

Sikharchandi Temple To Undergo Facelift; CM Approves Master Plan, Sanctions Rs 25 Crore



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today approved a master plan for the proposed beautification and development of Sikharchandi temple located on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, which is to be taken up with an estimated cost of Rs 25 crore. An official source said that the project will spread over a patch of land measuring 53.64

acres, including the main temple and its surrounding areas. After completion, the shrine will become one more centre of attraction for local denizens as well as tourists coming to the State Capital. According to Chief Minister's Office (CMO), a visual presentation with regard to the master plan was given by the

Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) Vice-Chairman Balwant Singh, in a high-level meeting of senior officials convened for the purpose. BDA will carry out the proposed beautification and development works and also look after its daily maintenance. Accordingly, the entire area to be developed has been divided into four

zones. Zone-1 will have a parking facility, an amusement park for visitors and a developed space for other activities, including basic amenities. Similarly, Zone-2 will have a View Point and a Trekking Route. Zone-3 & 4 will be developed for entertainment-based activities along with a community centre.

As per the master plan, the main temple will be beautified and developed. Provisions will also be there for vending kiosks and other facilities outside the shrine, the CMO mentioned in a press release. Odisha Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena, Additional Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of different Departments, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation Mayor Sulochana Das and several other senior officials took part in the meeting. It is pertinent to mention, acting on the directives of Chief Minister Patnaik, 5T Secretary VK Pandian had visited the temple a few days ago and ordered to prepare the master plan. The 5T Secretary then advised making the development project conducive to the environment.

Free Rice For 1 Yr

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday announced to provide 5 kg rice free of cost to State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) beneficiaries for one year from January to December, 2023. The announcement was made in the wake of the Union Cabinet's decision to distribute free food grains to 81.35 crore beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for one year. According to the sources, the Odisha Government will provide 5-kg entitlement of rice to about 9.05 lakh SFSS beneficiaries free of cost for a period of 12 months from the current month. The State will bear additional Rs. 185 crores for executing the announcement. The State Government has been distributing 5 kgs of rice per person per month to the left-out eligible beneficiaries covered under the State Scheme at Re. 1 per kg since October 2018. Now it will be free of cost, the sources said. In accordance with the Centre's Pradhan Mantri



Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), these beneficiaries have also been provided with additional rice and pulses during the last 28 months of prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation in the State. Besides, Rs. 1000 cash incentive was given to each family covered under NFSA and State Food Security Scheme twice. Eying the next Lok Sabha election, the Centre has discontinued the PMGKAY and implemented the free food grain scheme for one year from this month. The Government of India will spend around Rs 2 lakh under NFSA in this year. Notably, the BJD

Government had launched the Rs 2 per kg rice scheme under the Public Distribution System (PDS) ahead of the Assembly and general elections in 2009. The Naveen Patnaik Government again launched the one-rupee rice scheme in 2013. This scheme has been treated as a game changer scheme for the BJD Government till now. Through this scheme, BJD has reached to the heart of all poor people in Odisha. Now, it seems that the BJP Government is replicating the scheme for a big gain in the next poll, which may be held little early, as predicted in different reports.

ED Issues Notices To Archana, Jagabandhu, Khageswar In Money Laundering Case

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued notices to sextortion accused Archana Nag, her husband Jagabandhu Chand and their business associate Khageswar Patra in a money laundering case. BJP MP raises Archana Nag case in Parliament, seeks CBI probe. Meanwhile, film producer Pramod Swain appeared before the central investigative agency for the third time for interrogation over

alleged financial transactions between him and Archana Nag. Earlier, the Commissionerate Police had arrested Archana and Jagabandhu in a sextortion case following allegation by Ollywood filmmaker Akshay Parija. Archana is accused of amassing wealth by blackmailing prominent people in Odisha using sexually explicit videos. As per the complaint, Archana had demanded Rs 3 crore from Parija threatening him of making his objectionable videos and photographs with a woman public. Currently, Archana, Jagabandhu and their close aide Khageswar are in judicial custody following their arrest in money laundering case being probed by the ED.

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New Delhi: India's coal production increased impressively by 16.39% to 607.97 MT during Apr-Dec'22 as compared to 522.34 MT produced during the same period of FY 22. CIL reported coal production of 479.05 MT up to December of FY 23 as compared to 413.63 MT during the same period of FY 22, representing an increase of 15.82%. Ministry of Coal has paved the way for releasing additional coal in the market by greater utilization of mining capacities of captive coal blocks which has led to increase in production of



coal by Captive and Other companies by 31.38% to 81.70 MT during Apr-Dec'22 as compared to 62.19 MT produced during the corresponding period of FY 22. The Ministry has also amended the Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules,

1960 under MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2021 to allow lessee of captive mines to sell coal/lignite up to 50% of the total excess production after meeting the requirement of the end-use plants. The Ministry is taking steps to augment rail connectivity

infrastructure for all major mines under PM Gati Shakti to ensure faster evacuation. As a result, the total coal despatch have been to the tune of 637.51 MT during Apr-Dec'22 as compared to 594.22 MT during same period of FY 22 representing a

growth of 7.28 % which shows steady and efficient amount of coal despatch to various sectors across the nation. With an objective to enhance coal production capacity, Ministry of coal has put 141 new coal blocks for commercial auction and has been engaging regularly with various coal companies in the country and monitoring their production. The all-round efforts made to increase the domestic production and despatch have shown extremely good results

Pact For Millet

Bhubaneswar(KCN): For the promotion of millets, the State Government on Tuesday signed an MoU with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to organise a series of events on millet. Director of Agriculture and Food Production, Prem Chandra Choudhary and Assistant Secretary General, FICCI, Mousumi Ghose have signed the MoU. Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment (A&FE) Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain and Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee and Special Secretary Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment

here at Krushi Bhawan. FICCI will partner with the Department of A&FE for the organisation of events on the eve of International Year of Millets (IYoM) 2023. Notably, the UN General Assembly has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYOM) to promote millets

globally. In this regard Odisha Millets Mission has planned to organise a series of activities to commemorate this opportunity and spread the importance and benefits of millets globally. The Agriculture Department and FICCI will be partners for organizing the many activities, events, and

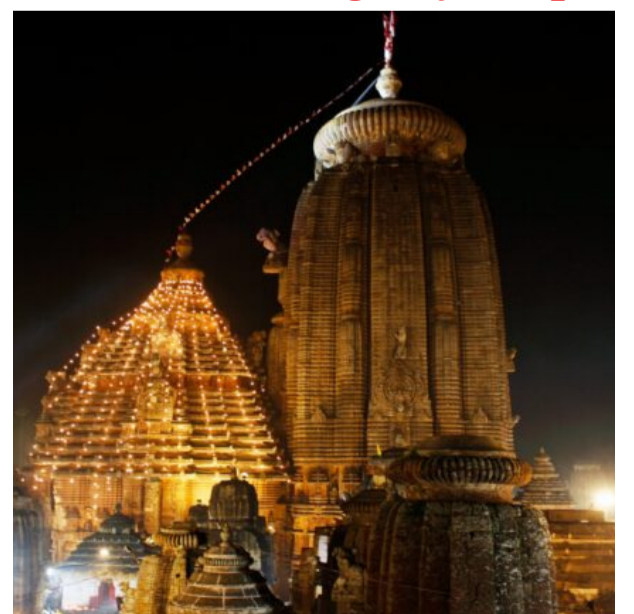
FICCI will render necessary end-to-end help, support and services towards successful organization of the activities throughout the year with regards to IYOM 2022-23. FICCI will work with the Agriculture Department and other Committees constituted by the State Government for organising such events. The FICCI will take up various activities towards organization of the events throughout the year and provide end-

to-end coordination support in execution of all the activities related to IYOM 2022-23. The Department will provide and facilitate necessary and incidental support to the industry body in terms of approvals, clearances, advisory and resources for various activities and events, including review and monitoring of activities regularly. Further, the FICCI will collaborate with a PR agency, design partner, event management partner, knowledge partner, research partners or any other partner appointed by the Department of A&FE for the events to implement given scope of work.



After Three Days Of Servitors' Protest, Rituals Resume At Odisha's Lingaraj Temple

Bhubaneswar(KCN): After three days of opposition by the sevayats (priests), rituals resumed at the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar. The stalemate was resolved following intervention of the Collector and meeting of the Trust Board. As per reports, the neetis (rites) had been stalled on the New Year during puja of the Bhog Mandap after there was some conflict between servitor groups. Following the dispute, the cooking of bhog had been disrupted. The temple administration had then tried to resolve the tension by getting all the servitors together on Monday but two groups Brahman Nijog and Puja



Panda Nijog had boycotted the meet. On Tuesday, after the Collector convened a meeting of heads of all servitor groups and the conflict was resolved after the latter were

assured that all their concerns would be met soon after. Subsequently, the rituals resumed at around 11.30 am and devotees got a chance for the darshan as well as taking the religious offerings or bhog.

Barbil Tiger under 16 knock out cricket tournament concluded

Barbil(KCN): Barbil Tiger Foundation has organised a Cricket Tournament where around 04 teams from Jharkhand and Odisha participated. The tournament is a knock out

Mr Sanket Panda received the Man of the match from Sachin XI, Mr Aksat Singh as Best batsman cum Man of the series, Vishal Kumar as best bowler of Sachin XI, Naman



competition of under 16 boys and concluded on Monday in the presence of dignitaries like Vikas Sarwogi, president MATOA, Dan Singh, former cricketer, Bolani SAIL, Sunil Gupta, Rajesh Singh and Mohan Gupta. The teams from Bolani, Gua, Keonjhar and Barbil namely Virat XI, Sachin XI, Dhoni XI and Ganguly XI participated in the tournament. On the final of the tournament Sachin XI won the trophy by beating Dhoni XI in 06 runs.

Tiwari as best wicket keeper from Sachin XI, Sagar Munda as best fielder of Sachin XI and Ayush Mahant of Ganguly XI from the guests. On this occasion Mr Rampal Choudhary of Tiger Foundation says "the foundation has been trying to wards creating more quality players from the region and partnering with the local youths for the development of the Sports ;which is used as a medium of exchange of development and better relationship.

Dharmendra Pradhan to inaugurate five-day national Kala Utsav from January 3

BHUBANESWAR: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will inaugurate the



National Kala Utsav 2022-23 at the Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar on Tuesday. The five-day Kala Utsav, an initiative of the Ministry of Education (MoE) to promote arts in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students at the secondary stage in the country is being organised by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) from

January 3 to 7. It provides an opportunity and favourable environment to nurture and showcase the talents of children with special needs and helps in making learning more expressive, creative and joyful. Sharing the stage collectively by boys, girls, students from disadvantaged groups and Divyang children will be a precursor to breaking many existing stereotypes. The focus of Kala Utsav 2022-23 will be on styles of traditional folk and classical art forms in ten categories. Art forms included for the competitions are vocal music-classical, vocal music-traditional folk, instrumental music-percussive, instrumental music-melodic, dance-classical, dance-folk, visual arts (2-dimensional), visual arts (3-dimensional), indigenous toys and games and drama (solo acting). Around 714 students from 36 states and union territories will participate in the function.

Beyond Dhanuyatra, Sanchar dance form has no takers

BARGARH(KCN): Dhanuyatra, the largest open-air theatre in the world, showcases several dance, music and art forms, 'Sanchar' or 'Bahak- Gahak' being the oldest dance form. But with time, the dance form is losing its charm sans patronage and takers. As many people came to witness the festi-

Mukti and Radha. In a bid to highlight the significance of the yatra, a 'subha stambha' (auspicious pillar) is erected at the centre of the Sanchar mandali near Hatpada on any auspicious day of lunar fortnight around a month before the commencement of the festival.



val from far-off places, after the play of Dhanuyatra, Krishnaleela was performed through the Sanchar dance form to keep the audience engaged. 'Sanchar' is a blend of both classical and folk dance forms. While performing, the Bahak who holds the 'mrudanga' sings, dances and explains the theme himself and is assisted by 'bayamana' or 'palia' on the mandali (stage). It is a Trimukhi form of art. One of the noted artistes, Manbodh Bhat is believed have started performing Sanchar in the initial years of Dhanuyatra.

He was succeeded by other artistes like Durbadala Das, Nilamani Kaibarta, Abhimanyu Kumbhar, Gaja Pasayat, Mayadhar Dhoba, Pabitra Kar, Bisakha Rana,

Alekha Sahu, who is now 83-years-old started performing Sanchar as a 'palia' in 1951. "I was 12 years old when my parents sent me to perform at Dhanuyatra with my guru. We were taught that it was a part of our tradition so we continued performing it for years," he said. Sahu said several factors are responsible for the existential crisis faced by Sanchar. "While we made no change to our narration with time, the younger generation has become negligent towards the art due to rise in use of mobile phones and digital media. Moreover, there was no government patronage for the dance form over the years," he said. An old-timer from Ambapali, 70-year-old, Madhabi Birtia recalled, "Back in my childhood, people came in bullock carts to witness Dhanuyatra. As they could not return at night, they were entertained with Sanchar performances. I remember a temporary stage was erected with bamboo frames and decorated with mango leaves within which the Sanchar artistes performed".

Another Russian found dead in Odisha, third in fortnight

PARADIP(KCN): Days after the death of Russian billionaire and lawmaker Pavel Antov and his friend B Vladimir at a hotel in Rayagada district, another 50-year-old Russian crew member of a vessel was found dead in the anchor-

Dmitry, who alerted the authorities of Paradip port for medical help. The Paradip port trust authorities sent in a medical team, which declared Milyakov dead. "According to the doctors, the Russian national is suspected to have died of

in the port anchorage area on Monday for the loading of iron ore for JSW Steel Ltd. The cargo was to be transported to its plant at Dolvi in Maharashtra. There were 23 crew members including Milyakov in the vessel.

port trust PL Haranadh refused to comment on the cause of Milyakov's death without investigation. He, however, confirmed that the Russian national was found dead on the ship. This was the third Russian death in the state in less than



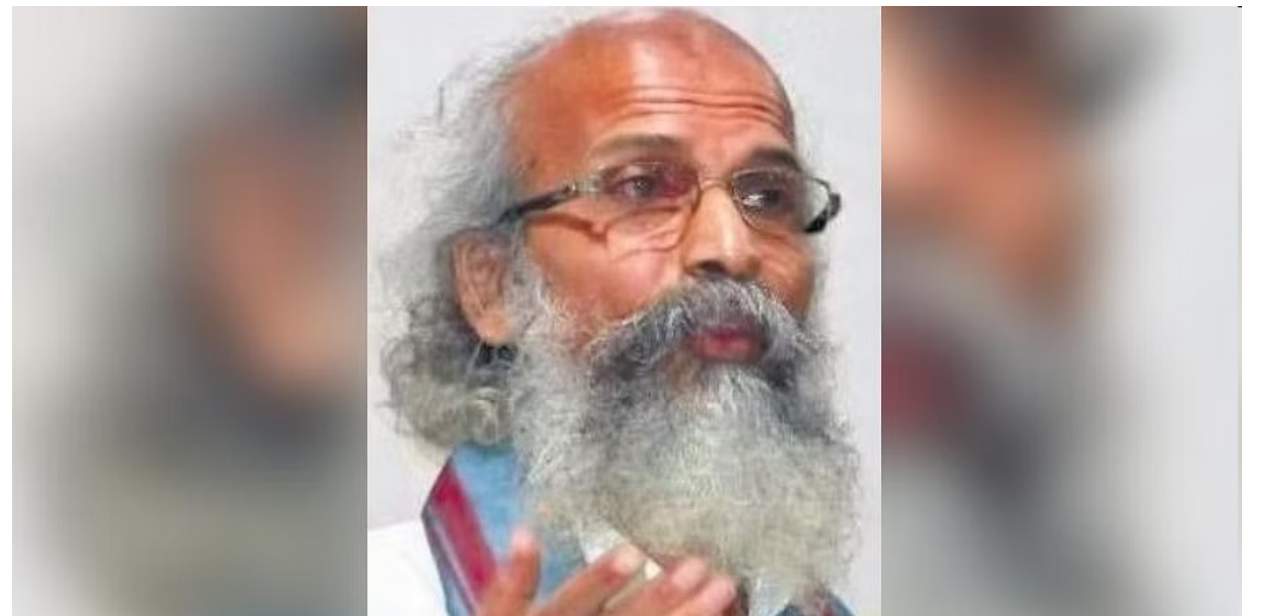
age area of Paradip port in Jagatsinghpur district on Tuesday. Sources said crew members of the MV Al Danah vessel spotted chief engineer Sergey Milyakov lying in a cabin and informed captain Podokozin

cardiac arrest. We are trying to contact his family members. The body is being brought to shore for post-mortem," said a senior official of the port. The vessel left Chittagong last month and embarked

Local police feigned ignorance of the incident. IIC of Paradip Marine police station Lizarani Biswal said, "we have not yet received any report on any death of a Russian national in the port area." Chairman of Paradip

a fortnight. On December 24, Vladimir reportedly died of a heart attack and Antov was found dead after falling from the terrace of the two-storey hotel in which they were holidaying a day later.

Balasore MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi in ICU for pneumonia



BALASORE: Balasore MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of Fakir Mohan Medical College and Hospital (FM MCH) here on Monday after being diagnosed with pneumonia. Sarangi was suffering from fever, cold and cough for the last three days. On Monday, he developed chest pain and his condition deteriorated following which he was

rushed to the MCH at around 6.30 pm. The MP had reportedly visited FM MCH on December 29 for a health check-up. Chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dulalsen Jagatdeo said the test report confirmed that Sarangi was suffering from pneumonia. He will be kept under observation in the ICU for the next 24 hours. If the need arises, he will be shifted to SCB MCH in Cuttack, the CDMO added.

Last queen of Jeypore royal family passes away

JEYPORE(KCN): Maharani Rama

Pradesh in 1932,

Laika Labang Deo and Bisweswar

also followed by the royal family of



Kumari Devi, wife of the last king of Jeypore, Late Ram Krishna Deo, passed away at Moti Mahal palace here in the wee hours of Monday. She was 90. Born in Seetamau village in Rewa dis-

Rama had married Deo in 1950. She was living alone in Jeypore palace and ailing for quite some time. Two of Rama's daughters-in-law Mayank Devi and Sarika Devi along with grandchildren

Chandrachud Deo were near her during her final moment. The mortal remains of the queen were taken out in a procession from the palace and later cremated at Chandanbad graveyard as per ritu-

Jeypore. Rajpurohit Binayak Suar gave 'mukhagni' to the queen. Among others, Jeypore MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati expressed grief over the queen's death.

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When success isn't enough

Despite being successful, a few actresses have admitted that they don't have work, though they exude confidence that they will come back stronger.

A couple of days ago, in a lengthy Insta post, Anchal Singh made startling revelations of the difficulty she has had in finding auditions and jobs in the last six months. The young actress was part of two web series, Yeh Kaali Kaali Ankhein and Undekhi Season 2, this year, and her performance won rave reviews. Anchal's case isn't an isolated one! The likes of Nia Sharma, Shweta Tiwari, Natasha Doshi, Ester Noronha, etc., too have admitted that

realised that we have put ourselves under pressure for no reason," Ester adds.

What are these young actresses trying to communicate by acknowledging that they don't have work? Aren't they apprehensive that they may be labelled and not be considered for future projects? Or are they trying to



they have been missing in action (MIA), despite getting noticed for their performance earlier.

Tomorrow will be better!

It's rare to see celebrities being transparent about their professional and personal lives. So, in an industry where treading a diplomatic path is the need of the hour, why are actresses admitting to lack of work?

Ester Noronha says the problem is that actresses are forced to fit people's expectations.

"So what if I am out of work? It means I am prepared to wait to get better work tomorrow. Even if I taste success, if my next film doesn't do well, I am back to Square One" she comments, adding that it is important to understand the reason for being without work. "It could be out of choice, majboori (helplessness), expectations, or other reasons," she points out. "Success does make us happy, but it is not a validation of our ability. Our work ethics drive us. Over time, I have

show audiences what they are missing out on? "It's a case of a woman speaking confidently and standing up for herself; nothing can affect her," explains Ester. "Even a seasoned actress like Neena Gupta asked for work on her Insta, so what's wrong in accepting that you don't have work?"

Believe in yourself

If an actress is brave enough to admit that she finds getting work tough, she is coming from a place where she's being unapologetically honest. She has nothing to lose!

Natasha Doshi reveals that she often faces the question, "What next?" When she has no work, she doesn't have any qualms about admitting it. Acknowledging that it does take a lot of strength to own it, she says, instead of ignoring the situation, people should actually

pay heed to what is being said, and appreciate the frankness. "Celebrate women's bravery, because there's no point in having a voice if you don't use it. Your voice can be used to create change," comments Natasha.

"Of course, to be this honest, you need to be confident which stems from your belief in yourself. That should exist irrespective of your work status. Don't seek validation from work. And truthfully, that is very hard. But whether you have work or not, believe in yourself," Natasha stresses.

Keep looking!

Young actress Divi Vadhya, who won applause



for her performance in Bigg Boss 4, says today's women are progressive. Commenting that anyone would feel low for lack of work, she says actresses should constantly make an efforts to find opportunities. "Since most actresses don't have mentors, it is challenging to come up with strategies to bag films. I have been through a phase where there was little work, but again, I have done a few films which haven't been released. Unless those films are released, people can't see my work. How can filmmakers think of us if we don't have enough visibility," she asks.

Shakunthalam set for release on February 17



The film team informed that the movie is being presented in a 3D format to give a unique feel to the audience and make it a visual wonder. — DC Image

The release of Shakunthalam, starring Samantha in the lead role, has been finalised. According to the film's team, the multi-lingual would be unveiled on February 17 in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi.

The film based on poet Kalidas' Sanskrit

drama Abhigyana Saakuntalam is being readied for release by ace director Guna Sekhar. In this epic drama of love and romance, Samantha enacts the title role of Sakuntala while Dev Mohan is her lover, King Dushyant. The shooting is complete and the film is currently in the post-production stage.

Mohan Babu, Prakash Raj, Madhubala, Goutami play other key roles. Neelima Guna is producing the film under the banner

Gunasekhar Team Works. Ace producer Dil Raju is presenting the movie. The film team informed that the movie is being presented in a 3D format to give a unique feel to the audience and make it a visual wonder. Aditi Balan, Ananya Nagalla, Jisu Sen Gupta portray other roles. With dialogues by Sai Madhav Burra photography by Sekhar V. Joseph, music by Mani Sarma, the film is getting ready to enthrall the audience soon.

It's a new year, it's a new life, it's a new creation



Naya, Naveen, Nav, Nutan, take any number of names..... New is always new. The new one may be of the same stature, look alike, but a new one comes with enthusiasm. We know that what is new will become old and what is old was once new. Who is trapped in this maze, we want to live in this moment, what is new now is our reality. The present is always new and the biggest thing is that we cannot live anywhere other than the present. Now it is a different thing that while living in the present, we keep crying about the past and future and lose this golden present as well. We often

miss golden moments like this. The moment we embrace the present, we are happy. If we are celebrating something, we are in that moment, neither past anger or guilt nor worries about the future bother us. The river is the best example of innovation. Don't see! How ancient is the river but the water flowing in it is absolutely fresh. Running water is a symbol of the present. The water that once passed will never get there. That's why aachaman is done with the water of rivers, rivers are worshipped. Innovation is directly related to our emotional power. Novelty awakens our senses and the mind tends to celebrate. It is said that this life is a festival. Life welcomes innovation and time stagnates. There is

no sense of time in celebration as it is in the state of meditation. To go beyond time is to live in the present. A mind always immersed in the worries of the past and the future will never be able to understand the vastness, prosperity and gaiety of life. Will not be able to welcome the novelty. We can be creative by living in the present and give our best. Novelty fills us with enthusiasm and engages us in creation. Along with many questions in the mind of every contemplative and philosophical man, this question will also always flash that why this universe was actually created? The answer is not intelligible. Beyond the confusing answers of mythological beliefs and legends, the simple answer can

Dr. Lokendra Singh Kot
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be that motion is an essential process of this universe and creation is an essential part of it. In a broad sense, creation means creation only. It is the creation itself that articulates the movement of this creation, gives it meaning. If there is only movement and there is no creativity, then on the basis of relativity this movement will appear to be zero. This void represents death or lifelessness. **innovation is life** If there is life, there will be creativity and where there is creativity, there will

creation but creation of anomalies. This point of difference between the gods and the asuras has also been important. One creation for good deeds and the other for destruction. As such, inert or inanimate things are good only, which do not create but they definitely become the medium of creation.

new creation, meaningful creation

It is not necessary that the goal of creation should be very big or a great work, work. Every creation which gives joy to life, gives a way of living, gives support is also a great creation. If the creation is public useful, even better. The creation which takes the society and the nation on the path of progress is the best creation. The Himalayas were not created in a day. It was created after

ages of efforts of each and every molecule and atom of creation. The essence is that creation is never small or big. He should be tested only on the test of good deeds. Life is hidden in a sculptor who is happy after creating an idol. Similarly, if the stream of the society and the country changes even a little bit by the creation of the best thoughts and creations, then it is the real form of creation. The ideas created by Gandhiji during the freedom struggle became the pillar of complete independence.

best creation then best development

Presently we are living the modern life and flowing in the path of progress (?). Day by day, rather hour by hour, the sound of new changes is heard. Now it will be a task of great diligence to think about how much we

have created the best and how much illogical creation we have made in this so-called progress.

The spirit of innovation needs to be harnessed. As soon as we aspire to innovation, we become a river. Our two shores never meet but they also walk together as one. It can be expected from every human being that he must create something or the other, which proves to be the basis of his future. If they can't even do this much, then they can do so much that before leaving the object and place they come in contact with, make it better than its former form. This will be the best creation of today.

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Keep your hands soft and smooth this winter



Shahnaz Husain

Have you ever struggled with dry and peeling skin on your hands every time it gets a little too cold?

When winter sets in, your hands begin to show neglect and ageing sooner than most parts of the body

Dry, chapped hands are one of the most common winter skin woes. Not only can they crack, peel, and bleed, when your skin barrier is compromised, eczema, psoriasis, and other skin conditions can worsen. Your hands are one of the most used body parts and need to be taken care of.

Most of us face a similar problem during the harsh winter when our

hands react terribly to the cold air and harsh winds during peak winters leading to lizard skin. You may also find that dead skin tends to accumulate quicker in the winter and rough patches of skin seem to be all over. This is because in the winter the cell turnover rate is decreased, If you're washing your hands frequently to avoid coronavirus, you could sap whatever natural oils are left in your skin.

Actually, the skin on the back of the hands is thin and lacks oil glands. That is why the hands are prone to wrinkles and lines. The nails also become dry and brittle, breaking or chipping easily during peak winters.

Exposures of hands during winters can lead to skin issues like pain, redness, flaking and itching. Ironically, by washing our hands with chemical-laden soap, we can develop dry cracks in the skin

giving bacteria an entry point into our bodies which lead to conditions such as eczema.

The outermost layer of our hands is composed of oils and wax, and it acts as both a shield from the outside and a guard that maintains natural moisture in the skin. The skin barrier is a mix of proteins, lipids, and oils. It protects your skin, and how good a job it does is mostly about your genes.

Here are a few easy tips to take care of hands:

Protect your hands by wearing rubber gloves/mittens for your washing chores./vegetable choppings/cleansing etc to retain the moisture you already have. Always wash your hands with tepid water. Make sure the water is not too hot or cold. Limit exposure to high heat. Surgical gloves are easily available at a chemist store.

Apply freshly

extracted Aloe vera gel on hands and let it dry in the natural environment on your skin. You can apply it twice a week. The best prevention is to begin using aloe vera gel before your hands show signs of dryness. Apply raw milk cream if you have dark knuckles, it will help lighten the colour.

Bath time is appropriate for pampering the hands and supplying them with the oil and moisturizing they need. Before your bath, apply warmed oil on the hands and massage it into the skin. This helps to soften the skin. You can use coconut oil, which is very nourishing. Coconut oil is recognized for its anti-inflammatory, moisturizing, and anti-microbial properties. Applying coconut oil over damp hands helps in sealing the moisture. Or, use pure almond oil immediately, after your bath, apply a

moisturizing lotion or cream, while the skin is still damp. This helps to seal in moisture. Twice a week, have a pre-bath treatment by mixing ground almonds with curd and a pinch of turmeric. Apply on hands. After 15 minutes, rub the paste gently on the skin and wash it off with water. At night, massage cream on your hands, working it into the skin.

You can also try some home remedies to keep the skin soft and smooth:

Among the many kinds of moisturizers, hand creams are better than body lotion because they are more nourishing. Lotions, which are primarily water-based, can further dry out the skin because the water evaporates. Creams, which are often oil-based, are more effective after washing hands. Once your hands are dry, immediately use

hand cream to seal in the moisture.

A luxury treatment for hands: Take four teaspoon almond oil and mix one tablespoon rose water. Add half-teaspoon tincture benzoin, drop by drop. Mix together. Apply this on the hands. Wear loose cotton socks on the hands and leave on the preparation all night. Rinse off with plain water the next morning.

Use hand ointment or cream instead of a lotion as these are more effective. Vaseline is still the most effective moisturizer out there.

Lemon juice and sugar rubbed together with the hands help to soften the skin.

Take 2 t a b l e s p o o n s sunflower oil, 2 tablespoons lemon juice and 3 tablespoons coarse sugar. Mix together till it becomes a paste. Apply and rub into hands. Wash off

after 15 minutes. Do this three times a week.

Take fresh orange peels, pierce them with a fork. Rub the peels on the hands to brighten them.

Choker (wheat bran) and besan (gram flour) can be mixed with turmeric and milk into a paste and applied on the

hands. Wash off after 20 minutes. This softens, cleanses and tightens the skin.

Mix almond oil and honey in equal parts and massage into the nails and cuticles.

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

Latter To Editor

Sir
 Famous American essayist, philosopher, and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson had said "Men are what their Mothers made them" and in the life of Prime minister Narendra Modi's life it is cent per cent true. Being brought up by a mother who truly epitomises sacrifices, resilience, hard work, simplicity, tolerance, purity and spirituality we find that the complete virtues of a simple but strong mother, Heeraben, was fully imbibed by his son who could shape himself into India's PM and as a strong popular global leader. The spirit to rise in life against all odds no doubt is one that Modiji learned from his beloved mother. The tenet 'work is worship' also one that the PM learned from his mother. The bond, respect and love that the son had for the mother is one that makes this divine relationship a class apart, a relationship worth inspiring and heartening.

M PRADYU KANNUR

Prince Harry says he wants his father and brother back

LONDON: Prince Harry has said he wants to have his father and brother back and that he



wants "a family, not an institution" during a TV interview ahead of the publication of his memoir. The interview with Britain's ITV channel is due to be released this Sunday. In clips released on Monday, Harry was shown saying that "they feel as though it is better to keep us somehow as the villains" and that "they have shown absolutely no willingness to reconcile"-- though it was not clear who he was referring to.

Harry, also known as the Duke of Sussex, and his wife Meghan have aired their grievances against the British monarchy since the couple

stepped down as senior royals in 2020 and moved to California, where they now live with their two young children.

Harry, 38, has previously spoken about his estrangement from his father, King Charles III, and elder brother Prince William since his departure from the UK. Last month Netflix released 'Harry & Meghan', a six-part series that detailed

the couple's experiences leading to their decision to make a new start in the US. 'PR stunt': Harry, Meghan on UK tabloid The Sun's apology for column In that documentary, Harry was scathing about how the royal press team worked, and spoke about how his relationship with William and the rest of the royal household broke down.

Meghan described wanting to end her life as she struggled to cope with toxic UK press coverage. Harry's autobiography, titled 'Spare' recalling the saying 'the heir and the spare' is being released on January 10.

BJP national executive meeting in Delhi on January 16-17; extension for Nadda as party prez likely

NEW DELHI: The national executive of the BJP will meet here for two days on January 16-17 and is likely to endorse an extension in its national president J P Nadda's tenure, according to party sources on Tuesday.

The key organisational body of the party will deliberate on its strategy for the upcoming state assembly elections and take stock of its preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as well, sources said. There is a strong possibility that Nadda, whose three-year term as the party president ends later this month, may get the extension as party chief in

at the Centre could also come up for discussion in the meeting, they added. Postponement of the organisational polls in view of the assembly elections and the all-important Lok Sabha polls in 2024, may also come up for discussion at the meeting. According to sources, the process of internal polls in the party may begin after the Lok Sabha polls are over in April-May 2024.

Nadda's predecessor and Home Minister Amit Shah had also got an extension to spearhead the party's preparation for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. It was only after the parliamentary elections, the



view of the coming elections, the party sources said. The deliberation on countrywide programmes planned by the government to mark India's presidency of G-20 is likely to be one of the highlights of the meeting, with the BJP set to laud Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts in this regard and prepare a road map to involve its cadres in the exercise, sources said.

The party's performance in recently held assembly polls and the functioning of the BJP's government

BJP's organisational polls began and Nadda was elected unopposed with Shah joining the Union Cabinet during Narendra Modi's second stint as prime minister.

Nadda, a seasoned organisational man, also shares warm ties with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leadership and enjoys Modi's confidence. Many party leaders feel that he has maintained the organisational momentum and dynamism that the BJP was infused with under his predecessor.

Anganwadi workers intensify stir

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Scores of Anganwadi workers took out a grand rally at Lower PMG Square in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday over the non-fulfilment of their 12-point charter of



demands by the state government. After sitting on dharna for 45 days, the Anganwadi workers marched towards Naveen Niwas with hopes of apprising the Chief Minister of Odisha about their plight. However, they were stopped by the city police at Rajmahal Chhak and again sent to the protest

site. According to the 12-point charter of demands of the agitating Anganwadi workers, they are seeking government employee status, a monthly salary of Rs 18,000 and Rs 9,000 for their assistants, a monthly pension of Rs 5,000 after retirement and compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of an Anganwadi worker in case of death, Rs 10 lakh compensation during death while on duty, Gratuity, EPF, ESI. Besides, they have been demanding Anganwadi workers' status for mini-Anganwadi workers and reinstating six workers dismissed during the agitation in 2018. While the state government is yet to consider their demands, the Anganwadi workers' association is continuing its protest against the apathy and has also threatened to intensify the stir in the coming days to press for their demands.

'Buddhist bin Laden' firebrand monk feted by Myanmar junta chief

YANGON: A firebrand monk dubbed the "Buddhist bin Laden" for his role in



stirring up religious hatred in Myanmar received a national award on Tuesday, with the junta saluting his work in the country. Wirathu -- who received the moniker from Time Magazine in 2013 following

deadly communal riots -- was awarded the title of "Thiri Pyanchi" on Tuesday, the military's information team said. The award for "outstanding work for the good of the Union of Myanmar" was presented by junta chief Min Aung Hlaing, it added. Wirathu is one of hundreds of people receiving awards and

honorary titles as the junta prepares to mark the 75th anniversary of

Myanmar's independence from Britain on Wednesday. Wirathu has long been known for his nationalist anti-Islamic rhetoric -- particularly against the Rohingya Muslim minority.

In 2013, he appeared on the cover of Time Magazine as "The Face of Buddhist Terror". He had called for boycotts of Muslim-owned businesses and restrictions on marriages between Buddhists and Muslims. Incitement, gold bars, walkie-talkies: Charges against Myanmar's Suu Kyi Rights groups said

these helped whip up animosity towards the community, laying the foundations for a military crackdown in 2017 that

charges against him had been dropped.

Suu Kyi, 77, has been detained since being ousted by the military coup almost two



forced about 740,000 Rohingya to flee over the border to Bangladesh. Wirathu was later jailed by Aung San Suu Kyi's government on sedition charges.

In September 2021, the junta announced it had released Wirathu after all

years ago. Last week, a junta court handed down its verdicts in the final charges against the Nobel laureate, who now faces the possibility of spending the rest of her life behind bars with a total of 33 years in prison.

Open 'franchise' of Rahul Gandhi's 'shop of love': Priyanka during 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in UP

LUCKNOW: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday called her brother Rahul Gandhi a "warrior" and said he is not afraid of the might of the government which spent thousands of crores to destroy his image. She welcomed Rahul Gandhi and the

Commenting on Rahul Gandhi's outfit of choice for the yatra (a t-shirt) during the sweeping cold wave, Priyanka said that "he is indeed not feeling cold as he is wearing the shield of truth".

Priyanka Gandhi steps in, 'unhappy' Telangana leaders get Delhi call



Bharat Jodo Yatra at the Loni border as it entered Uttar Pradesh from Delhi.

Priyanka, who has been looking after party affairs in UP since she took a plunge into active politics on January 23, 2019, was seen showering her brother with praise saying "Rahulji had opened the "shop of love" in the "market of hatred", adding that he was marching to bring people together and binding them through love and amity.

While addressing a public gathering at the Loni border, Priyanka appealed to the people of Uttar Pradesh to spread love. "I urge everyone in Uttar Pradesh to open a franchise of this 'mohabbat ki dukaan' (shop of love)," she said.

Calling Rahul Gandhi a "warrior", Priyanka said, "Adani ji, Ambani ji bought big politicians, main PSUs of the country, the media, but they could not buy my brother and will never be able to do so... Dear brother, I am so proud of you. All forces were used against you but you stood with the truth holding your ground firmly."

At the Loni border in Ghaziabad, from where the Bharat Jodo Yatra entered Uttar Pradesh, party workers lined up on both sides of the road to greet Rahul Gandhi and other 'yatri's'. Senior Congress leaders including Salman Khurshid, who is the coordinator of Yatra in UP, along with UPCC chief Brij Lal Khabri and regional heads of the party with scores of supporters from across the state joined the Yatra.

The Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra started from Kanyakumari in September last year, and it is set to conclude in Srinagar on January 30. The party aims to cover more than 3,500 kms.

In Uttar Pradesh, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is expected to cover a distance of nearly 120 kms across three western UP districts -- Ghaziabad, Baghpat and Shamli.

The yatri's along with Rahul Gandhi will make a night halt in Mavikala village of Baghpat on Tuesday. The Yatra would reach Shamli and halt at Ellam on Wednesday night. The Yatra will then leave UP from Kairana in Shamli to enter Sonapat in Haryana on January 5.

Delhi stuck in jam as Rahul Gandhi's Yatra leaves for Uttar Pradesh

NEW DELHI: The city witnessed snarls in several places on Tuesday as the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi progressed towards Uttar Pradesh with hundreds of supporters in tow.

As the Yatra moved across central Delhi, a huge police force was deployed to ensure

Ring Road, before the jams relented somewhat by the afternoon.

"The GT road in Shahdara and Seelampur area heading towards Kashmiri Gate was jam-packed. Vehicles crawled and people honked. I had to take another route to reach Connaught Place," said a commuter who was stuck in



there is no untoward incident. However, traffic in several parts of the city on the Ring Road was thrown out of gear. The situation was worse in central Delhi where long jams led to chaos.

Delhi Traffic Police asked commuters to avoid Ring Road from ISBT towards Rajghat and vice-versa to avoid getting stuck.

An officer said that the police received over a dozen calls regarding traffic jams on the

Constitution a living document, capable of incorporating changing aspirations: Murmu

JAIPUR: Terming the Constitution as a living document, President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said it was fully capable of incorporating the changing hopes and aspirations of people.

"Our democracy is the largest and most vibrant democracy in the world. The Constitution is the basis of our great democracy," Murmu said while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Constitution Park at Raj Bhavan here.

Referring to the 105 Constitutional amendments, she said, "In this way, our Constitution is a living document which is fully capable of containing the hopes and aspirations

traffic for several hours near Kashmiri Gate. Ahead of the yatra, the Delhi Traffic Police had on Monday issued a travel advisory cautioning commuters to take alternate routes. The Bharat Jodo Yatra on Tuesday resumed its second leg of the journey from the national capital after a nine-day year-end break. Led by former party chief Rahul Gandhi, the yatra started from the Hanuman Mandir at Kashmiri Gate on Tuesday morning and entered Uttar Pradesh.

"The main purpose of building this Constitution Park is to maintain awareness about the ideals of the Constitution. This is a very important objective, which is a big effort towards keeping the democracy of our country strong," she added.

Noting that the park was built in less than a year under the Smart City Mission, Governor Kalraj Mishra said the Constitution was the best explanation of democracy and reflected the ideals of the nation.

During his address, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot also underlined the importance of awareness of the Constitution.

After inaugurating the park by unveiling a plaque and cutting the ribbon, Murmu took a round of the venue and spoke to architect Anoop Bartaria.

The park, built by the Jaipur Development Authority at an estimated cost of Rs 9 crore, showcases the Constitution's journey from its making to its implementation through sculptures and pictures on panelled glass, among

others. Folk artistes, including acclaimed performer Gulabo Sapera, performed at the event. Murmu appreciated their depiction of the three-year journey into the making of the Constitution and said a major chapter of India's modern history was presented at the Samvidhan Udyan (Constitution Park) through elegant paintings, sculptures and other art forms. Murmu, on her first visit to Rajasthan as president, was received at the state hangar of Jaipur airport by Mishra and Gehlot earlier in the day.

During her stay in Jaipur, the President also virtually inaugurated Power Grid Corporation of India's transmission system for 8.9 GW solar energy in Bhadla, Fatehgarh and Bikaner regions and laid the foundation stone for the 1,000 MW Bikaner solar power project.

After the programme in Jaipur, she left for Abu Road in Sirohi where she will address a conference at Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya in the evening.

Amit Shah takes command of BJP's preparedness in UP for 2024

LUCKNOW: It is believed that the road to power in Delhi passes through Uttar Pradesh which sends 80 MPs to the lower house of Parliament. Perhaps, this perception has pushed the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to begin its spadework at least a year earlier in the state charting out a course for the big battle in 2024.

According to party insiders, Union Home Minister and BJP's master strategist Amit Shah has taken the command of party's strategy in UP for the 2024 electoral trial. He is likely to visit the state capital on January 16, a day after the conclusion of the inauspicious month called 'Malmaas' to kick start the saffron party's campaign.

With the focus on those 14 of the 80 UP seats which the BJP had lost in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Shah is likely to commence the party's campaign by addressing two public rallies at Balrampur and Ambedkarnagar during his stay in UP in mid-January.

The ruling alliance (BJP and Apna Dal -S) had won 64 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 general elections losing 16 seats to the opposition with 10 to BSP, five to SP and the lone seat of Rae Bareilly to Indian National Congress.

However, it managed to wrest Rampur and Azamgarh from SP in the bypoll held in June 2022. Notably, the Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party had contested the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in alliance.

The remaining 14 seats from western to eastern UP include Saharanpur, Bijnor, Nagina(SC), Moradabad, Sambhal, Amroha, Mainpuri, Rae Bareilly, Ambedkarnagar, Shravasti, Lalganj (SC), Ghosi, Jaunpur and Ghazipur.

According to party sources, the BJP had held a high-level meeting in Hyderabad, recently, where party leaders stressed strengthening the grass root network, primarily at the Mandal and booth level following which a batch of 'Vistaraks' have been deployed in all 14 Lok Sabha seats.

Notably, the BJP and its allies had walked away

with 73 of 80 seats in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Moreover, there are certain seats where the BJP central leadership is not fully satisfied with the performance of the sitting MP, claim the sources. As per the party insiders, Amit Shah will be visiting the state frequently covering both the eastern and western regions to lay out the party strategy for 2024.

Meanwhile, BJP's national general secretary (organisation), BL Santosh and vice-president Radha Mohan Singh, who arrived in Lucknow on Monday on a two-day visit to the state capital took



stock of the party's preparedness for upcoming civic polls and 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The central leaders concluded their visit on Tuesday by giving tidbits on upcoming civic polls, MLC elections and the battle of 2024.

Moreover, during a two-day stay of the central leaders, discussions were also held over the partial revamp of the saffron party's state unit in near future. As per the party sources, Santosh voted for changes in party organisation as per the need. In this quest, five leaders including AK Sharma, Dayashankar Singh, JPS Rathore, Babay Rani Maurya and Narendra Kashyap, who were inducted into the Yogi 2.0 cabinet, may be relieved from their organisational responsibilities.

During his two-day stay, Santosh held a series of meetings with state general secretaries, vice presidents, frontal organisations' chiefs, regional presidents, ministers and other senior leaders of the party. In the meetings, the discussions mainly revolved around how to go about the civic polls and 14 Lok Sabha seats under focus.



of the public changing with time."

The makers created a comprehensive Constitution due to their sensitivity towards each section of society and awareness of each level of democracy and each aspect of administration, she said.

"Our visionary Constitution makers had clarity of thought about the rights of future generations to create systems according to their needs. That is why the provision for Constitutional amendments were included in the Constitution itself," she said.

She said women, on the strength of their struggle and ability, were continuously increasing their presence from panchayat bhavans to the Parliament and serving the society and the country.

Apart from valour, Rajasthan's history was one of dignity and empowerment of women, she added.

She also expressed confidence that the Constitution Park would inspire the coming generations.

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'Don't make statements': Jet Airways' monitoring panel bars 'CEO' Kapoor from representing airline

BENGALURU(KCN): Amid growing scepticism over Jet Airways' revival, its new CEO Sanjiv Kapoor has been barred by the Monitoring Committee from representing the airline. The Committee has

the to-be revived Jet Airways in April 2022, after agreement and clearance from all relevant stakeholders. The Monitoring Committee has equal representation from the JKC and the erstwhile creditors

ownership of Jet Airways is transferred to JKC, Kapoor remains CEO-Designate and his mandate is to lead 'Jet 2.0' post-handover, and he has been focused on the preparation for that. The NCLT-appointed resolution

at a time when the ongoing tension between the JKC and Jet Airways' lenders over the transfer of the airline's ownership has raised questions on the survival of the brand. In March 2022, JKC had announced the appointment of Kapoor as its CEO. Kapoor was previously associated with Vistara and SpiceJet. Post taking the charge, Kapoor had said launching flight operations by October 2022. Add to it, workers of Jet Airways have been demanding to clear their dues and one partner in the consortium is facing investigation by regulatory agencies in Europe. The JKC, a partnership of UAE-based businessmen Murari Lal Jalan and Fritsch of Kalrock Capital, had won the bid for Jet Airways way back in October 2020.



reportedly objected to the 'CEO' designation of Kapoor and asked the aviation veteran to not make any statements on behalf of Jet Airways. "Sanjiv Kapoor was appointed by Jalan Karlock Consortium (JKC) as the designated CEO of

of Jet Airways. As a US citizen, Kapoor also received the required security clearance from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Home Affairs earlier in 2022," said Spokesperson, JKC. The spokesperson added that until the

professional of Jet Airways, Ashish Chhawchharia, has asked the airline not use the 'CEO' designation till the new owners- the Jalan Karlock Consortium- gets the ownership of the airline. The fresh development comes

Cash still king: Currency circulation doubles since demonetisation in 2016

NEW DELHI: As the Supreme Court validates the government's decision to demonetize Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes in 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data shows currency in circulation has almost doubled in the six years since demonetization.

8.67% by the end of March 2017 due to demonetisation. However, since then it has steadily gone up, even touching 14.4% in 2020-21, when cash in circulation (CIC) increased by Rs 4 lakh crore.



Just ahead of the demonetization, currency in circulation was valued at Rs 17 lakh crore. As on December 23, 2022, the currency in circulation stood at Rs 32.4 lakh crore, according to the RBI data.

In a bid to put a halt on black money circulation and promote digital payments, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2016 had banned old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes. It may be recalled that the currency in circulation (CIC) had plummeted massively to Rs 9 lakh crore following demonetization on January 6 in 2017. This was a 50% decline from Rs 17 lakh crore as recorded on November 4, 2016.

Use of cash remain high It remains a mystery, though, why use of cash is still high in the economy despite digital payments going through the roof and measures to discourage the use of cash.

When asked the same question, Deputy RBI governor T Rabi Shankar in one of the post-monetary policy press briefings had said that cash continues to be a major instrument for very small transactions of below Rs 500.

"There is also a store of value demand for currencies," the deputy governor reasoned.

Lekha Chakraborty, professor of economics, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), attributes the high digital divide in the country to the high use of cash in the economy.

"The behavioural change to switch onto cashless payments also takes time as many transactions still insist on 'cash' and not digital payments. The digital divide in India is a matter of concern, and strengthening digital infrastructure as prelude to digitised currency is so crucial," says Chakraborty. The currency in circulation to GDP ratio at the time of Demonetisation was around 11.5%, which fell

Though, the growth in circulation of currency has slowed down with only Rs 2.8 lakh crore added in 2021-22. By the end of 2021-22, the cash in circulation was 13.27%. What is more astonishing is the fact that digital payments since demonetisation have jumped multiple times. From a mere Rs 100 crore worth of monthly transactions in October 2016, monthly UPI transactions in

December 2022 had reached Rs 11.90 lakh crore. Vivek Kumar, an economist with research firm QuantEco, tries to explain the 'anomaly'. He says that the cash in circulation rose sharply in 2020-21 because of the

lockdown as people withdrew money as a precautionary measure. "The CIC/GDP ratio also increased in 2020-21 because the GDP contracted during the year. However, ever since the situation is getting back to normal and the cash/GDP ratio is coming off," explains Vivek Kumar. Currently, it stands at 12.2% compared to its peak of 14.5% in Q3 FY21.

He says that 11-12% has been the normal range for cash/GDP ratio in India, and it may take another couple of years of growth in UPI payments to have any meaningful impact on the cash economy.

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the Centre's decision to demonetize 86% of the country's cash in circulation. It said the decision was taken in consultation with the RBI and followed the proper decision-making process.

Subhash Chandra Garg, former economic affairs secretary said, "The judgement today has upheld the legality and constitutionality of the demonetisation. However, its economic, social and security impact were quite different. There was no reduction in black money, corruption or cash though there was a good impact on control of fake currency and terrorist activity for some time."

When contacted, Sanjeev Sanyal, member, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, refused to make any comment on the court's verdict.

CASH REMAINS THE KING

Year	Cash in circulation (₹ lakh cr)	Cash/GDP ratio (%)
2022-23*	32.42	12.57
2021-22	31.33	13.27
2020-21	28.53	14.41
2019-20	24.47	12.05
2018-19	21.37	11.31
2017-18	18.29	10.70
2016-17	13.35	8.67

*Till December 23; Note: 2022-23 Cash/GDP ratio is arrived at by taking FY23 GDP

Swiggy FY22 loss doubles to Rs 3,629 crore



BENGALURU: Food delivery giant Swiggy's FY22 losses more than doubled to Rs 3,629 crore in FY22 compared to Rs 1,612 crore in FY21.

According to its filings with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Swiggy's revenues spiked to Rs 6,120 crore from Rs 2,675.9 crore in the previous fiscal. Its revenues in FY20 stood at Rs 3,727.7 crore. The food delivery company said its business has shown strong growth

throughout the year and has grown by 1.6x from March 2021 level with a strong focus on customer acquisition and retention and supply improvements, among others.

It reported expenses of Rs 9,574 crore in FY22 as against Rs 4,139 crore in the year-ago period. "We continued to focus on growth post business recovery from COVID, particularly on the expansion of our quick commerce offering," it said.

SBI, ICICI systemically important lenders

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) yesterday said that the State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) or institutions which are 'too big to fail'.

The RBI announced SBI and ICICI Bank as D-SIBs in 2015 and 2016. Based on data collected from banks as of March 31, 2017, HDFC Bank was also classified as a D-SIB.

to the capital conservation buffer," it added. SIBs are perceived as banks that are 'too big to fail (TBTF)'. This perception of TBTF creates an expectation of government support for these lenders in times of distress.

Because of this, these banks enjoy certain advantages in the funding markets. The framework for dealing with D-SIBs was issued in July 2014. The framework requires the central bank to disclose the names of



The current update is based on data collected from banks as on March 31, 2022.

"SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), under the same bucketing structure as in the 2021 list of D-SIBs. The additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) requirement for D-SIBs was phased in from April 1, 2016, and became fully effective from April 1, 2019," said the central bank in a statement. "The additional Common Equity Tier 1 requirement will be in addition

banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 and place these lenders in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs). Based on the bucket in which a Domestic Systemically Important Banks placed, an additional common equity requirement has to be applied to it. The Additional Common Equity Tier 1 requirement as a percentage of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs) in case of SBI is 0.6 percent, and 0.2% for ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank.

Market benchmarks settle with gains in volatile trade

MUMBAI: Equity benchmarks ended with gains on Tuesday amid a largely firm trend in global markets after facing



bouts of volatility during the session. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 126.41 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 61,294.20.

During the day, it hit a high of 61,343.96 and a low of 61,004.04.

The broader NSE Nifty gained 35.10 points or 0.19 per cent to end at 18,232.55.

From the Sensex pack, Axis Bank, Titan,

Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, Wipro, Nestle and Bajaj Finance were among the major winners.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever and Tata Steel were the main laggards.

Elsewhere in Asia, equity markets in Shanghai and Hong Kong logged gains, while Seoul ended lower.

Equity exchanges in Europe were trading in the green in mid-session deals.

Markets in the US were closed on Monday.

International oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.34 per cent to USD 86.20 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth a net Rs 212.57 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

Pandya wants to tailgate 'magical year' with World Cup win

New Delhi: Hardik Pandya, the newly-appointed Twenty20 captain of India, is looking forward to year 2023 with high hopes and expectations. At 29, he reckons he is yet to achieve many milestones and a World Cup win later this year sits right on top of the pile.

"The biggest goal is to win the World Cup. I don't think there can be a bigger (New Year) resolution than that. We will try everything possible in our capacity," the India all-rounder remarked on the eve of India's first of three T20I games against Sri Lanka in Mumbai.

Pandya added, "One year back, things were quite different. When I went out of the squad, it was quite difficult. It has been a magical year for me, obviously I would have liked to win the World Cup (in Australia), but it is part and parcel of the

game. Going forward, there is a lot to achieve, I have not achieved anything and I am looking forward to the future -- multiple World Cups in multiple years." India will be hosting the ODI World Cup in October-November. Pandya has been named vice-captain of the ODI side whereas Rohit Sharma is the skipper.

"I have been thrown here and there and the only thing that has got me back is my hard work. So, how I am going to manage is through my hard work," Pandya, one of the premier all-rounders of the world, said on how he will handle the workload. "Keep working hard and make sure I look after my body which I do. Going forward, the only thing I am going to focus on is to make sure I give my body ample chance to be out there and be at my best." I know the



language of hard work. I don't think I know any other language in my life."

Pandya's captaincy mantra is to back the players to the hilt. As captain, he has already

been quite successful, particularly with his IPL side Gujarat Titans which won the title in its very first year. He threw light on how he will handle leadership roles in the India side.

"What we have said (to the players) is that we're going to back you to the core. All the players have that support from my side that I'm going to back them to the core. For me, it's important

how I can make them feel that they're the best of their business. And if I can get that thing done, I don't think that they will have any problem in international cricket. They will flourish and

have amazing careers ahead," Pandya said.

About the long term plans of his captaincy, Pandya said he has some ideas which he will try to implement. One of the key points is to give each player ample opportunities. "The plans are set, we are looking to play in a certain way. We will keep creating new plans and see which are the plans which are working for us and going forward just make sure everyone gets ample opportunities and just that at the right time when needed just see what we need to do."

About the series starting on Tuesday, Hardik said he will make sure the Sri Lankans are intimidated by the team's body language. "Yes, we will make them feel like we're in India, don't worry about that, I promise you they will feel that they're playing an international team and that too India

in India. So from my boys and my side, we're going to be clear. We don't need to go and sledge them, our body language is enough for them to feel a little intimidated, which we will do, I promise you." Hardik also spoke about Rishabh Pant who is currently recovering from a road accident in Dehradun. "What happened is very unfortunate, no one has control over it. As a team we wish him all the best, our love and prayers are always with him. Wish him a speedy recovery," Pandya said. "He was a very important part of the team, now everyone knows where the situation is and a lot of other people can get opportunities. If he was there, he would have made a big difference because of the player he is, but now he is not there, so we can't control it. We will see what the future holds for us."

BBL to be trimmed down to 43 games from 2024-25 season

New Delhi: The Big Bash League will be trimmed down to 43 games, 18 less than the current length, from the 2024-25 season. The revamp is part of a new seven-year domestic broadcast deal struck by Cricket Australia with Foxtel Group and Seven West Media.

CA said BBL content was reduced in the new deal to allow for "increased player availability, greater proportion of prime-time matches and stronger alignment with school holidays."

BBL was last played in the 43-game (incl three post-league matches) format in the 2017-18 season and has since expanded to 61 games including a finals series featuring five matches. The length of the



tournament has come for criticism given that the best Australian players representing the national team seldom played in the home-grown T20 league.

The ongoing season of the league, which will see the participation of both David Warner (Sydney Thunder) and Steve Smith (Sydney Sixers) post the completion of the New Year's Test, will lose a lot of overseas talents to the

SA20 and T20 leagues. It is something the league hopes to avoid with the change in the future seasons.

The new broadcast deal, which will run from mid 2024 till the end of the 2030-31 season, has been signed for a value of AUD 1.5 billion. Seven and Foxtel paid AUD 1.18 billion in 2018 for the current six-year deal, wresting the rights from the Nine Network which held

them for more than 40 years.

However, Seven and CA had been at loggerheads over content since 2020, with the broadcaster threatening to pull out of the ongoing contract and filing proceedings at the Federal Court of Australia in June. As part of this contract extension, now running until 2031, Seven has also agreed to end legal action against CA over a perceived lack of quality in the BBL, the country's domestic T20 tournament.

Seven said on Tuesday it would pay AUD 65 million a year in the new deal, a 13% reduction on the current one, and would save more than AUD 50 million in cash over the term from reduced fees and production costs.

Tennis great Martina Navratilova diagnosed with throat and breast cancer

New Delhi: Martina Navratilova, one of the game's icons and a winner of 18 Grand Slam tournaments, got simultaneous diagnoses of throat and breast cancer, which came as a tremendous shock to the tennis community. The world's tennis great's fans and admirers are shocked by this news. In a conversation with the BBC, Navratilova said that both cancers had been identified early. "The double whammy is serious, but fixable, and I'm hoping for a favourable outcome," she said. "It's going to stink for a while, but I'll fight with all I have got," Navratilova said. Later this month, she will fly to New York for medical care. In fact, Navratilova's




assistant spoke to The Guardian about her illness and the next stage of treatment. "Martina Navratilova has been diagnosed with stage one throat cancer," read the statement. "The prognosis is good and Martina will start her treatment this month."


"The cancer type is HPV and this particular type

responds really well to treatment. Martina noticed an enlarged lymph node in her neck during the WTA finals in Fort Worth. When it didn't go down, a biopsy was performed, the results came back as stage one throat cancer. At the same time as Martina was undergoing the tests for the throat, a

suspicious form was found in her breast, which was subsequently diagnosed as cancer, completely unrelated to the throat cancer," the statement added. However, the good news is that both malignancies were found early on and may be treated. "Both these cancers are in their early stages with great outcomes."



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