



Dr Pabitra mohan samantaray, Editor in chief, PARYABEKHYAK & THE KALINGA CHRONICLE GROUP, Smt Hena Mahapatra, Director, Maharishi Public school Group Visits KIMS, Bhubaneswar to enquiry about the health condition of State planning Board member, Former Bhubaneswar MP & Minister, Eminent Poet, Writer, Spiritual Luminary Prof Dr Prasanna Pattani and Pray for his speedy recovery. His daughter in Law Smt Mamata Pattani ,Son Sunil pattani, Secretary Pradymna kumar Mohanty were also present

No Respite From Heat Wave

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Putting normal life out of gear, entire Odisha is reeling under severe heat wave conditions for the past several days. At least three places have recorded a maximum temperature of above 45 degrees Celsius on Friday. With 45.6 degrees Celsius, Sonepur became the hottest place of the State for the day while another two Western Odisha towns Jharsuguda and Bolangir sizzled with a temperature of 45.4 and 45.3 degrees Celsius, respectively. Apart from the above three places, 28 other places recorded a maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius or above. Sambalpur registered a day temperature of 44.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Angul (44.7), Hirkud (44.6), Bhubaneswar (44.6), Sundergarh (44.5),

Talcher (44.4), Boudh (44.2), Rourkela (44) and Bargarh (44). Similarly, Nayagarh, Titlagarh & Dhenkanal towns registered 43.5 degrees each whereas it was 43.2 degrees at Baripada, 43 at B e r h a m p u r , Bhawanipatna, Khurda & Nuapada, 42.4 at Malkangiri, 42.2 at Cuttack and 42 degrees at Deogarh. The other places recorded a maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius or above are—Kendrapara, P h u l b a n i , Paralakhemundi, Keonjhar, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak, Chandbali and Jajpur. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that there will be no respite from the prevailing heatwave as temperature is likely to remain the same during next four days. After four days, the temperature is

likely to come down slightly, it said. It is likely to be above normal by 4-7 degrees Celsius at a few places over the districts of Odisha during next 4 days; Consequently, hot and discomfort weather is likely during next 4-5 days, the IMD said. People are advised to take precautionary measures while going outside between 11 AM to 3 PM. The Met Department has issued an 'orange and yellow' warning for heatwaves in different districts of Odisha. The heatwave would prevail in the districts of Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, deogarh, Angul, Sambalpur, Boudh, Sonepur, Bargarh, Bolangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Khurda, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak, Balasore, and Mayurbhanj on Saturday.

Summer Vacation: Odisha Schools To Reopen On June 21

Bhubaneswar(KCN): All schools across Odisha will reopen on June 21 after conclusion of the summer vacation, the School and Mass Education Department of the State Government said today. The summer vacation had commenced on April 21 in view of the heat wave conditions in the state. The schools were earlier scheduled to reopen on June 19. However, due to the blistering heat wave situation in the state, the government today decided to extend the date. Several parts of Odisha turned into a cauldron today as heat wave condition intensified across the state.

Sonepur sizzled at 45.6°C as it recorded the highest temperature of the day in the state. It was followed by Jharsuguda with 45.4°C and Bolangir at 45.3°C. Capital city Bhubaneswar also experienced blistering heat wave as it registered highest temperature of 44.6°C. The Meteorological Centre here has issued heat wave warning for several districts for tomorrow. "Heat wave to severe heat wave condition very likely to prevail at a few places over the districts of Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh, Angul, Sambalpur, Boudh, Sonepur, Bargarh, Bolangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi,

Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Cuttack and Khurda," the Meteorological Centre said and issued Orange Warning for these districts. Heat wave condition very likely to prevail at one or two places over the districts of Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj, it said and issued Yellow Warning for these districts. The Meteorological Centre forecasted that there will be no large change in maximum temperature (day temperature) during the next 4 days at many places over the districts of Odisha. It is likely to be above normal by 4-7°C at a few places over the districts of Odisha during the next 4 days.

Stadium Buzz With Activity

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The iconic Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar is buzzing with activity, currently hosting the Hero Intercontinental Cup and the 62nd Inter State Athletic Championship, serving as India's new launch pad for athletes to compete in international and national tournaments. The Hero Intercontinental Cup comprising four teams; India, Vanuatu, Lebanon, and Mongolia, will culminate with the final on June 18, where the host nation India will take on Lebanon. While the Inter State Athletic Championship kicked off on Thursday and will go on till June 19. Speaking on the significance of hosting two marquee events

overlapping with each other, Sports and Youth Services Secretary R Vineel Krishna on Friday assured that Kalinga Stadium will continue to strive to host world class events, making it a priority to host the finest athletes from India and across the world. "When the proposal for these events was sent to us, we indicated that June was good, but when the dates were finalized, there was some overlap due to the Asian Games Qualifying deadline. As a result, the Athletics Championship was only to be held during this time span." Even many people were quite surprised at how we were able to pull off two championships at the same venue with the standards that needed to



be maintained for the championships, Shri Krishna said. Stating that hosting these tournaments came with challenges, the Secretary said, "But we were quite confident. Our team is also knowledgeable, having previously worked with several national and international championships." He said athletics begins early in the morning and

concludes by 1 p.m. and then the entire branding and facilities gets changed for Intercontinental which begins at 4 p.m. On Odisha consistently hosting large scale sporting events, Shri Krishna said, "The multisport tournaments will raise Odisha's profile as a potential host city for important international sporting events. In addition to the

international football tournament, we also have athletes from significant nations like Sri Lanka and the Maldives competing in the athletic event. They will all return with a piece of memory from Odisha. They become our brand ambassadors." Speaking on the vision for the future, the Secretary Shri Krishna also remarked, "We want to host multiple championships like this in the future at the same location so that the entire stadium complex is very optimally utilized. Our stadium resources are excellent, so the space and planning are all running smoothly, and we are pleased that we can now host more events at Kalinga Stadium.

Mo Ghar Reg Begins

Bhubaneswar(KCN): The State Government has started receiving applications to select beneficiaries for the newly launched rural housing scheme Mo Ghar. On the occasion of completion of its fourth year of the fifth term, the BJD Government had approved the Mo Ghar housing scheme. A dedicated web portal in the url: <https://rhodisha.gov.in/moghar> has been launched for filing of online application, monitoring and implementation of the scheme. The eligible people started submitting their applications through this portal from Friday. The applicant

will register either by her/himself and may use the services of Mo-Seva Kendra. The applicants will have to register in this portal before filing the applications which will be validated through OTP. In a message in the guidelines of the new Scheme, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said "Pucca House for All" – is a commitment of the State Government. Housing provides safety and security, a source of ownership and identity and promotes self-esteem and psychological satisfaction to everyone. "Conversion of kutcha houses to pucca houses continues to be the priority of my Government. I dedicate this 'MO GHARA'



scheme to all my dear brothers and sisters of the State who are left out to be covered under any of the rural housing schemes," Shri Patnaik said. The CM wished all success to the Department of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water for effective and fruitful implementation of the scheme that intends to encourage the rural families of the State to

have a safe roof overhead. Rural Housing Schemes have certainly benefited lakhs of houseless people of the rural areas of the State. With an objective to convert all kutcha houses to pucca houses, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department and its field functionaries are putting all efforts for successful implementation of the rural housing schemes in

the State, said Principal Secretary Sushil Kumar Lohani, in his message. "In order to meet the aspirations of lower and lower-middle income families who want to construct, extend or upgrade their houses with RCC roof, our Chief Minister has launched the Mo Ghar scheme, which is a credit linked capital subsidy scheme," he said. Even some of the rural households who

had availed the benefits of Government housing schemes with smaller assistance earlier and now want to upgrade their houses, can take benefit of this scheme, Shri Lohani said. As part of the programme, housing loan facilities will be provided to the interested beneficiaries who intend to build new houses or upgrade and extend their existing houses, he said, adding, the beneficiary will avail banking loan facilities with easy repayment system wherein, State Government will release capital subsidy against the principal loan amount to the beneficiary after 85% completion of the house. The Principal Secretary hoped that all

the officials and financial institutions will continue to work hard and extend their support in executing this scheme effectively in the State and will stand to the expectations of rural households as well as the Chief Minister. Under the scheme, a beneficiary can avail housing loan upto Rs. 3 lakh which can be repaid in 10 years excluding 1 year moratorium period in easy installments. They can opt for one of the four slabs of the loan amount – Rs. 1 Lakh, 1.5 Lakh, 2 Lakh and 3 Lakh. Similarly, the family, who has not availed any government housing assistance or has availed assistance of below Rs. 70,000 in the past,

below Rs 25,000 per month income, does not have a non-commercial motorized four-wheeler for personal use, not a government employee or pensioner, and having land below 5 acres irrigated land or below 15 acres non irrigated land, are eligible for the scheme. For loan amounts of Rs 1 lakh, Rs 1.50 lakh, Rs 2/3 lakh, the State Government will provide subsidies of Rs 30,000, Rs 45,000, and Rs 60,000, respectively. However, the family headed by SC/ST and PwD will get a subsidy of additional Rs 10,000. Banks will not charge any processing fee from the beneficiary for sanction of the loan.

MOU SIGNED BETWEEN INTACH AND INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TOURISM AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

Bhubaneswar (KCN): The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), a leading organization in the country for conservation and preservation of Heritage and the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding today at the Campus of the Institute. INTACH has been declared as a Centre of Excellence by the Govt. of India and IITTM is a leading tourism and travel management institute under the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Md. Sabir

Hussain, the Nodal Officer of the Institute, said that the MOU will facilitate collaborative efforts to further common objectives through various activities. He said that both the organizations will be working towards promoting academic and research facilities, conducting training programmes on culture education, heritage, tourism and travel industry management and related subjects for persons from the industry, academia, students etc. Amiya Bhushan Tripathy (IPS) Retd, the State Convener of INTACH, said that the



potential of Odisha as a tourist destination for both foreign and domestic travellers has not been fully explored. He said that in spite of the rich cultural heritage,

both tangible and intangible, the State lags in tourist footfalls. Tripathy stressed on the proper conservation and preservation of the crumbling heritage

monuments of the State and said that lack of awareness among the people and officials is a malaise. Intach has 12 Chapters in the State with a membership of

more than 500 heritage lovers. Anil Dhir, the Convener of Intach's Bhubaneswar Chapter said that the rich and varied heritage of the

State is under severe neglect. Dhir said that the State Archaeology Department has only 221 monuments under its fold, while the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has another 78 monuments which are declared as protected. Along with the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Konark, the total number of protected monuments in the State are only 300 in number. Dhir added that in the last two decades, Intach has already listed and documented more than 6500 heritage monuments in 16 districts of the State. He further added that if

proper surveys will be made in the remaining districts, the list will surpass 12500, making Odisha the richest state in built heritage. Dr. Adyasha Das, the Co-ordinator of IITTM said that the MOU will lead to synergy between the two and that capacity building, training and awareness programmes will be conducted. She said that the students of the Institute will benefit by way of field visits, conservation training, photography, content creation etc. Intach undertakes many heritage projects, and the students of IITTM can be involved in these projects.

Tata Steel Foundation Dedicates New 'Community Wellness Park' to the Residents of Duburi

Inaugurated by Er Pritiranjana Gharai, Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Skill Development & Technical Education

Kalinganagar (Sapan Kar) : - Reiterating its commitment towards community development, Tata Steel Foundation dedicated a new 'Community Wellness Park' to the residents of Duburi under Sukinda block of Jajpur district on Thursday.



The park was inaugurated by Er Pritiranjana Gharai, Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Skill Development & Technical Education in the presence of Mr Dibyaranjan Baral, Chairman, Sukinda Block, Mrs Bhagyalaxmi Rout, Vice-Chairperson, Sukinda Block, Mr Sadhu Charan Tiu, Zilla Parishad, Zone-38, Mrs Nirupama Das, Sarapanch, Duburi Gram-Panchayat, Mr

Biswajit Das, Social activist, Mr Allen Joseph, Unit Head, Tata Steel Foundation (TSF) and other members from the community. The park developed by TSF includes acupressure walking track, open gym, dedicated place for yoga

and sitting arrangement for the visitors. The boundary wall was also constructed. The walking track is constructed with paver blocks having acupressure benefits that will help in improving blood circulation, reducing pain, maintaining blood

pressure, etc. A solar based high-mast light has also been installed for accessibility and safety during evening hours. The open gym equipment will help the visitors to improve strength, flexibility and improved cardiovascular health.

SER ACHIEVES A SALE OF Rs 100.10 CRORE THROUGH DISPOSAL OF SCRAP

Kolkata: South Eastern Railway (SER) has surpassed the Rs 100 crore scrap sale figure today (June 15, 2023) in the first quarter of the current

financial year. This sale figure is 125.12% higher than the proportionate target of Rs 80.00 for the first quarter and 108.20% higher than the scrap sale

achieved during the corresponding period of the previous year. This has been achieved through the sale of various kinds of scrap which includes

scrap rails, condemned locos, wagons & coaches, ferrous and non-ferrous materials, miscellaneous scrap, abandoned quarters and cabins etc.

"Odisha Millet Mission celebrates Rajo Festival with the public of Keonjhar through its unique event!"

Keonjhar (KCN) : As Odisha celebrates the auspicious Rajo festival, the Odisha Millet Mission brings a fun and entertaining show for the locals of Keonjhar on June 15 and 16 at the Smart Bazaar, near Gandhi Square. Rajo, the most popular of the numerous festivals in Odisha, is celebrated for three consecutive days.



Just as the earth prepares itself to quench its thirst with the incoming rain, the unmarried girls of the family are groomed for impending matrimony through this festival. Odisha Millet Mission, a flagship programme under the state government of Odisha, has been taking various innovative and exciting approaches to promote millets in the state. Odisha Millet Mission is organising a series of entertaining events

called 'Know about Odisha's Millet' in the top 20 cities of the state to raise awareness about millets. The broad idea behind this event in Keonjhar is to keep infusing the key message into the audience's minds, that is, to accept millet into their daily dietary habits, all while keeping the crowd engaged and entertained. And for that, TV and YouTube comedians Suji Kumar Jena, Dolly, and singer

Mandeep are invited to perform during the event. The event starts off with the anchors introducing Odisha Millet Mission and the purpose of the day's show to the audience, followed by a few local harmonies to attract the crowd. It then proceeds to discuss the widely accepted unhealthy eating habits, portrayed through a hilarious comedy skit. To keep the excitement levels soaring, the Odisha Millet Mission

has a bunch of quirky and competitive games. Participants are sure to be on the edge of their seats. The winners of these thrilling contests get the opportunity to win exciting surprises and gift hampers that are sure to bring a sense of excitement. Events organised at the regional scale by the Odisha government grab the audience's attention and can lead to a larger impact on the state's health and economic index.

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Adipurush Twitter Review, First Reactions: Fans Watch Prabhas, Kriti Sanon's Larger-Than-Life Persona On Reel

Pan India actor Prabhas has collaborated with Kriti Sanon for the first time ever in filmmaker Om Raut's 'Adipurush'. The mythological period drama based on the epic tale of Ramayana opens in theatres today and fans can't keep calm. The movie features Prabhas as Lord Rama, Kriti Sanon as Sita, Sunny Singh as Lakshmana, Saif Ali Khan plays Ravana and Devadatta Nage as Lord Hanuman. A few fans watched the film First Day First Show and have their honest reviews ready. Let's take a look at who feels what after watching Adipurush on the big screens which is loaded with heavy-duty VFX,



special effects and thumping BGM. Check out the Twitter reactions here: Producer and film business expert Girish Johar told Hindustan Times, "The audience has liked the new and revised trailer. It is based on our legendary epic Ramayan. It is a family outing, I am expecting a huge opening that may be ranging between Rs 45 and Rs 50 crore (or perhaps more) for all languages combined." Adipurush is produced by T-Series, Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, Om Raut, Prasad Sutar, and Rajesh Nair of Retrophiles, Pramod and Vamsi of UV Creations. It is scheduled to release worldwide on June 16, 2023.

Jaswant Singh Khalra Biopic: Makers Move Bombay High Court For Censor Clearance



The biopic based on the life of prominent human rights activist, Jaswant Singh Khalra has been subjected to delays owing to the clearance for the censor certificate. The makers of the film moved the Bombay High Court and asked for legal intervention. The yet-to-be-titled film, which is directed by Honey Trehan, and headlined by actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh, has hit a roadblock and the makers have sought legal help from the court. Following Operation Blue Star, the assassination of Indira Gandhi, and the 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots, the police were empowered to detain anyone as suspected terrorists. The police were accused of

killing unarmed suspects in staged shootouts, and burning thousands of dead bodies to cover up the murders. Jaswant Singh Khalra was the director of a bank in Amritsar during the militancy period in Punjab. He found the evidence of abduction, elimination and cremation of thousands of unidentified bodies by the police. They reportedly even killed 2,000 of their own officers who refused to collaborate in these extra judicial operations. It was Khalra's investigation that sparked worldwide protests and led to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) concluding that the Punjab police had

unlawfully cremated 2,097 people in the Tarn Taran district of Punjab alone. The Supreme Court of India and the National Human Rights Commission certified the validity of his data. On September 6, 1995, Khalra disappeared and a case of murder, abduction and criminal conspiracy was registered on the complaint of his wife, Paramjit Kaur. Taking strong note of the "heinous crime" committed by four police officers in "eliminating" human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, active in bringing to light extrajudicial killings in the districts of Tarn Taran and Amritsar, the Punjab and Haryana Court, on October 16,

2007, changed the sentences of the four accused, former head constable Prithpal Singh and former sub-inspectors Satnam Singh, Surinder Pal Singh and Jasbir Singh from seven years to life imprisonment. An industry source shared that the makers - RSVP Movies, Abhishek Chaubey and Honey Trehan, have been waiting for censor clearance for the last six months. The source mentioned: "The Jaswant Singh Khalra case is back in court, this time for a censor certificate. It will come up for hearing on July 4 and Ameet Naik will be heading the Khalra biopic legal team." The source added that RSVP applied for the censor certificate in December 2022, and it was sent ahead to the review committee. The team shared all the necessary paperwork that was requested and went about the process with complete diligence, but with no solution forthcoming from the CBFC, they finally moved the Bombay High Court."

The Rumors Of Yash Not Doing Ranbir Kapoor-Starrer 'Ramayana' Are Baseless: Reports



Being one of the biggest films in Indian cinema, Nitesh Tiwari's directorial Ramayana is a film that everyone is keenly eyeing. While the film has been hovering in the buzzing town for many reasons, the makers are keeping all the information close to their hearts and not revealing much to the masses which is constantly rising the excitement of this humungous mythological epic among the audience. The producer Namit Malhotra and director Nitesh Tiwari are working day and night to make this magnum opus come to the big screens in a way that justifies the mega-scale of this extravagant project. Moreover, if the sources are to be believed, all the rumors of Yash not being a part of Ramayana are baseless as of now. As per an internal independent industry source, "The reports of Yash not doing Ramayana are absolutely baseless. Please wait for one of the biggest casting coups to be announced when the Ramayana team officially does it." With Ramayana, the producer Namit Malhotra is all set to bring the biggest film that Indian cinema has ever seen. The best of Industry professionals, a grand VFX team, the biggest cast, and mega sets are in the formation to build the world of Ramayana that has never been seen on the big screen before.

Crime Patrol 48 Hours: New Season Of Edgy Crime Anthology Series On Roll

Crime Patrol, one of the longest-running reality crime television series, is set to captivate audiences once again with its highly anticipated new season, "Crime Patrol 48 Hours." Premiering on Sony Entertainment Television, this gripping instalment promises to bring to light intriguing cases that demand swift thinking, exceptional investigative work, and seamless coordination to solve heinous crimes. Crime Patrol was first started in 2003, with each episode meticulously crafted, the show provides an authentic and compelling portrayal of how law enforcement agencies meticulously unravel complex cases, striving to deliver justice to the families of the victims. Crime Patrol 48 Hours aims to shed light on the immediate threats faced by society and showcase the remarkable efforts made by law enforcement to solve crimes expeditiously and effectively. With a focus on swift action and successful resolutions, the new season will take viewers on an intense journey, showcasing the tireless dedication and expertise of the police force. The new season's gripping promos have already generated immense excitement among fans and enthusiasts of Crime Patrol. Audiences can expect a rollercoaster ride of emotions, as each episode unveils a unique case that challenges the abilities of the investigating officers. Don't miss the highly anticipated premiere of 'Crime Patrol 48 Hours'.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Avneet Kaur's Kiss In Tiku Weds Sheru Trailer Sparks Controversy, Leaves Viewers In Disbelief

The first official trailer of Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Avneet Kaur's Tiku Weds Sheru was released by the makers on Wednesday (June 14). The trailer features some steamy chemistry between the lead pair - Nawazuddin and Avneet, which has sparked a massive backlash online. 'Tiku Weds Sheru' is billed as a tale of two eccentric, starry eyed characters, who want to make it big in Bollywood. Nawazuddin (Sheru), plays a struggling actor in Mumbai, who gets married to Avneet (Tiku), who dreams of moving out of Bhopal and find a footing in 'The City Of



Dreams' Mumbai. The trailer shows a liplock scene between Nawazuddin and Avneet which has shocked netizens, owing to the 27-year age gap between them. Soon after the trailer was dropped by the makers, netizens began

questioning the huge gap between the lead pair and their casting as lovers in the film. A few also criticised for adding a kiss scene between the actors and trolled Kangana for it. A user wrote, "Can't defend Nawaz anymore. Bahut ho gaya outsider."

Another one said, "Gross also what is up with Nawaaz's movie choices?" "This is just nasty, Avneet was probably 20 when the shooting of this movie started, she is also highly sexualised in the trailer," wrote a third user.

Race of Political Parties for Lok Sabha Elections



The echo of the first Lok Sabha elections of the golden age of independence is now being heard clearly. All the political parties of India are now completely in the election mode and every major political party is seen busy decorating their pieces in the election board being laid accordingly. All political parties have geared up for the 2024 Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections to be held this year, it is being seen for the first time that election-like preparations are being made long before the elections. Some parties scattered in pieces are uniting by applying fevicol. Group photographs are being taken with the parties of opposing ideology. Some parties are telling the attraction and necessity of change to reach power. Leaders of some major parties are seeing themselves in the prime minister's chair. Where voters have become more aware, politicians have also become more intelligent and clever. The way they have started laying

black and white pieces on the electoral chessboard, the voter will also seem confused by it. Not getting the eligibility of your interest. Who will take one and a half billion people of the country to the golden age of freedom? All stand naked, who the voter will clothe, it depends on the king of the day. Everyone is busy wooing this one-day king. Some are trying to win elections by resorting to the politics of freebies, while others are dreaming of winning elections on the basis of alliances. Opposition parties are trying to oust the BJP from power in one way or another, for these efforts are being made to unite the opposition parties. The BJP and its allies are also making all efforts to strengthen their position and come back to power. For this, the NDA has also intensified the search for new allies. Union Home Minister and former BJP President Amit Shah's recent visit to Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh gave strong indications of this. The BJP has been trying to consolidate its ground in South India for a long time. He has also started preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in this regard. The miraculous performance that he performed in the last Lok Sabha elections in

North India; it seems difficult for him to repeat it this time. Therefore, if it has to come back to power at the canter with a majority, it will have to increase seats in the south. This will compensate for the possible shortfall in the number of seats in North India. The BJP was moving forward with full confidence and intensity on this plan, but it was shocked by the Karnataka assembly elections. Since then it has been said that BJP is not as strong as before. But the biggest feature of the BJP is that it is expert in understanding the reasons for its defeat with great depth, understanding those reasons and setting up the mathematics to convert defeat into victory. The enthusiasm for the general elections is on the rise; this time the election is going to be very interesting and challenging. The Congress has started showing haste to link

the Karnataka victory with the general election victory. The way he resorted to the politics of freebies in Himachal and Karnataka, he is ready to repeat it in the assembly elections of various states to be held this year and in the Lok Sabha elections of the year 2024. The latest proof of this is Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's announcement in Jabalpur that if her government is formed in the state, 100 units of electricity will be given free of cost, cooking gas cylinders will be given for Rs.500 and women will be given Rs.1500 per month. Apart from this, he also promised to waive off the loans of the farmers and implement the old pension scheme. She called it the Five Guarantees. Some similar guarantees were given in

-: Lalit Garg :-

Karnataka and Himachal, to fulfill them, the elected governments of both the provinces have to work hard, because the financial condition of the state does not allow them to be fulfilled. The guarantees, populist promises and freebies that the Congress is talking about, other parties are also doing the same, in which the Aam Aadmi Party has a survey. Because he had given ten guarantees in the recent Delhi Municipal Corporation elections. These guarantees are nothing but populist promises, which are being given the name of public welfare. Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Madhya Pradesh and Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot of Rajasthan have started a flurry of public welfare schemes six months before the elections, due to which the

election atmosphere of the state is heating up. Election is the most important event in the life of any nation. This is like a 'Yagya of democracy'. Democracy is the strongest leg of the system. A day to exercise the constitutionally granted sacred franchise of every adult in the nation. Now no Rajpurohit or Rajguru sits on the throne of power, but the public chooses the hero by applying tilak on their hands. But on whom to apply Janata Tilak, all kinds of punishments are being adopted for this. Every political party is telling its populist promises and announcements as the essence of Gita, which will remove all problems and cure all diseases. But if this had happened, even after reaching the golden age of independence, the country would not have been seen struggling with poverty, inflation,

corruption, bureaucracy, unemployment, illiteracy, health problems. In such a situation, if the voter casts his vote blindly without discretion, then the result will reflect the saying that "if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the ditch". Lok Sabha elections will not only decide the fate of the parties, but will affect national policies like industry, trade, defense etc., and national unity, self-culture self-identity and the whole lifestyle and culture of brotherhood of the nation. Although in every election the basis of class and caste remains, but this time class, caste, religion and regionalism are seen emerging in a big way. And on the basis of parties, alliances have also changed in one state and in another state. An ally in one province is an opponent in another. The distinction between principle and selfishness has been erased by the chair. The result of the elections is still in the minds of the people. What secret will the ballot boxes reveal; it is in the womb of time. But a message will be received from this election that if only one empowered person is determined, then the problems of indiscipline, corruption, inflation, poverty etc. can be curbed. But instead of

building the country and moving towards development, all the parties are trying to create an indolent generation by distributing freebies. Sometimes such announcements are also made, which are not possible to fulfill. They are either completed half-heartedly or late or they are funded out of public money. For example, to fulfill the promise of giving 200 units of electricity free of cost, the Karnataka government has increased the cost of electricity. Similarly, the Punjab government increased VAT on petrol and diesel. Making populist promises ignoring the financial condition to win elections is blatant playing with the economy. If this is not stopped, the public will have to suffer its consequences. It is unfortunate and irony of the country if the election which is a medium for the selection of a strong and ideal ruler leader, results in the selection of worthless, thugs and undemocratic leaders.

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UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

UMA SHANKAR PRASAD



A uniform civil code will mean a set of common personal laws for the citizens. There are different personal laws for people of different cast. The uniform civil code became a flashpoint in Indian Politics in the year 1985 during the SahaBano case.

The Supreme court had held that Bano, a Muslim woman, should get alimony from her ex-spouse. In the context of that judgment the court had said an uniform. Personal laws were first framed during the British Raj, mainly for Hindu and Muslim citizens. Now Central Government desires the public views and the views of different political parties unanimously. In our Constitution there is a provision for Uniform Civil Code

in Article 44 as a Directive Principle of state policy which states that The state shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India. It falls within part iv of the Constitution titled as (DPSP). This Code really promotes Secularism, What we have right now in India is selective secularism which means that in some areas we are Secular and in others we aren't. A uniform Civil code



means that all citizens of India have to allow the same laws whether

they are Hindus or Muslims or Christian or Sikhs. This sounds fair

and secular to me. A uniform civil code doesn't mean it will limit the freedom of

people to allow the religion, it just means that every person will be treated the same. A uniform civil code is the sign of modern progressive nation. It is sign that the nation has moved away from caste and religious politics. In fact it might be right to say that socially and culturally we have degraded to a point where we are neither modern nor traditional. In my point of view " A uniform civil code will help the society move forward and

take India towards its goal of becoming a developed nation". It is sorry to say that after 73 years of Independence the aspiration of a Uniform Civil Code remains unrealised. If this code enacted and enforced it help and accelerate national integration. And sense of oneness and the national spirit would be roused and the country finally defeating the communal and divisional forces.

Columnist, Khurda (63706 75562)

BIMSTEC Business Conclave concludes with call for push to promote "Ease of Doing Business" among the member States

Kolkata (Partha Roy) : BIMSTEC Business Conclave concludes with call for push to promote "Ease of Doing Business" among the member States in Kolkata on 15th July 2023. Indian Chamber of Commerce and Ministry of External Affairs hosted BIMSTEC Valedictory Session. The closing ceremony provided a platform for reflection on the accomplishments, results, and potential of the BIMSTEC Nation members' efforts. The BIMSTEC gathering highlighted the region's enormous potential for collaboration and economic development. Top government representatives, business titans, innovators, and specialists, diplomats from member states attended the event, which promoted fruitful debates, knowledge exchange, and cross-sector cooperation. The valedictory session was addressed by Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs & Education, Government of India, Mr. Aung Naing, Minister of Commerce, Government of Myanmar, Mr. Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General, BIMSTEC Secretary, Mr. Mehul Mohanka, President, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Ms Tashi Wangmo, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Government of Bhutan, Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador of Myanmar to India, Ms Acharapan Yavaprapas, Consul-General of Thailand in Kolkata, Mr Andalib Elias, Deputy High Commissioner for Bangladesh as well as Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs & Education, Government of India, said, "The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

Business Conclave 2023 has brought together some of the finest minds and active entrepreneurs from BIMSTEC member nations. As the Minister of State for External Affairs and Education for the Government of India, I deliver my deepest appreciation to all of you for your active engagement in making this conclave a resounding success. This conclave has given us a great platform for strengthening relationships, improving collaboration, and capitalising on the countless opportunities that lie within our common boundaries. It has acted as a catalyst for regional economic integration, paving the way for deeper relationships, trade, and investment in the coming years. Let us continue forth the spirit of cooperation, friendship, and invention that has pervaded this historic gathering. Let us continue to deepen the bonds that link our nations together by building on the foundations we have set here. We can build a successful future for the BIMSTEC region and beyond if we work together." Mr. Aung Naing, Minister of Commerce, Government of Myanmar, said, "It is with great honour and pleasure that I stand before you today as the Minister of Commerce for the Government of Myanmar, representing the vibrant nation that has embraced the spirit of regional cooperation and economic integration. Myanmar, as a proud member of BIMSTEC, understands the importance of regional economic integration in achieving long-term growth. Our country, with its abundant resources, strategic position, and qualified people, is poised to play a critical part in this process. We are devoted to supporting innovation and boosting entrepreneurship by building a business-friendly climate that



attracts both local and foreign investment. Various sessions held during this Conclave will surely boost our regional trade and economic relations. Myanmar is eager to work with its BIMSTEC partners to strengthen trade ties, develop innovation, and build an ecosystem that fosters entrepreneurship and investment. Let us use our combined talents to harness our unique resources and uncover the immense potential that exists in our region. Finally, I'd want to reiterate our solid commitment to BIMSTEC's goals of poverty reduction, economic growth, and regional integration. Let us march forward hand in hand, leveraging our nations' joint power to achieve a brighter and more prosperous future for all of our people. Mr Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General, BIMSTEC Secretariat, said, "This event brings together many stakeholders from various backgrounds, notably from the commercial sector, to boost business partnership and idea exchange. An event of this kind was much required, and I applaud the Indian Chamber of Commerce for taking the initiative. BIMSTEC has been going forward and achieving advances in several disciplines since 1997. Concerning the topic or objective of this conclave, which is to improve BIMSTEC business and increase inter-regional commerce, I would like to point out

that trade and investment are the founding purposes of BIMSTEC. As a result, the leaders signed the framework of the BIMSTEC free trade area as early as 2004, this framework agreement that outlined the detailed part of achieving a comprehensive free trade area generating positive vibes and excitement among the people of the Bay of Bengal region, particularly the private sectors. However, completing all of the FTA's instruments has been a significant difficulty; despite the fact that the framework was agreed 19 years ago, several components of the FTA are still under discussion and unfinished. The progress of the BIMSTEC FTA is exceedingly sluggish; as a result of this protracted delay, member states are now considering finishing those components that are virtually finished and proceeding with implementation rather than waiting for the full FTA to be finalised. We expect that these three components, the Trade and Goods Agreement, the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, and the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters, would be finished at the next BIMSTEC Trade Negotiation Committee meeting, which Bangladesh has suggested later this year. I notice that the BIMSTEC business committee of this 2023 conclave strongly recommended early harvest of low

hanging components, and the secretariat is pleased to notice this critical advice as well as recognising the importance of involving the private sector and increasing regional commercial cooperation. Leaders also established a business forum in 1998. The FDCCI, BCCI, ASSOCHA, UNFCCI, FNCCI, MCCSL, Thai Chamber of Commerce, and The Board of Trade of Thailand met for the first time in 8 years. All leaders should encourage interaction with the private sector and increase commercial cooperation. I believe that today is the appropriate time to urge our esteemed business chambers to restart the BIMSTEC business forum. I would like to push for the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry to take the lead in revitalising this crucial forum because Bangladesh is the lead country in trade and investment, and the business forum falls under this sector. I strongly believe that the other BIMSTEC trade associations should step forward and assume responsibility for the BIMSTEC system, as well as for forging a link of friendship among the region's business leaders. Other industries, such as connectivity, are making significant strides. The BIMSTEC Transport Cooperation Agreement and the BIMSTEC Motor Vehicle Agreement will be signed and concluded this year." Mr. Mehul Mohanka,

President, Indian Chamber of Commerce, said, "BIMSTEC is a connection between South Asia and South-East Asia. Given the context of multiple geopolitical crises in various regions of Asia, it is clear that the notion of a new regional economy requires substantial populational integration. The moment has come for the South and South-East to rise, and BIMSTEC cooperation in this area should be developed. We have done our best efforts through this conclave, an exposition, to provide venues for commercial interactions between buyers and sellers. Following the epidemic, the economic system is resuming normalcy, so now is the moment for us to work and consider ways to improve connection." Ms. Tashi Wangmo, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Government of Bhutan, said, "I can attest that this business conclave surely exceeded everyone's expectations. We all recognise that there is a significant gap between what we can do together as BIMSTEC states and where we are presently as sovereign entities.... What I'm trying to emphasise here is how we are putting words into action, which is critical at this time. Such corporate conclaves should be held more frequently. It was a strong indication that the three-day BIMSTEC summit was a huge success." Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador of Myanmar to India, said, "The problems stated at this event are undeniably important for promoting inter-regional commerce and investment in the post-pandemic age and at a moment of global economic recession. It is an interregional company programme that brings together South Asia and Southeast Asia. BIMSTEC is growing as a major economic force in both the Asian and global economies. The goals of

BIMSTEC range from the promotion of economic and social prosperity based on equality to the improvement of reciprocal advantages in the economic, social, and technical realms. Friendship between India and Myanmar has become stronger. I noted member nations exhibiting a wide range of items with the potential to promote regional commerce and investment in the exhibition hall. Some items may not be displayed at this event, but I believe that by networking among the member nations during the event, we may explore promising possibilities. Finally, I would like to thank the ICC and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India for organising this summit, and I wish them all the best in their future initiatives." Ms Acharapan Yavaprapas, Consul-General of Thailand in Kolkata, said, "To realise the benefits of its potential, we must regard BIMSTEC as a platform for forming collaboration and partnership for the future of others. To become more open, we will value our rich socio-cultural connections, which will favour people-to-people communication among BIMSTEC nations. In conclusion, Thailand is sure that BIMSTEC will continue to be a powerful platform for all member nations to benefit from in order to achieve an equitable economic objective." Mr Andalib Elias, Deputy High Commissioner for Bangladesh, Kolkata, said, "Bangladesh is a firm believer in the potential of connectedness and human-to-human interaction. Bangladesh has previously indicated interest in joining the tri-national India-Myanmar-Thailand or INT Highway, which may of course play a significant role in the efficient flow of raw materials and goods throughout the area. Dear colleagues, our unwavering dedication to BIMSTEC's strength is once again firmly demonstrated. We will engage with the ICC to

continue the conversations held at this business conclave in the recent past, and we will try to achieve the aims and goals articulated in these sessions." While delivering the vote of thanks, Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce, said "Some BIMSTEC sessions went far and wide, they approved resolutions and want specific things to happen, chambers and businesses are willing to play an important part in taking the lead, and I will only mention a few. I believe that free movement of people, goods, and tourists is critical, so there is an idea to have at least one year of BIMSTEC Travel pass, so that the movement of people, tourists, and businessmen becomes easier. Of course, governments must make the final decision, but businesses and travellers alike believe that a one-year travel pass would make a lot of sense and would improve people-to-people connections. The second concept was that FTA would take some time to develop since each country must secure its own industry, trade, and MSMEs. Certain areas of trade procedures and trade documentation can be simplified, and digitisation is one simple step. That may be taken up since India has already utilised it efficiently, so FTA is clearly something that the sector wants and will help build, but we must go gradually and with digitisation. Removing non-tariff obstacles, establishing testing labs at crossings, and increasing the product list for exports are just a few examples of how border infrastructure may be improved. All of the chambers agreed that, while there is a business forum, meaningful commercial activity will only occur if additional chambers become actively involved. This BIMSTEC business meet, I would say, was a successful model in which several chambers from various nations joined hands, and we all joined hands as partners, and we were able to create a meaningful engagement.

PM Modi To Lead Yoga Session At UN Headquarters On June 21

United Nations: In a historic commemoration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead a yoga session for the first time at UN Headquarters on the 9th International Day of Yoga to be celebrated on June 21. The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practising yoga. Recognising its universal appeal, in December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. "On the occasion of the 9th International Day of Yoga, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations cordially invites you to join a Yoga session led by H. E. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi," an advisory for the event said. Nine years after Prime Minister Modi had first proposed from the UN General Assembly

podium to mark International Yoga Day as an annual commemoration, the Indian leader will for the first time be at the UN Headquarters to lead the yoga session in a historic commemoration of the day. The Yoga session will run from 8 am - 9 am on June 21 at the expansive North Lawn in the UN Headquarters, where a bust of Mahatma Gandhi, a gift from India to the UN, was installed in December last year during the country's Presidency of the UN Security Council. The historic yoga session is expected to be attended by top UN officials, ambassadors, envoys, delegates from Member States as well as prominent members of the global and diaspora community. The advisory encourages guests and attendees to wear Yoga-friendly attire for the special session

and added that Yoga mats will be provided during the session. "Welcome to take it home as a souvenir," it said. "I am looking forward to participating in the 9th International Day of Yoga celebrations @UN with Prime Minister @NarendraModi at the UNHQ North Lawn next week," President of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly Csaba Korosi said in a tweet Thursday. The tweet accompanies a photograph of Korosi with PM Modi. The first International Day of Yoga was commemorated in 2015 and has since then been marked with several sessions and events highlighting the benefits and universal appeal of Yoga at the UN, Times Square and iconic locations across the world. The UN underlined that Yoga is an ancient



physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolising the union of body and consciousness. Today it is practised in various forms around the world and continues to grow in popularity. The draft UNGA resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a

record 175 member states. The proposal was first introduced by Prime Minister Modi in his address during the opening of the 69th session of the General Assembly, in which he said: "Yoga is an invaluable gift from our ancient tradition. Yoga embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action ... a holistic approach (that) is valuable to our health

and our well-being. Yoga is not just about exercise; it is a way to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and nature." The resolution notes "the importance of individuals and populations making healthier choices and following lifestyle patterns that foster good health." On this, the World Health Organisation has also urged its member states to help their citizens

reduce physical inactivity, which is among the top ten leading causes of death worldwide, and a key risk factor for non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes, the UN said. "So proud of India's impact in the World. From Yoga to cuisine to technology to education to science to arts to entertainment...and beyond," Michelin-star chef, author, filmmaker and entrepreneur Vikas Khanna said in a tweet, welcoming Prime Minister Modi, who will head from New York to Washington DC on June 21 for his first Official State Visit on June 22. "As an Indian living in America for the last almost 25 years, I am really honoured by Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US. He has been a bridge between the two greatest democracies in the

world. At the same time, he has given us opportunities, he has given us a voice and also given us the pride to represent our country in America," Mr Khanna said in a video message accompanying his tweet. Mr Khanna said he is "really looking forward" to the visit and also be "inspired to present India in its highest glory to the world." Prime Minister Modi is visiting the US from June 21-24 at the invitation of US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. They will host PM Modi at a state dinner on June 22. The visit also includes an address to the Joint Session of the Congress on June 22. PM Modi will address an invitation-only gathering of diaspora leaders from across the country at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington on June 23.

Season Of Protests

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Ahead of the crucial 2024 elections, all three major political parties in Odisha have started playing politics by staging protest over different public issues. Not it seems 'Season Of Protests' has unveiled, pointed out a political observer.

The BJP Wednesday launched a two-day long protest before the offices of Tata Power in different places, while, countering BJP's protest, the ruling BJD has staged demonstrations before Raj Bhawan over the steep rise in LPG cylinder price. The Congress said it will gherao GRIDCO office on June 19 to protest erratic power supply.

The BJP leaders and workers staged protests before the offices of Tata Power in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and other cities

on Wednesday. The BJP will continue the protest on Thursday also.

"Due to climate change, there will be a rise in power consumption and the state government should have a vision to meet the requirement. If the state government claims that we are a surplus state in terms of power generation, where the electricity is going," questioned BJP leader Nayan Mohanty.

Similarly, BJP General Secretary Prithviraj Harichandan said people are facing a lot of difficulties due to frequent power cuts as the government has no control over the power distribution system.

"We are holding the protest to raise the voice of the public against the government and Tata Power over frequent power cuts across Odisha. Besides, Tata



Power should also face the public ire for the power disruptions," he said.

On BJD's counter protest, the BJP leader said, "By holding the LPG price hike protest, the ruling BJD proved that they are protecting Tata Power company and no one can raise fingers towards the

company even though it exploits the people."

BJD leaders and activists staged a protest against the rising prices of LPG in front of Raj Bhawan here on Wednesday. The Party also submitted a memorandum to the President of India through the Governor demanding immediate

reduction in LPG prices. BJD leader Srimayee Mishra said that the price of a domestic gas cylinder was Rs 410 in 2014 which has gone up now to Rs 1,130, which has been impacting household budgets significantly.

Similarly, the Ujwala scheme has become a dark scheme as the

beneficiaries are unable to refill their cylinders. The poor women again return to wooden chulha. BJD will continue to protest the hike in gas prices if the Center does not reduce the price immediately, Mishra said.

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) President Sarat

Pattanayak alleged that both the BJD and BJP are in competition to harass people. One party is protesting power cuts while another is demonstrating over gas prices. Both BJD and BJP are cheating the people of Odisha, he said.

He alleged that the state government is exploiting the people with high power tariff and frequent disruptions in electricity supply. The Centre also exploited the people by raising the LPG price to such a high, it became a dream for the poor now, he said.

The Congress leader said that Rs 20,000 crore was allotted by centre and state for power infrastructure development in Odisha. However, a total amount, Rs 5,000 crore was given to Tata Power

and no one knows about the rest Rs 15,000 crore, Pattanayak said.

The Congress leader demanded the state government to publish a white paper on the issue giving details about the amount provided and utilized for development of the power sector.

Mounting a scathing attack on the Naveen Patnaik government over frequent power outage across the state amid scorching heat, he said Congress party will gherao GRIDCO office on June 19 to protest erratic power supply and demand concrete steps to ensure uninterrupted electricity to the people. Senior Congress leader, Panchanan Kanungo said, "Odisha should propose before OERC that electricity bill should be handed over to people on a single date."

80-year-old woman raped in Odisha

KENDRAPARA: A 80-year-old woman was allegedly raped by a man 50 years younger than her in Odisha's Kendrapara district, police said on Thursday. The accused had offered her a lift to her daughter's house on his motorcycle in a village in Kendrapara district on Wednesday evening and committed the offence, the police.

The octogenarian woman was waiting at Kahuna Chhack for a bus to visit her daughter's house when a young man offered her a lift. But the accused took her to an isolated place



at Madanpur and sexually assaulted her. The old woman is hospitalized with severe injuries to her private parts at the Community Health Center (CHC) in Rajnagar, said medical

officer Asutosh Barik. Senior police officers rushed to the hospital and recorded her statement.

"We have formed a team to track down the accused."

Police are also examining nearby CCTV footage to nab the accused, said Sandhyarani Beuria, the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Pattamundai.

Rabi procurement woes of Koraput farmers in Odisha spill to choke kharif plan



JEYPORE: Citing poor quality paddy, millers in different mandis in Jeypore, Kundra, Borrigumma and Kotpad areas are reluctant to lift produce from farmers in the area even though the procurement process began four days back. So far, only 33,000 quintal paddy have been lifted from the mandis.

Sources said while millers are demanding FAQ standard paddy from farmers in the mandis as per the norms or give extra 6 kg paddy per quintal procured to compensate for the loss to maintain the FAQ during custom milling,

farmers complain that millers are unnecessarily creating hurdles in procurement process due to vested interests.

Farmers are reportedly offering only 3 kg per quintal to millers to compensate for poor quality paddy, sources added. Due to such differences, several mandis under Jeypore RMC have not been able to speed up the process. It is being alleged that the Civil Supplies department has also not made any effort to bridge the differences between farmers and millers.

The district administration has set a

target to procure 10 lakh quintal paddy in the district for ensuing Rabi season while only 33,000 quintals have been procured so far. On Monday, the farmers led by Koraput Krushak Kalayan Manch convenor Narendra Pradhan met collector M Abdaal Akhtar in Kundra block and demanded to streamline the process as monsoon rains could affect the process any time. The collector assured to resolve the problem soon, sources said.

On the other hand, for the ensuing kharif, non-clearance of choked

canal beds under Upper Kolab irrigation project in Jeypore region by the authorities concerned has added to the headache of farmers. According to sources, over 90 canals and sub-canals under Jeypore main canal, Dhanpur distributary and Padampur distributary have developed silt and weeds due to continuous water supply during rabi season from January to May this year.

Besides frequent nor'wester rains also resulted in accumulation of leaves and tree branches in most canal beds. "We have been demanding clearance and repair of canals for coming kharif season timely but no action has been taken," rued Jitendra Mishra, a farmer under Dhanpur distributary system. Works division executive engineer SK Sahu however said, "We have instructed SDOs of canal systems to begin the works in war-footing before the kharif irrigation plan."



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India's economic indications remain robust says DSP Mutual Fund

Mumbai: India's economic growth continues to remain strong even in times when the world is facing economic turbulence says DSP Mutual Fund in the February 2023 issue of its monthly report Netra which tracks the latest economic trends and insights. The report highlighted that India's high frequency indicators remain robust. These include healthy GST collections, near record high volume of petroleum products

sold (a proxy for consumption), electronic toll (including Fastag) collections indicating brisk economic activity along with business activity and sentiments being positive. The report mentions that the recent flat performance of Nifty Index compared to a 26% rally in the MSCI Emerging markets index has resulted in the vanishing of the high valuation premium that India had over its emerging

market peers. This is a positive development as foreign inflows in India had become muted lately due to high valuations. Further consolidation and steady earnings growth can cause India to become attractive once again as we progress into 2023. DSP Mutual Fund feels there is an opportunity in the bond market. Whenever RBI has raised rates, corporate bond spreads have gone up. This

monetary policy is least disruptive the reasons being rates are not as high as previous cycle, liquidity conditions are better vs the last hiking cycle, corporate spreads are also not very high. This means corporations can borrow even during the tightening cycle and the rates are also more conducive. This will help in India's growth from a long-term perspective. DSP Mutual Fund believes that Banking sector is poised for an

appreciation. The current dip in banking equities is another opportunity to add lenders over borrowers. The ratio of NSE Bank Index to NSE Metal Index bottomed out at a timewhen the yield curve was very steep & RBI was about to embark on a rate hike journey. The recent correction in Banking stocks & a rally in Metals equities makes an attractive proposition once again. Auto sector is also looking very

promising. The long-term earnings trajectory for the technology sector continues to remain attractive. Investors who have been waiting on the sidelines are likely to get a good opportunity to buy into

this valuation and price correction in the technology sector. "The most important thing for equity markets in 2023 is earnings growth and softening valuations. The last 17 month of consolidation has

removed a lot of valuation froth. There is a higher likelihood of better market backdrop going forward," said Sahil Kapoor, Market Strategist and head of products at DSP Mutual Fund.

DIZO, by realme TechLife, launches DIZO Wireless Dash

Bhubaneswar: DIZO, the first brand under realme Techlife ecosystem, today announced the launch of DIZO Wireless Dash that boasts of a unique Kevlar Design, Blink charge feature and 30 hours of total music playback. The feature loaded DIZO Wireless Dash, using an 11.2mm large driver, Bass Boost+ algorithm and PU+PEEK diaphragm, will offer an enhanced audio experience at the most aggressive price. For the uber-fast generation today, the DIZO Wireless Dash offers 10 hours of music playback in just 10 mins charge using the Blink Charge feature along with safe charging chip inside; and a total

music playback of upto 30 hours on a single charge. A steal deal for those who prefer neckband design, it also brings Magnetic Instant Connection, Memory Metal, ENC, dedicated Game Mode and realme Link app customizations, and even the smallest of the detailing such as balanced weight, air pressure control and dual material ear tips. The latest DIZO Wireless Dash, designed to complement the uniqueness in you, with its distinct Kevlar design, Blink charge feature and 30 hours of total music playback is priced at just INR 1,599. However, during the first sale on Flipkart (and soon on select retail

stores) from 24th May 2022, 12 pm onwards, the latest neckband earphone will be sold at an introductory price of INR 1,299 only. Commenting on the launch, Abhilash Panda, CEO, DIZO India shares, "We are committed to deliver feature-rich solutions at aggressive price points every time and our team is working towards it daily. With the launch of DIZO Wireless Dash, I am confident to wow our consumers this time again. The latest achievement motivates us more than ever and we promise to deliver products with more dedication and keep brewing new ideas for you all."

Doctors at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital successfully treated 33-year-old suffering from a rare case of Salivary Gland Cancer

Bhubaneswar/Cuttack: Doctors at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, Cuttack, treated 33-year-old Reema (name changed), hailing from Western Odisha, from Parotid Gland Carcinoma, a rare form of cancer that occurs in the salivary glands situated right below the ear lobes. The cancerous gland was resected by conducting an advanced form of Total Parotidectomy Surgery on the patient while preserving her facial nerves, which are responsible for facial expressions. This incredible feat was achieved by Dr Manjunath NML, Senior consultant Surgical Oncologist and his team at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital Cuttack.

Reema suffered from unexplained excruciating pain continuously on the face and earlobes for a period of 8 months. In order to get relief from the pain, she visited neurological specialists and physicians from multiple hospitals where she was misdiagnosed for other neurological diseases and was treated with analgesics, as they failed to diagnose her actual condition. She consulted the doctors at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, who discovered a vague swelling near the earlobes and with suspicion of a tumour. Imaging of the parotid gland was conducted to check for any malignancy and it was discovered that she had

a parotid lobe tumour in the junction between the superficial lobe and the deep lobe, right behind the mandible or the lower jaw bone. Nerve sparing total parotidectomy was conducted using advanced form of equipments such as surgical loupes, nerves monitoring devices and Vessel Sealer, which helped surgeons achieve an absolute haemostasis or minimal blood loss during the surgery. This four- and half-hour surgical procedure was conducted by preserving the facial nerves that passes through the superficial lobe and deep lobe and any implication on the facial nerves would lead to disfigurement of the face, paralysis on one

side of the face, lack of expressing emotions, inability to close the eyes and move the eyebrows. Elaborating the complexities of the surgery, Dr Manjunath NML said, "This is a unique and a rare case among young women, where we usually witness just one or two cases per year. This was one challenging case, as the cancer tumours were adjacent to the facial nerve and we had to carefully dissect them without causing any hindrance or impact to the nerve. With the advanced facilities at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital Cuttack, we were able to resect the tumour successfully and witness a big smile on the patients face." Post her successful

surgery, while thanking her doctors, Reema said, "For the past eight months, the events that occurred to me because of this condition are unexplainable. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr Manjunath and the entire team for the timely help in relieving the pain I was enduring and helping me recover back from this deadly tumour. Also I was worried about my facial expressions when doctors explained me about the tumor in relation to facial nerve and need for its removal if required. Thanks again to the entire team for helping me to get rid of this bad tumor with my smile intact" (with a big smile on her face).

Ashok Leyland reaches yet another milestone, showcases 'CNG engine H series' at EXCON

Chennai: Ashok Leyland, the flagship Company of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer today showcased 'CNG engine H series' at the ongoing EXCON 2022, organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Based on strong leverage of Auto BSVI engine development, the CNG engine H series (4 and 6 Cyl) is designed for off highway / CEV clients, and this product will be

the first of its kind in the CEV / mining and off highway segment. The H series CNG engine has a number of features, including ECU-controlled gas leak detection; improved cold start capability; enhanced lower end torque and flat torque from 1200rpm to 2000rpm; gear-based torque control for better fuel economy; durable engine valves and valve seats for CNG operation; proven, durable engine for CEV application;

turbocharged engine provides higher torque, fuel efficiency, better drivability, and transient response; maintenance-free engine. The CNG engine H series also fulfils CEV V standards without SCR or DPF, and features proven multipoint sequential gas injection for dependable performance; a 500 hours oil drain interval; and the maximum power in the sector. Sharing his views, Mr. Dheeraj Hinduja, Executive Chairman,

Ashok Leyland said, "Ashok Leyland's expertise in engineering has paved the way for the company to establish itself as a key player in the CNG engine sector, and we aspire to continue to do so by expanding our portfolio of CNG Engines and technology solutions. Ashok Leyland aims to make India's CNG engine sector self-reliant, and to be one of the leaders in the "Make in India" narrative." Present at the event Dr

N Saravanan, CTO, Ashok Leyland said, "Ashok Leyland has a track record of catering to customer needs with world class products that generate higher profitability. With the increasing need for better fuel efficiency and use of alternate fuels, we have a solid pipeline of such technologies. We aspire to lead the market in this segment, as the need for engines with alternative fuels grows".

AIC-GIM Foundation, Climate Collective and the Taj Hospitality Brand collaborate on a Global Single Use Plastics Challenge

Panaji: The consumption of Single Use Plastics (SUP's) in the food and beverage industry grew dramatically during the Covid-19 outbreak and is now expanding at a 2.5-fold rate. With the aim of reducing single use plastic from the F&B industry in Goa, Atal Incubation Center Foundation at Goa Institute of Management (AIC-GIM) in partnership with Climate Collective Foundation and IHCL's Taj hospitality brand is bringing the Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Challenge.

The SUP challenge is inviting innovations to reduce single use plastic from the F&B sector. The selected solutions will get the opportunity to test their ideas in Goa with the Taj hotel network of Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL). "As a company, we want to put a strong emphasis on sustainability as a way of life for everyone, which thus culminates in the adoption of a variety of sustainable business methods. We are happy to collaborate with AIC-GIM Foundation and Climate Collective Foundation for the Global SUP challenge which will reduce the usage of Single Use Plastics across our properties in Goa" said Mr. Vincent Ramos,

Area Director, Indian Hotels Company Limited. The SUP Challenge will assess the volume of single-use plastics waste reduced through piloting and scaling ventures' innovations along with environmental impact avoided, such as waste diverted from landfills, incineration or avoided entirely. Additionally, the challenge will guide startups to fine-tune their business cases for F&B industry and insights derived from their pilots will contribute to a study around understanding the environmental impacts of alternatives to single-use plastic packaging.

Symphony, in partnership with AEEE, invests in the 'SAHARA Programme'

Bhubaneswar: around four trillion-person cooling degree days, India is characterised by tropical and sub-tropical climatic conditions coupled with a lack of access to cooling, rising temperatures and ever-evolving socio-economic trends such as rapid population growth and urbanisation, which will not only amplify the climate change-induced heat stress but would also fuel the demand for space cooling. SAHARA programme would act as a catalyst for disseminating knowledge about the thermal comfort situation in India's academic institutions. It could bring about systemic changes on multiple fronts in the long term.

Microtek, the leader in the power product market of India has recently organized a Star Retail Partners' Meet at Taj Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, where the company introduced its newly launched range of inverters and home UPS series to the key retailers of the region. The new range of inverters and UPSs launched demonstrates the latest technological advancements that help to save electricity besides offering the best output in power backup. More than 400 retailers from the region attended the gala event.

Microtek Organised Rockstar & Star Retail Partners' Meet in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar: We recently launched our wide range of UPS' in the Indian market like the SmartHybrid UPS series. It is powered by Smart Hybrid Electronics Integrated Circuit Technology for True Sinewave out that gives noiseless performance, and more load handling capacity. The other efficient UPS launched series are Superpower, Heavy Duty with the capacity of running heavy loads & energy-efficient model - Energy Saver. It has an inbuilt energy-efficient transformer for better performance in energy saving. Luxe and iMerlyn are the premium series launched with Luxe having the LCD display that shows running load status, battery charging time and backup time. I am sure this event and our new product range will further strengthen the brand presence in the

Odisha market." The key people of the industry were present at the event. The company also felicitated its channel partners at the event. The event was attended by the officials of Microtek International and trade partners from Odisha. Odisha is one of the important markets for Microtek and the company is looking forward to expanding its presence in the state with the new series. Microtek is planning more such activities for the Odisha Market to create awareness about its new products and further strengthening its business relations with the retail market in the state. The price of the new product range starts from MRP Rs. 6240 and the products are already available through the company's vast distribution network across India.

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We've found a style, we'll stick to it - Ben Stokes

New Delhi: Ben Stokes has led England in 14 Test matches so far, and under his captaincy, the team has scored at a run-rate of 4.65 per over. To put this in perspective, the next best scoring rate for a team under a captain (who has led in a minimum of three Tests) is 3.66 by Australia under Steve Waugh's leadership in 57 matches between 1999 and 2004. Stokes's captaincy assignments so far have been against West Indies, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Ireland at home while he also led England in away games against Pakistan and New Zealand. England's positive batting approach under the Stokes-McCullum regime, popularly known as 'Bazball', has garnered a lot of appreciation in the cricketing fraternity.

Along with the entertainment aspect it brings to the table, it has also helped hasten results in games which may have otherwise ended in dull draws, the best example being the series in Pakistan.

But the England batters, apart from a few games, haven't been challenged much, given that the conditions and the quality of the opposition bowling have played into their hands more often than not. The approach, however, could be put under a stern Test when they face up to the likes of Pat Cummins and co in The Ashes. Notwithstanding the quality of the Australian pace attack, England's approach will remain the same, insisted skipper Stokes.

Speaking ahead of the opening Ashes



encounter, Stokes said: "I think what we have done over the last year is show how we want to play, we found a way to get the best out of the team and the individuals. We get asked a lot if we are going to continue to play this way against this opposition or that

opposition and we have made it clear that this is how England play their cricket against any opposition, because it's worked more often than not. I don't think there's any question around how we are going to go out and play our cricket, even though it's against

Australia. "We've found a style and a way in which we want to play our cricket that has been very successful and regardless of the opposition, that's what we're going to try and stick to," said Stokes. "Conditions can dictate

how you can do that but we will always try to adapt to the conditions and still try to have that positive mode - to go out and have as much fun as we can. (We're) always looking to put pressure back on the opposition regardless of who it is. Not facing the man but facing the ball or vice-versa."

England's brand of cricket has dominated the chatter in the build up to the Ashes but the members of the Australian team have time and again tried to shrug it off by saying that the home team's approach may not work against their bowling attack.

"I think they've got to give themselves confidence in their side around the comments they're going to make," said Stokes. "But as I

said we've been used to being asked that question ourselves as a playing group. 'can you do it against South Africa, can we do it against Pakistan in Pakistan, are we going to be able to do it against Australia?'"

"So I guess every team is maybe going to get asked by their side about how we're playing, so obviously I don't see anything wrong with any comments made by the Australian guys or our responses."

The key reason for the aggressive model to work so well is the confidence Stokes and McCullum have been able to exude in their players. The players in turn have responded with fine performances to help England script a turnaround in their Test fortunes in recent years.

"I feel as if I've always had a really good relationship with the players in this dressing room. I guess one of the most important things - being captain - was still being able to have the same trust even though now I'm making big decisions as I'm captain. And just making the guys in the dressing room believe that they are incredible players rather than anything else, and making them believe in themselves a lot more than what they probably did before that." So that was the biggest thing that I wanted to try and do was keep that trust factor between the relationship that we had before and make them believe that they were better than what they actually thought. Hopefully, I've done that."

Chetan Sharma chairs North Zone selection meeting; picks Mandeep Singh as Duleep Trophy captain

New Delhi: Chetan Sharma, the former Indian all-rounder, has returned as the chairman of selectors, this time for the North Zone team. Sharma, who had previously resigned from his position as chief selector of the Indian team due to a sting operation by a news channel, chaired the meeting of the North Zone selection committee. Representing Haryana, he presided over the meeting chaired by Anirudh Chaudhry, a former treasurer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The selection meeting took place at Gurgaon Cricket Ground on Thursday (June 15). Mandeep Singh was chosen as the captain of the North Zone team for the upcoming Duleep Trophy, scheduled to be held in Bangalore from



June 28 to July 16. The Chetan Sharma-led panel finalized a 15-member squad and also announced eight stand-by players. Additionally, the panel revealed the coach and support staff for the zonal side.

This marks a comeback of sorts for Chetan Sharma, who previously

served as the chairman of the national selection committee for three years. However, he had to resign in February following the controversy surrounding the sting operation.

Since then, the Indian team has been without a chairman of selectors. Sib Sundar Das from Odisha

has been serving as the interim chief selector, with the BCCI yet to initiate the process of finding a replacement for Chetan Sharma in the North Zone. North Zone officials confirmed chairing the meeting but refused to comment stating convenor Chaudhry is the right person to speak to the

media. Chaudhry could not be immediately reached.

North Zone squad: Prabhsimran Singh (wicket-keeper), Prashant Chopra, Dhruv Shorey, Ankit Kalsi, Mandeep Singh (captain), Ankit Kumar, Pulkit Narang, Nishant Sindhu, Manan Vohra, Jayant Yadav, Baltej Singh, Vaibhav Arora, Harshit Rana, Sidharth Kaul, Abid Mushtaq

The stand-bys: Mayank Dagar, Mayank Markande, Ravi Chauhan, Anmol Malhotra, Nehal Wadehra, Diwesh Pathania, Divij Mehra, Kunal Mahajan

Support staff: Coach: Ajay Ratra, Physiotherapist: Deepak Surya, Trainer: Rajneesh Mehta, Performance Analyst: Amit Sharma, Masseur: Naresh Kumar Motla, Manager: Col. Ishan A Khan.

Bangladesh to host India women's team for white-ball series in July



Dhaka: Bangladesh will host the Indian women's team for a white-ball series in July. Shafiqul Alam Chowdhury Nadel, Bangladesh Cricket Board's women's wing chairman, confirmed the development to Cricbuzz.

"Yes, we will be playing a white-ball series against India women's

national cricket team in July and all the matches will be played in Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium," said Nadel. It will be the first time in 11 years the SBNS will host a women's international game. The last time the Bangladesh women's team played at this venue was in 2012 against South Africa.

All the matches will be day-affairs as per the draft itinerary prepared for the series and obtained by Cricbuzz. The Indian team will arrive in Dhaka on July 6 to play three ODIs and as many T20Is. The T20Is are scheduled on July 9, 11 and 13 while the three ODIs will be played on July 16, 19 and 22.

Indonesia Open 2023: Kidambi Srikanth Upsets Lakshya Sen To Reach Quarters, PV Sindhu Crashes Out

New Delhi: India's two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu crashed out of the Indonesia Open 2023 badminton tournament, losing to third seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in a women's singles Round of 16 encounter in Jakarta on Thursday. Former World Champion Sindhu, who won a silver medal in the Rio Olympics in 2016 and a bronze at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, went down 18-21, 16-21 in the 29-minute encounter.

Earlier, in what was a repeat of the 2021 World Championship in Huelva, Spain, losing to Singapore's Loh Kean Yew, emerged 21-17, 22-20 winner to qualify for the last-eight stage of this BWF World Tour Super 1000 event which has a total prize fund of \$1,250,000. Playing at Istora in the Indonesia capital, Sindhu conceded an early lead as Tai Tzu Ying surged ahead 4-



0. Sindhu brought down the gap to 9-5 a few minutes later but the Chinese Taipei star, a former World No.1 just like Sindhu, extended the lead to 13-5. Sindhu fought back to

reduce the margin to 17-13 and 19-17 eventually but could not stop the third seed from winning the first game. Scores went neck-and-neck till 6-5 in favour of Sindhu in

the second game but the Chinese Taipei shuttler took the lead at 10-6. Sindhu caught up with her twice and held an advantage at 15-14 and went on to level scores at 16-16

before Tai Tzu Ying went on to win game 21=16 and went on to seal a place in the quarterfinals.

In the first game in the men's singles Round of 16 match, Srikanth came back after conceding the lead twice to eventually win the game in the 45-minute encounter. Lakshya, who is ranked 14th in the World, jumped to a 3-0 lead before Srikanth narrowed it to 4-3. However, Lakshya won three more points in a row to 8-4 up before Srikanth clawed back his way into the game to make it 10-9. The two shuttlers went neck-and-neck before Srikanth,

ranked 20th in the latest BWF World Rankings, surged ahead to a 17-14 lead.

Though Lakshya caught up with him at 17-all, Srikanth won the next four points to seal a 21-17 win. The second game was also a close affair as the two players fought hard for the first few points before Srikanth opened an 8-5 lead over his opponent from Uttarakhand who currently trains in Bengaluru. Lakshya Sen caught up with him at 10-10 and took the lead at 12-10 but Srikanth levelled scores at 13-all and then won the next six points to

surge to 19-12 lead. The 30-year-old from Andhra Pradesh had six match points but Lakshya saved them all and levelled the scores at 20-20.

However, Srikanth could not be denied victory on Thursday as he won the next two points to win the game and match at 22-20. It will be a busy day for the Indians at the Istora in the Indonesian capital as singles stars PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy besides top doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are scheduled to take the court in their respective categories later in the day.