

## Minor rape victim dies, villagers block road in Odisha's Gajapati district

BERHAMPUR(KCN): Vehicular movement between R Udayagiri

place in Lubursing village. During her stay there, she was

cumbed during treatment on Monday afternoon.

cumbed. Before her death, my daughter revealed that she was raped. She had not disclosed the fact fearing that her elder sister will be tortured by her in-laws," claimed Laxmi.

As the news about the rape spread, villagers of Tangiasahi blocked R Udayagiri - Paralakhemundi road demanding stringent action against the accused and compensation to the bereaved family. They also placed the girl's body at the protest site.

On being informed, police reached the spot and pacified the agitators. While the girl's body was sent for autopsy, the accused was picked up from Lubursing village. An officer of R Udayagiri police station said that based on the FIR of the girl's mother, a case was registered. The accused is being in-

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and Paralakhemundi was disrupted for several hours as villagers of Tangiasahi in Gajapati district staged a road blockade over the death of a 12-year-old rape victim on Tuesday. The deceased minor was a resident of Tangiasahi under Randiba panchayat in R Udayagiri block. She was allegedly raped by her sister's brother-in-law 18 days back. Sources said the girl had gone to visit her elder sister at her in-laws'

reportedly raped by the accused and tortured. After returning home, she did not disclose the matter to her parents out of fear and shame.

As the minor had suffered internal injuries during the sexual assault, her condition started to deteriorate. She was first admitted to Chandragiri hospital and later referred to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. However, she suc-

Mother Laxmi Dalei said the girl had gone to her elder sister's place for a day. However, her sister's in-laws insisted on her staying there for some more days. "We went to bring her home on Sunday and found that she had been beaten up. On returning home, she developed high fever. We took her to the hospital at Chandragiri where the doctors told us that she had internal bleeding. She was shifted to MKCG where she suc-

## Indian-origin US man arrested for deliberately driving Tesla with wife, two children off cliff

WASHINGTON(KCN): A 41-year-old Indian-origin man has been arrested in the US on suspicion of attempted murder and child abuse after he intentionally drove a Tesla off a cliff with his wife and two children inside, according to media reports. Dharmesh A Patel of Pasadena, California, will be sent to San Mateo County Jail after he is released from



a hospital, the highway patrol said in a statement.

Dharmesh Patel, his wife and children survived and were rescued on Monday at Devil's Slide in San Mateo County, the California Highway Patrol said.

The rescue involved firefighters who rappelled down the cliff to save the two children, a

CONTINUED ON: P-7

## Lingaraj trust to meet every month to streamline rituals

BHUBANESWAR(KCN) : This month onwards, the Lingaraj Temple Trust Board will

the bhoga mandap, 'bhoga' for Lord Lingaraj becomes impure and has to be disposed in a



well on the temple premises. However, Badu nijog members alleged that instead of dumping the entire 'bhoga' in the well, Brahmana nijog members sold some of it to devotees. Tiff over the issue led to disruption of the rituals since January 1.

meet every second Friday of a month to discuss issues related to the 11th-century shrine and its servitors in order to prevent frequent disruption of rituals.

This was decided at an emergency meeting of the trust board, headed by the collector, and servitors of all the four nijogs on Tuesday. The meeting was necessitated after servitors of the temple stalled the rituals from January 1 before resuming it on the day. There was disagreement between Badu nijog and Brahmana nijog servitors over the disposal of cooked 'bhoga' after the entry of a non-servitor into the Bhoga mandap of the temple.

Collector K Sudarshan Chakraborty said there are some demands of the servitors which will be addressed in a time-bound manner and steps will be taken to prevent such frequent disruption of rituals in the future. As per customs, when a non-servitor enters

Lingaraj temple is the only shrine in the state where rituals are disrupted time and again despite a 2012 Orissa High Court ruling that rituals cannot be stopped by anyone including servitors. There are around 500 servitors under 36 nijogs who are involved in various works of the deity and the temple. But the Badu nijog, Brahman nijog, Pujapanda nijog and Suara nijog servitors are primarily involved in the temple affairs. Chief of Brahmana nijog Biranchi Narayan Pati said unless an act specific to Lingaraj temple is implemented, mismanagement will continue. Currently, Lingaraj is governed by the Odisha Hindu Religious Endowment Act, 1951, which is a common legislation for most shrines. While the state government had in 2020 promulgated an ordinance which proposed to govern the Lingaraj shrine through a separate act like Shri Jagannath Temple Act of 1955, Centre opposed it as it was in conflict with the AMASAR Act

## President of India graces the inauguration of 18th National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts and Guides in Rajasthan

Rajasthan (KCN): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the inauguration of

are working with a spirit of dedication and service which promotes welfare of human-



18th National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts and Guides at Pali, Rajasthan today (January 4, 2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the President noted that Bharat Scouts and Guides is the largest

ity. She urged everyone to imbibe this spirit of humanity and love in their lives. The President said that before starting their journey, Scouts

and Guides make a promise to keep themselves physically strong, mentally awake and morally right not for personal gains but for the collective well-being of the society. These characteristics of higher conscious-



voluntary, non-political, uniformed youth organization and educational movement in the country. It works for the character-building of boys and girls without any distinction of creed, race or gender. With a membership of over 63 lakh Scouts and Guides, Bharat Scouts and Guides is one of the largest Scouts and Guides organizations in the world. She said that members of this organization

ness when followed make the world a better place.

Citing the example of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bill Gates who were Scouts, the President advised Scouts and Guides to adopt the universal values and ethos which will guide you in future. She said that the lessons they learn as Scouts and Guides would enrich their lives in countless ways.

CONTINUED ON: P-7

## PM Modi to chair national conference of chief secretaries on Jan 6-7

NEW DELHI(KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the second national conference of chief secretaries here on January 6-7 to discuss themes



covering MSMEs, infrastructure and investments, minimising compliances, women empowerment, health and nutrition, and skill development.

CONTINUED ON: P-7

## BJP has two-point formula to take on ruling party in next polls, says Pradhan

BHUBANESWAR (KCN): In the run-up to an early general election, the BJP is working on a two-point formula to take on the mighty ruling

important year for the state and the BJP in view of this widespread speculation. Talking to reporters after inaugurating the National Kala Utsav



BJD, said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan here on Tuesday. Pradhan who first hinted at the possibility of an early poll a couple of weeks ago said that 2023 is an

on the campus of Regional Institute of Education here, Pradhan said the party has two-point formula in its agenda. "As a responsible political party, BJP will fight the next

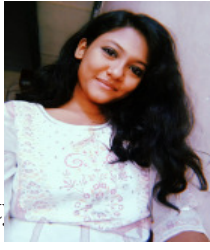
It will be the voice of the people and aggressively ventilate their discontent against the administrative mismanagement," he said. On the second formula, Pradhan said

for a decisive fight the party organisations are to be strengthened. This will be done by revamping the 37,000 booth committees

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## Time traveller

I'm a time traveller  
Who saw death crafted on  
The intricate carvings on my  
Rising and discontinued  
Travelling the mid  
Bisecting my heart  
Into bipolarity and bisexuality  
Throne of another's crown  
I'm duality  
Rewritten as poetry  
Which you now read  
As a new mother's story



Sreeta Sikruti Kuanr

I drift and grow with him  
For he looks out for me  
I'm a forbidden mystery  
Unfolded by him  
Twice a year  
I recall this history

I'm a time traveller  
Fixated as a new constellation  
Vengeance that roars  
Into the little girl I pretend to be  
Narcissistic and loud  
Where am I supposed to be found?  
If not in pages of books  
About plateaus and poetry  
For what settles exterior  
Burns interiorly  
Birth of new stars  
I'm an element  
Walking by the sun's scar.

Dagarpada, BIs

## My search

I searched for you everywhere-  
In temples, churches, mosques and monas-  
teries.  
I searched for you in every corner of this  
globe,  
I searched for you in the books and libraries.  
But I never searched inside me

Saikat Kumar Basu

When I learnt that you have been always in-  
side me  
I broke out in tears my Lord  
Alas! I searched everywhere for you  
Except in my heart where you reside.  
378 Prince Anwar Shah Road,  
Kolkata, West Bengal India



## Age of Begging & Beneficiaries

Dwit David Philip

Begging and beneficiaries are not just  
words,  
It's gestures of the receiving world,  
Democracy proclaims all are same,  
Beautiful game is politics,  
helps if strategy is to survive  
there,



Keep begging and beneficiaries syndrome  
for vote banks,  
World order is, keep people vulnerable  
through wars, patent rights or humanitarian  
aids,

Labour unions and naxal gangs are made  
silent,  
Begging and beneficiaries syndrome they  
too have,  
Democracy proclaims all are same,  
Communism says we are better than them.

Lower the voting age,  
More dependents will be in your pockets,  
Power knows, begging and beneficiaries are  
not words but gestures of receiving end.

12 December 2022

LD House

Amlatola, Chaibasha

Jharkhand

## Quotation of the Day

Life comes from  
the earth and life returns  
to the earth.

∴  
ZHUANGZI



# Odisha Culture : 10 things that you must know!

The stunning architectures, history, dia-  
lects, vibrant art music and dance forms  
make Odisha ever sprightly state of India.  
Odisha (formerly known as Orissa), the  
battleground for the famous Kalinga war  
fought by Ashoka the Great, lies on the  
country's east coast. When the sun rises  
here, it rises over a land of temples thriv-  
ing on top of a solid foundation laid by  
heritage. Life is uncomplicated, laid back  
and it doesn't take much to find some hush  
and quiet here. As opposed to the hustle  
and bustle of metropolitan concrete  
jungles, Odisha comes as a sigh of relief  
to the one seeking the peace of mind. Be  
it the temples of the capital city  
Bhubaneswar, the Buddhist Shanti Stupa of  
Dhaulagiri Hills or exotic birds that can  
be spotted at Asia's largest brackish water  
lagoon Chilika Lake, Odisha is worth pay-  
ing a visit!

Here are 10 things you should know  
about Odisha Culture:

### 1. Architecture

The finesse and grandeur of Odisha's ar-  
chitecture is exhibited in its temples that  
the Aryans left behind. Some of them are  
among the finest in the country. Of these,  
the most important are the Lingaraja  
Temple, Bhubaneswar (11th century),  
Jagannath Temple at Puri (12th century)  
and the great Sun Temple at Konark (13th  
century). And hence, the golden triangle  
of Odisha - Bhubaneswar, Konark and Puri  
contributes the maximum amount of tour-



ism goodwill. They are primary temples  
built in the style of 'Kalinga' architecture.

### Lingaraja Temple

The largest of all temples that the Temple  
City of Bhubaneswar boasts of, it is one  
of the major tourist attractions of the

state with over 6000 visitors on a daily  
basis. Here, Lord Shiva is worshipped as  
Harihara, a combined form of Vishnu and  
Shiva.

### Jagannath Temple



The coastal town of Puri enshrines Lord  
Jagannath in this colossal temple. It is one  
of the Char Dham pilgrimages that one is  
expected to cover at least once in his life-  
time. The temple is world-famous for its  
annual chariot festival or Rath Yatra.

### Sun Temple

Designed in the silhouette of a gigantic



chariot along with seven horses and  
twenty-four wheels, this entire temple was  
conceived as a chariot of the Sun God. It  
reflects the remarkable genius of archi-  
tects that envisioned and went through with  
it. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the  
precision and intricacy of its sculptural  
work is worth seeing.

### 2. Arts Culture of Odisha

It is impossible to list every form of vi-  
sual art and craft this uber-talented state  
boasts of but here are some of the best-  
known ones:

#### Pattachitra (Cloth Painting)

Literally, 'Patta' translates to cloth and  
'Chitra' means picture. The themes and mo-  
tifs are mythological, typically revolving

around the Jagannath and Vaishnava sect.  
Lord Jagannath and Radha-Krishna paint-  
ings are a rage among buyers. Pattachitra  
showing Ganesha and Shiva. Since it is a  
traditional art-form, the Chitrakara's  
(painter) very home is his own studio  
where his family members act as helping  
hands. The final painting is rendered in the  
form of a design on a canvas with decor-  
ative borders. Sometimes, palm-leaves are  
also used to form the canvas.



### Rock Paintings

Rock art in Odisha dates back to the pre-

forms of art. It is practised on the beaches  
of Puri with subjects ranging from Hindu  
deities to international occasions. With  
the help of tourism, this art-form has de-  
veloped exponentially and found world-  
wide recognition.

### Silver Filigree

Locally known as 'Tarakasi', this art form  
is about 500 years old. It hails from  
Cuttack, a.k.a the Silver City of Odisha  
(now you know why). The process consists  
of drawing silver through a series of con-  
secutively smaller holes to produce fine



strands of wire. Usually, Tarakasi  
jewellery is used to embellish Durga idols  
during Durga Puja in Cuttack and by  
Odissi dancers.

### Applique Work

This is a famous fabric craft originating  
from a village called Pipili where locals  
call it 'Pipili Chandua Kama'. Unknown to  
many, Pipili holds an entry in the Limca  
Book of Records for the world's largest  
thematic applique work.

odisha culture, culture of odisha  
Traditional Pipli appliqued umbrellas  
(Source)

Like Pattachitra, applique work also origi-  
nated as temple art, essentially limited to  
umbrellas and canopies to be used in the  
annual Rath Yatra. Nowadays, its usage is  
more in the household, decorative and fes-  
tival products. The craft involves embroi-  
dery and stitching with occasional mirror  
work.

### Brass and Dhokra Works

A 4000-year old craft form, Dhokra is a cast-  
ing method that combines metallurgical skills  
with wax techniques. It is a bell metal tribal  
craft that uses an alloy of tin and copper or  
brass and zinc. Various utility items including  
utensils, pots and pans, lamps and even tribal  
jewellery are fashioned out of it.

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**This is when 'Ponniyin Selvan's' second part will release**



The second part of Ponniyin Selvan is set to release on April 28, 2023, the makers announced on social media on Thursday, while sharing a small teaser of the film featuring its primary

characters. Ponniyin Selvan has been conceived as a duology, with the first part released in September. Directed by filmmaker Mani Ratnam, Ponniyin Selvan is adapted from Kalki's novel

by the same name. Backed by Madras Talkies and Lyca Productions, Ponniyin Selvan features an ensemble star cast including Jayam Ravi, Vikram, Karthi, Trisha, Aishwarya Rai,

Sarath Kumar, Prakash Raj, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Jayaram, among others. Ponniyin Selvan has music by AR Rahman, with cinematography by Ravi Varman. Sreekar

Prasad handles the editing. Like the first part, the sequel will also release in Tamil, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. Ponniyin Selvan has been a long-standing dream by the Tamil

cinema, from MGR to Kamal Haasan attempting to materialise it. The first part opened to positive reception and became one of the commercially successful Tamil films in 2022.

**Vijay Raghavendra, Dharma Keerthiraj and Sanchita Padukone team up for a romantic crime thriller**



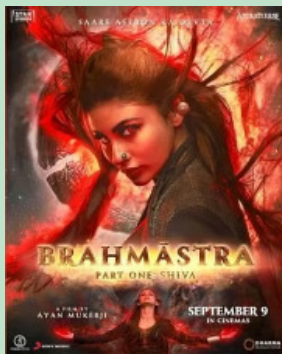
Director DG Umesh Gowda, noted for his films Navarangi and Halli Panchayati, is next helming a romantic crime thriller. Titled O Manase, the film stars Vijay Raghavendra, Dharma Keerthiraj and Sanchita Padukone as the leads. While Vijay Raghavendra plays the

role of a cop, the other two will be seen as college students. The film's shoot has already been completed, and the makers recently released its trailer. Vijay Raghavendra finds the story written by Ramesh Handrangi fascinating. "It's intriguing

how the story blends crime and love." O Manase, produced under the banner of Sri Friends Movie Makers, has cinematography by MR Seenu, and editing by Srinivas P Babu. The action-heavy film has stunts choreographed by Thriller Manju, Different Danny, and Bande Chandru.

**2022 in Review: Hindi Cinema's Breakout Talents**

It was a fascinating year for Hindi cinema and web series. While the old guard continued to stand tall, albeit, in spurts, it was the chance for the young brigade to find their place under the spotlight. And while all of them tried, here are some of the year's brightest talents from Hindi cinema and OTT who managed to leave a strong impression



Manish Paul (actor, Jugjugg Jeeyo) A popular TV host and comedian, Manish Paul has been doing bit parts in Hindi films for a while. His 2013 debut, Micky Virus, went largely unsung—something that is corrected by his extended comic turn in this year's Jugjugg Jeeyo. In a succession of blingy, outlandish outfits, Manish delivered

the laughs in this brassy family dramedy. His description of Anil Kapoor's resurgent libido—"ab papaji bare ho rahe hai"—is truly hilarious. Jasmeet K Reen (director, Darlings) Jasmeet K. Reen's directorial debut Darlings is the only good Hindi film this year that is not all soft edges. The film, packaged as a noirish crime comedy, takes its time delineating the patterns of abuse. Jasmeet has a keen eye for casting and production design. It will be interesting to see what she does next—maybe helm a sprawling hinterland web series with a women-led cast. Achint Thakkar (composer, Monica, O My Darling) Vasan Bala's Monica, O My Darling is indubitably Soundtrack of the Year. Young composer Achint Thakkar—who also worked on Scam 1992 and Rocket Boys—offers an embarrassment of winners, from retro ear-worms like 'Bye Bye Adios' and 'Suno Jaane Jaan' to the sublime 'Farsh Pe Khade Khade'.

Bollywood music directors have been looking backwards for years. Few have displayed such originality and heart. Faisal Malik (actor, Panchayat S2) In the first season of Panchayat, the gaily Faisal Malik, as 'up-pradhaan' Prahlad Pandey, is the banter buddy of Phulera regulars. By the end of season 2, Faisal, best known for his role as the portly cop in Gangs of Wasseypur - Part 2, brings an ominous stillness to the series' general frolic. You don't want to be there when the laughter stops. Mouni Roy (actor, Brahmastra Part One: Shiva) Mouni Roy's impassioned performance as Junoon in Ayan Mukerji's superhero fantasy epic is exemplary. As the primary antagonist, she holds her own in face-offs with seasoned actors like Shah Rukh Khan and Amitabh Bachchan. She brings conviction to a part that revels in comic-book villainy. We hope her fiery red eyes make a reappearance in Part Two.

## Self-belief and hard work will always earn you success

It is observed that many children go into a



panic during examinations and suddenly find that they can't recall the information that they have learned, or suffer from "brain block". This is usually down to the pressure children feel to perform well, and so this is likely to be made worse if even more is riding on the

outcome of a singular test. During exam time, it may be impossible to avoid stress altogether, however there are lots of things you can do to help alleviate as much stress as possible. Many students who experience severe manifestations of exam anxiety often need psychiatric help. Over the past two or three years, counsellors have noticed that many students complain that they are not able to recall what they had studied.

For instance, boosting children's confidence and self-belief, helping them let go of anxiety over things they have no control over, and helping them take some time to relax! The examination season is marked with sky-high stress levels, anxiety, pressure and tension on part of both the students as well as the parents. Parents often feel like it is them who are giving the examination instead of the child. Lives begin to revolve around

**Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit**

a flurry of tuitions and strict time-tables and academics. We as parents believe examinations to be the most important aspect of a child's life to the exclusion of everything else and pass this message along with the tension to the child as well. Some of the symptoms, such as depression, not interacting with others, decrease in sleep and appetite,

as well. If parents and the school can help students develop a proper perspective on what they want to pursue in life, they will be better equipped to respond to exam stress. Due to their parental pressure and peer competition, they never get a time and chance to focus on their passion and never understand what they want to become in future. Children must be taught to handle competitiveness in the right frame of mind. Children

need freedom to choose the subjects they wish to pursue at higher secondary level. Most of the time, students are depressed and stressed when they are forced by parents to choose math or science group. Parents have a huge role to play in managing exam stress in children, especially in today's world of cut-throat competition and pressure on children to perform. It is natural for a parent to want

his/her child to have a great result and high performance. It is also natural for a parent to be anxious about his child's performance in examinations to get into that elusive college/university. However, one of the most important lessons we need our children to learn is that success is a process, not a destination and that it has many definitions, academic results is just one of many definitions of success.

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

### Letter to Editor

### Invasive Alien Species has to be restrained

Invasive alien species (IAS) are animals, plants, fungi, and microorganisms that have entered and established themselves outside of their natural habitat. IAS have devastating effects on native plant and animal life, causing native species to decline or even extinction and negatively affecting ecosystems. With increased transportation of goods and travel, the global economy has facilitated the introduction of alien species over long distances and beyond natural boundaries. Global warming which results in Climate change, habitat destruction, and pollution can amplify the negative effects of these species on biodiversity. As per research IAS have been responsible for nearly 50% of all animal extinctions since the last two centuries where the cause is known. Meanwhile, environmental losses from introduced pests are estimated to exceed US\$200 billion per year in, Germany, France, Russia, Australia, Brazil, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and United States. IAS is a global problem that necessitates international collaboration and action. Preventing international movement of these species and detecting them quickly at borders is less expensive than control and eradication.

Vijaykumar H K Raichur, Karnataka Environmentalist

## Where is our Self-Reliance?

The present ruling dispensation at the Centre believes in publicity blitzkrieg.



It never practises what it preaches. The Atma Nirbhara or self-reliance slogan was given by Narendra Modi who uses imported items. Of course, most of the top, rich people use imported items.

Atmanirbhar Bharat (which translates to 'self-reliant India') is a phrase the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and his government used and popularised in relation to the country's economic development plans. The phrase is an umbrella concept for the Modi government's plans for India to play a larger role in the world economy, and for it to become more efficient, competitive and resilient.

The first popular use of the phrase in Hindi was Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Self-Reliant India Mission) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the announcement of India's COVID-19-pandemic-related economic package in May 2020. Since then, the phrase has been used by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Defence in press releases, statements and policies. The government has also used the phrase in relation to India's new National Education Policy and the 2021 Union Budget of India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that a self-reliant India will stand on five pillars viz. Economy, which brings in quantum jump and not incremental change; Infrastructure, which should become the identity of India; System, based on 21st-century technology-driven arrangements; Vibrant Demography, which is our source of energy for a self-reliant India; and Demand, whereby the strength of our de-

mand and supply chain should be

**Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra**

utilized to full capacity. He underlined the importance of strengthening all stakeholders in the supply chain to increase, as well as fulfil, the demand.

To incite anti-Chinese sentiments so as to camouflage failures, there were growing calls by the ruling dispensation at the Centre to boycott Chinese products. Tensions between the two nations increased when India banned a host of Chinese apps and the Modi government reportedly advised all states to avoid signing any deals with China. Indian customers' attitude towards Chinese products turned so hostile by the end of 2020 that some Chinese firms switched the "Made in China" label on their products to "Made in PRC" where PRC stands for the People's Republic of China. This made the products' country of origin a little less clear

Yet, after spending billions of rupees to build such self-reliance, China's trade surplus with India has grown by leaps and bounds. The favourable trade balance that China has enjoyed with India, since bilateral commerce began to boom in the early 2000s, has cumulatively exceeded \$1 trillion, according to estimates (Oct. 20, 2022).

India is not able to produce commodities of Chinese quality or international quality. Whatever is produced is costlier too. So Indians use foreign products, especially electronic items.

Trade ties between India and China began to grow in the early 2000s, driven by imports to India from China. A large portion of these imports, according to the Indian government, include footwear, iron and steel, copper, nuclear reactors, animal and vegetable fats, mineral fuels, and inorganic chemicals among others.

It's not entirely clear whether these estimates are accurate, but it is an in-

disputable fact that India's trade

deficit with China has been widening, which has become a sensitive topic in India. India's trade deficit with China expanded to \$69.4 billion in 2021 from \$45.9 billion in 2020, according to China's customs data.

In the past five years alone, imports from China have increased by nearly 30%, the Indian informed parliament in July. "In 2021, annual two-way trade crossed \$100 billion for the first time, reaching \$125.6 billion, with India's imports accounting for \$97.5 billion, pegging the imbalance at close to \$70 billion."

Trade ties began to boom in the early 2000s driven largely by India's imports of Chinese machinery and other equipment, up from \$3 billion in the year 2000 to \$42 billion in 2008, the year China became India's largest trading partner

The imbalance in 2022 is set to surpass even last year's record figure. In the six months that ended June, India's imports from China surged 34.5% to reach a record \$57.51 billion, according to China's trade figures released in July. India's exports to China, however, shrank by 35% and accounted for only \$9.57 billion of the \$67.08 billion two-way trade.

China's third-quarter trade data, which was due to be released this week but has been delayed because of the ongoing Communist Party Congress, is expected to reflect continued growth in Indian imports. India's biggest imports last year were electrical and mechanical machinery, chemicals used in industrial production, active pharmaceutical ingredients and auto components. India also imported medical supplies during the pandemic.

The author is an Odisha-based eminent columnist/ economist and social thinker. He can be reached through e-mail at skmohapatra67@gmail.com

**SER surpasses scrap sale of Rs. 300 Crore**

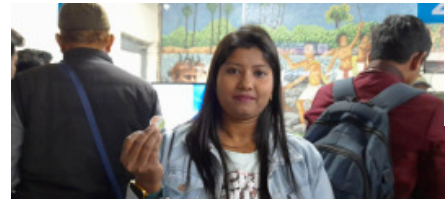
Kolkata(KCN): Necessary steps are being taken by all the Divisions and Workshops of the South Eastern Railway (SER) to realise value from sale of unserviceable materials- the mission being to make the zone a "Zero Scrap" Railway.

SER crossed the scrap sale figure of Rs.300 crore by the end of the third quarter of the financial year 2022-23 and the total sale achieved is Rs. 300.63 crore till December 31, 2022. Scrap sale of Rs.

300.63 crore is 38.56% higher than the corresponding period of last year. It is also 30.14% higher than the proportionate target of Rs.231 crore up to December 2022 in the current financial year. This has been achieved through the sale of various kinds of scrap which includes scrap rails, condemned locos, wagons & coaches, ferrous and non-ferrous materials, miscellaneous scrap, abandoned masonry structures and other structures etc.

**'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' tokens available from today in Metro**

Kolkata(KCN): As a part of celebrating the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate the 75th year of India's Independence, Metro



Railway Authority has started selling a new look Tokens with 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' logo at all booking counters of Blue Line and Green Line from today. Commuters seem to be very happy to purchase these new look tokens. These new to-

kens have already been introduced in the newly inaugurated Purple Line. The Metro Railway authority informed today that 1.00 lakh such new tokens will be sold to the commuters in remembrance of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. It is expected that the commuters will consider this new token as a collector's item in their possession.

**Sambalpur division records in freight loading during the Month of December 2022**

Sambalpur(KCN): East Coast Railway,Sambalpur Division freight loading has shown an upward trend, during the month of December 2022, Division has loaded 1.41 MT freight, which is 17.50 % more over the corresponding period of

last year, (December 2021 - 1.20 MT). This is the Best Ever monthly loading in the month of December in any year. The Division has loaded 11.92 MT freight till December-2022, which is 33% more over the corresponding period of last year, (December 2021 - 8.95 MT). Division has achieved Freight Train Interchange of 5486 trains with an average of 177 trains per/day during the month. This is the best ever Freight Train Interchange for the month of December in any year which is 09 % higher over last year.

**Alaya Mohanty No More**

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Veteran Journalist Alaya Kumar Mohanty has passed away. He was being treated in Capital Hospital and today he succumbed to prolonged illness. Shri Mohanty was 65 and survived by wife, son Deepak Mohanty and two daughters. Son Deepak is a working Journalist. A pall of gloom descended in the journalists' circle when the news of Shri

Mohanty's death was broken. Apart from being a man in need for all distressed persons, Shri Mohanty had excelled as a film producer of eminence in Odisha. Odia film 'Sunya Swaroop' produced by Mohanty won national award, many state awards and international accolades too. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has expressed deep grief over the demise of eminent journalist Alaya Mohanty.

**Ensure timely pension; CS**

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra

written a letter to the Development Commissioner, Addi-

The OCS (Pension) Rules, 1992 under Chapter-VIII prescribes for timely sanction of pension of retiring government employees, he said.

The same has been amended through a Finance Department Notification dated 23.07.2011 wherein the Pension Sanctioning Authority (PSA) is to enquire only from those offices in which the retiring Government employee has worked during the last one year of his/her service. In addition, the Finance Department has issued a circular

in January 2020 and October 2022 indicating simplified procedures for grant of pension with stage-wise preparation of pension papers, processing and sanction at different levels for early disposal of pension applications. "Despite the above, it is often observed that head of offices/ Pension Sanctioning Authorities (PSA) are insisting for No Demand Certificate (NDC) for the entire service period rendered by the Government servant causing inordinate delay in submission of final pension papers to the

office of Accountant General, Odisha," the Chief Secretary pointed out in his letter. He asked the Department to make all out efforts to make all PSAs under their jurisdiction aware of the above cited rules, executive instructions and scrupulously follow the timelines. Shri Mahapatra further instructed the officers to finalise the pension cases of retired Government servants in a time bound manner. Any deviation noticed in this regard will be viewed seriously, he warned.

Notably, the Government servants are facing hardship to get pension soon after their retirement because in many cases the PSA is asking for clearances from all offices and departments, he/she had served in the entire

job career. Though the Finance Department has issued several circulars, maximum PSAs are not obeying it thinking that they may be in trouble, if the pension was sanctioned

without verifying all such documents. That's why, this time, the Finance Department has issued this letter through the Chief Secretary so that the old system will come to an end, sources said.



Mahapatra has directed all Departments to ensure timely sanction of pensions for the retired Government employees. Shri Mahapatra has

tional Chief Secretary (ACS), Principal Secretary, Commissioner-cum-Secretary and Secretary of all Administrative Departments for this purpose.

**A family get seriously injured in truck car collision in NH 520**



Barbil(KCN): Three persons including one child were seriously injured after their car rammed into a truck in Taduabahal under Champua police station in Keonjhar district of Odisha in the wee hours of Wednesday. Initial investigation suggests that the

truck having was stationary on the NH . The car rammed into the truck from behind on NH 520. Foggy weather may have caused the accident as visibility was low. "Identity of one of the deceased has been established as Kabir Nag and his family members

.The victim has a electric repairing shop at Barbil .The mishap occurred when the car was en route to Keonjhar from Barbil. All three occupants of the car were taken to Keonjhar district hospital and then referred to Cuttack medical College in serious condition

**Odisha excise tops detection**

Cuttack (KCN): Tough Cop Ashish Kumar Singh headed Directorate of Excise has recorded a growth of nearly 60 Percent in detection

to 2021 and 149.65 percent in 2020. Shri Singh, Commissioner of Excise has given top priority to enforcement activities for which the de-

have increased in the year 2022. As per the annual performance report of the Directorate of Excise, 57,949 excise cases were detected in 2022 while it was 36291 in 2021 and 23212 in 2020. Similarly, the Directorate of Excise has created a new record in the arrest of persons involved in illegal practice. While 17921 persons were arrested in such cases in the year 2020, it was increased to 30,067 in 2021 and further to 46,805 in 2022. Due to continuous monitoring and strong enforcement activities, the Excise Department has recorded 21 percent growth in seizure of IMFL, 92 percent growth in seizure of ID liquor, 286 percent growth in seizure of bhang and 427 percent growth in seizure of non-

duty paid IMFL during 2022 compared to its previous year. There has been a similar growth witnessed in the detection and seizure of NDPS substances in the last year. Record number of 1436 cases have been detected under NDPS Act in the year 2022 against that of 746 in the year 2021 and 255 in the year 2020, showing an increase of 92.49 percent from that of 2021 and 463.14 percent from that of 2020. As many as 1619 persons have been arrested in NDPS in 2022 whereas only 843 persons were arrested in the previous year, thereby registering a growth of 92 percent. In seizure of ganja and brown sugar, the Department of Excise has recorded a growth of 16 percent and 130 percent in

2022, compared to its previous year. In the year 2022, record quantities of 28769 grams of Heroin have been seized against 12490 in the year 2021 and 1863 in the year 2020, showing an increase of 130.33 percent from that of 2021 and 1443 percent from that of 2020. In 2022, record quantity of 38035 kg of Ganja have been seized against 32871 in the year 2021 and 16733 in the year 2020, showing an increase of 15.71 percent from that of 2021 and 127.31 percent from that of 2020. Against the seizure of NDPS materials worth Rs 67.75 crore in 2020, the Excise officials have seized such substances worth Rs 121.52 crore in 2021 and Rs 178.25 crore in 2022.



of cases in the year 2022 in comparison

tection of cases and arrest of bootleggers

## President of India graces the launch of National Campaign on 'Rise-rising India through Spiritual Empowerment', organized by Brahma Kumaris; virtually inaugurates Brahma Kumaris Silence Retreat Centre, Secunderabad and lays foundation stone for Brahma Kumaris Auditorium and Spiritual Art Gallery at Indore

Secunderabad: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced the launch of the National Campaign on 'RISE-Rising India through Spiritual Empowerment', organized by Brahma Kumaris at Mount Abu, Rajasthan today (January 3, 2023). She also virtually inaugurated the Brahma Kumaris Silence Retreat Centre, Secunderabad, Telangana and laid the foundation stone for Brahma Kumaris Auditorium and Spiritual Art Gallery at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Addressing the gathering, the President said that she has had a deep connection with the Brahma Kumaris Institution. She learned the method of Raja Yoga which gave importance to inner spiritual power rather than external physical conveniences and events. This infused light and enthusiasm into her life at a time when she was feeling darkness around and lacked hope.

The President said that it is a matter of pride that, for the past nearly 80 years, the Brahma Kumaris Sansthan has been making invaluable contributions towards spiritual progress, inner transformation of personality and revitalization of the world community. Through the

of women. Brahma Baba believes that the overall development of the world lies in the spiritual, social and intellectual empowerment of women. She said that with this thinking Brahma Baba gave leading roles to women and today's world-community needs more of similar thinking.

**----- Brahma Kumaris organization has played an achive role in the empowerment of women: President Murmu**

The President said that spirituality is the guiding light which can show the right path to the entire humanity. Our country has to use both science and spirituality for world peace. Our aim is that India should become a knowledge super power. It is our as-



piration that this knowledge should be used for sustainable development, for social harmony, for the upliftment of women and down-trodden sections, for the proper use of the energy of the youth and for the establishment of everlasting peace in the world.

The President said that today we are facing an existential

spirit of service based on peace, non-violence and love, this organization has made significant contributions in many fields like holistic education, rural development, health, women empowerment, disaster management, welfare of divyangjans and orphans and environment protection. She appreciated Brahma Kumaris for these noble works.

The President noted that the Brahma Kumaris organization is running about 5000 meditation centers in 137 countries. She said that women play leading roles in this organization assisted by the spiritual brothers. This is the largest spiritual organization run by women which proves that, given the opportunity, women can do work at par with men, or perhaps even better. She expressed happiness that Brahma Kumaris organization has played an active role in the empowerment

threat due to climate change. Conservation of the environment is also a kind of spiritual empowerment because a clean and healthy environment gives us peace. This interrelationship of environment and spirituality is not a new thing for us. We have been worshiping trees, mountains and rivers for centuries. To bring peace in our life, we must protect the environment. The President said that in this era of uncertainty, along with safeguarding its national interests, India is also playing the role of a harbinger of peace in the world. According to its culture and tradition, our country is active in building a world order based on spirituality and morality. She expressed confidence that the 'RISE' campaign would contribute in making India a leading nation by spiritually empowering its people and supporting the welfare of the entire humanity.

## Free rice scheme extended for 1 year by Odisha government

BHUBANESWAR: the State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) has now decided



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday announced that the state government will provide rice free of cost to the beneficiaries of

ity Scheme (SFSS) for one more year from January to December this year. As per the direction of the chief minister, the state govern-

to provide 5 kg rice per month to the beneficiaries. The total expenditure of Rs 185 crore will be met from the state exchequer. The state

government has been distributing rice to the left-out eligible beneficiaries covered under the SFSS at Rs 1 per kg since October 2018. Now it will be free of cost for the next 12 months.

The SFSS beneficiaries have also been provided with additional rice and pulses during the last 28 months because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Besides, Rs 1,000 cash incentive was given to each family under National Food Security Act and SFSS twice.

## Padayatra by four tribals to meet President Murmu

BARIPADA: With the demand to accord state status to Mayurbhanj district and implementation of a merger agreement for its all-round development, four youths of the area have set out on a Padayatra since the last three days to meet President Droupadi Murmu at New Delhi and apprise her of the same.

The four include the founder of Mayurbhanj Adivasi Students Association Suklal Marandi, Sauna Murmu, Badal Marandi and Laxmikanta



Baskey. Marandi said the tribal-dominated district wallows in neglect with regard to jobs, health, education, communication, water supply and others.

"The Sareikela Kharsawan district which was a part of Mayurbhanj and now under Jharkhand has been reeling under neglect in every sector of development due to the alleged apathy of the government there. Besides, the central and state government are showing a step-motherly attitude to Mayurbhanj district which is also neglected as far as health, education, employment, communication, irrigation, electrification and water supply are concerned, he said.

The poor do not get even the housing benefits under the government schemes despite frequent meetings with the officers requesting the same. Worse, they are threatened of being de-listed from the scheme if they do not pay bribe to the officers," Marandi alleged.

Despite being one of the mineral-rich districts of the state capable of generating employment, locals here suffer from joblessness. "We do not have the patience to tolerate such torture anymore. Once the district becomes a state

and the government implements the plans as per the merger agreement, these painful times will cease to exist," he said.

DHE to start BEd course in Urdu Bhubaneswar: In wake of the shortage of Urdu teachers in the state, the Higher Education department has asked Bhadrak Autonomous College to open a Bachelors in Education (BEd) course in Urdu in Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) mode by 2024. It will have an intake capacity of 100 students. The department asked the principal to submit an application to NCTE for opening the BEd course with 50 seats in Arts and 50 in Science streams between March and May this year. Currently, BEd and MED training is provided in English, Odia and Hindi languages. The ITEP aims at preparing teachers for foundational, preparatory, middle and secondary stages as per the new school structure of NEP-2020.

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## Wall Street may get much worse in 2023 before getting better

NEW YORK: The worst may be yet to come for the stock market. Wall Street's mini-rebound since mid-



October has recovered some of the index's sharp losses from the first 10 months of the year. It closed Monday a shade below 4,000, up more than 10% since its bottom two months earlier.

Many analysts expect stocks to end 2023 at least around this range, if not a bit higher, after the Federal Reserve finally stops hiking interest rates in order to get high inflation under control. But before getting to that end point, much of Wall Street is also forecasting stock prices to fall sharply in the interim. Consider Morgan Stanley, which says the S&P 500 could drop all the way to a range between 3,000 and 3,300 during the first three months of the new year. That would mean it loses up to a quarter of its value from Monday's closing level. The low end of that range would also be 37.5% below the record set in early 2022.

The reason for the bank's pessimism is that its strategists forecast much weaker corporate profits than the rest of Wall Street. On the revenue side, businesses are feeling

pressure as manufacturing and other areas of the economy are weakening. At the same time, Morgan Stanley says profits will get squeezed on the other end by higher wage costs after businesses had to give workers' raises. Corporate profits will likely be coming off record levels from 2022, which helped companies return more cash to investors through dividends and stock

buybacks. To be sure, the strategists led by Michael Wilson say the S&P 500 could end 2023 at 3,900 if things go mostly as they expect, not far from its current level.

Strategists at Goldman Sachs also forecast a trough during the first half of the year, possibly at 3,600. That would mark a nearly 10% drop from Monday's close, and it's based on Goldman Sachs' expectation that the economy can avoid a recession.

If the economy does contract as many on Wall Street expect, Goldman strategists led by David Kostin said the S&P 500 could fall all the way to 3,100.

At Deutsche Bank, strategists see the U.S. economy falling into a recession in the second half of 2023. That could pull the S&P 500 down to 3,250 before it hits bottom about halfway through the recession, which the German bank sees lasting the last six months of the year. Then, the S&P 500 could end the year as high as 4,500 if stocks follow their typical playbook around recessions, say the strategists led by Binky Chadha.

## At 3.65 lakh units, housing sales peak in 2022: Report

Housing sales in India's top seven cities created a new peak in 2022, breaching the previous high of 2014. This comes despite

Q4 2022 remained quite robust with as many as 92,160 units sold in the period," says Puri.



hike in property prices and home loan interest rates in 2022.

According to real estate consultancy firm Anarock, approx 3,64,900 units were sold in 2022 against 2,36,500 units in 2021 across the top 7 cities – rising by 54% on Y-o-Y. The last peak was seen in 2014 when 3.43 lakh units were sold across the top 7 cities. In terms of cities, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) witnessed the highest sales of approx. 1,09,700 units in 2022, followed by National Capital Region (NCR) with approx. 63,700 units. The two realty hotspots are together once again the leading residential markets.

Meanwhile, new launches across the top 7 cities saw 51% annual rise – from 2,36,700 units in 2021 to nearly 3,57,600 new units in 2022. MMR and Hyderabad witnessed maximum new launches in 2022, together comprising nearly 54% share of the total new launches in the year.

Anuj Puri, Chairman - ANAROCK Group, says, "While it was widely anticipated that the rise in property costs and interest rates towards the second half of 2022 would have a cascading impact on the residential sales,

"Interestingly, NCR became the shining star in 2022 which deliberately restricted new supply in the year to approx. 22,350 units but witnessed robust housing sales of 63,700 units."

Puri anticipate the current sales momentum in the housing sector to continue in the first quarter of 2023.

"The appetite for homeownership has remained undeterred, with maximum sales being driven by the end-users. However, various risks loom large around the residential segment. A lot will depend on how the home loan interest rates pan out over the next year," he said.

Pune recorded sales of around 57,200 units in 2022, an increase of 59% over 2021 while 49,500 units were sold in Bengaluru in 2022, an annual increase of 50%. Hyderabad recorded sales of approx. 47,500 units in 2022, a massive yearly increase of 87% over 2021 and Kolkata recorded sales of approx. 21,200 units in 2022, an annual increase of 62% from the previous year. Approx. 16,100 units were sold in Chennai in 2022, a yearly jump of 29% over 2021.

## WhatsApp to end support for bunch of old Samsung phones

NEW DELHI: Meta-owned WhatsApp will reportedly end support for a bunch of old



Samsung phones, as the company might soon end support for Android smartphones that are not running at least Android 5.0 (Lollipop).

According to SamMobile, those devices include seven Samsung smartphones that were released in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

The devices include the Galaxy Ace 2, Galaxy Core, Galaxy S2, Galaxy S3 Mini, Galaxy Trend II, Galaxy Trend Lite and

## PM Modi to chair national conference of chief secretaries on Jan 6-7

Continued from page-1

The three-day national conference which begins on January 5, is considered as a key step towards boosting the partnership between the Centre and the state governments.

This comes at the back of a similar conference that was held in Dharamshala in 2022 where the Prime Minister held discussions on various issues with the chief secretaries of all states and union territories.

According to a statement by the PMO, the three-day national conference of chief secretaries will witness the participation of over 200 officials from central, state and UT governments. "The conference will lay the ground for collaborative action for achieving a 'Viksit Bharat' with a thrust on growth and job creation and inclusive human development."

The agenda of the conference was decided after extensive deliberations between the centre, nodal ministries, NITI Aayog and others in more than 150 meetings held over the last three months.

Sources also added that the national conference of chief secretaries with PM Modi will have also focused deliberations on four other topics - 'vocal for local', international years of millets, G20: Roles of States and emerging technologies.

The PMO added that the best practices from states and UTs under each of the themes would also be presented at the conference so that states can learn from each other.

## Indian-origin US man arrested for deliberately driving Tesla with wife, two children off cliff

Continued from page-1

four-year-old girl, and a nine-year-old boy. A helicopter crew rescued the two adults from the vehicle, NBC News, an American broadcast television network said.

The rescue was described as almost miraculous, the New York Times newspaper said. The Tesla was 250 to 300 feet down, according to the highway patrol.

"Based on the evidence collected, investigators developed probable cause to believe this incident was an intentional act," it said in a statement.

ALSO READ | Biden renominates several Indian-Americans to key US administration roles

Brian Pottenger, the incident commander for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said witnesses called 911 after the crash.

He said that it was "very, very rare" for people to survive such a steep fall and that the children's car seats may have saved their lives. "We were actually very shocked when we found survivable victims in the vehicle. So that actually was a hopeful moment for us," Mr Pottenger said.

The children had moderate injuries, Mr Pottenger said.

Authorities plan to charge Mr Patel on three counts of attempted murder and two counts of child abuse, said Officer Andrew Barclay, a spokesman for the highway patrol's Golden Gate Division.

Galaxy Xcover 2.

All of these devices were upgraded to Android 4.x, which was their last major Android OS update.

WhatsApp will stop working on these phones after December 31, 2022, according to the report.

Other smartphones that will no longer support WhatsApp include those from Apple, HTC, Huawei, Lenovo, LG and Sony, among others, the report added.

Meanwhile, WhatsApp is reportedly working on a new feature which will provide users with the ability to report status updates on desktop beta.

The new feature will allow users to report a status update right within a new menu in the status section, reports WABetaInfo.

If users see any suspicious status update that might violate the Terms of Service, they will be able to report it to the moderation team with the new option.

## BJP has two-point formula to take on ruling party in next polls, says Pradhan

Continued from page-1

Odisha' put up by BJP national president JP Nadda during his recent visit to the people in a more forceful way.

He further informed that Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will come to the state under the Lok Sabha pravas programme. Asked if BJP is more concerned for a parliamentary election, Pradhan said that the party is concerned for the welfare and development of 4.5 crore people of the state. Sources in the party said that plan has been drawn up to relaunch the 'Mo Booth Sabuthu Mazbhoot' programme as implemented by Shah when he was national president of the party.

## Minor rape victim dies, villagers block road in Odisha's Gajapati district

Continued from page-1

terrogated and further investigation is underway.

Man held for sexual assault on 5-yr-old Kendrapara: Aul police on Tuesday arrested a 40-year-old man for allegedly raping a minor girl at Balisahi. The accused, identified as Umakanta Rout, is a neighbour of the five-year-old girl. On Monday evening, Rout reportedly lured the girl with chocolate and took her to a secluded place where he committed the crime. On returning home, the minor informed her parents about the incident following which a complaint was lodged with Aul police. Aul IIC Dilip Sahoo said during interrogation, the accused confessed to his crime. He was produced in court and remanded in judicial custody.

## President of India graces the inauguration of 18th National Jamboree of the Bharat Scouts and Guides in Rajasthan

Continued from page-1

The President said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, Bharat Scouts and Guides have shown exemplary courage in serving the society. Speaking about the ill effects of climate change, she said that the impact of rising temperature, sea levels and weather uncertainties is quite clear. Before it is too late, we have to take immediate corrective measures. She said that Scouts and Guides can play an important role in making people by adopting renewable energy, reducing carbon footprint, and promoting sustainable development practices. She said that as Scouts and Guides, it is their duty to educate people about the importance of protecting biodiversity??, maintaining environmental balance and promoting responsible tourism practices.

The President said that today India is considered a young country in the world. Youth are the builders of the future of the nation. She said that the world is changing very fast and they have to be future-ready. They should set higher goals to meet the future challenges that the country and society would be facing. She urged the Scouts and Guides to move forward with complete faith in themselves and success will follow.

# Cristiano Ronaldo REVEALS rejecting offers from Europe, North America to join Al Nassr

**New Delhi:** Cristiano Ronaldo was presented as the superstar new signing of Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr on Tuesday (January 4), with the team's president saying the Portugal great deserves to be the highest paid player on the planet. Ronaldo said he turned down "many clubs" around the world to complete one of the most surprising transfers in the sport's history, which could reportedly earn him up to \$200 million a year. Al Nassr president Musalli Almuammar would not confirm the exact figures in the two-and-a-half-year contract. "He is the best

player in football history so it is normal he will be the highest in terms of cost or salary," Almuammar said. "This is something that he really deserves, so the amount of money he will take, he really deserves."

Ronaldo was presented to thousands of fans at Al Nassr's Mrsool Park against a backdrop of fireworks and smoke machines. The former Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus forward will play in the Saudi Pro League after rejecting offers from Europe, North America and beyond.

"I'm so proud to make this big decision in my



life. In Europe my work is done. I won everything and played

for the most important clubs in Europe. This is a new challenge,"

Ronaldo said at a news conference where he only answered

questions from the master of ceremonies, despite sitting in a room full of journalists.

The 37-year-old Portugal international, who has won five Ballon d'Or awards for the best player in the world and five Champions League titles, will play outside of Europe for the first time in his storied career. "Nobody knows this, but I had many opportunities in Europe, Brazil, Australia, the US, even Portugal, many clubs tried to sign me. I gave my word to this club," Ronaldo added. "I want to give a different vision of this country and football. This is why I took this

opportunity." Excitement built throughout the day ahead of Ronaldo's introduction, with fans making their way to the stadium early in anticipation of his arrival. Large video screens on the exterior walls of the ground pictured him in Al Nassr's yellow and blue shirt, alongside the words "Hala Ronaldo." When he eventually walked out onto the field at the 25,000-capacity stadium, the crowd chanted his name raucously. "I want to make you all happy. This is my goal," he said.

Ronaldo had his contract with United terminated in

November after conducting an explosive TV interview in which he criticized manager Erik ten Hag and the club's owners, the Glazer family. Al Nassr, the nine-time Saudi Pro League champions, made an offer to him during the World Cup, which was held in Qatar in November and December. However, the deal was not confirmed until December 30. Ronaldo flew in to Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport on Monday night, where he and his family were greeted by fans, before undergoing medical tests at Mrsool Park on Tuesday.

## India vs Sri Lanka 1st T20: Shivam Mavi stars in India win



**Mumbai:** Young medium pacer Shivam Mavi claimed 4/22 and became the third Indian men's cricketer to take four wickets on T20I debut during the first match of the three-match series against Sri Lanka at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on Tuesday (January 3). Riding on Mavi's four-wicket haul, India held their nerve to sneak in a two-run win over Sri Lanka in the first T20I in Mumbai on Tuesday night. The young pacer,

who was bought by Hardik Pandya-led Gujarat Titans at the IPL 2023 mini auction, picked up two wickets in the Powerplay – sending back Pathum Nissanka and Dhananjaya de Silva to start his debut on a fine note. Alongside skipper Hardik Pandya, Mavi gave India a good start with the ball as the visitors managed just 35 runs in the first six overs. The right-arm quick returned to break a crucial 40-run stand, dismissing Wanindu

Hasaranga (21 off 10 balls) in the 15th over to leave Dasun Shanaka with a huge task on his hand. He went on to add a fourth scalp in his final over with the wicket of Maheesh Theekshana to become one of the only three bowlers for India to take four wickets on men's T20I debut. Mavi finished with figures of 4-0-22-4, joining the likes of Barinder Sran and Pragyan Ojha as the only three men's players to take four wickets on the

T20I debut for India. Sravanthi Naidu has also taken a four-wicket haul for India on her debut in women's T20Is. "I was waiting for this moment for the last six years. I had injuries in between and it felt my dream will never come true. Nerves were 3-4 on a scale of ten because you know what to expect when you have played the IPL. The first wicket was my favourite," Mavi said after the match. In the first T20I, Shanaka's late burst gave Sri Lanka a sniff at chasing down the target, but when Umran Malik sent him back with a 155 kph delivery, India seemed to have edged ahead. Chamika Karunaratne brought the tourists back with some late fireworks and they were left chasing 13 runs in the last over. Axar Patel conceded a six, but held his nerve as India won by two runs to go 1-0 ahead in the three-match bilateral series.

## Pele Funeral: Brazilians mourn football legend at the stadium where he got his start



**New Delhi:** Thousands of mourners, including high school students and supreme court justices, began filing past the body of Pelé on Monday (January 2) on the century-old field where he made his hometown team one of Brazil's best. The football great died on Thursday after a battle with cancer. He was the only player ever to win three World Cups, and he was 82.

Pelé's coffin, draped in the flags of Brazil and the Santos FC football club, was placed on the midfield area of Vila Belmiro, the stadium

outside Sao Paulo that was his home for most of his career. A Catholic Mass will be celebrated there Tuesday morning before his burial at a nearby cemetery. Brazil's newly inaugurated President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva will come to Vila Belmiro shortly before Pelé's coffin is removed from the stadium. The storied 16,000-seat stadium was surrounded by mourners, and covered with Pelé-themed decorations. Fans coming out of the stadium said they'd waited three hours in line, standing under a

blazing sun. Forty-five years after Pelé played his last game, he's still a central part of Brazil's national story.

Geovana Sarmento, 17, came with her father, who was wearing a Brazil shirt with Pelé's name. "I am not a Santos fan, neither is my father. But this guy invented Brazil's national team. He made Santos stronger, he made it big, how could you not respect him? He is one of the greatest people ever, we needed to honor him," she said.

In the 1960s and 70s, Pelé was perhaps the world's most famous athlete. He

met presidents and queens, and in Nigeria a civil war was put on hold to watch him play. Many Brazilians credit him with putting the country on the world stage.

Rows of shirts with Pelé's number 10 were placed behind one of the goals, waving in the city's summer winds. A section of the stands was filling up with bouquets of flowers placed by mourners and sent by clubs and star players — Neymar and Ronaldo among them — from around the world as loudspeakers played a song named "Eu sou Pelé" ("I am Pelé") that was recorded by the Brazilian himself.

Claudio Carrança, 32, a salesman, said: "I never saw him play, but loving Pelé is a tradition that goes from father to son in Santos. I learned his history, saw his goals, and I see how Santos FC is important because he is important. I know some Santos fans have children supporting other teams.



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