, witnessed the participation of prison authorities from across the country, including B.K. Dak, DG (Prisons), Rajasthan; Barnali Sharma (IG) prisons, Assam; Dhana Sekara Pandian, Jt Director, Dept of Social Service; Rahul Kanithikar, Superintendent, Children's Observation Home, Umarghadi; Urmila Minz, Superintendent, District Jail, Puri; Akhilesh Tomar, Senior Superintendent, Jabalpur Central Jail, and Dr P Vijayan, Central Prison and Correctional Home, Kannur.

IndiGo begins daily flight service from Mangaluru to Delhi

Mangaluru: IndiGo airlines began daily flight service to New Delhi from Mangaluru. Flight number 6E6303 will leave from New Delhi at 2.55 pm and reach

of runway has begun from Friday at the international airport in the city, IndiGo, Air India Express and Air India flights will operate under revised schedule except Sundays and



Mangaluru International Airport (MIA) at 6.05 pm. Flight number 6E6304 will leave from MIA at 6.35 pm and reach New Delhi at 9.35 pm. In the flight that left for Delhi on Friday, 147 passengers were on board. On Saturday, 170 people have already booked their tickets to travel to New Delhi from Mangaluru, a release from the airline said on Saturday. As the re-carpeting work for renovation

public holidays. IndiGo flight number 6E 172 to Kolkata will not operate from Monday to Saturday. This will only fly on Sunday, when re-carpeting work will not be done. Flight number 6E 172 will fly to Kolkata via Bengaluru from Mangaluru. This flight will leave from Mangaluru at 12.15 pm. From Bengaluru, the same flight will depart at 2 pm and reach Kolkata at 4.35 pm, the release said.

North Korea denies arms dealing with Russia

Continued from page-1 warning that the US would face a "really undesirable result" if it persisted in spreading the "self-made rumour."

"Trying to tarnish the image of (North Korea) by fabricating a non-existent thing is a grave provocation that can never be allowed and that cannot but trigger its reaction," said Kwon Jong Gun, director general of the Department of US Affairs.

He also called it "a foolish attempt to justify its offer of weapons to Ukraine." Earlier this week, US President Joe Biden promised 31 Abrams tanks, one of the most powerful and sophisticated weapons in the US army, to help Kyiv fight off Moscow's invasion.

The move drew a rebuke Friday from Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who accused Washington of "further crossing the red line" by sending the tanks into Ukraine.

During a meeting with South Korean foreign minister Park Jin in Seoul on Sunday, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg acknowledged concerns about Pyongyang's "reckless missile tests and nuclear programmes" and the ramifications of the Ukraine war in South Korea.

"We also know that North Korea is providing military support to the Russian war efforts with rockets and missiles," he added.

Along with China, Russia is one of the North's few international friends and has previously come to the regime's aid. Other than Syria and Russia, North Korea is the only country to recognise the independence of Luhansk and Donetsk, two Russian-backed separatist regions in eastern Ukraine.

Russia, one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, has long held the line against increasing pressure on nuclear-armed North Korea, even asking for relief from international sanctions for humanitarian reasons.

Kim Jong Un declared North Korea an "irreversible" nuclear state in September, and the country conducted sanctions-busting weapons tests nearly every month last year -- including firing its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile.

cars and two new motorcycles in 2023 to meet the growing appetite of our customers for the premium products even as all our existing sedans, sports activity vehicles (popularly known as SUVs), coupes and performance cars continue to be in high demand. At present we have a book order of over 2,500 BMW cars, 250 Mini brand cars and 1,500 for our Motorrad bike brand. While the waiting period for deliveries stretches to about one year for some electric cars, others will take about three to six months

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Odisha Shines with Hockey success

Continued from page-1
asked about the match experience in Odisha. The facilities at both venues have also impressed



athletes and fans alike, with one athlete quoted as saying, "The facilities here are top-notch, it's been an honor to compete on such a world-class stage." But it wasn't just the hockey that left an impression on fans and the competitors, as the tournament also featured a host of cultural experiences, fan parks, and tourism initiatives within the city and beyond. These initiatives created an immersive experience for fans, giving them the opportunity to fully engage with the culture of Odisha and India.

The cultural activities were a particular highlight, with fans from all over the world enjoying the traditional music, dance, and food of the region and even from other competing nations.

Mariano Ronconi, coach of the Argentina Men's Hockey Team couldn't help but be impressed by the effort that had been made to make the city as welcoming as possible.

"The city is amazing; the streets are painted and beautifully lit and there is hockey in everything. We knew it from before but the city still manages to surprise us every time," Mr. Mariano said.

The fan parks were also a huge success, providing a lively and festive atmosphere for fans to gather,

U19 Women's T20 World Cup champ Soumya Tiwari's household erupts in joy

CHENNAI: Soumya Tiwari's house is still abuzz with activities after all the attention she had received since Sunday. Her family members are still pinching themselves to see if it is a dream or if Soumya has actually won a World Cup with the India team. Less than 24 hours ago, she hit the winning runs in the final against England U19 to help India win their first-ever ICC trophy.

"It felt like we all got a new life yesterday. Everyone is still thinking this to be a dream, sometimes wondering if it is a reality or just a dream. Because of the news flooding social media and the newspapers covering it, the reality is finally sinking in," says an elated Sakshi Tiwari, Soumya's sister, from



Bhopal.

Before leaving for the World Cup, Soumya had promised her mother that she will win the World Cup. And late on Sunday night, after doing exactly that, the teenager called her family, showing her World Cup medal, trophy and the Kala Chashma Instagram dance reel she and her team made for the ICC social media platforms.

For her, the 'biggest wish' came from her idol — Virat Kohli. As someone who was often seen emulating the former men's India skipper — she also wears the same jersey No. 18 — a tweet for the Indian team after winning the title meant the world to Soumya. After all, 15 years ago, Kohli won the U19 World Cup with the Indian team. Sharing a screenshot of Kohli's tweet on Instagram, an excited Soumya wrote, 'Is this for real? What else could ask for after the World Cup.'

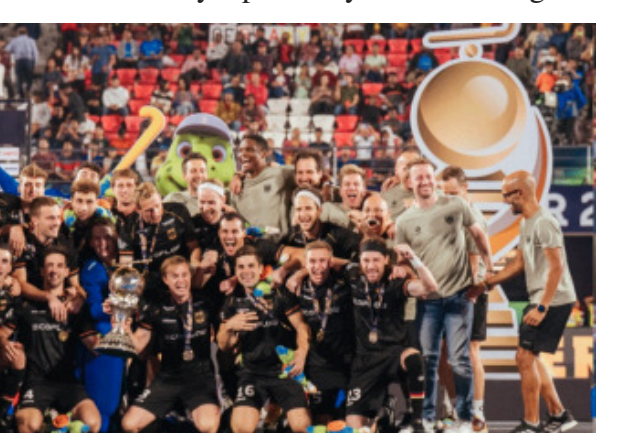
"She is a hardcore Kohli fan. Even when she spoke yesterday, she was like, 'Mamma, when I meet Virat Kohli, I hope I don't faint'. Representing India and meeting Kohli is her long-time dream. From her childhood, she is watching him, she is still a child, but it all feels unreal," Sakshi said.

But that is not all. Behind the fun-loving, happy-go-lucky teenager is a serious athlete who takes every bit of her cricket very seriously. And when Soumya listened to former India captain Mithali Raj speak at the National Cricket Academy during one of the camps in 2022, something changed in her forever. Mithali spoke about how she maintains a journal and takes note of every match, and every condition she has played in so that she could read out loud why she was having a good time when things aren't going her way. And that struck a chord

watch the matches, and support their teams. The fan parks were equipped with state-of-the-art screens, food and beverage options, and entertainment for all ages.

Beyond the fan parks, tourism initiatives were also in place to showcase the beauty and rich culture of Odisha and India. One fan from Australia, Jeremy Craig, who took a tour of the temple city, said, "I was blown away by the beauty and history of this place, it's truly a hidden gem that I never

knew existed. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to experience it as part of the Hockey World Cup." One fan from Belgium, though heartbroken about his team's loss, spoke about his experience, "The hospitality here has been incredible, the city and its culture have truly captured my heart. The indigenous



culinary experience and the Bharatpur safari were my favourite. I will definitely be back."

The event has put the State and the country on the global sports map, showcasing the world-class facilities and the rich culture on offer. The tournament has been a resounding success, not just for the sport of hockey, but for the entire nation. The facilities, the hospitality, and the organization of the tournament were all praised by fans and athletes alike, with many already looking forward to the next edition of the Hockey World Cup in India.

with Soumya.

Since then, Soumya too religiously has maintained a journal. And once she started doing it, she fell in love with that process. While she does not record detail that transpires in a day, she notes down every single thing she does on the cricket field — whether it is how she felt while muddling a ball or when a good delivery left her hand, it was all recorded. And after every match she spends hours watching her footage, analysing her own game and seeing what she can improve.

The same goes for her fielding. When she lit up the World Cup with some exemplary catches and run-outs, it came as no surprise, for it is something she

works on every single day. "Whenever I am on the field, my approach is very aggressive. I want to get two-three run outs for the team or take one or two extraordinary catches every match," Soumya had told The New Indian Express in an interaction earlier.

It is her thirst for excellence in combination with her aggression that makes her the player she

is. That is what helps her keep calm under pressure. Whether it is the unbeaten 15-ball 28 against Sri Lanka or the 24 not out she scored in the all-important final on Sunday, she does not succumb



under pressure, in fact, she thrives. "It the temperament that makes her stand out. The way she batted in the final under pressure, she has made us all proud," said Suresh Chenai, her childhood coach from Bhopal.

While the celebrations are still ongoing at Soumya's house in Bhopal, Sakshi said that without the 17-year-old there at home, it all feels incomplete. "People are congratulating and everything, but we are all just waiting for her to come home so that we can celebrate with her," said Sakshi.

As they continue to celebrate, Soumya is likely to take a detour to Ahmedabad for the BCCI celebratory event of the victory before joining her family. But once she does, the celebrations and party are only going to be bigger.

Second edition of Dot Fest in Odisha draws six lakh footfall

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): More than six lakh footfall was recorded in the second edition of the Dot Fest that came to an end here on Sunday with a slew of events. Organised in the backdrop of FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 in the city, the fest

from the BMC, BSCL and Commis-sionerate Police at the IDCO Exhibition Ground, remained over 40,000. The festival also witnessed major support from the Odisha Tourism department and the Odisha Mining Corpo-

a specially curated night flea market where other two major highlights of this year's Dot Fest.

The food festival, with 80 to 90 varieties of international cuisines from the 16 participating countries, playing in the World Cup was a

entrepreneurs made a total business of Rs 1 crore between January 15 and 29.

"The BDA planned this year's festival to give residents of Bhubaneswar an unique experience, to which all segments of the community has con-



concluded on a grand scale, with visitors from across the country taking part in cultural, musical, food and storytelling events.

The average daily footfall in the fest, organised by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) with support

ration.

The visitors during the fest attended a number of events including musical show Bhubaneswar Live, storytelling event BhuFesto, photo exhibition Sebe-O-Ebe and trails 'Ekamra Walks'. The international food festival and

huge draw. The festival included six international stalls and 24 state stalls. It also featured four government-run stalls including one each on Millet Mission, Mission Shakti and Korapat Coffee. The night market that featured local artisans, new-age designers and

stantly responded enthusiastically. With this edition of 'Dot Fest' we take an unique approach to promote fostering inclusiveness and a livable city where everyone can enjoy safely without the barriers of socio-economic and political differences," said BDA vice-chairman Balwant Singh.

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