

# Stalemate Over Banaklagi Ladies First In Bus

**Puri(KCN):** The ongoing stalemate over the Banaklagi ritual of Lord Jagannath and his siblings continued as it could not be resolved at Srimandir Niti Sub-Committee meeting held today. It has been 28 days that Banaklagi ritual of deities has not been performed since Niladri Bije. It was delayed due to rigid stands taken by both the Duttamahapatra Nijog, the servitor body and the Sri Jagannath Temple Administration. Now, all eyes are now at the Managing Committee meeting scheduled to be held on August 1. Briefing media persons after the meeting, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) Chief Administrator Ranjan Kumar Das said, “The



topic was thoroughly discussed in the meeting, and we heard several opinions on it. Since the temple mending committee is the highest decision-making body, these will be presented during its meeting on August 1,” said Shri Das. The SJTA attempted

to persuade the Duttamahapatra Nijog by referencing the laws and the Record of Rights. In order to put an end to this interference with the Lords’ ritual, he remarked, “We are still open to discussions and are hopeful that the servitors would cooperate with the administration.” He continued by saying that Wednesday is supported by the justifications offered thus far and the Record of Rights. If Ekadasi or other rites fall on Wednesday, they can be moved to Thursday. However, the temple management must also make this decision, he added. The administration had asked the Duttamahapatra servitors to perform the ritual on every Wednesday of the week while the servitor body insisted upon continuing the ongoing practice to render their services on Thursday. The Duttamahapatra servitors were issued notices twice asking them to perform it on

every Wednesday but they did not carry it. Shri Das hoped that things would be resolved at the Temple Managing Committee meeting. On the other hand, Madan Dutta Mahapatra, the President of Duttamahapatra Nijog said they went to the temple to perform Banaklaagi seva but were prevented by officials. He said as per records and practice Banaklagi seva could be performed on Wednesday or on Thursday and questioned why the Administration is rigid for Wednesday. Instead of asking us to perform the seva on only Wednesday they should consider both Wednesday and Thursday, he said.

**Cuttack(KCN):** Following an instruction from the State Commission for Women (SCW), the State Transport Authority (STA) today asked all RTOs to ensure allowing women as the first passenger to enter into buses. The STA Secretary has written a letter to all RTOs in this regard on Friday. A social activist Ghasiram Panda had filed a petition before Odisha State Commission for Women alleging that women as first passengers are not allowed to enter buses. Panda, in his petition, alleged that a woman faced discrimination as she was prevented from boarding a bus as a first passenger at Baramunda bus stand in Bhubaneswar. Acting on the petition, the Commission yesterday directed the State Transport Commissioner to ensure that the women passengers are not prevented from boarding



a bus as first passengers. In this background, the STA said permits are granted by STA/ RTA to stage carriages on different routes to carry passengers on payment of bus fare as notified by this office. So, the owner or conductor of a stage carriage cannot deny any women as first passengers to enter into buses, the Secretary said. “Any deviation shall amount to violation of

permit conditions and punishable under Section 192A of M.V. Act, 1988,” he warned. The RTOs have been asked to check stage carriages regularly and whenever it was detected that the owner/ conductor of stage carriage denying women as first passenger to enter into the bus, e-challan will be drawn against the owner of said vehicle under Section 192A of M.V. Act, 1988 and report compliance.

## Gopal Das killed Naba Das as he feared threat to own life: Polygraph report



**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** Dismissed Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), Gopal Das killed health minister Naba Das as he feared a threat to his life from the latter, revealed the polygraph report of the accused. During the polygraph test, accused Gopal Das revealed many important facts pertaining to the sensational murder of the health minister. During the test, he had said a person named Manoj Bariya had told him that Naba Das had been angry with him. “Manoj told him that Naba Das might be angry with him for stopping his vehicle and reprimanding his supporters. Fearing a threat to his life from Naba Das, he started planning to eliminate the health minister,” the Polygraph report revealed. Gopal revealed that if he had not killed Naba Das, then the latter would have eliminated him. Gopal also

mentioned that he tried to kill Naba Das twice before but failed. Odisha BJP demands CBI probe into OSSC question paper leak The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday demanded that the probe into the Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC) exam question paper leak be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Speaking to the reporters, Odisha BJP Chief Manmohan Samal said, “I demand the Odisha government to hand over the probe to the CBI. If the State government has moral courage and wants to come clean then the government should hand over the probe to the CBI.” “If not, then we will have to think of alternative ways. But I think, as this is a matter of innocent job aspirants and their future, the government should

make the move and ask for a CBI inquiry into the matter without any delay,” he said. The Balasore Police on Thursday claimed to have solved the OSSC question paper leak case and revealed that the leak happened from a printing press outside Odisha. As per reports, the Balasore Police on Thursday arrested eight more persons including the mastermind behind the leak of the question paper of the OSSC JE (Civil) Main Written Examination. All the accused have been arrested from Bihar while the mastermind in the case is a Bihar government employee. With this, the total number of arrests reached 17. It is pertinent to mention here that Balasore SP, Sagarika Nath had earlier ruled out the involvement of OSSC employees in the question paper leak.

## Odisha: Minor Boy’s Mutilated Body Found Hanging Inside Forest; Human Sacrifice Suspected

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The mutilated body of a 14-year-old boy, who went missing on July 23, was found hanging from a tree at Barini forest in Athmallik area of Odisha’s Angul district today. The villagers alleged the minor boy could have been killed for human sacrifice. They also set a police vehicle on fire during a road blockade in the locality. According to sources, the boy was suffering for certain health complications for the last few days. The boy’s mother had



brought him to Goddess Mangala temple at Tusar village in Angul on July 22 to perform certain rituals for his wellbeing. The mother-son duo

slept on the temple premises after performing the rituals in the evening. However, the boy was found missing in the next morning, sources

said. The boy’s mother had lodged a missing complaint with Kiakata police after she failed to trace him anywhere in the

village. “The boy’s mutilated body was found hanging from a tree at Barini forest today morning. Both the hands and limbs of the boy had been chopped off. We suspect it to be case of human sacrifice,” said a local. Angered over the incident, the villagers blocked Athmallik-Kiakata road and sought exemplary punishment to the people involved in the crime. They also sought adequate compensation for the victim’s family.

Excise Dept Personnel Injured In Attack By Mafia In Odisha’s Cuttack

**Cuttack(KCN):** Several members of an Excise department team suffered severe injuries in an alleged attack by liquor mafia during a raid in Dalua forest under Khuntuni police limits in Athagarh area of Cuttack district, today. According to reports, the raid was conducted by the Excise department following a tip-off about illegal liquor trading in the area. As the team arrived at the scene, they were confronted by the attackers who wielded sharp weapons, resulting in critical injuries to the officials. Additionally, the miscreants also vandalized four vehicles belonging to the officials that were parked in the forest. Upon receiving information about the incident, Khuntuni police rushed to the spot and initiated an investigation into the matter.

## Odia actress accuses Ollywood producer of making intimate videos viral, lodges police complaint

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** A well-known Odia actress has brought serious allegations against an Ollywood producer. The actress accused the producer who happens to be her friend, of making their intimate videos and pictures viral. The actress has lodged a police complaint at Laxmisagar police station in this connection following which a case has been registered. The actress alleged that the videos were shot during the time when they shared a good relationship. But once their relationship soured, the producer allegedly made all those videos viral on social media in order to defame her. Earlier, the actress had lodged a complaint with the Orissa High Court in this connection too. In the complaint, the actress mentioned they (The accused

Producer and the Actress) became emotionally close and being unaware of his real motives and intention started trusting him and became each other's confidants and companions. The complaint further stated that later the accused compelled the actress to reject offers from other producers and did not pay her for the projects she had done earlier with him. And when she denied to tow the line, the accused began a social media campaign to defame

her and tarnish her image in the industry. Speaking to OTV, Soumyajit Biswal, the lawyer of the actress said, "They both developed feelings for each other after working together for some time. However, when she started doing other projects with other producers, he objected. He wanted to use my client's goodwill for his benefit and establish himself as a director in the industry. When she denied to obey him, he started to harass her and continued it for more than two years."



## BJP, Congress corner BJD on demand for women's reservation bill

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):**The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress on Friday targeted the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) over its demand for the passage of the women's reservation bill in the Parliament, accusing it of playing the women card to woo voters in the state. Acting on the direction of the BJD supremo, Naveen Patnaik, MP Sasmit Patra intensified the demand for 50 percent reservation for women in both Parliament and state assemblies through a special mention in the Rajya Sabha. However, the state units of the BJP and Congress took a swipe at the BJD for the ruling party's yet another attempt to play the women card. The Congress asked the



BJD to support the no-confidence motion brought by the opposition INDIA block against the BJP government. "If they (the BJD) are saying that the demand for the passage of the women's reservation bill is their big demand then they should also tell the BJP that if the bill is not passed we won't be with you in the

no-confidence motion," said senior Congress leader, Jayadev Jena. On the other hand, the BJP asked the BJD to pass the bill in the State cabinet first. "Whenever an election approaches, the BJD always comes with a tactic to woo votes. They should first get the bill passed in their own cabinet," said the president of the State

BJP Mahila Morcha, Smruti Pattanayak. In its response, the BJD said the Chief Minister has created a record in giving reservation to women candidates during the Panchayat and Municipal elections. "In the Panchayat and Municipal elections, the CM has already given 50 percent reservation to women. I want to mention here that the

Chief Minister is always thinking about the state's welfare," said BJD MLA, Swarup Das. According to political analysts, if the BJD goes for 33 percent reservation for women in 2024, then it will have to give tickets to 49 women candidates out of the total 147 seats which will give rise to resentment in the party. "If the BJD gives 33 percent reservation to women, there will be conflict in the party as many aspiring leaders would lose their seats to women candidates," said senior journalist, Rabi Das.

## Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi questions massive land purchases by non-Odia with 'high & mighty-support

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):**The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Bhubaneswar, Aparajita Sarangi on Friday raised questions citing that a non-Odia person has been purchasing huge patches of land in different parts of Bhubaneswar with support from the high & mighty. Taking to her Twitter handle, the Parliamentarian tweeted, "People have been complaining about one Kiruthika Prabhakaran buying patches of land in different places in Bhubaneswar. If such small patches are bought over with support from high & mighty, where



will Odisha farmers go? To Chhattisgarh & Jharkhand?" While replying to the queries of journalists, she said, "People from Chandaka area came to me crying. They complained that their land have been taken away. Non-Odia people are buying small patches of land from our Odia people by using force.

After getting the complaints, I visited Chandaka area to see where the lands have been purchased." In her response, Kiruthika Prabhakaran said she purchased the land in accordance with the law. "As a citizen of India I have the right to buy land. I have not purchased the land forcefully," she added.

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## India's electronics manufacturing jumps from \$30 bn to \$100 bn: PM Modi

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday revealed that India's electronic manufacturing has exceeded \$100 billion from \$30 billion in 2014. He made the revelation after officially opening the SemiconIndia 2023 here. The conference, under the theme 'Catalysing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem', will showcase India's ambitious strategy and policy in becoming a global nucleus for semiconductor design, manufacturing, and technology development. In his address, Prime Minister Modi drew parallels between Moore's Law, which predicts the exponential growth of technology, and India's digital and electronic manufacturing sectors. He informed the audience that India's share in global electronic manufacturing has surged dramatically. "In 2014, India's electronic manufacturing was less than \$30 billion, which has now exceeded \$100



billion," Modi revealed. He also shared that the export of electronics and mobile devices had doubled in the last two years, while stressing the importance of gatherings like SemiconIndia as platforms where industry leaders and experts converge to exchange insights and updates. "It is crucial for the synchronisation of our relationship," Modi explained. He expressed delight at the exhibition's innovative displays and the sector's vibrant energy, urging all attendees, particularly the youth, to explore the exhibition and understand the potential

of new technology. Reflecting on last year's Semicon event, the Prime Minister remarked on the shift in the investment climate within a single year, from 'Why invest in India' to 'Why not invest in India'. "This directional change is the result of the industry leaders' efforts," Modi praised, as he commended their belief in India's potential. He lauded the industry leaders for aligning India's aspirations and capabilities with their own future goals and dreams. "India does not disappoint," he declared. Prime Minister Modi emphasised the extensive opportunities

in 21st century India, highlighting the nation's democracy, demography, and dividend as strong indicators for business expansion. Providing further insight into India's technological progress since 2014, the Prime Minister reported a notable increase in the number of mobile manufacturing units, broadband users, and internet connections. He maintained that these statistics signify not only India's progress but also burgeoning business opportunities. "The world is witnessing the Industry 4.0 revolution today," Modi noted, asserting that Indian aspirations are the driving force behind the country's development. He stressed the rapid decline in poverty rates, the emergence of a new middle class, and the growing adoption of technology among Indian consumers as key factors fostering the consumption of digital products. "The growing neo-middle class of India has become the powerhouse of Indian aspirations," the Prime Minister affirmed.



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## Janhvi Kapoor's Sensational Ramp Walk In Electric Blue Bralette-Lehenga With Dramatic Cape

Bawaal actress Janhvi Kapoor recently walked the ramp for internationally acclaimed designer Gaurav Gupta on day 3 of India Couture Week 2023 in Delhi. She looked every bit glam in a sensational electric blue lehenga-choli with a dramatic cape. Walking the ramp in style, Janhvi raised the hotness bar to another level.

The actress pulled off the Gaurav Gupta creation with elan and greeted the designer as well. She turned showstopper for him and the outfit looked stunning. Her makeup looked minimal and opted for wet hairstyling. Take a look at her videos and photos from the event which went viral on social media:



According to ANI, the actress presented Gaurav Gupta's 'Hiranyagarbha' collection. Inspired by the manifested cosmos in Vedic philosophy, the

collection includes the five elements: Panchamahabhutas – earth (prithvi), water (jal), fire (agni), air

(vayu), and space (akasha) from the universal womb. The collection took 457 man-hours to make. Janhvi Kapoor was last

seen in director Nitesh Tiwari's film Bawaal alongside Varun Dhawan which earned the lead pair a lot of praise. 'Ulajh' is directed

by National Award winner Sudhanshu Saria, the patriotic thriller film also stars Gulshan Devaiah and Roshan Mathew in the lead roles. It also stars Rajesh Tailang, Meiyang Chang, Sachin Khedekar, Rajendra Gupta and Jitendra Joshi in pivotal roles. She will also feature in a sports drama film Mr and Mrs Maahi opposite Rajkumar Rao. Recently, she began shooting for their upcoming film NTR 30 in which she will be seen opposite RRR actor Jr NTR. Janhvi Kapoor is these days rumoured to be dating Shikhar Pahariya but the two have not really spoken about their relationship in public.

## Ram Charan Shares His Father Chiranjeevi's Action-Packed Trailer Of Bholaa Shankar



Megastar Chiranjeevi is all set to amaze fans with his swag and energy in the upcoming action entertainer film 'Bholaa Shankar'. On Thursday the trailer of the film was released by none other than Chiranjeevi's son and actor Ram Charan on his Twitter handle. 'RRR' star shared the poster of Chiranjeevi along with a caption, "Happy to Release the Trailer of #BholaaShankar Our Mega Star @KChiruTweets in his best forte in @MeherRamesh Stylish Mass Presentation!! Can't wait to witness his energy on the big screen on August 11th Best wishes to the entire team."

The poster showed a megastar in a rowdy avatar. He can be seen wearing a green t-shirt that he teamed up with a rust-coloured shirt and

cargo pants. And also seen holding guns in both hands. Coming to the Bholaa Shankar's trailer, it begin with the women being kidnapped in Kolkata and police finding it difficult to solve this case. Then, they approach t from Bholaa Shankar, played by Chiranjeevi. The video showcased Chiranjeevi's intense and humorous sides. In the end, he rightly said, "I am here to entertain." Not only his dialogue and action caught the attention of the audience but Tamannaah, who play the role of a lawyer said in the trailer, "His acting is on par with Ram Charan in Rangasthalam!" As soon as the trailer was released, the actor's fans flooded the comment section with heart and fire emojis. One of the users wrote,

"Our megastar is back". "Another blockbuster in the loading," another commented. Helmed by Meher Ramesh, the film is a remake of the 2015 Tamil hit 'Vedhamal'. The film stars Chiranjeevi, Tamannaah Bhatia and Keerthy Suresh in the lead roles. Recently, the makers launched the celebration song 'Jam Jam Jajjanaka'. The music for the film is composed by Mahati Swara Sagar. While the lyrics are written by Ramajogayya Sastry, Sri Mani, and Kasarala Shyam. Earlier, production house AK Entertainments took to Twitter and treated fans with the teaser. They shared a poster and wrote, "Presenting Mega @KChiruTweets as #BholaaShankar in @MeherRamesh's

Stylish Mass presentation #BholaaShankar Teaser out now." The teaser begins with a voiceover that says 33 people are killed brutally by one person and the Kolkata police are in search of the murderer. Then shows Chiranjeevi all his swag and mega aura in his introduction sequence where he gets ready to bash goons in their den.

In the poster, Chiranjeevi could be seen wearing a checks-faded casual shirt with a t-shirt inside and black jeans. He walks with an intense look. He wore black shades and a watch. He sports a dashing look in the film. The Mega Massive Action Entertainer produced splendidly by Ramabrahmam Sunkara is nearing completion. Anil Sunkara's AK Entertainments is producing the movie where Keerthy Suresh will be seen as Chiranjeevi's sister. Talented actor Sushanth is essaying a lover boy role. The film is all set to hit the theatres on August 11. Meanwhile, on the work front, Charan will be next seen in director Shankar's 'Game Changer' opposite actor Kiara Advani.

## D51: Dhanush announces Next With Sekhar Kammula, Concept Poster Out

On Thursday, Dhanush's 51st film has been announced officially. Sekhar Kammula will helm the project. As per a statement, the film will be 'mounted on a grand scale in multiple languages.' The makers released a concept poster of #D51 ahead of Dhanush's birthday, which falls on July 28. Details regarding the plot and other actors are awaited. Meanwhile, Dhanush is gearing up for the release of his film 'Captain Miller'. He unveiled his first look from the film a few days ago. The poster hints at the film's violent and action-oriented backdrop. In the poster, Dhanush is seen holding a weapon while several bodies are strewn all around him. The film has been directed by Arun Matheswaran, who has previously helmed films such as Rocky and Saani Kaayidham. It also stars Priyanka Arul Mohan, Shiva Rajkumar, Niveditha Sathish and Sundeep Kishan in important roles. "Captain Miller first look. Respect is freedom," Dhanush captioned the post. The film is slated to hit the theatres this year. Dhanush also has 'Tere Ishk Mein' with filmmaker Aanand L Rai. The duo has earlier worked together in 'Raanjhanaa' and 'Atrangi Re'. Announcing the film on Raanjhanaa's 10th anniversary, Rai said in a statement, "There couldn't be a more perfect day to unveil our next venture, 'Tere Ishk Mein,' with Dhanush. 'Raanjhanana' holds a special place in my heart, and the love and adoration it continues to receive from fans worldwide is truly heartwarming."



## Pepsi Announces 'KGF' Star Yash as Their Brand Ambassador, Rocky Bhai adds Another Feather to his cap!

The way Yash has redefined the statement of stardom with the super success of 'KGF 2' in the post-pandemic era is truly exemplary. The success of the film not only introduced the audience to a new cinema but it has also given them a new superstar to look up to that resulting in filling up the theaters with a huge crowd of audience.

But of course, as it's a long time now since the film has been released, the audience surely has very less of him on the big screen which has resulted in rising

curiosity to watch him in the films. However, the Rocking star also couldn't stay apart from his fans for a long while he certainly made an appearance in a television commercial as a brand ambassador. Superstar Yash has recently come on board with Pepsi for a commercial as he has been announced as their Pan India brand ambassador. The superstar has himself taken this to his social media, to bring this news to his fans. Yash has certainly shot a commercial for Pepsi



and must say there couldn't be any big reason for his fans to celebrate. It is indeed a treat for Yash's fans who are eagerly

looking forward to watching him on the screen after 'KGF 2'. Be it creating a trend in the market with his style in the film to

taking the Kannada industry on the world map, Yash holds all the credit to create examples of success that no one has done

before. The superstar today enjoys a fan base all across the nation and on the global front as well who adore him also for the trends, he started for having the perfect beard and being dressed as a perfect gentleman always well suited. No doubt, his sheer belief in making films for the fans that appeal to the larger audience, is a base that has made him what he is today. Moreover, the success of 'KGF 2' broke several records at the national and international box office, yes, the man behind all this is Yash.



# When will India be the World- Leader in Morality?



India has made a mark in world politics for her morality, dignity and ideal values; still on the other side, it has also continuously got her moral image tarnished. In the new political world order, power and stigma both go hand- in- hand, which is unfortunate, and the biggest obstacle in making a new India. In these circumstances, a news item from a small country, New Zealand, is full of lessons for the Indian politicians. Recently Justice Minister Kiri Allen had to resign from her post in New Zealand, just because Kiri had hit a parked car, while driving under the influence of alcohol. The incident that happened seems normal, but as a consequence to this accident, the minister had resigned on moral grounds, and it should serve as an inspiration for the modern Indian politicians. The laws should be equal for all. In case of crimes or gross mistakes, the politician should give up his post for presenting an example of uprightness. However, the Indian

politicians refuse to bother for honesty, morality and uprightness. In Manipur, May 4 video went viral, in which women from the Kuki community were paraded naked and assaulted by a group of men from the Meitei community. On this shameful incident in Manipur, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the incident of two women being paraded naked has brought shame to 140 crore Indians, but the question is why the Chief Minister of Manipur did not present an example through relinquishing his post by taking responsibility for it. Prior to this, for a long time Braj Bhushan Sharan Singh has been facing allegations of sexual harassment from female wrestlers; demonstrations were taking place in this connection, and why did he not resign from his post, so that the truth might have come out in the open. Finally, the charges have been framed against Braj Bhushan Sharan Singh under sections 506 (criminal intimidation), 354 (outraging the modesty of a woman), 354-A (sexual harassment) and 354-D (stalking) of the Indian Penal Code. Earlier, the video of the brutal manner in which the minister's son carried

out the violent incident in Lakhimpur Khiri in Uttar Pradesh also went viral. Despite this, neither the resignation was taken from the minister concerned, nor was any offer made to resign till justice is done in this matter to discharge the ethics of being in a responsible position. In the present times, the sensitivity, dignity and morality in politics are constantly being

whenever heinous crimes were committed by the rich and influential people, the entire society showed proof of being civilized through protesting against the wrongdoers. In matters relating to Naina Sahni Tandoor murder case or Nitish Katara murder case or Nirbhaya case, the whole society showed solidarity with the victims, but Lakhimpur Kheri and

politics in different ways. Defection and actions that are being taken with a sense of revenge on leaders are also examples of immorality. The defection of NCP MLAs led by Sharad Pawar's nephew Ajit Pawar in recently to join Shiv Sena-BJP government has exposed the fact that leaders sell themselves to the highest bidder. And all this work is done

from high values for political manipulation that is known for smart political management. He has also kept morality at bay by using state machinery and government agencies for coercion and intimidation. In politics, everyone is showing the same hue-- this is a bitter truth of today's Indian politics. In Bihar Nitish Kumar, till August last year when the JD(U) had not

It has become completely free from morality and without dignity in modern thoughts. Not all politicians are disturbed even by seeing the naked bodies of political parties, yet common people or hungry people covered with torn clothes hope that the morality of politics is somehow completely covered. In a country with high political traditions of Lal Bahadur Shastri and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the expectation of self-resignation while fixing his responsibility should be considered meaningless in today's era, because this is not the era when politicians do not talk to anyone else related to their department who used to resign even on the slightest mistake of the government or let their government fall due to lack of one vote. For Indian politicians and ministers who have the tendency to consider themselves above the law, the news from the small country of New Zealand is certainly exemplary. The question is, how long will our country remain sluggish in following the law and showing moral integrity? Not only are the laws strict in New Zealand, but politicians are far more cautious about morality and decorum than in the other countries. The Justice Minister there not only had to stay in the police

station for three-four hours on a minor incident, but also had to resign from her post in the government. The Prime Minister of New Zealand has also accepted the resignation of the Justice Minister. This is not only one example in New Zealand; earlier this year, the then PM Jacinda Ardern announced her resignation from the post, saying that she no longer had the energy to work. Jacinda, who became the youngest woman Prime Minister of the world, bravely fought not only the Corona epidemic, but also the terrorist attacks in her country. For a country like India, it is going to teach more, where neither the law, nor the rules and regulations matter to the people sitting on the political chair. In minor road accidents, everyone is seen threatening the opposite party. The high talk of morality is seen only in the election manifestos of political parties here. Not only this, even after getting involved in big scams, politicians do not fail to flaunt their power. It is not that our politicians are not the ones who set the ideals of morality.

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Rape-public of India

eroded, which not only questions politics, but also brings human sensitivity to the dock. So far, only cases of drunken sons of rich fathers crushing to death the poor people sleeping on footpaths have come to light. But,

Brijbhushan incidents force us to think that the level of human sensitivity is continuously decreasing, or are we fast moving towards being a callous and insensitive society? Immorality is spreading across the parties in

with great precision and no excuses are made like-- meeting of minds, ideology, principle, morality or personal preference etc. The Bharatiya Janata Party, which advocates ethics and values, has also started turning away

switched sides, was praising Narendra Modi, but soon after changing his side after Lalu's formation of a government he also changed. It seems that morality in Indian politics has also learned to live like Sunny Leone.

## Leadership and charisma



**Ajit Das**  
"Effective leadership", peter F. Drucker writes doesn't depend on charisma. Dwight Eisenhower, George Marshall, and Harry Truman were singularly effective leaders, yet none possessed any more charisma than a Mackerel. He argues that charisma becomes the undoing leaders. "It makes them inflexible, convinced of their infallibility, unable to change." He cites John F. Kennedy as being highly charismatic, but having very little

accomplishment to his credit. Drucker may not be exactly right in his analysis. President Kennedy did not live long enough to see his major initiatives, such as putting a man on the moon, Medicare programme for the elderly and civil rights Act for the African-Americans, come to fruition. But what about Ronald Regan? He was a charismatic leader, and a large section of the American electorate would vouch for his effectiveness as a leader. President Barack Obama is also highly charismatic, but it may be little premature at this point to comment on his leadership. His finely tuned campaign, choice

of Lieutenants, and his early accomplishments as a president, however, do loudly proclaim his leadership potential. This bottom line is that one doesn't have to be charismatic to be an effective leader- but it certainly helps. The leaders who seem to capture people's imagination and devotion usually have charisma on their side, because it is a huge factor in attaining mass popularity. Charisma in Greek means "a gift of grace." Napoleon's charisma, is a study of tragic contrast. Napoleon secular, rajasic genius had no uplifting, saving message for humanity. His career was a

dazzling but show of power-lust. And this is how he had lamented towards the end of his life about the utter futility of his during asuric, demoniac exploits:-1) Their kingdom breaks even while they are living, but his (Christ) kingdom begins at his death and extends forever. 2) Behold the destiny of him who has been called the great Napoleon! What an abyss between his misery and the eternal religion of Christ. 3) This then is the unbridgeable of a sattva- grounded rajasic leader and the malignant charisma of a purely rajasic, deficit-driven leader. About Netaji subhash chandra Bose days in Tokyo, Dr. Joyce Lebra his

charismatic leadership:-"After a several week on a submarine journey Bose was exhausted and in need of rest. But he had one aim in Tokyo, an obsession. He had to meet premier Tojo of stuff sugiyama. Foreign minister yonai, and various section chiefs of the army, Navy and Foreign ministers. Bose's opening words to sugiyama took the chief of stuff by surprise."The war will end in victory for japan!"Bose boomed. Japan was in the midst of a diverse circumstances in Guadalcanal and the campaign was obviously not going well for Japan, perhaps Bose's statement was material

resource. Bose continued without waiting for a response from the bemused chief of staff, "Will Japan send soldiers to India or not? We are going to fight our way to India step by step. If we don't push on with determination. We won't be able to achieve independence." Warren Bennis and Burt Nanus described about leadership:-The strategies for taking charges"Identify vision as a concept central to their theory of leadership. Global leadership perspective Laura Arrillage-Andressen, the Netscape creator lives in the heart of silicon valley near san-francisco. She

is surrounded by technology gurus who may have influenced of giving 2.0:"Transform your giving and our world" in which she discusses the importance of giving: giving time, sharing experience and skills, giving money or helping people about which you are passionate. The means first of all identifying your goals of giving and then developing a strategy for sharing to satisfy not only local or national needs, but global causes. This may include, for example:-giving those people affected by the floods in Pakistan, the 2004 Asian Tsunami, the 2010 earthquake in Haiti or the more recent

2011 earthquake in Japan that caused the tsunami and nuclear damages. Laura quotes Winston Churchill who said "we make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." Giving is universal, but to be effective and efficient, it should be strategic, that means that giving should be to where it does the most good. This requires reflecting about who you are, what your passion is and then think strategically how you can contribute your time, your money, your charismatic leadership quality or your skills.

**Mob — 8249767470**  
**Founder of Netaji Subhas Sena, Odisha**



## India Has Recorded 110% Rise In MBBS Seats Since 2014, Parliament Informed

**New Delhi:** There has been an 82-per cent increase in the number of medical colleges in the country, from 387 before 2014 to 704 now, and a 110-per cent increase in the number of MBBS seats, from 51,348 to 1,07,948, in the same period, Parliament was informed today.

In a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said there has also been an increase of 117 per cent in the number of post-graduate (PG) medical seats in the country -- from 31,185 before 2014 to 67,802 as of now.

Mr Mandaviya said 101 medical colleges have been approved in the last five years under a centrally-sponsored scheme (CSS) for the "establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals", including one in Assam.

"The government has increased the number of medical colleges and subsequently, increased the MBBS seats," he said.

"There is an increase of 82 per cent in medical colleges, from 387 before 2014 to 704 as of now. Further, there is an increase of 110 per cent in MBBS seats, from 51,348 before 2014 to 1,07,948 as of now. There is also an increase



of 117 per cent in PG seats from 31,185 before 2014 to 67,802 as of now," Mr Mandaviya said.

The Union health ministry administers the CSS with a preference given to underserved areas and aspirational districts, where there is no government or private medical college, with fund-sharing between the Centre and state governments in the ratio of 90:10 for the northeastern and special category states and 60:40 for the other states.

A total of 157 government medical colleges have been approved under the scheme in three phases, including five in Assam, Mr Mandaviya said.

Some of the measures and steps taken by the government to augment the medical education facilities and improve the medical standards in the country include the CSS

for the establishment of new medical colleges by upgrading district/referral hospitals under which 157 new medical colleges have been approved and 107 of those are already functional, he added.

The CSS was implemented for strengthening and upgrading the existing state government or Centre-run medical colleges to increase the number of MBBS (both UG and PG) seats. Support has been provided to add 4,677 MBBS seats in 77 colleges with an approved cost of ₹ 5,612.25 crore, 4,058 PG seats in the first phase in 72 colleges with an approved cost of ₹ 1,498.43 crore and 3,957 PG seats in the second phase in 62 colleges with an approved cost of ₹ 4,461.44 crore.

Under "upgradation of government medical

colleges by construction of super-specialty blocks" of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Yojana (PMSSY), a total of 75 projects have been approved, of which 62 are complete, the minister said.

Under the CSS for setting up new all India institute of medical sciences, 22 such institutes have been approved, he added.

The National Medical Commission Act, 2019 provides for a medical education system that improves access to quality and affordable medical education and ensures the availability of adequate and high-quality medical professionals in all parts of the country.

The NMC has also taken several steps to improve the quality and affordability of medical education in the country. The qualification

awarded by the Diplomate of National Board (DNB) through the National Board of Examinations (NBE) has been recognised for appointment as faculty members to take care of a shortage of faculty. There has been an enhancement of the age limit for appointments, extensions and re-employment against the posts of teachers, deans, principals and directors in medical colleges up to 70 years, the minister pointed out.

The teacher-student ratio has been rationalised to increase the number of postgraduate medical seats in the country, he noted.

The norms for setting up medical colleges in terms of requirements of faculty staff, bed strength and other infrastructure have been relaxed, Mr Mandaviya said.

The NMC Act also provides for the framing of guidelines for the determination of fees and all other charges in respect of 50 per cent seats in private medical institutions and deemed-to-be universities, which are governed under the provisions of the Act.

Accordingly, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has framed the guidelines and the same were issued on February 3, 2022, the minister said.

## 5th Bangladesh Film Festival opens in Kolkata on 27th July

**Kolkata(Partha Roy):** 5th Bangladesh Film Festival opens at Nandan in Kolkata on 27th July 2023.

Information and Broadcasting Minister of Bangladesh Dr. Muhammad Hasan Mahmud M. P. inaugurated three-day film festival at Nandan in Kolkata.

West Bengal Education Minister and International theatre personality Shri Bratya Basu, Member of Parliament of Bangladesh Smt. Aroma Dutta, Additional Information & Broadcasting Secretary of Bangladesh Janab Farook Ahmed, First Secretary Press of Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh Shri Ranjan Sen, iconic film maker Gautam Ghosh attended the inauguration ceremony.

The inauguration ceremony was chaired by Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata Janab Andalib Elias.

Three day film festival is taking place from 29-31 July 2023. Film festival will screen more than 20 films from Bangladesh at Nandan complex.

Inauguration ceremony was attended by galaxy of celebrities from Bangladesh as well as West Bengal. Also, Inauguration ceremony was attended by popular film actors, Chairperson of Banks, industrialists and Business persons, large no. musicians, artists, film and television personalities, media owners, President of Press Clubs of both nations, large no. of Journalists from both countries, members of diplomatic community based in Kolkata, senior government officials of Bangladesh and India.

Film industry in Bangladesh formally started by Bangabondhu Sheikh Mujibur

Reheman when he was Industry Minister of Pakistan in 1950s mentioned by Dr. Muhammad Hasan Mahmud M. P. Films of Bangladesh are very popular in West Bengal. Bengali films of

"BENGALI" and common culture bind people of Bangladesh and West Bengal.

Bangladesh Minister also remembered Martyrs of Bengali language movement and paid tribute to them for their sacrifice. He



India are also very popular in Bangladesh. Bangladesh will facilitate release of ten Hindi films every year. Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner mentioned Bangladesh film industry revived and rejuvenated after facing challenging time.

5th Bangladesh Film Festival is being organised in July this year unlike earlier four film festivals which held in October because of upcoming General election of Parliament in Bangladesh in end of the year or earlier next year.

Preponement of film festival is initiated by Information and Broadcasting Minister of Bangladesh keeping in view popularity of festival as well as importance of Bangladesh-India multi-dimensional relationship. Common language

mentioned in remembrance of Martyrs of Bengali language movement United Nations observes "International Mother Language Day" on 21st February every year.

A film on Dharendra nath Dutta who first raised demand to make Bengali as official language of Pakistan after India was divided in 1947 will be screened during the present film festival said by Janab Andalib Elias.

Inauguration ceremony saw great celebration of the spirit of joy of sharing mother language Bengali between People of Bangladesh and India specially people of Kolkata who attended inauguration ceremony. Inauguration ceremony concluded with musical concert by popular artists of Bangladesh and reverberation of "Joy Bangla".

## "Manipur Cops Recording Statements Of Women Who Were Paraded Naked": Officials

**Imphal:** The Manipur Police has got in touch with the two women, who were paraded naked in May and then sexually assaulted, and is in the process of recording their statements, officials said here on Friday.

They said keeping in mind the situation arising out of ethnic clashes that broke out in the state on May 4, a team of women officials and personnel

from Manipur police was formed to probe the case. The officials said the team had met the family members as well as the two women and the process of recording their statements has begun.

The process of identifying eyewitnesses and recording their statement has also begun, they added. The cases pertaining to the sexual

assault have been handed over to the CBI. Reacting to the arrest of people in the viral video case, spokesperson of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) Ginza Vualzong termed it "too little, too late".

"I would have appreciated it if the culprits were arrested before the video went viral. The FIR was registered on May 18. There are many more such

cases. Having said that, I would also like to clarify that arresting people would not solve the larger issues of the state which has been witnessing ethnic clashes," Mr Vualzong said.

"I request the Centre to take the Manipur issue seriously and take steps to end the violence and come up with a solution," he added. Police have arrested seven people, including a juvenile, in connection with the case

so far.

Police had registered a case of abduction, gangrape and murder at Nongpok Sekmai police station in Thoubal district against unknown armed persons.

The video which drew widespread condemnation shows men molesting the two helpless women, who cry and plead with their captors to spare them.

## SENCO GOLD AND DIAMONDS CELEBRATES THE GRAND SUCCESS OF THEIR IPO(INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING) AT J.W.MARRIOTT HOTEL

Kolkata: Senco Gold and Diamonds has been a household name in the jewellery business since 1938.

The Kolkata-headquartered jeweller, whose brand ambassadors include the likes of former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly, actors Vidya Balan and Kiara Advani, currently has 136 showrooms across India. Of this, 70 are company-operated showrooms and the rest as franchises across 96 cities and towns in 13 states.

The recently announced Rs 405 crore-Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Senco Gold, enlisted at NSE and BSE, was a grand success, which subscribed 73.34 times at the close of the two-

day offer period from July 4 to 6, driven by heavy bidding from qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) on the last day.

To celebrate the mega success of the company's first IPO, a grand party was thrown at J.W. Marriott Hotel Kolkata, on July 27th, by Ranjana Sen (Chairperson & Director), Suvankar Sen (M.D. & C.E.O) and Joita Sen (Director), where dignitaries of Kolkata, from all walks of life, assembled to be a part of the Sen Family's nationwide success. Actor/Activist/Teacher of Method Acting Bobby Chakraborty was invited too as one of the esteemed guest,



who seemed to be extremely happy with the company's achievements nationally.

Here's what he said – "Me and my family have been hardcore loyalists to Senco Gold and Diamonds all our lives and as a Bengali I feel proud to be here to congratulate the brand, along with Suvankar, Joita, Ranjana Ma'am and the whole Sen Family, to break the myth that, Bengalis are not cut out to be entrepreneurs! It's a great sight to watch another Bengali Legend, our own Sourav Ganguly Dada, cut the cake at this all important success party! I am touched by the warmth and hospitality shown

by Suvankar and Joita on behalf of each and everyone at J. W. Marriott Hotel."

We spotted Bobby with Kanchana Moitra (actress), Imran Zaki (educationist/societal entrepreneur), Rajendra Khandelwal (Founder & Chairman of Dhawanantary Medicare & Research Centre Pvt. Ltd.), Rashbihari Das (Ace Photographer), Aniruddha Chakladar (Ace Make-up Artist), Alakananda Roy (Celebrated Dancer/Choreographer/Social Reformer) and many other famous personalities of Kolkata, celebrating the evening with food, fun, music and adda.



# Mantra For Urban Infra

**Cuttack(KCN):** Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena today chaired the First Empowered Committee Meeting of Cuttack Development Authority (CDA) held at Odisha State Maritime Museum Complex, Cuttack. G Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, Debidutta Biswal, PCCF & HoFF, Hemant Kumar Dutta, Special Secretary Works, Balamukunda Bhuyan, Additional Secretary, Tourism, Dilip Routray, Director, Odia Language, Literature & Culture, Susanta

Mohanty, Director Estate, Bhawani Shankar Chayani, Collector and District Magistrate, Cuttack, Anil Kumar Samal, Chairman, CDA, Nikhil Pavan Kalyan, Vice Chairman, CDA, officials of CDA and District Administration, Cuttack.

Welcoming the guests Shri Samal briefed the background of the Mahanadi Water Front Development project, that was announced by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, basing on five focus points like culture, technology, ecology, sports and recreation for the benefit of the people of



Cuttack.

He shared that a new Master plan has been prepared as per the guidelines of the National Green Tribunal.

Vice Chairman CDA, Shri Kalyan presented

the proposal of the Mahanadi Water front development plan for the kind approval of Chief Secretary. He also presented on other development projects and activities of CDA and CMC like City

Decongestion, Ratagarh Town Planning Scheme, Core Area Regulations, CDA additional villages, Biswanath Pandit Library, CMC Heritage Building, Netaji Museum and Petanala development.

Principal Secretary, H & UD, Shri Mathivathanan offered his valuable views on various developmental activities of Cuttack. The Master Plan for development of Mahanadi Waterfront was presented by

Consultant Jana Urban Space. Chief Secretary Shri Jena expressed his happiness on the ongoing priority projects of Cuttack and advised to create more urban infrastructure in the periphery areas of the

City, focus on decongestion plan and completion of box drain and create more funds in CIDF.

He discussed on the pros and cons of the Mahanadi Water Front Development Master Plan and provided his insight for refining the plan, considering sustainability, maintenance and culture of the State.

Earlier in the morning the team visited the lower Balijatra ground to discuss on the Master Plan of Mahanadi Water front Development, followed by a visit to Silver City Boating Club and Mahanadi Riverview point.

## SOA Honors Int'l Grads

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Seventeen international students of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University here, who have graduated in different disciplines, were awarded their degree certificates at a Graduation Ceremony held on Friday. The students, belonging to Syria, Ethiopia, Bhutan and Nepal, graduated in disciplines of Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Computer Science and Information Technology and Electrical Engineering completing the four year courses at the Institute of Technical Education and Research (ITER), SOA's faculty of engineering and technology. Prof. Pradipta Kumar Nanda, Vice-Chancellor of SOA, who was the chief guest at the program, gave away the certificates. Prof. Manjula Das, Controller of



Examination, Prof. Pradipta Kumar Sahoo, Dean of the faculty of Engineering and Technology, Prof. Jyoti Ranjan Das, Dean (Students' Welfare), Prof. Renu Sharma, Additional Dean (Student Affairs), ITER and Prof. Nachieketa K. Sharma, Director, University Outreach Program, were present. Addressing the graduating students, Prof. Nanda congratulated them for completing the four year journey saying they had a difficult time away from home when the Covid-19 pandemic brought life to a standstill.

"You have passed out of a university which has been ranked 15th in the country by the National Institutional Ranking Framework and an engineering college ranked 27th nationally for the second consecutive year. I am confident the education imparted to you will be of much use when you return to your country," he said.

Two students from Syria, Belal Ayman Jawhara and Afraa Jumma, who delivered acceptance speeches, thanked the teachers and

others for making it possible for them to complete the courses with their help and guidance. "When we came in 2019, we were confused and scared, but we were made to feel at home. India is now my second country and I have spent the best four years of my life at SOA," Jawhara said.

Prof. Das and Prof. Nachieketa K. Sharma also addressed the graduating students while Prof. Renu Sharma proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. Sthitapragyan compered the program.

## ASI Digs 5 Sites

**New Delhi:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has conducted five excavations in between the years 2018-19 and 2022-23 in Odisha, Union Culture and Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy said on Thursday. While replying to a question asked by BJD MPs Sulata Deo and Niranjana Bishi, the Culture Minister said the ASI has conducted excavations at Asurgarh in Kalahandi district during 2018-19, Langudi hill in Jajpur (2019-20 and 2020-21), Adjacent area of Sari Deul, Bhubaneswar (2021-22), Naara Huda, Tirimal in Khordha (2021-22 and 2022-23) and Parabhadi hillock in Jajpur (2022-23). During the excavation of Asurgarh, the ASI found 417 antiquities include beads, circular discs, fragmented terracotta animal figurines, sling




balls, bangle fragments terracotta hukka, disc, wheel, crucible, gamesman, ear-stud, finger ring, toe ring, pendants, arrowhead, knife, chisel, cog wheel, nails and clamps etc. Remains of brick and mud structures, a road made up of stone pebbles, a terracotta ring well are also noticed, he said. Remains of a stupa, group of rock-cut stupas, rock-cut images of Buddhist pantheon and a partially exposed monastery, terracotta objects including votive stupas, images of buddha, bodhisattvas, tara, railings

and parasol, ear studs, beads and bangles bone have been retrieved from the archaeological excavation at Langudi Hill.

A total of 50 antiquities including terracotta sling ball, pendant, pottery hopscotch, dabber, chisel, image of Ganesha, stone medallion, etc. also found from the site. Similarly, during the excavation at the adjacent area of Sari Deul, bases and lower portions of 6 earlier temples, one dilapidated Mahishamardini temple, sculptures of deities and

animals, daily use objects like mullers and potsherds have been recovered.

A total number of 105 antiquities, comprises mostly sling balls, hopscotch, terracotta animal figurines, bone points, Celts (stone), copper points and aniron celt, beads of terracotta and other semiprecious stones etc. recovered from the excavation at Naara Huda, Tirimal, Khurda. Besides, circular mud platforms and evidence of temporary hearths have been retrieved from the excavation, Shri Reddy informed. The Union Minister further said that the excavation work at Parabhadi site revealed a stone built ashlar masonry stupa. A total of 14 antiquities made out of stone and terracotta have been retrieved from the excavation i.e disc, sculpture, pestle, fragment of chhatravali of stone, slingball and terracotta plaque.



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## IIFL Home Finance launches India's first handbook for affordable green housing

**New Delhi:** India's leading home loan company, IIFL Home Finance has launched India's first handbook for affordable green housing to provide consumers, builders and the construction ecosystem with a definitive framework for building green homes.

The handbook conceived by IIFL and renowned architect Mr Ashok Lall was recently launched at a virtual event attended by leaders from the industry regulator, corporates, funds and socially responsible housing community.

Speaking at launch, Mr S.K. Hota, MD, National Housing Bank, the housing finance sector regulator said, "The need of the hour is to take green buildings to residential housing and more particularly to the ones in affordable

housing segment. It is a myth that green housing is only for the premium segment and is not viable for the affordable housing segment."

Mr S Sridhar, Chairman, IIFL Housing Finance Ltd said, "Our vision is to mainstream sustainable housing and by sustainable housing we mean green affordable housing in India." Mr Monu Ratra, CEO, IIFL Home Finance, who has been a pioneer through his green housing in India and brain behind this book said, "Books last forever and this handbook is our contribution towards sustainable affordable housing in India."

IIFL Home Finance has already been propagating the idea of affordable green housing in India, through 'Kutumb' and addressing issues of financing,

technical know-how and creating a common platform for solution. With the intent of reducing carbon footprint and supporting climate action in the long-run, IIFL Home Finance provides extensive support from inception to delivery of the project through their highly skilled technical team of 'Green Value Partner'. Considering the housing needs of a billion plus population, green affordable housing is the only way forward to prevent climate crisis while ensuring social impact. Appreciating, IIFL Home Finance's efforts, Susan Olsen, Senior Specialist, Private Sector Financial Institutions, South Asia-ADB said, "We need to find more companies like IIFL Home Finance Ltd. who have the vision to support green affordable housing construction."

## Green Housing to attract investments and support climate action

**New Delhi:** With increased focus on climate action globally, finance institutions and funds across the world are recalibrating their financing and investment strategy and providing higher allocation to businesses that have adopted sustainable approaches.

Mr N Srinivasan, MD and Head of South Asia, CDC Group said, "If we are not following the lines of green agenda, global institutions will not invest in the country." Agreeing to Mr Srinivasan's views, Mr Nirmal Jain, Founder and Chairman of IIFL Group said, "Investment will automatically flow to the private sector if they ensure green and sustainable development in India and housing is a major part of it."

In this context the role of the housing sector becomes extremely important as the construction industry is one of the biggest consumers of non-

renewable resources. Even after completion, most buildings continue to be responsible for huge CO2 emissions. Buildings in India already accounts for more than 30% of India's electricity use, and two-thirds of the buildings that will exist in India by 2030 are yet to be built. There is a sizable opportunity in pre-empting these consequences considering that much of this growth in floor spaces. Mr R Venkataraman, MD, IIFL Finance said, "This is why green construction is so important. To quantify the benefits, green construction has potential to reduce global CO2 emission by as much as 84 gigatonnes by 2050."

Mr Sean Kidney, CEO, Climate Bonds initiative said, "We need to grow, expand, promote and ensure appropriate labeling scales that address the performance of built in environment, to ensure sustainable development and reverse climate change."

## Paytm achieves over 1.4 Billion transactions

**New Delhi :** India's leading digital financial services platform Paytm today announced that it has achieved over 1.4 billion monthly transactions in March, led by the massive growth in offline payments and financial services. With over 20 million merchant partners on board, the company maintains the highest market share in offline payments and continues to register 15% M-o-M growth. It is the only platform in the country that promotes all digital payments services including Paytm Wallet, UPI, Paytm Postpaid, cards & net-banking. Paytm is aiming to enable 50 million merchants with IoT-based payment devices including All-in-One QR, All-in-One POS, Android Smart POS, and Soundbox over the next few years.

Paytm which is on a mission to empower

businesses with digital payments & reconciliation services continues to lead with the highest market share in offline merchant payments with 15% M-o-M growth. It is aiming to equip 5 million businesses with Paytm Soundbox 2.0, Paytm All-in-One EDC devices as well as its newly launched innovative Paytm Smart POS for Android phones that transforms a smartphone into a device that accepts debit & credit card payments just like a normal card swiping machine.

The company empowers users with multiple services including Paytm Payments Bank, Paytm Payments Gateway, Paytm Payout, Paytm Money for democratizing wealth creation, Paytm Insurance, Paytm Postpaid, Paytm Credit Cards as well as utility

bill payments, offline merchant payments, content & gaming services.

Narendra Yadav, Vice President Paytm said, "Paytm is the only company that provides the widest range of options to both merchants and customers which has helped us to achieve over 1.4 billion monthly transactions. Consumers can pay from Paytm wallet, UPI, Paytm postpaid, credit or debit cards, and bank accounts. Similarly, merchants can accept payments into their wallet or in any bank account. Paytm has the widest network of merchants in the country with over 20 million merchants partners. We want to serve all spectrum of merchants, from street vendors to large retailers as we continue our efforts to enable them with IoT-based digital payments services."

## OYO to cover COVID-19 vaccination costs for employees and families in India

**Bhubaneswar :** OYO Hotels & Homes, the world's leading technology and revenue growth platform for small hotels and homeowners, today announced that it would be covering vaccination costs for all employees in India and their families, across locations and levels. OYO India employees and their family members will benefit from this as they can choose to get the vaccination done at any centre convenient to them and the costs would be reimbursed in full by OYO. Additionally, the company has also enhanced the insurance benefit of employees to include a COVID-19

home care cover.

With the aim to build a healthier, diverse, inclusive and productive workforce, OYO has been revising and adding new employees policies year-on-year keeping employee wellbeing at the forefront. The company was one of the first Indian start-ups to announce a 5-day work week and is now offering its employees a host of benefits including free annual health checks, 24X7 doctor consultation, one-on-one counselling sessions and other services such as a COVID-19 test booking, online medicines ordering facilities and more. In addition, the company also added a

psychiatric cover and an increased maternity cover. Speaking about the recent announcements, Dinesh Ramamurthi, Chief Human Resources Officer - OYO Hotels & Homes said, "It's encouraging to see the pace of the immunisation drive in India, we're all trying our best to win the fight against COVID-19. As part of our commitment to keep our employees and their families safe and show our gratitude to them, we are happy to facilitate the cost of their COVID-19 vaccinations. We encourage employees to take the vaccine after reading up about its benefits and making an informed decision."

## Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's Women-Only Cybersecurity Conference ShaktiCon to begin April 9

**Bhubaneswar:** More than 3,000 women hackers from India and around the world are expected to attend Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham's three-day global conference on cybersecurity called ShaktiCon that begins on April 9, 2021. In the run-up to the event, a 36-hour, women-only Capture the Flag (CTF) contest would be held from April 3-5, 2021, in which contestants will face challenges from the fields of cryptography, reversing, forensics, Pwn and web exploitation.

ShaktiCon is a completely free global conference focused on inspiring, training, and upskilling women in the field of cybersecurity. It offers training programmes to nurture women talent in the field, a global cyber-security conference with talks and panel discussions by leading women professionals in cyber-security, and a women-only CTF hacking contest to showcase talent and win prizes and scholarships. The event is organized by Team Shakti, India's first and

top-ranked women-only CTF team of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.

The pre-conference global cybersecurity contest held in December 2020 attracted more than 1,500 women hackers with 828 teams from five continents. The participants, which have now grown to more than 3,000 women, received free access to premium learning platforms such as TryHackMe and PentesterLabs, practice challenges and training videos. They will be attending the upcoming ShaktiCon conference and participating in the CTF hacking contest.

Said Prof. Vipin Pavithran, Assistant Professor, Amrita Center for Cybersecurity Systems & Networks, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, who is the organizer of ShaktiCon: "Cybersecurity is considered a masculine domain and most women don't see it as a viable career path. The cybersecurity industry needs more women, and also has to open up for them. Demand is

outstripping supply in this field. In the next five years, the number of jobs in cybersecurity will triple. Over 3.5 million new cybersecurity jobs would be created in 2021 alone. Despite this, women comprise only 20% of the total workforce in cybersecurity, and only 1% of them are in top leadership positions. The future of the cybersecurity industry depends on its ability to attract, retain and promote women, who represent a skilled and under-tapped resource."

He added: "The focus of our annual conference ShaktiCon is advancing the leadership and professional development of women in the field of cybersecurity and showcase the next generation of offensive and defensive security technologies. ShaktiCon offers a platform for female researchers and hackers from around the world to close the skills gap with men and help fix the gender gap in cybersecurity."

**New Delhi :** Indian banking industry witnessed the mega consolidation exercise on 01st April 2020, which reduced the number of Public Sector Banks from 19 to 12 at present. Erstwhile Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India were amalgamated with Punjab National Bank to

create one of the largest banking behemoths in the country with total business exceeding ₹18 lakh crores. PNB now has a wide presence across the country with its 10,800+ branches, 13,900+ ATMs and 12,300+ Business Correspondents with One lakh plus strong workforce.

With the first

anniversary of the mega consolidation, PNB has completed the integration of business, people and technology to prepare the Bank to realize gains from the synergies of amalgamation.

Commenting on the bank's significant progress since the amalgamation, Shri CH. S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao,

MD and CEO of PNB, said, "We have completed our technology integration in the record time by December 2020, to be able to focus on the business priorities from year 2021 onwards. We have also realigned various internal processes and revamped the organization structure

to position the Bank as customer-centric and future-ready. Seamless integration and harmonization of products, processes, distribution channels, creation of specialized units and technology platform have benefited customers in terms of wider products offerings and better service experience."

## Aegon Life introduces Work from Anywhere (WFA) policy for all its employees

**Mumbai :** Aegon Life, India's leading digital life insurance company, is leaning in to the new normal by introducing a "Work from Anywhere (WFA)" policy effective April 1st, 2021. With the introduction of this practice, all Aegon Life employees will have the

flexibility and convenience to work from anywhere in India and contribute to organisational growth.

Sunita Rath, Chief People Officer at Aegon Life shares, "We have always held the belief that people are our key assets and emphasized

the need for the right practices that can empower our people. The WFA policy that we have introduced upholds this belief." She further adds, "We have constantly redefined the sector in which we operate, right from being the pioneers of online

term plans in India, to becoming the leading digital-only life insurance company in the country. We are not only the first life insurance company but are amongst the first organisations in the country to formally adopt a fully WFA work policy.

Needless to say, we will still have our office space to enable employees to meet, brainstorm, connect and collaborate. With WFA as our new normal, we will adopt other suitable digital tools and solutions to engender a culture of agile policies and proactive support."

## Celebrate the festival of colors using McDowell's #YaariKeRang pack

**Bhubaneswar:** McDowell's No1 has launched a new limited-edition pack (LEP) to celebrate the festival of colors this year. This New No1 pack #YaariKeRang comes in beautiful golden and silver packaging with a dash of yellow, blue, and pink splashes, signifying the occasion in all glory. Just like colours, friendships have no boundaries, and this exciting pack is here to make rendezvous with your years a kaleidoscopic experience. Divyenndu, Shweta Tripathi and Vijay Varma, the years of the popular show Mirzapur, have come together to introduce an exciting way to celebrate the festival of colors with the help of technology. In a new enthralling branded video content, the stars show how the Limited-Edition pack enables Years to add colours to each other, express themselves and celebrate virtually. In the video, Divyenndu splashes colour on Vijay Varma by scanning the pack's QR code to begin the celebrations.

The LEP has a QR code that enables years to add colours to each other and celebrate the festival while sharing it virtually with them on social media. McDowell's No1 has always been an enabler of strong bonds of friendship and has yet again brought years together through music, colours and technology.

Amarpreet Singh Anand, Executive Vice President and Portfolio Head, Marketing, Diageo India, said, "At McDowell's No1, we believe in the power of deep friendships (Yaari). Our McDowell's team thought about an interesting digital intervention leveraging which you can still colour your friends & spread some fun & yaari. The team collaborated with the famous Mirzapur actors Divyenndu, Shweta Tripathi and Vijay Varma to build a more culturally relevant narrative."

## Godrej Consumer Products expands its detergent portfolio with Godrej Ezee 2-in-1 liquid detergent + fabric conditioner for regular clothes

**Mumbai :** Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCPL), a leading emerging markets company, announced the expansion of its detergent portfolio by launching Godrej Ezee 2-in-1 liquid detergent + fabric conditioner for regular clothes. Fragrance and has been a huge gap within the segment of liquid detergent users and consumers have to buy detergent and fabric conditioners separately leading to them spending more. With Godrej Ezee 2-in-1, the company offers dual benefits of detergent and fabric conditioner in a single product. New Ezee 2-in-1 Liquid Detergent + Fabric Conditioner gives fabrics a deep wash, and new like shine and softness with a refreshing fragrance, all in one step! This effective solution will reduce the cost of consumers by almost half when

compared to their current spends.

The Indian detergent market is pegged at INR ~215 cr. Over the last two years, the liquid detergent category has been growing exponentially at 27% CAGR as per AC Nielsen. The Godrej Ezee brand was launched in 1983 with a single focus of taking care of winter wear and woollens. With Ezee 2-in-1, the brand aspires to expand from being synonymous with woollens to cater to every type of clothing. Apart from deep cleaning and conditioning, the product also comes with a lasting fragrance that guarantees consumers a great experience. The product can be used for both machine and hand wash.

Speaking about this launch and expansion in the detergent category, Sunil Kataria, CEO - India & SAARC, Godrej Consumer Products Limited

(GCPL), said, "Godrej Ezee is already the most preferred brand by consumers for woollens. Building on this equity, we are expanding our detergent portfolio with a category redefining innovation in the form of Godrej Ezee 2-in-1 liquid detergent + fabric conditioner for regular clothes. With this launch, we intend to de-seasonalize our brand and foray into the regular clothes detergent category. Our offering is a first-of-its kind product in the category which combines two formats into one.

He further added, "Keeping intact the strength and colour of the fabric, it removes tough stains and leave no residue on clothes or in the machine. It ensures long-lasting fragrance with its encapsulated fragrance molecules. It is easy to use for both bucket as well as machine wash (front and top load).



# Kuldeep Yadav revels in the 'process' on helpful Bridgetown surface

New Delhi: Kuldeep Yadav, the left-arm wrist-spinner, starred with the ball in the first ODI in Bridgetown, Barbados on Thursday (July 27). He along with Ravindra Jadeja picked up seven of the 10 wickets as West Indies got bundled out for 114 in 23 overs. India registered a five-wicket win to go 1-0 up in the three-match series. Kuldeep was introduced into the attack in the 19th over after the hosts had already been reduced to 97 for six, with Ravindra Jadeja picking three wickets. The former wasted little time getting off the blocks. He trapped Dominic Drakes legbefore with a googly off just his third ball and then backed it up by removing Yannic Cariah in his next over in a similar fashion. Kuldeep went one step further in his third over where he snaffled top-scorer Shai Hope and the No. 11

Jayden Seales in the same over to wrap up the WI innings and finish with impressive bowling figures of 4/6 in just three overs which also comprised two maidens. Kuldeep, who was named the Player of the Match, credited his success to the process and stressed that lengths are crucial for the tweakers. "I don't think too much about taking wickets. I focus on the process - where to bowl and what lengths to be targeting. Process is more important than performance," he said. "Since my return from injury last year, I've been trying to consistently bowl the right lengths. Sometimes you get wickets, sometimes you don't even when you bowl well, but length is very crucial especially for the spinners. When the opposition loses a few wickets, then I try



my variations for wickets. Happy with the way I started in the first ODI." The 22-yard strip used for the opening ODI at the Kensington Oval wasn't batting-friendly. There was some extra bounce on offer, the seamers got the ball to nip off the deck and there was bite for the spinners. India picked two

spinners and both the left-arm spinners did the bulk of the damage. Even for the Caribbean side, the two spinners - Gudakesh Motie and Yannic Cariah - scalped three wickets between them as the visitors crossed the line with 27.1 overs to spare. "It was a good wicket for the seamers. The fast bowlers bowled really

well. When Jadeja was bowling, it was gripping and turning at the same time. When I started from that end, I was getting the drift as well as the turn. In the second innings, you saw the spell from their spinners - they bowled really well. They were getting the turn and the bounce. It was a good wicket for spinners as well," said

Kuldeep. India, after restricting their opponents to a meager total, experimented a bit with the bat. Neither Rohit Sharma opened the innings nor did Virat Kohli bat at three. Ishan Kishan notched up a breezy fifty at the top of the order but none of the other Indians capitalized on their batting promotion. In fact, the Indian captain was forced to come in at seven and hit the winning runs as India romped home with five wickets in hand. Kuldeep agreed that his team could have been more clinical in the chase but he expected India to show their might in the next encounter and seal the series in the process. "We could have chased it down with just one or two wickets down. But they bowled really well. The new guy was very good and the left-armer as well. You want to give

opportunities to the younger boys, we did that. In the next game, you'll probably see the full side batting and hopefully we can win the second one and win the series." Kuldeep is now a regular in the playing XI for India in the 50-over format, however he's been in and out of the team in the other formats despite strong performances. The wrist-spinner, however, is unfazed by that and focuses on the controllables. "On a lot of occasions, the situation and due to the combination, I have to sit out. It's pretty normal for me as I've been playing international cricket for close to six years. I keep myself relaxed when I'm not playing. When you're playing, there's pressure to perform well." Every ODI is a preparation for the 2023

World Cup which is less than three months away. With a lot of players vying for spots for the mega tournament, one of those could potentially come down to Kuldeep Yadav versus Yuzvendra Chahal. Both the wrist-spinners were part of the 2019 World Cup held in England but the pair was separated after they were hammered by England in one of the group stage matches. Since then, they've played only a handful of games together but they continue to enjoy each others' success. "We (Kuldeep and Chahal) both know the importance of combination. We have a great understanding. He helps me a lot when I'm playing - what to do, what to change. I replicate the same when he plays. That's why the KulCha pair has been so good over the years. We support and back each other."

## Bumrah fully fit, set to be picked for Ireland series - Jay Shah



New Delhi: Jay Shah, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), revealed that Jasprit Bumrah is fully fit and should be included in the squad for the upcoming Ireland series. "Bumrah is completely fit, and he may be part of the Ireland series," Shah stated. This website had reported on June 24 that the BCCI and the team management were

targeting the Ireland series for Bumrah's return, and he is expected to play in the three T20Is in Dublin on August 18, 20, and 23. Shah further said that the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) has expressed the need for dedicated bowling and fielding coaches for the women's team and he mentioned that all coaching appointments, including the head coach, will be

announced together. "The CAC has already conducted interviews for the head coach position and is also looking for specialized coaches for fielding and bowling. The process for these appointments will be initiated soon," he added. Shah also addressed the prolonged delay in releasing the media rights tender for India's bilateral games, which has become a major topic of discussion in the broadcast industry. However, Shah did not provide a specific timeline for when the tender will be released. "Ernst & Young has been appointed, and they will be submitting a report. The tender will be out shortly," Shah informed reporters in New Delhi. Cricbuzz recently reported that the tender would be released early this week, but later it emerged that the tender will be delayed until later

in the week. So far, however, it has not happened. The industry executives are concerned that there might not be enough time for the new broadcasters to plan and execute marketing strategies for the three-ODI series against Australia -- the first series in the new broadcast cycle - in the last week of September. It is learnt that the BCCI is currently undecided on two crucial factors -- first, whether to opt for an online auction or closed bidding, and second, whether to offer a composite bid package in the tender. Ernst & Young has reportedly presented all the available options, but the BCCI is yet to make a final decision. "We have not yet decided whether to go for an e-auction or closed bidding; the decision is still pending," the BCCI secretary clarified.

## 'Make Team Virat Vs Team Rohit', Fans Troll Team India Despite Win In 1st ODI Against West Indies

New Delhi: India beat West Indies by 5 wickets in first ODI to start the three-match series on a positive note. However, the Indian fans were left frustrated by the quality of cricket on offer as well as the margin of victory. Chasing just 115 runs to win the match, India completed the task in 22.5 overs. But they ended up losing five wickets. India captain Rohit Sharma demoted himself to number 7 while Virat Kohli did not even get a chance to bat as management wanted to give the likes of Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav the opportunity to have more balls in the middle. The decision backfired as India lost five wickets while chasing 115. Kishan scored a fifty before he departed. But Gill had a poor outing with the score of 7 off 16 balls. Suryakumar Yadav,



batting at No 3, showed glimpses of brilliance as he scored 19 off 25 balls that included 3 fours and 1 six but perished soon. Hardik Pandya was run out for just 5 while Shardul Thakur scored 1 off 4 balls. In the end, Ravindra Jadeja (16 off 21) and Rohit (12 off 19) guided India to a win. The fans were upset for several reasons. Firstly, there was Sanju Samson missing in the playing XI.

He averages 66 in ODIs yet was not considered for selection as fans alleged that Samson is a victim of 'politics' and 'favouritism' in Indian team. Secondly, India did not close out the match in a dominant way, losing five wickets by changing the batting order. Thirdly, it turned out to be a boring match for the spectators. Some suggested that BCCI could earn more viewers and give better

practice to Men in Blue by playing and inter-squad game. One Twitter user even suggested that BCCI should have played a Team Rohit vs Team Virat contest to prepare for the big tournaments ahead as Windies displayed poor cricket. India will play the 2nd ODI vs West Indies on Saturday, July 29, with an aim to seal the series 2-0.

# BCCI hints at World Cup schedule adjustments

New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has indicated that the World Cup schedule will undergo some adjustments, and the official changes will be announced within the next few days. BCCI Secretary Jay Shah revealed that certain member boards of the International Cricket Council (ICC) have requested modifications to the schedule, and these amendments are currently being finalized and will be communicated shortly. Regarding the India-Pakistan game which has been subject of discussion lately, the

BCCI secretary did not confirm any change of venue, which was announced as Ahmedabad earlier. Shah mentioned that consultations with the ICC are ongoing to determine the final changes. He strove to avoid a direct query the India-Pakistan game will be advanced to October 14, as has been reported. Shah addressed reporters after a meeting of the World Cup host associations in New Delhi on Thursday (July 27). The meeting primarily focused on the ticket manifest and infrastructure

development, based on recommendations from Grant Thornton, an external agency tasked with suggesting ways to enhance the facilities at stadiums in India. Representatives from all 12 associations, which will host the World Cup matches and warm-up games, attended the meeting. As of now, no specific timeframe has been mentioned for when the tickets will go on sale. The BCCI has requested for plans from the state associations outlining how they will manage ticket sales for each game.



This includes details about pricing, the number of tickets available for sale, the different types of tickets, and pricing for corporate boxes and complementary tickets. The BCCI

has also informed each hosting association of the ticket quota they need to allocate to both the BCCI and the ICC for each match. Notably, ticket

pricing will not be the same at every venue, and the individual centers have the freedom to set their prices. So much so, the ticket prices may vary from match to match. The state associations are required to submit their plans to the BCCI by early next week, specifically before Tuesday. Once the plans are compiled by the BCCI, they will be forwarded to the ICC for approval. Ticket sales will commence once the entire process has been followed, although the state units have not yet been informed

of the exact date when they can start selling tickets. Shah also noted that there is no possibility of using e-tickets during the World Cup. "We will make arrangements so that the physical tickets can be collected at seven-eight places before one week of the match. We will make it hassle-free. We will start the e-ticket system in bilateral games first." The state units have also been provided with guidelines on how to implement the stadium development recommendations from Grant Thornton. The agency has

already inspected six grounds, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Delhi. Each hosting association has been allocated Rs 50 crore for stadium development, with a primary focus on improving basic amenities and hygiene in the grounds. Shah said the stadium development is a two-phase project with work undertaken before and after the World Cup. The state associations have been introduced to the GT executives and the pre-World Cup work will be completed in the next 45 days.