



H.E. Mrs Dillah Lucienne, Ambassador of the Republic of Chad

VLT Deadline Extended

Bhubaneswar(KCN): In an aim to enhance security of women and children while traveling in buses and other public transport vehicles, the State Government has made installation of vehicle location tracking (VLT) devices mandatory for specified vehicles used in public transport. The deadline to comply with the requirement of the fitment of Vehicle Location Tracking device and panic buttons for the new vehicles registered on or after June 1, 2023 was May 31 and for other vehicles, it was notified as August 31, 2023.

Upon reviewing the available infrastructure & enlistment of device suppliers in the State, the Transport Department has extended the deadline. Now, the specified vehicles registered on or after October 1, 2023 will have to comply with the requirement at the time of registration while the previously registered vehicles will have to fix the device by December, 2023. Except auto rickshaws and e-rickshaws, all passenger transport vehicles, including both government and private buses, school and college buses and cabs/taxis will

be equipped with VLT panic buttons for the safety of women and children. For development, management and operation of Vehicle Location Tracking (VLT) application, the State Transport Authority (STA) had signed an MoU with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in October last year. Under the Nirbhaya Scheme for women's safety, the Central Government has made vehicle location tracking system mandatory for public transport vehicles and goods vehicles. In accordance with the

directions issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), STA will implement VLT application for Safety and Enforcement as per AIS-140 Standard to track the public transport and commercial vehicles in Odisha under the Nirbhaya framework. A command control center is being set up in Bhubaneswar to track the vehicles plying across the state. The 24x7 integrated command centre will use both Global Positioning System (GPS)-based vehicle tracking and the GSM/GPRS channel for triggering emergency alerts.

Odisha Mining Corporation Pays Rs 1,420 Crore Dividend To Govt

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) today paid a dividend of Rs 1,420 crore to the state government for 2022-23 financial year. Steel, Mines & Works Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik handed over a cheque of Rs 1,420 crore to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here. OMC, one of the largest iron ore producers in the country, recorded a turnover of Rs 14,450 crore in 2022-23 fiscal. Having 18 operational mines, the state-owned



corporation registered total ore production of 33.76 million tonnes (MT) in the Financial Year 2022-23 with 29.68 MT iron ore, 3 MT bauxite and 1.08 MT

chrome ore – registering an impressive 14.9 per cent growth over the previous financial year. OMC has supported the state government in many of its flagship welfare

programmes. It has also been contributing substantially towards the socio-economic development of the people especially residing in its mining

periphery through various CSR initiatives. Additional Chief Secretary of Steel & Mines Department Deorajan Kumar Singh, 5T Secretary VK Pandian, OMC Managing Director Balwant Singh, OMC Director (Finance) Satyajit Mohanty, Director (Operations) Sabyasachi Mohanty, Director (HR) Alok Kuamr Pal and Director (P&P) Kshirod Chandra Brahma among others were present on the occasion.

NAFED Tomato @Rs.70

New Delhi(KCN): The Department of Consumer Affairs has directed NCCF and NAFED to sell tomatoes at retail price of Rs.70 per KG rate from 20 July, 2023 in view of the declining trend in tomato prices. The tomatoes procured by NCCF and NAFED had been retailed, initially, at Rs.90 per KG and then reduced to Rs.80 per KG from 16 July, 2023. The reduction to Rs.70 KG will further benefit the consumers. It may be recalled that on the direction of



Department of Consumer Affairs, NCCF and NAFED had commenced the procurement of tomato from mandis in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and

Maharashtra for simultaneous disposal in major consumption centres where retails prices have recorded maximum increase in last one month. The retail sale of tomatoes in Delhi-NCR had started from 14 July, 2023. Till 18 July, 2023 a total of 391 MT of tomato had been procured by the two agencies which are being continuously disposed of to the retail consumers in major consumption centres of Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan, UP and Bihar

Archana Nag Sextortion Case: Orissa HC Junks Shradhanjali's Plea, Asks Her To Appear Before CBI Court



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Hearing a petition to appear through a legal counsel, Orissa High Court in Cuttack today rejected the plea which was filed by Archana Nag's associate Sraddhanjali Behera. The Court insisted the petitioner Behera to appear before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court in person. A source said that Sraddhanjali had moved the High Court after her bail plea was earlier rejected in a lower court. The CBI court had issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against aide Sraddhanjali Behera in connection with the much-debated Archana

Nag sextortion case, the source added. Previously, an anticipatory bail petition filed by Sraddhanjali was outrightly rejected by the lower court. The NBW was issued as the accused did not appear before the court despite repeated summons. She was taking the plea of her ill health to escape personal appearance in court. The court had rejected an interim protection plea of Sraddhanjali, who was one of the accused named in the chargesheet as an associate of lady blackmailer Archana Nag. The court had asked Sraddhanjali to cooperate with the

Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the investigation as the agency had stated her non-cooperation in the ongoing probe into the money laundering allegation framed against Archana. Sraddhanjali had appeared before ED at its Bhubaneswar office twice for quizzing. Between 2017 and 2022, it was found that Archana deposited a significant amount of money in the former's bank account. The ED registered a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Archana, her husband Jagabandhu Chand, and his business partner Khageswar Patra, including Sraddhanjali.

Two Odisha Police Officials Held For Taking Rs 50,000 Bribe

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chandipur police station Inspector In-Charge (IIC) Ganeswar Pradhan and Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Pradeep Kumar Mohanty were caught by the Odisha Vigilance while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000 from a licensed IMFL off shop owner today. The duo was collecting the money as their monthly quota (extortion) from the liquor shop owner. They were threatening the liquor shop owner to stop his business. The

entire bribe money has been recovered from Mohanty, said a Vigilance official. The two police officers were later arrested. Pradhan was also holding the additional charge of Marine Police station IIC in Balasore district, added the official. The Vigilance sleuths had laid a trap to catch the two police officers with the bribe money, sources said. As per the direction of Pradhan, Mohanty received the bribe amount from the liquor



shop owner on the premises of Chandipur Post Office, located close to Chandipur police station. Left hand as well as pant pocket wash of Mohanty gave positive chemical reaction,

confirming acceptance and handling of bribe money by him, said the official. Following the trap, simultaneous searches were carried out at Pradhan's present accommodation at

Sagar Darshan Guest House, his parental house at Arshala in Keonjhar, Mohanty's office and government quarters and his parental house at Itua in Balasore in connection with disproportionate assets (DA). Balasore Vigilance police have registered a case (No.18/2023) under various sections of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. Investigation is in progress against both the accused persons, said the official.

Odisha govt outsourcing staff stage stir, hit streets demanding job regularisation

Sambalpur,(KCN): Hundreds of outsourcing staff employed in several departments of Odisha government staged a demonstration in Sambalpur on Wednesday demanding fulfillment of various demands including regularisation of jobs. According to sources, the outsourcing employees took out a massive rally and went to the Revenue Divisional Commissioner's (RDC) office to press for their demands which include

job security and 'equal work equal pay.' Outsourcing employees of 11 districts under the Northern Revenue Divisional Commissioner participated in the demonstration in Sambalpur. They have threatened to stage a similar stir in Cuttack on July 21 and if their demands are not met, then they will undertake a march towards Naveen Niwas



on July 31. "We have only been given assurances. The last four Chief Secretaries assured us to consider our demands, but all in vain. If our demands are not met by

July 31, then we will take out a march to Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar," said Chief Advisor of Odisha Government Outsourcing Employees Federation, Prabhat Mohanty.

It is worthwhile to mention here that, the Service Provider Agencies (SPAs) of the Odisha government were put under 'Mo Sarkar' in February this year. The government had decided to felicitate those agencies that are giving salaries to their employees regularly and properly. If any organisation is found to be falling behind as far as staff remuneration is concerned, they will be flagged and if required, those agencies will be black-listed.



Remembering you

DWIT DAVID PHILIP

While walking, people fall and rise.
Some keep falling some never fall.
Some get a support, some don't,
Some do mistake, some don't,
On the walk, someone comes as a wind
and goes,
The one who has seen that face,
It comes to mind again and again,
There are millions of faces on the street,
One face that repeats in mind, is the one
that gave unknown hope,
Though never beside,
Every body loves it,
Who it is, may I be, S/He only.

**Chaibasha,
Jharkhand, India**

Quotation of the Day

Success is walking
from failure to failure
with no loss of
enthusiasm.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

LEGEND OF SHRI JAGANNATH

(STORY OF GITA PANDA)

Nandighosh kuanr

In the sacred land of Puri, known as the divine Sri Purusottam khetra, lies a place of unparalleled pilgrimage. It is revered as the epitome of holiness, attracting devout souls from all corners of the world. The belief held dear by those who enter this realm is that it bestows blessings so profound that there shall be no rebirth after one's earthly departure.

Within this hallowed abode resided a virtuous Brahmin, accompanied by his cherished family—two daughters, a son, and his devoted wife. The Brahmin, dedicating himself to their sustenance, embarked on a unique path to provide for his loved ones.

Immersed in the pursuit of spiritual enlightenment, the Brahmin devoutly recited the sacred eighteen chapters of the holy Gita each day, forsaking all other worldly endeavors. Upon completing his reverential study of the Gita, he would venture into neighboring villages, collecting alms that would sustain his family's material needs. Such was the harmonious rhythm by which their lives were sustained through this humble begging.

Earning the endearing moniker of Gitapanda, he became renowned among the people for his unwavering commitment to the recitation of the Gita. Through this ceaseless devotion, Gitapanda blossomed as a vessel of profound wisdom, for the holy verses illuminated his mind and heart. His knowledge transcended the boundaries of mundane existence, leaving no room for any other pursuit. Firmly anchored in the realization that this world is but an illusion, he perceived the transient nature of relationships—father, son, and family—as mere ephemeral manifestations. In his

unwavering faith, he understood that true belongingness extended beyond these temporal ties.

With such profound wisdom as his guiding light, Gitapande embarked on a ceaseless journey of devotion. His every waking moment was consumed by the contemplation and meditation upon the divine name of the Lord, Hari. With unwavering focus, he engaged in the spiritual practice of Haribhajan, ever absorbed in the eternal essence of the Supreme.

In this devout and steadfast manner, Gitapanda personified the essence of spiritual dedication. His existence became a testament to the transcendence of worldly illusions, a beacon of unwavering faith and devotion. As he immersed himself in the sacred recitation of the Gita and the reverential meditation upon the divine name, he epitomized the divine grace that enveloped the holy land of Puri.

May we be inspired
by Gitapanda's
unwavering devotion
and recognize the eternal
truth that lies beyond the
transient veil of illusion.
May the sacred land of
Puri continue to bestow
its blessings upon all
who seek solace and
enlightenment, guiding
their souls towards
ultimate liberation.

Amidst the passage of time, a severe famine ravaged the land, casting a somber shadow upon the state. Gitapanda, accustomed to traversing the neighboring villages in pursuit of sustenance, found himself unable to procure even a morsel of alms. Yet, not a trace of despair crept into his heart, for he remained immersed in the sacred recitation of the Gita. Delving into each verse, he sought to grasp its devotional and logical meaning, engaging his mind and soul.

The profound
absorption Gitapanda

experienced through the recitation of the holy verses had transformative effects on his being. His body responded with extraordinary manifestations—voice breaking, fervor, trembling, self-doubt—evident to those who beheld him. In the depths of his despondency, he beseeched the Lord, "Oh Lord! I seek shelter in You alone. Without Your merciful grace, the life of this sinful creature is sure to perish."

As Gitapanda pondered in such a manner, his children, gripped by hunger, clung to their mother's feet, beseeching her for sustenance. Their pleas resonated deeply within her heart, shattering it into fragments. Tearfully, she implored Gitapanda, "You sit at home reciting the Gita. Will our children's hunger be appeased by your chants? Please, hasten and search for food. Otherwise, our children shall wither away in hunger, and I shall perish alongside them."

Hearing these anguished words from his wife, Gitapanda responded, "God is the master of all. He shall provide us with sustenance in due time." His wife, overcome by anger and hunger, trembled with indignation. She retorted, "Do not stoke the fire further. Do not irritate me any longer. You sit here, engrossed in Hari Bhajan, but will food and money miraculously enter our home? What are you saying?"

In the face of his wife's frustration, Gitapanda asserted, "Listen! Do not be swayed by anger. Open your heart and heed my words. God is the life force of all beings. In this Gita, the Lord Himself proclaims, 'He who renounces all actions and seeks refuge in Me alone. I bear the burden



of his life.' If you doubt even this, then remain steadfast in your anger." hue, akin to a vibrant rainbow. His face bore the shape of a full moon.

Gitapanda's wife, unyielding, retorted, "Oh, what tales of a bygone era you speak! In this Kali Yuga, you sit here while Lord Jagannath personally brings food and drink to our doorstep. Do you not feel an ounce of shame upon your face? I see through your hypocrisy. This time, the certainty of our demise—mine, our son's, and our daughter's—weighs heavy upon us."

Enraged by his wife's harsh words, Gitapanda uttered, "If you believe that all that is written in this sacred Gita is falsehood, then come and tear this holy scripture apart!"

His wife, consumed by vitality and majesty.

fury, promptly seized the pen and etched three deep gashes across the palm leaf pages that bore the verses. The fragile leaves succumbed, rending into three distinct fragments. Witnessing this act, Gitapanda's heart sank, and he exclaimed, "What have you done? In the eyes of the Lord, you have committed a grave

With great purpose, the Lord, disguised as the Gopal boy, shouldered two pairs of heavy loads brimming with essential provisions. The loads contained nourishing ingredients such as mung beans, sweet rice, milk, curd, pepper, mustard, ginger, chickpeas, asafetida, pepper, and fragrant flowers.

transgression!" Filled with anger, he withdrew to another room and locked himself inside, seething with emotion.

In the midst of Gitapanda's unwavering devotion and the dire circumstances faced by his wife and children, the compassionate Lord could not remain indifferent. Lord Jagannath, moved by the plight of His devotee, assumed the disguise of a Gopal caste boy, intent on serving Gitapanda.

In this guise, the Lord's resplendent form mesmerized all who beheld Him. His body radiated a luminous blue

at the sound of the boy's gentle voice, and she hastened to open the gate. There before her stood a boy, bearing burdens of food on both shoulders, his countenance adorned with a joyous smile.

Setting down the weighty loads upon the ground, the boy spoke, "A friend of Gitapanda has sent this abundance of sustenance to your household through my hands. He entrusted it to me, fearing that it may be lost in the hands of another. Such is his unwavering faith in me. Wherever he sends me, I faithfully go. Delay no longer; come, receive these provisions and store them within your home. And please convey this message to Gitapanda."

Overwhelmed by the divine intervention unfolding before her, Gitapanda's wife did not question the miraculous occurrence. With gratitude in her heart, she commenced carrying each item, one by one, into their dwelling. As their home filled with the bountiful provisions, she expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the friend who had sent these gifts. Addressing the delivery boy, she exclaimed, "You are a remarkable and wondrous messenger. Pray, tell me, to which caste do you belong?"

Hearing this, the Lord, disguised as the delivery boy, replied, "I am of the Gopal caste, the younger son of Brajraj. I am perpetually on the move, never lingering at one place. I serve as a messenger to those who place their faith in me. I am driven by deep emotions, and I am drawn to those who believe in my presence. I ask nothing of anyone, content with whatever I find. Now, safeguard the provisions I have bestowed upon you, and bid me farewell."

Hearing these words, Gitapanda's wife interjected, "What are you saying? How can you, who have carried such a heavy load, depart without partaking in a meal? Sit upon the bench, and in no time, I shall prepare a feast for you to savor. Only then may you take your leave."

The delivery boy replied, "You are

unaware of my plight, but Gitapanda understands. I bear the weight of the world's concerns upon me. Alas, you cannot fathom the depth of my sorrows. Indeed, I desired to share a meal in your home. However, fate has dealt me a severed tongue, as you can see, for it bleeds. I am unable to partake of any sustenance. Alas, the hour grows late. I must depart. Please inform Gitapanda of my visit."

And with those words, the delivery boy swiftly took his leave. Moved by the boy's presence, Gitapanda's wife prepared a meal and went to the room to awaken Gitapanda. She knocked on the door, calling out, "Arise, my love! Come, let us partake in this meal together."

Gitapanda stood there in awe as he listened to his wife's account of the miraculous arrival of the food. "How could this be?" he pondered, amazed by the abundance that now filled their home. His wife explained that a Gopal caste delivery boy, with a divine and enchanting presence, had delivered the provisions. Despite her persistent requests for him to stay and partake in a meal, the boy had refused, displaying a wounded tongue that bled profusely. He had conveyed the weight of the world's burdens upon him, compelling him to swiftly depart. Gitapanda's wife faithfully shared all that the boy had told her, leaving Gitapanda astounded.

In that moment, Gitapanda recognized the hand of his Lord, and his heart swelled with joyous realization. Turning to his wife, he exclaimed, "You are truly blessed! The sages who have chanted for countless eons could not behold the Lord, yet you had the fortune of witnessing Him with your very eyes. And now, as I listen to your account, I am grateful that you have seen Him. Know this, my dear, that the Gopal caste delivery boy was none other than Lord Gopalakrishna Himself, the divine Jagannath. The wounds on his

tongue symbolized the act of tearing the holy Gita, committed by your own hands. The Bhagavad Gita that we hold sacred was composed by the Lord Himself. The three cuts you made in the pages of the holy text were reflected in the three wounds upon His tongue. Without delay, let us seek His forgiveness, confess our transgressions, and find redemption."

Filled with an ardent desire for atonement, Gitapanda and his wife hastened to the Lord's sacred shrine. There, they beheld a sight that stirred their souls—a trickle of blood flowed from the lips of the Lord. With deep reverence, Gitapanda prostrated himself before the divine presence and uttered a heartfelt prayer, "Lord! A mere mortal, my wife, has committed a grave offense against You. O Universal Master, we beseech Your forgiveness. O Merciful One, grant her a moment of pardon. Forgive her transgressions, O Lord Mahabahu."

Having offered their sincere prayers and pleas for forgiveness, they left the shrine. Returning to their home, Gitapanda and his wife sat down together and partook of the meal that had been divinely provided. Their hearts overflowed with gratitude and devotion as they sang the Lord's name, cherishing the blessedness that now enveloped their lives.

From that day forward, Gitapanda and his wife lived in eternal bliss, their hearts forever devoted to the Lord. They recognized the profound mercy and grace bestowed upon them, and they dedicated themselves to a lifetime of singing the Lord's name, embracing the path of devotion and righteousness. United in their faith, they reveled in the divine connection they had forged, finding solace and fulfillment in the boundless love of their Lord.

Dagarapada, Baleswar

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Alia Gives Out Major 'Heroine' Vibes In Ombre-Hued Chiffon Saree, Ranveer Slays In Black



Actress Alia Bhatt channeled her inner perfect Karan Johar 'heroine', as she looked gorgeous in an ombre-hued chiffon saree during the launch of the song 'Ve Kamleya' from the upcoming film 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani' here on Tuesday. During her visit to the national capital, Alia was seen wearing a chiffon ombre saree with a blend of pastel shades of pink, lavender, orange, and yellow.

She paired it with a purple-colored sleeveless blouse, silver jhumkas with a hint of pink and blue in them, and a silver ring on her finger. She opted for a minimal make-up look - nude glossy lips, highlighted cheeks, and open hair. Alia looked every inch a quintessential Bollywood heroine that filmmaker Karan Johar typically portrays in his romantic sagas, which to date have turned into blockbusters.

On the other hand, Ranveer looked dapper in a black suit paired with a formal white shirt and black sunglasses. Keeping the vibe light, Ranveer even dedicated a song to Alia's chiffon saree, as he was seen singing 'Tum Kya Mile', giving it a twist by rephrasing a line dedicated to the saree she wore. Even in the song 'Tum Kya Mile' from 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani', Alia could be seen wearing a bunch of

chiffon sarees. The track looks like an ode to legendary filmmaker Yash Chopra, as it brings back the memories of his films such as 'Chandani', where the late Sridevi looked magical in a yellow saree, and 'Silsila', in which Rekha stunned in white. Alia in a vlog had revealed her favorite look from the song, which was in a black chiffon saree. In that video, KJo was heard saying, "Three decades of chiffon sarees."

Gadar 2: Soul-Stirring Song, Khairiyat, Unveiled — Fans Applaud Raw Emotion

After touching the audience's hearts with the reprised version of Udd Jaa Kaale Kaava, the makers of Gadar 2 have now released the second song from the film, titled Khairiyat. One of the most highly-anticipated sequels of the year, Gadar 2 is gearing up for a theatrical release in August and has already created a lot of buzz on the internet. The lead actors, Sunny Deol and Ameesha Patel, will be reprising their roles of Tara Singh and Sakeena, to take the story forward from where it was left in the first installment. While Gadar fans are eagerly waiting for the film's release,



Khairiyat seems to be struck just the right chord with the audience.

The emotional track gives glimpses of how Tara Singh and Sakeena desperately await to meet their son (Utkarsh Sharma). As Arijit Singh adds his soulful voice to the song, the composition of Mithoon adds more emotions to the powerful lyrics by Sayeed Quadri. The song which shows glimpses of Tara and Sakeena and their son Jeeta from the first film as well as the second one, shows the emotional side of the actors. While an emotional Tara (Sunny Deol) seems to be going in search of his son, Ameesha Patel's Sakeena can be seen getting emotional and praying for her son's well-being. Charanjeet, played by Utkarsh Sharma, now all grown up, can be also seen in parts as he remembers his parents and the happy time that he spent with them.

Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah Controversy: Ex-Cast Member Priya Ahuja Rajda Aka Rita Reporter Alleges 'Mental Harassment'

After Jennifer Mistry, who played Roshan Sodhi on the popular sitcom Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah levelled sexual misconduct allegations against the makers, former cast actresses who have been a part of the show have opened up too. Recently, Monika Bhadoriya, who played Bawri on the show talked about the misbehaviour she faced during her stint and now another actress Priya Ahuja Rajda who was seen in Rita Reporter's character has alleged 'mental harassment'. In an interview with ETimes, Priya Ahuja Rajda talked about her

experience while on the show, "Yes the artists have to go through mental harassment when they work on Taarak Mehta. Kaafi hota hai... mentally I've also gone through difficulties while working there but it didn't affect me much maybe because Malav, my husband who was the director of the show for 14 years, he was earning. One benefit I had of working there was since I didn't have a contract I was never stopped from working outside. Asit Kumarr Modi bhai, Sohil Ramani or Jatin Bajaj (he's like my younger brother) they never misbehaved with me. But as far work is



concerned I've been subjected to unfair treatment. After I got married to Malav they reduced my track. It was no longer how it used to be. I've been clueless about my track in the show after pregnancy and when Malav left the show. I messaged Asit bhai so

many times asking him about my track in the show but there has been no response. Sometimes he would comment "Arre tuihe kaam karne ki kya zarurat hai Malav is working Na". I'm an individual and I did not get this show because I was Malav's wife. I was a part

of this show before I got married to Malav. I never got a proper response. Malav was shooting and I was also working on some or the other thing it wasn't affecting me financially, so I never bothered to speak," she said. She also shared how she didn't even know whether her track was on the show or not. "I am feeling bad that ever since Malav has left the show they haven't called or responded to my message. It has been six months since he left the show and they haven't called me to shoot. That I feel as an artist is unfair. I called up Sohil and requested him to ask Asit ji about my track in the show,

I even dropped a message to Asit bhai asking if I am still a part of the show but I haven't heard from both of them and I think it is a little unfair. Even if I am not a part of the show tell me I'm not dying to comeback but it is wrong that Malav has left the show, so now you don't want to call me. Joh attitude raha hai in the last 6-8 years I was very sure they will not call me. I'd told Malav also about it when he was leaving the show that now they won't call me, neither they will announce that I'm still part of the show, not they will call me. They will keep me hanging."

Akshay Kumar, Emraan Hashmi-Starrer 'Selfiee' Second Trailer is Out, Makers Tease Boycott Bollywood Trend

Akshay Kumar and Emraan Hashmi are raising the temperature high as their upcoming film 'Selfiee' is about to hit the theatres. Amid promotions all over the country, the makers of 'Selfiee' unveiled the second trailer of the film on Wednesday.

Fans already know that the film is a tussle between a superstar and a super fan. In the second trailer, the situation gets grimmer and the fight between Inspector Om Prakash (played by Emraan) and superstar Vijay (played by Akshay) takes an ugly turn involving their families.

Taking to Instagram Akshay posted the trailer with a caption, "Aam aadmi ki kahaani toh bahot sun li, ab Vijay Kumar ki bhi sun lo.. D e k h i y e #SelfieeTrailer2. And watch #Selfiee in cinemas on 24th Feb."



Sharing the same trailer Emraan wrote, "Superstar ke saath #Selfiee nahi, panga le li y a . W a t c h #SelfieeTrailer2 Now. Aage ki story - only in cinemas, Feb 24."

There's another treat for the fans. In a new teaser of the movie, 'Boycott Bollywood gets featured. 'Boycott Bollywood' is trending for quite some time on social media, as Bollywood is repeatedly attacked for diverse

reasons. Taking a hilarious stand on the burning subject, when 'Boycott Bollywood' is mentioned by a producer, Akshay points fingers at himself suggesting if he were the reason or not. The producer in the teaser promptly replies to Akshay's gesture, 'No, Sir.'

'Selfiee' is the official Hindi remake of the Malayalam film 'Driving License', which starred Prithviraj and

Suraj Venjaramoodu in lead roles. Akshay and Emraan will reprise their roles in the remake.

The film will also showcase the recreated version of the 90s hit song 'Main Khiladi Tu Anari', sung by Udit Narayan, and Abhijeet Bhattacharya and recreated by Tanishk Bagchi.

Helmed by Raj Mehta, Akshay and Emraan have collaborated for the first time in 'Selfiee'.

15 Years of Jodhaa Akbar: Makers Celebrate the Journey of an Eternal Love Story

Regarded as one of the most spectacular visual experiences on the Indian screen, Ashutosh Gowariker's Jodhaa Akbar clocks 15 years today. Celebrating the epitome of love, respect and royalty, AGPPL offered a recap of the essence of Jodhaa Akbar with a special video.

Taking to their social media, AGPPL posted the video saying, "Jodhaa and Akbar's love continues to shine brightly through the ages as a symbol of mutual respect, tolerance and open-mindedness between a man and woman, husband and wife. Today we are



proud to celebrate the 15th year since our journey that brought their eternal romance to the silver screen."

Incidentally, today also marks the birthday of the director and producer of Jodhaa Akbar, Ashutosh Gowariker. The leading man of the film Hrithik Roshan took to his social media to wish the filmmaker along with a few glimpses of the film. He wrote, "Happy Birthday @AshGowariker. Thank you for trusting me with the monumental responsibility of being a part of Jodhaa Akbar. Your direction & my incredible co-stars will forever be cherished. #15yearsOfJodhaaAkbar".

Prof.MANAS RANJAN MAHAPATRA



I have not been able to breathe properly for the last four days. My dear Mangala is no more. He was three years younger to me, I was chosen by his father to coordinate the search of a bride for his marriage as I was considered as the eldest son in their family. Have no way, but to share my anguish again and again with the world. Mangala Prasad Mohanty (Professor, Dr.) was my brother, friend, philosopher and guide for the last over four decades.

Today I fondly remember the young boy who entered to the nomination hall for becoming a student representative in the Odia Sahitya Parishad of SCS College, Puri way back in the academic year 1979-80 when I was its General Secretary. Later, he energised the literary forum 'Sanibar Sahitya Sandhya' then just begun by me with the help of some friends and organised the first ever State Level Literary Conference at Annapurna Theatre, Puri in 1981. He too edited a magazine The Sampark of which he made me the Chief Editor. Everything was moving happily and

suddenly, he decided to leave Puri for higher education in JNU where he joined SFI and became an elected representative of students in the Students' Union headed by N R Mohanty. I have witnessed the historical students agitation in JNU happened at that time in which he was a part. He began a new NGO 'SEARCH' at Puri around that time of which he was the Secretary and I was the Working President.

After working for a few years with Rajiv Gandhi's brain child 'Festival of India' programme as an officer, Mangala was offered a senior post in East Zone Cultural Centre, Calcutta in

1989, but he was more interested to remain in Delhi for working at national level for Odisha. He was a candidate for the post of Odia



Language Editor of NBT in 1990 and withdrew from the competition after finding me as a candidate for the same post as he always esteemed me very high, never

wanted to compete with me. Later, he joined Rajiv Gandhi Foundation as a senior officer. I have not been able to

understand why he relocated to Odisha in 1998 to become OSD to Chief Minister Giridhar Gamang in 1999. After sudden fall of G a m a n g Government, he

became a Professor in Utkal University of Culture which was practically, his baby. I conducted a Certificate Course in Book Publishing there on his initiative in 2002.

Then, on one fine morning, Mangala was chosen by the then Governor, Odisha to become Secretary, Indian Red Cross, Odisha Branch. All his tenures from Festival of India to Indian Red Cross had abrupt ends in the similar ways and finally, he ended up containing his talents to the meagre level of owner of a Petrol Pump. What an up and down of fate! A person of many arts and parts, Mangala was a great dreamer. He was a

poet, Youth Congress editor, translator, fiction writer, actor, journalist, organiser, youth activist and art critic besides a good kind hearted person. I fondly remember the international conference he coordinated at Delhi on the theme 'Revisiting Hinduism' three decades ago in which me too chaired a session on his sudden demand as the designated chairman regretted at the last hour. I was on my way back to residence after office and instead of Katwaria Sarai, landed up at YMCA Convention Centre! I have failed to digest the fact that after working closely with PMPV Narsimha Rao and Manishakar Ayar for a few years and remaining a Gandhian

poet, Youth Congress Leader why Mangala preferred to return to the roots. Odisha has not done justice to this great man. My feelings can't be described in words. I have lost my right arm in his untimely death. How to share my sorrow? With whom ?? I pray the almighty that this be my last obituary on death of someone dearest.

Visiting Professor of Development Communication
Former Director, I & PR and Culture, North Eastern Council
Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India
Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India

BOI – Banking for Medical Professionals



Banks are a powerful partner for better health. Doctors are known for their exemplary dedication and focus when it comes to their profession. They spend years studying, acquiring knowledge and mastering their profession. Doctors and Health Care sector have emerged as the most essential and an indispensable sector in the social fabric worldwide. Doctors have been rendering yeomen service to humanity since ages. Today, Doctors need capital for to set up their own practice or purchase, equipment while also considering other financial goals like purchasing a house or a car and providing for their child's future. Bank Loans for Doctors are forms of financial relief extended towards medical professionals like

doctors. Such loans allow doctors to avail funds for capital requirements, expand their clinic or practice, and meet other business needs. Doctors need an investment strategy to preserve wealth after crossing the age of 60 instead of taking aggressive investment decisions. In the changing economic scenario, BOI Bank has observed a growing need for healthcare equipment financing. BOI has created holistic banking solutions to care for Doctors finances so that they can focus on the wellbeing of their patients. Bank of India has introduced various schemes to assist them in establishing and expanding their reach, thereby enabling them to serve the needy in a better way. Bank of India salutes the real heroes who are hard-working doctors of the nation. Therefore, to support them in their quest of making a healthier

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit
country, we have something special - Star BOI Star Doctor Plus Scheme.



BOI Star Doctor Plus scheme is for all the lifesavers out there for their selfless service to mankind which is designed specially for Medical & Healthcare Professionals. There is no doubt that BOI has always been a front runner in addressing the credit needs of various sections of the society in general and that of the Doctors and health sector in

particular. To provide enhanced support to the healthcare sector amid the pandemic, the BOI has also launched the BOI Star Aarogyam Scheme. For acquiring premises on ownership basis or purchase of plot & construction thereof, for the purchase of establishing/running clinics, nursing homes, pathological labs, hospitals subject to compliance with license/ registration requirements under laws of State /

Central Govt. as the case may be OR For setting up/running clinics, nursing homes, pathological labs, hospitals on rented premises subject to compliance with license/ registration requirements under laws of State/ Central Govt. as the case may be. Lease period should not be less than term loan repayment period. It provides customized banking as well as value-added services for every doctor, beginning from a medical student to a senior medical consultant to

an owner of a hospital or a clinic. This loan helps doctors and medical practitioners get funds for personal needs including wedding expenses, medical expenses, education expenses, travel expenses, purchase of consumer durables, etc. They can also avail this scheme to pay off their high-interest credit card debts and loans, hence consolidating their debts.

B-15 Jyoti-Kalash Society,
Jodhpur Tekra Satellite
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Letter to Editor

Sir

In the demise of Oomen Chandy, two time Kerala Chief Minister and popular veteran Congress leader, Indian politics has lost a

loving leader who dedicated his whole life for the masses and a saviour of the poor. He will always be remembered not just as one of the greatest politician of all times of Kerala but also as a charismatic leader who proved the world that politics means serving the masses.

There is a lot that the present day politicians have to learn from him- perseverance, endurance, humility, commitment and above all a selfless leader who knew the pulse beating of the common man. He always put people's interests before political interests.

He will be remembered as a leader of the people, by the people and for the people.

He served two terms as the Kerala CM—from 2004-2006 and from 2011-2016. Oommen Chandy represented his constituency Puthuppally for the past five decades which in itself is a record. He was the longest serving MLA in the Kerala Legislative Assembly and the only Indian Chief Minister to achieve an award for public service from the United Nations in 2013.

M PRADYU
KANNUR
Geeth Thalikavu Kannur 670001.

DAV, KALINGA NAGAR FELICITATED ACHIEVERS OF AISSE AND AISSCE

"Continuity and persistent effort are the gate way to success" Prof. (Dr.) Jasobanta Jena, Director, IMA, BBSR

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar felicitated its high achievers of Std X and XII for their commendable performances in 2022-23 CBSE board examination in an eloquently expressive ceremony organised in its premises today. Joining as the Chief Guest of the occasion, Director of Institute of Mathematics and Application, BBSR Prof. (Dr.) Jasobanta Jena gave away the prizes and certificates to the students who topped the list in class X and XII board examination and advised the students to cultivate the habit of persistence and



continuity in their effort to be successful in life. In the formal meeting organised to mark this occasion, Principal Sri Bipin Kumar Sahoo rendered the official welcome address and

presented a brief highlight of the board results for the session 2022-23. Chairman of the school Sj Madan Mohan Panda felicitated the subject toppers and 90% above achievers of

class XII Science and Commerce while Assistant Regional Officer, DAV Institutions, Odisha, and Principal of DAV, CS Pur, Dr Sujata Sahoo felicitated the IIT, JEE,

NEET, ISER and NISER qualifiers. The dignitaries present on the occasion includes Manager of the school and Principal of DAV Unit- 8 Mrs Ipsita Das, Principal of LR DAV, Cuttack Sri Niranjan Swain and invited teachers from different sister concern schools of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. With more than one hundred proud achievers, the campus of DAV, Kalinga Nagar reverberated with the echo of their success stories. The entire programme was smoothly conducted with the whole-hearted cooperation of all the staff members.

"They Called People Just To Get Numbers": Nitish Kumar's Dig At NDA

Patna: Rubbishing speculation that he did not attend the press conference after the two-day mega opposition meeting in Bengaluru because he was upset, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has said that the opposition is together and will work in the interest of the country. He also took a dig at the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) for holding a meeting to coincide with the one held by the opposition parties and said some of the 38 parties that took part in it were unknown. The 26 opposition parties that met in Bengaluru decided to name their alliance the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and also agreed to set up a 11-member coordination



committee. The members of the panel will be decided later. Speaking at the inauguration of the 'Malmas Mela' in Nalanda District's Rajgir, the chief minister said he left without attending the press conference because he was getting late and wanted to be with the people of the town. When he was told by reporters that leaders from the BJP were saying he was upset, Mr Kumar said, "That is rubbish. I wanted to

come to Rajgir. Forget about the BJP. The meeting and the discussions were done and it was not necessary for me to be there to address the press. I had to leave early. The meeting was good and all the decisions were taken after a consensus." "There were 16 parties in Patna and 26 in Bengaluru. We had a good and constructive discussion. We have to stay together and move forward," he added. It was then pointed out to the chief minister that

BJP leader and his former deputy Sushil Modi was saying he did not like the INDIA name. Mr Kumar retorted, "How does he know? Was he there? This is why I say that people say anything they like." On 38 parties taking part in the NDA meeting, the Janata Dal (United) leader said, "What is the point of that? See the names of the parties. Have they called an NDA meeting before this?" Mr Kumar said the NDA was formed in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's time. The JDU was part of the government at the time and meetings used to happen then, he added. "Have such meetings happened after that? They never do. They had this meeting because we did. They called people just to get the numbers. All the parties at our meeting were parties that

are known," said the chief minister. In a veiled attack on Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha, Mr Kumar said, "We threw someone out and told him to either join us or leave. He wanted to stay at the meeting and then he would have told them everything." Asked by reporters whether he wanted to be the convenor of the opposition alliance, the chief minister said he had no such "choice" and that he only wanted to bring the opposition together and work in the interest of the people. "Our result in 2024 will be great. You are seeing what they (the BJP) are doing, the state that they are in. They are worried about the work we are doing and that's why they are doing what they are," said Mr Kumar.

State of the art FE- SEM facility for cutting-edge research and innovation inaugurated



Warangal (KCN): Department of Physics, NIT Warangal Celebrates Inauguration of State-of-the-art FE-SEM Facility for Cutting-Edge Research and Innovation In a momentous event that marked a significant milestone for the Department of Physics, NIT Warangal, faculty members, distinguished guests, research scholars and students gathered to celebrate the inauguration of the brand-new Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope facility. The Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (FE-SEM) facility, a cutting-edge addition to the department's research infrastructure, promises to propel scientific exploration and foster innovation and research in various science and engineering disciplines of the institute. This instrument would empower faculty members and scholars to conduct cutting-edge research and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in their respective domains. The equipment (JOEL make) is worth 2.5 crores and was funded under Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST) of the Department of Science & Technology

(DST), Government of India. The inauguration ceremony commenced with heartfelt remarks from the Director, NIT Warangal, Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi who expressed immense pride and enthusiasm in presenting this state-of-the-art facility to the NIT Warangal community. During his speech, the Director highlighted the significance of the FE-SEM facility, emphasizing its unparalleled capability to revolutionize nanoscale imaging and analysis. He emphasized that the microscope's advanced imaging techniques would open new frontiers in materials research, physics, chemistry, nanotechnology, biotechnology, and other related science and engineering disciplines. Mr. Tomoyo Endo and representatives from JEOL Ltd., Japan took the stage to share their insights into the endless possibilities this facility could unlock, pushing the boundaries of engineering, science and technology. Prof. V.T. Somasekar, Dean R&C said "The FE-SEM facility will play a pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of scientists and engineers, equipping

them with the tools and knowledge to tackle complex real-world challenges". Prof. T. Venkatappa Rao, Head of the Department, Department of Physics, said "As the Department of Physics steps into a new era of scientific exploration and innovation, the inauguration of the FE-SEM facility serves as a testament to the NIT's commitment to academic excellence and its vision to become a leader in cutting-edge research. With this remarkable addition to its arsenal, the Department of Physics is poised to make significant contributions to the world of science in the areas of Telangana and its neighbouring states." The ceremony concluded with a guided tour of the FE-SEM facility, where attendees could witness first-hand the instrument's awe-inspiring capabilities. Researchers and students eagerly explored the potential applications of the microscope, fuelling their aspirations to embark on cutting-edge research projects. Prof. D. Dinakar, Prof. Abdul Azeem, Prof. Syam Prasad, Prof. Haranath, Prof. Sourabh Roy, Head of Departments, faculty members, research scholars have participated in the event.

NO MUSK FOR LORD JAGANNATH

Anil Dhir

Bhubaneswar, (KCN): In 2013, just prior to the Rath Yatra, the Sankaracharya of Gobardhan Peeth, Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, had written a letter to the centre, requesting the government to intervene and press officials in Nepal to provide the Kasturi needed for the Lord's worship. Kasturi, a substance collected from the navel of the musk deer, is used for the various shingars of the Trinity. It is used in the mukha shringar of the three deities during the Nabjauban Darshan and Hera Panchami. As a necessary shingaraid of the divinities, kasturi comes in handy at the time of gupta seva (secret service) during the Ansar rituals when the deities are taken sick ahead of the car festival. In earlier years, after

the ceremonies, the temple air used to be thick with the sweet spicy scent of musk. So intense was the smell, that even days after it had been applied, the scent pervaded the air inside the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. Kasturi is supposed to be applied to the deities for mukha sringar every Wednesday, but over the years, due to its scarcity, it has become a monthly ritual. According to the shingaris, who have the honour of applying the paste on the deities, approximately five grams of the kasturi powder is mixed along with camphor, asafoetida and other different herbs. The paste is then applied to the faces and bodies of the three gods, as these help keep the wooden images insect-free. These rituals also have a scientific base apart

from having religious significance. Since the last few years, there has been an acute shortage of the rare and invaluable 'kasturi' at the shrine, giving sleepless nights to the temple servitors and authorities. The present shingaris have protested that since the last few years, just powder with artificial additive is being used instead of kasturi. Tradition has it that Nepal's royal family, who enjoy special privileges at the Jagannath temple, arranged to have the much needed kasturi sent to Puri for the Lord. Since the fall of the monarchy in the Himalayan kingdom, Nepal's new rulers have been unresponsive to the temple's request for the regular supply of this rare aromatic. The once abundant stock of musk in the Jagannath temple

depleted with each passing year as the supply from Nepal stopped completely. Temple sources said the last official supply of musk from the Royals of Nepal was in 1999.



In the 80's, King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya had visited the shrine with a huge stock of musk, which lasted for years. In 2006, the temple authorities were surprised when a visiting mendicant gave a few pods to the Lord. Musk deer or the

kasturi mrigya, the only source of musk, is found in the Himalayan region, including Nepal. It is an endangered animal and figures in the Red Data List of the International

To obtain the musk, the deer is killed and its gland, also called the "musk pod", is removed. The substance has been used as a popular perfume fixative since

is well known and accepted. The Nepalese maintain that it is not possible to supply kasturi since it is illegal as per the Wildlife Act. They have also said that



India has the option to source the rare perfume, as musk deer are found in Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh. The Nepalese Guthi Sansthan had earlier helped the Puri temple by supplying kasturi. The Sansthan is of the opinion that the

Nepalese government should take the initiative to keep the age-old Nepal-India cultural and religious relationship intact. They had sent a few pods before the Nabakalebar of 2015. The Jagannath cult is deeply rooted in tradition, something that has been maintained over the centuries. Keeping this in mind, concrete steps should be taken to captive breeding of the deer to prevent its extinction. The possibility of scientific extraction of the musk pods without killing the deer should be explored. Musk is used in traditional Chinese medicine, and rampant poaching has decimated the population in its natural areas. Some experts say that when the temple is faced with a crunch at a later stage, they may have to think in terms of an alternative.

State Revenue On Rise

Bhubaneswar(KCN): With the increase in revenue collection in each passing month, the total own-tax revenue of the State Government has registered a growth of 17.73% till June of the current financial year in comparison to the same period of last fiscal. Vishal Dev, Principal Secretary Finance is regularly monitoring the revenue collection, which is on rise. According to official sources, the State has collected Rs 12,122.12 crore own tax revenue during April to June of 2023-24 against the collection of Rs 10,296.90 crore during April to June of 2022-23. The own tax revenue witnessed a significant growth on account of good performance by

GST and electricity duty. The State has collected Rs 5625.45 crore GST upto June 2023 against the collection of Rs 4350 crore during the same period of previous year, thereby registering a growth of 29.30 percent. Similarly, the taxes and duties on electricity witnessed a significant growth of 52.58 per cent during the first quarter. The collection from this source of revenue has been increased to Rs 1345.45 crore (upto June 2023) from Rs 881.82 crore (upto June 2022). However, the own non-tax revenue collection has witnessed a contraction of 18 percent during the first quarters of this year compared to previous year. Rs. 10,658.55 crore was collected towards Own Non-Tax Revenue

till June, 2023 whereas Rs.13,040.65 crore was collected during the previous year. Therefore, there is a contraction of 18% compared to previous year. This contraction is primarily because of a shortfall in mining revenue, the sources said. The mining revenue has decreased by 15.33 per cent during the first three months of FY 2023-24. The total revenue receipt during the period is Rs.35,429.72 crore. Total revenue receipt was increased by 12.8 percent till June, 2023 compared to the same period during the previous. Share in Central tax increased by 65.7 percent and grants from the Centre



increased by 20.8 percent till June, 2023 compared to the same period during the previous year. On the other hand, the total expenditure as percentage of Budget provision is 14.63 percent compared to

12.29 percent during the same period previous year. Utilization in the Agriculture & Allied sector is 16.90 percent compared to 16.05 percent previous year while infrastructure

spending is 15.88 percent against 9.26 percent of previous year. The utilization of the budget in the social sector is 15.92 percent compared to 14.33 percent last year. The Programme expenditure as percentage of Budget provision is 12.16 percent till June, 2023 compared to 10.20 percent during the same period of previous year. The expenditure is much below the target of 25 percent to be achieved by June. The Programme Expenditure in agriculture & allied sector till June, 2023 was 17.12 percent of Budget Estimates compared to 14.94 percent of the previous year. The Programme

expenditure in the infrastructure sector till June, 2023 has remained 16.88 percent of BE compared to 7.80 percent recorded in the previous year. Moreover, the social sector Programme expenditure is 12.06 percent of the Budget Estimation compared to 8.53 percent recorded in the previous year. The Programme Expenditure in other sectors has been 6.28 percent compared to 12.95 percent in the previous year. Different departments have been asked to expedite the expenditure for full and proper utilization of Programme Budget enabling successful implementation of flagship schemes of the State Government.

Higher focus is to be on Capital Expenditure and timely completion of projects. Parking of funds in Bank Accounts outside the Consolidated Fund of the State should be avoided, the Departments have been advised during the last all-Secretary meeting. All Departments had been requested to submit their monthly and Quarterly Expenditure Plan to the Finance Department by April 25, 2023 for consolidation and finalization of Department-wise realistic Expenditure Plan. So far 21 Departments have submitted the plan. Therefore, the remaining Departments asked to work-out and submit the expenditure plan on priority.

Students walk four km in Odisha to apprise collector of teacher crunch in school



BARIPADA(KCN): Hundreds of students of Subarnarekha Irrigation Project Composite School at Laxmiposi within Laxmiposi police limits walked for a few kilometres on Monday to meet the district collector Vineet Bhardwaj and apprise him of the shortage of teachers in the school. However, after covering four kilometres, when district administration officials and the school headmaster met the students midway and convinced them that their grievance will be

addressed, the students returned to school. On the day, soon after the school opened, the students came out of the school premises and started walking to meet the collector. Though the teachers convinced the students that their demands for more teachers will be taken up with the higher authorities, the students did not pay heed. They expressed discontentment that even though the school was taken over by the government five years back, it does not have

sufficient teachers. For a student strength of 339, there are only three teachers in the school who teach students from Class-1 to Class X. Of the three teachers, one is engaged in the management of mid-day-meal (MDM). "The two other teachers cannot cover all classes from Class-1 to Class-X due to which courses remain incomplete every year, leading to a bad performance by students in the examinations," the students said.

Since there was no solution to our problem, we decided to meet the collector sir in Baripada and apprise him of our demand, they said. Baripada sub-collector Iswar Chandra Naik, additional district education officers Diptimayee Nayak, Nityananda Barik and headmaster of the school Jawarharlal Mohanta met the students when they had walked more than 4 km and convinced them that their demands will be fulfilled soon. The students then returned to school by vehicles arranged by the officials. Five days ago, students of Dudhiani Panchayat High School in Purunapani walked over 25 kilometres to meet the sub-collector of Karanjia in Mayurbhanj district demanding electricity connection, new tube well and construction of a hostel, kitchen and boundary for the school.

OPGC modernising 2 Ib power units in Odisha to extend life by 15 years

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) is in the process of renovating and modernising the first two units (2 X 210 MW) of Ib Thermal Power Plant at Banharipali at an estimated cost of `580 crore to extend the life of the plant by another 15 years beyond June 2026. The first and second units of the thermal plant, commissioned in 1994 and 1996 respectively, have completed 28 years and 26 years and were showing signs of deterioration resulting in forced outages, reduced output, decrease efficiency and an increase in the cost of generation.



After renovation, which will take another two years, the two units will function at their full capacity and continue to supply power to the state at a rate cheaper than power sources from other thermal generation sources, OPGC sources said. "Grid Corporation (Gridco), the state's power trading utility, which had signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with OPGC is currently buying bulk power

from the two units at Rs 3 per unit. After capital expenditure of Rs 720 crore including Rs 140 crore for the construction of the ash pond, the average cost of power will be in the range of Rs 3.25 to Rs 3.30 per unit as there will be no implication of central transmission charges and losses," said Gridco Managing Director Trilochan Panda. Panda who

accompanied additional chief secretary, Energy Nikunja Dhal during his visit to Ib Thermal Power Plant in Jharsuguda last week where the latter reviewed the progress of renovation and modernisation (R&M) works, said OPGC being a state generator it is advantageous to Gridco to avail full entitlement of power from the extended useful life of 15 years at a reasonable price. As per Gridco's estimate, there will be a shortfall in peak demand of around 1,105 MW in the state in 2026-27 which may go up to 1,195 MW in 2029-30. The two units of OPGC will come to the aid of the state to meet its demand.



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Dalmia Bharat Foundation Signs MoA with BSL to Enable Social Transformation in Bokaro

Bokaro, Jharkhand : Dalmia Bharat Foundation (DBF), the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Dalmia Bharat Group has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoA) with Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) to drive its community-centric initiatives in Jharkhand by upskilling 600 youth, annually. The aim of the MoA is to establish a skill training centre to impart short term, placement-based courses to local youth in the surrounding villages through DBF's DIKSHA (Dalmia Institute of Knowledge and Skill Harnessing) centre. The MoA was signed by

Shri Chaudhary Ratnesh Kumar Sudhanshu, Dy. General Manager (CSR & SAIL-Uday), SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant and Shri Vishal Bhardwaj, Group Head – CSR, Dalmia Bharat Group and Chief Executive Officer, Dalmia Bharat Foundation.

“Since our inception in 2009, we’ve witnessed our role gradually transform from being a resource provider to a key enabler for positive change in society. While we’ve created a legacy of development and change for the better, we continue to strive to ensure that we meet newer economic and environmental needs and close wider societal gaps as much as possible,”

said Mr. Vishal Bhardwaj, Group Head - CSR, Dalmia Bharat Group and CEO, DBF. “Through our leadership and dedication towards achieving social transformation, we will continue to work towards our vision of creating opportunities for people across the nation so that they can reach their full potential and give back to the community. We look forward to our partnership with BSL and also call upon our industry peers to join us as we make significant and sustainable differences and ensure social, economic, and environmental progress.

The skill development center at Bokaro Steel City, in association with

DBF, will help strengthen the social ecosystem in Jharkhand. While BSL will provide the necessary infrastructure support, DBF has been entrusted with managing day to day activities of the center including faculty and placement support.

“BSL and DBF share a common vision and value system for bringing about a transformative change in society by leveraging its demographic dividend through empowering the local youth through training that makes them market-ready,” said Mr. Chaudhary Ratnesh Kumar Sudhanshu, Dy. GM (CSR & SAIL-Uday), SAIL-Bokaro Steel Plant. “It is our firm belief that this combined expertise and experience

will ensure that the youth being educated at the DIKSHA facility will receive quality and need-based training for the purpose of gainful employment across industries.”

To ensure viable and sustainable income generation, training will be imparted in trades for self-employment and trades such as Assistant Electrician, Solar PV Installer, General Duty Assistant (GDA) and Customer Relationship Management, to begin with. Subsequently, more courses will be added as per demand and future prospects. The center shall largely focus on the development of the youth residing in BSL’s peripheral villages.

Flipkart’s Shopsy Summer Store steers tremendous growth for sellers in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: As the summer starts rolling in, Shopsy - Flipkart’s social commerce platform, recently launched the Summer Store, a unique curation to address customers’ nuanced seasonal needs by offering a wide range of products across categories under one umbrella. As a testimony to this endeavor, sellers in Cuttack recorded nearly a 9X growth in sales and sellers in Puri recorded nearly a 16X growth in sales bolstered by the summer store initiative. Sellers in Sundergarh have garnered a tremendous 34X growth in their sales over the past month. The summer store recorded increased traction from women buyers which indicates a positive women reseller growth

in Cuttack. Amongst several categories, Hygiene and Wellness, Fashion, Kitchenware and Home Decor emerged as top priorities for customers with demand for products such as deodorants, sunglasses, body washes, essential oils, sarees, table covers, bedsheets and kitchen tools topping the charts.

Shopsy Summer Store is a one-stop-shop for products ranging from electronics, personal care, baby care, food and beverages, apparel, swimwear and kitchenware including air conditioners, deodorants, baby sunscreen, aerated drinks, cotton clothes for men and women, swimsuits and juicer mixer grinders. Of this, deodorants have taken up

the major share of the demand pie clocking over 50% growth, followed by sunglasses which grew by close to 22%. Kitchen tools also contributed to a 6X growth over the past month in Cuttack. This was followed by categories such as kurta sets, cotton sarees, deodorants and body washes that witnessed a 3X jump over the past month in Puri.

Shopsy aims to continue its endeavor to offer a wide range of quality and engaging products for customers at affordable prices, while being a value-based and reliable platform. By providing a simplified social media interface, Shopsy is able to overcome user apprehension of trust and authenticity while shopping online.

Walkathon organized by Shanti Memorial Hospital on the occasion of World hypertension day

Bhubaneswar: In observance of World Hypertension Day 2022 - commemorated every May 17th, to create awareness amongst people, a walkathon was organized by Shanti Memorial Hospital, Cuttack which covered some important roads of Cuttack city on the day. The walkathon was flagged off by Dr. Sreejoy Patnaik, Chairman & Managing Director and Prof. Dr. Rekha Das, Executive Director of the hospital after a briefing on the purpose of the observation day presented by Dr. Priyadarshi Tripathy, Cardiologist of the hospital. More than 150 employees joined the walkathon with plaque cards and banners carrying awareness message on hypertension prevention and treatment to communicate to the public the importance of hypertension and its serious medical complications, and to provide information on prevention, detection and treatment.

World Hypertension Day was first inaugurated in May 2005 ever since it has become an annual event. The main purpose behind the celebration of the World Hypertension Day is to promote public awareness of hypertension and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer, the modern epidemic. Later at Shanti Memorial Hospital, a free hypertension check-up camp was held in which around 100 persons checked their blood pressure and received free consultation.

Ecom Express announces 55,000 registrations for its Delivery Partner Program

Bhubaneswar / Gurugram: Ecom Express Limited, a new-age technology-driven end-to-end logistics solutions provider to the e-commerce industry, announced that it has crossed 55,000 gig workers registration on their dedicated app called ‘Ecom Sanjeev’ to onboard delivery partners since its launch in September 2021.

The company’s delivery partner program aims to create part-time work opportunities for individuals with the option of flexible timings to maximize their earnings by delivering e-commerce shipments to customers. Delivery Partners working through Ecom Express’ gig model can earn

anywhere between Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 60,000 per month.

Close to 60 per cent of registrations have been from Tier 4 cities and towns, indicating massive affinity for gig opportunities in those areas. The top 10 cities/towns with the highest registrations include from Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune, Lucknow, Gurugram and Patna.

In Odisha, over 4000 gig-workers have registered for part time engagement as delivery partners with Ecom Express. Most of the registrations have been from Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Berhampur and Sambalpur among other

cities.

Saurabh Deep Singla, Chief People Officer, Ecom Express said, “Since the launch of our ESP program last year, we have created opportunities for students, homemakers and individuals looking to supplement and maximize their income by delivering e-commerce shipments during their spare time. This flagship program, besides empowering gig workforce, also helped the company to scale their delivery capabilities in assuring speed, reliability, and effective logistics solutions to deliver online-ordered products at end-customers’ doorstep safely.”

The company has also

announced provision of accidental insurance of Rs. 2 lakhs to safeguard delivery partners from any mishaps, besides offering a host of other benefits, including attendance bonus depending on their work continuity. Referral programs are run from time to time to expand the delivery partner base while rewarding the existing partners. To create stronger affiliation with delivery partners, Ecom Express has further collaborated with leading brands to provide numerous enticing benefits.

Any individual, male or female, fresher or experienced, can earn extra income by applying for this part-time job online using the

app, Ecom Sanjeev, available on Google Playstore. They will have the flexibility to choose their preferred time slots and workdays.

To join as a Delivery Partner with Ecom Express, candidates must possess a valid Aadhaar card, preferably own a vehicle, and have a smartphone. Ecom Express also allows gig workers who don’t have any owned vehicle to register themselves and work. All personal documents for enrollment can be uploaded through the Ecom Sanjeev app and the verification (PAN card, Bank account) is done online along with physical document verification at the nearest Ecom Express center.

Ambuja Cements and ACC’s Change The Story campaign wins Bronze at the ABBY Awards

Mumbai: The first sustainability campaign ‘Change The Story’ of Ambuja Cements and ACC, has won a Bronze Award at the recent ABBY Awards 2022, under the Green Award category. This category is awarded to outstanding communication that features planet conservation, sustainability etc. The

“Change The Story” campaign aimed to create awareness about sustainability and showcase technology-backed solutions that offer effective and measurable outcomes in this regard.

The #ChangeTheStory campaign highlights a non-invasive bubble barrier technology, which will remove around 2,400 tonnes of

plastic waste from Agra’s Mantola canal, thereby preventing its entry into the Yamuna river. The crux of the campaign lay in reaching out to a wide audience across India and globally—and communicating the campaign’s features. The campaign winning this honour at the ABBY Awards—often touted as the Oscars of Indian advertising—was

designed in collaboration with Alok Nanda and Company and serves as another reminder of the crucial role sustainability plays at Ambuja Cements and ACC.

#ChangeTheStory campaign was rolled out across multiple platforms, including print and digital, reaching out to an approximate 32 million people. One of its lead video films conveyed the

message, through the lens of a scientist, that it’s time to change the story by taking out the plastic and freeing our rivers of their polluted past. The campaign further leveraged the power of music and created a rap song across owned platforms featuring the campaign mnemonic “Bubble Sharma”. This was followed by a bouquet of informative posts and

videos on social media. ACC and Ambuja Cements collaborated with micro and nano influencers to drive engagement around the bubble barrier technology. The two companies were the first to launch an augmented reality-based game in India, which created an immersive experience for users by illustrating the state of marine plastic pollution and the basic functioning of the Bubble Barrier technology. This game convinces the user to play their role in driving change by encouraging players to “bubble pop” their way to cleaner oceans and safer habitats for marine organisms. Mr. Neeraj Akhoury, CEO India Holcim and Managing Director & CEO of Ambuja Cements Ltd., said that the award served yet another reminder of the company’s efforts towards sustainability. “We are elated and honoured that a campaign that’s important to us has received the recognition that it deserved. Sustainability and business go hand in hand at Ambuja Cements and ACC Ltd. This will encourage us to further step up our efforts in this direction.”

Towhid Hridoy sheds 'fear of failure' to make rapid strides

New Delhi: 'What is your favourite shot at the moment?' Bangladesh's new batting prodigy Towhid Hridoy was in two minds before settling down on one, eventually. "Pull and cover drive but probably I am enjoying pulling at the moment," Hridoy told Cricbuzz on Tuesday (July 18). The right-handed batter has all the reasons for picking up the pull shot considering he kickstarted the counter attack against Afghanistan in the first T20I by taking on a short ball from Fazalhaq Farooqi. Hridoy along with Shamim Hossain scripted a memorable win for the hosts and that knock helped the former remove all kinds of doubts regarding his abilities against top class bowling. Hridoy showcased his

maturity by targeting Azmatullah Omarzai and certainly it was brave call from his part to get on top of Fazalhaq, who has been troubling Bangladesh ever since international debut against them. Hridoy decided to curb his temptation against the Afghanistan spinners knowing that it was a risky proposition but he admitted if required he would have gone against the slow bowlers because he doesn't play with any preconceive notion against any spinners. "Chasing in this type of game is very important. I feel that if any batter is able to chase in such a game he would get a big confidence boost considering these kinds of scenarios don't arrive frequently. I would want every batter to bat in such situations because then

they will get confidence. Maybe in the games coming up, in the big events, such situations would come up. In T20s, the matches go in different directions and fluctuate a lot and it's important for a batter to face these kinds of situations and execute well," he said. "A lot of people say that my runs are coming against spinners. If you look into it, from the BPL or even before that, I scored more runs against pace. It doesn't matter to me whether it's spin or pace. What matters is what the situation demands. They have world-class spinners and when you are facing them, you have to think a lot. Rashid Khan, Mujeeb and Nabi and other good bowlers are there in the side. T20 is a kind of



format where it becomes important to pick one or two bowlers from the opposition and that's what everyone does. "Our plan, not only speaking of Farooqi or Omarzai, was that it was a better option to go for their pacers rather than their spinners. Rashid is

their wicket-taking bowler and he doesn't give away a lot of runs. It's about the calculative risks you take according to various match scenarios. If the situation had demanded that we would have to take on Rashid Khan, we would have tried to take him on

too." The general consensus is that his high backlift allows him to play his shots given he gets into the position quick which also aids in using the pace of the bowler. "Actually, I haven't thought deeply about it (backlift). But I feel good with my

current setup and that's how I'm batting at the moment. For the three formats, many of the batters have three different kinds of techniques. There are slight technical adjustments that batters come up with. There are some things tactically and technically that changes from time to time," said Hridoy adding that he keeps it as it is across every formats. Towhid also dismissed the notion that he heavily favours only one side of the wicket to score the majority of his runs. "You have to play all around the wicket," he stated. "It's not about being able to play through just one side. Many are saying that I'm hitting through one zone only but it's not like that, I'm hitting it when it's in that particular zone. I'm playing through the

cover as well. I have hit through mid-off as well in the first T20I. It depends on the situation. Every player has different shots for playing around the wicket." Hridoy added that he has gotten over the fear of failure which made things difficult for him earlier. "In any walk of life, whether in your profession or mine, when you are fearful the outcome wouldn't be good, it's best to not keep fear within yourself," he said. "What will happen? Maybe I will play badly or the team will lose or maybe I will be dropped. Nothing more will happen. So personally, I think that way and feel that this isn't a game of fear. You have to keep your mind fresh and be courageous or else you won't be able to survive," he added.

Cummins throws weight behind misfiring Warner

London: When David Warner nicked one to Zak Crawley at slips just before Tea on the second day of the Leeds Test, he'd fallen to Stuart Broad for a staggering 17th time in the format - and third time in the series. It also marked yet another forgettable outing for the veteran opener, who now averages a measly 23.50 in Ashes 2023 with a highest of 66 across the six innings so far. Australia captain Pat Cummins however, threw his weight behind Warner and hinted at not changing the opening pair for the next Test at Old Trafford. "I think [Warner] has been going really well. I thought at Lord's, he was really impressive. Last week, like many of us, he probably didn't contribute as much as he would have liked with the bat," Cummins said. "He's been out there over the last couple of days putting in a lot of work, but I think this tour he has shown a lot of good signs and hasn't quite



kicked on to make that big score. Some of those innings he's played under really tough circumstances has made it easy for [Steven] Smith to come in and score runs, or the like. "We'll chat about it [opening combinations] but I imagine it will stay the same," Cummins said. With Warner seemingly safe from the axe, Australia's dilemma heading to the fourth Test could be about whether they bring back Cameron

Green. The 24-year-old all-rounder missed the Leeds game with a side strain and his replacement Mitchell Marsh nailed down his spot with a run-a-ball 118 in the first innings. For Green to be back, Australia might have to relegate Todd Murphy to the bench. The offspinner came in for the injured Nathan Lyon in the third Test, but only bowled 9.3 overs. Keeping Murphy out would mean going in with an all pace-attack, which

might not be ideal for their overrate woes, despite Usman Khawaja's effort to get ICC to dial down the penalties. "Every situation is different. We've played games with one quick, we've played some games with heaps of quicks. It's all really conditions based. As I said last week about Toddy, I would have loved to bowl him a bit more but there wasn't a heap of overs in the game, the ball seemed to swing and seam a little bit, so that's certainly

something to weigh up this week," Cummins opined. Though Cummins was clear in the aftermath of the Leeds defeat that the momentum hadn't really shifted to England's corner and that they still held the edge with a 2-1 lead, the expectation is for England to push the visitors further in search of series parity at Old Trafford. England also have the rich Ashes history against them - the last time a team bounced back to win from a 0-2 deficit was all the way back in 1936-37. If that doesn't serve as a relevant yardstick, there's also Australia's tendency to peak towards the end of a tough tour. In Pakistan last year, they secured a 1-0 series win with a victory in the third Test in Lahore after draws in Rawalpindi and Karachi. This year in India, they bounced back from 0-2 to win a Test in Indore and secure a draw in Ahmedabad. The series was lost but the performances got progressively better.

Flower in talks with two teams; SRH looking for new coach



New Delhi: After Lucknow Super Giants, who are done with their recruitment of a coach by roping in Justin Langer, SunRisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals seem to be on the hunt for new coaches. Reports suggest that Andy Flower, who was recently let go by LSG, is among the contenders for the Royals coaching position while he is also in talks with another team. Although there has been no official confirmation from either party, the IPL circle is buzzing with talk of potential discussions between Flower and the Royals. The negotiations are unlikely to affect the job of Kumar Sangakkara though. The Sri Lankan, the current director of the Royals, is expected to retain his position regardless of the outcome of talks. Flower boasts an impressive track record in various franchise leagues, having led St. Lucia Zouks to the runners-up position in the CPL (2020) and secured titles for Multan Sultans (2021) and Gulf

Giants (2022) in the PSL and ILT20 (2023) respectively. Notably, under Flower's guidance, LSG reached the playoffs in both 2022 and 2023, demonstrating his continued desirability as a coach in the IPL. SunRisers, who finished at the bottom of the IPL table in the 2023 season, are understandably looking for a new coach. This has led to speculation about Brian Lara's position as head coach being at risk. While the franchise and Lara have not officially addressed the issue, the word is that the cricket legend may be parting ways with the Hyderabad side due to the franchise's dissatisfaction with his coaching style. Elsewhere in the IPL, the management of Royal Challengers Bangalore has remained silent regarding reports of potential changes to their coaching staff. The franchise maintains that they have not yet initiated a review of their performance in the 2023 season, during which they failed to make it to the playoffs, and the contracts of team

director Mike Hesson and head coach Sanjay Bangar are still intact. For the record, it must be mentioned that Hesson has his contract till August 31 and Bangar's deal with the franchise runs till December 31. Under the duo, which took over in 2019 after the team had two bad seasons back-to-back prior to that, made it to the play-off for three consecutive years before running into a red hot Shubman Gill, who ended their play-offs hopes in the latest season with a brilliant century in the must-win last game. It appears that the contracts of the two coaches are unlikely to be renewed, but the franchise sources emphasize that no final decision has been made yet. The franchise is known for its commitment to a professional review process, and as such, it may take some additional time before reaching a conclusive decision regarding their future. It may not be a surprise, if the Bangalore franchise ends up choosing Flower given his track record.

Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat Exempted From Hangzhou Asian Games Trials: Sources

New Delhi: India's ace wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat will go directly to participate in the upcoming Asian games, Hangzhou, without appearing in the national trials, according to sources. The ad hoc committee which was established by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has decided to give them an exemption from the trials. According to Sources, there is a rule in the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) that if there is any situation where Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) athletes need exemption



(world champions and Olympic medalists) they can receive it. As per the guidelines ad hoc committee can give exemptions to those athletes as the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) didn't give an exemption to IOA. Rio Olympics bronze medalist Sakshi Malik didn't receive an exemption because she

is not a TOPS athlete and thus she has to appear for trials. Punia and Vinesh were among the wrestlers who protested against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Singh, against whom allegations of sexual harassment were made. The two-time world championships

medallist and the reigning Asian Games champion, Vinesh, was set to make her return to the mat at the Budapest Ranking Series 2023. However, she opted to withdraw from the 55kg weight class after informing the organisers as well as the Sports Authority of India (SAI) about her inability to participate in the competition due to "fever and food poisoning" according to Olympics.com. Last week, the National Anti-Doping Agency issued a notice to Vinesh Phogat for "apparent failure" to

comply with the where abouts requirements of the Anti-Doping Rules, and give her two weeks to respond. "I am writing to give you formal notice to notify you of your apparent failure to comply with the where abouts requirements of the ADR, and to invite you to make any comments before we come to a final decision on the matter. Please read this letter carefully, as it may have serious consequences for you," read the notice from NADA.