



PM receives warm welcome by the Prime Minister of Egypt, Mr Mostafa Madbouly on his arrival at the airport, in Cairo, Egypt

## Low pressure to form over Bay of Bengal in 24 hours, heavy rain predicted in Odisha

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** A low pressure area is likely to form over the Bay of Bengal along the coast of Odisha and West Bengal in the next 24 hours, informed the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday.

As per the IMD bulletin, the cyclonic circulation over Westcentral & adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal now lies over Northwest Bay of Bengal adjoining north Odisha-West Bengal coasts extending up to 7.6 km above mean sea level tilting south-westwards with height. The system will turn into a low pressure over the same region in the next 24 hours.

Weather Forecast Issued By IMD on Friday

**Yellow Warning:** Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Cuttack, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj. Heavy rainfall very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Khordha, Puri, Nayagarh, Angul, Kandhamal, Boudh, Sonepur, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Sundargarh. Orange Warning: Heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at a few places over the districts of Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Angul, Boudh, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda. Yellow Warning: Heavy

rainfall very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Nuapada, Nayagarh.

**Orange Warning:** Heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur in a few places over the districts of Angul, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Boudh, Bargarh, Bolangir, Kalahandi.

**Yellow Warning:** Heavy rainfall very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Deogarh, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Korapur, Malkangiri, Nabarangapur, Nuapada.

## Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan lambasts BJD-led government over corruption cases

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday tore into the Biju Janata Dal (BJD)-led government over rising cases of corruption involving government employees in Odisha.

Pradhan's comments came after OAS officer & Nabarangpur ADM, Prasanta Rout was arrested as Vigilance detected disproportionate assets worth over Rs 5 crore. While addressing a gathering at the Garib Kalyan Samavesh in Talcher, Pradhan said the corrupt persons are the protégés of the government here in Odisha.

"Since January 2023 till now, Rs 100 crore has been recovered from corrupted officers. This seized money belongs to the poor tribal people of Odisha. The corrupt



officers are siphoning off poor people's money," he said. "Today, a photo of the person who is establishing his clout by taking the CM's name and by using Odisha people's money has gone viral. That person is the mentor of Nabarangpur ADM. And, the third floor is involved in this. The leaders are involved in conspiring to obstruct the flow of the money released by PM Narendra Modi for the common man," he

added. The BJD hit back at the saffron party, terming the allegations as baseless. "There are no protégés of the government. Had the allegation been true, the raids wouldn't have been carried out. Stringent action will be taken against the person who has been arrested by the Vigilance. The government doesn't have any share in any ill-gotten money," said Odisha Revenue Minister, Pramila Mallik.

## State In Calamity Rediness

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** With the onset of southwest monsoon in entire Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today held a meeting of the State Level Natural Calamity Committee to review the preparedness made by different Government Departments and Districts to meet any other kind of exigencies. The Chief Minister directed senior officials to remain prepared to tackle possible floods and cyclone during this monsoon season.

ACS Revenue & Disaster Management & Special Relief Commissioner Satyabrata Sahu presented details. Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena Development Commissioner Anu Garg and other senior officers attended. Secretary to CM V K Pandian coordinated the meeting. Odisha is prone to

multiple and recurring disasters. Especially, it is especially prone to floods and cyclones. Last year, 24 districts were affected by floods & heavy rain. However, the state managed it successfully, Shri Patnaik said. For exemplary preparedness and management of disasters, Odisha has been awarded the Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Award for the year 2023 by the Government of India, he said. "The period from June to October is a crucial period for us during which drought, flood or cyclone may occur. So, we have to review our preparedness at all levels to tackle the possible flood and cyclones. And also we should remain prepared for any other kind of exigencies," Patnaik told his officers.

He directed the officials to take adequate measures in respect of early warning systems, rescue and relief



operations, supply of drinking water, and health and veterinary services. ODRAF units and fire services have been put on alert for immediate response at any place any time. Control rooms in districts and departments will be made functional round the clock.

SATARK web and mobile app has been developed to disseminate real-time weather and disaster-related updates.

It will act as a single-window platform to communicate location-based information on all disasters to citizens to save precious human lives.

The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department has been asked to store sufficient quantities of food materials. The Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department will store adequate cattle feed in vulnerable and inaccessible areas. Provision for green fodder and opening of cattle camps during floods must be ensured, he said. Collectors were

instructed to give special attention to vulnerable people like pregnant women, physically and mentally challenged, young children, widows and the elderly during rescue and relief operations.

There should be immediate clearance of relief lines, repair and restoration of lifeline infrastructure and restoration of livelihoods in the aftermath of disasters, he added. The Chief Minister also recalled the tragic train accident at Bahanaga, Balasore in which 292 people died and hundreds of passengers were injured.

The state responded quickly, rescued the trapped passengers and shifted injured persons to hospitals through a green corridor mobilising hundreds of doctors and paramedics thereby saving thousands of lives, he pointed out.

## NGT Team Visits Sikharchandi In Odisha Capital Over Flouting Order Allegations

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Amid allegations of violating the orders of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to prohibit any kind of work on Sikharchandi hill for a water supply project, a four-member team of the tribunal visited Odisha to take stock of the situation in the Capital today.

As per reports, resentment has been building up among members of the Sikharchandi Anchalika Suraksha Samiti who have objected to the ongoing activities in violation of the NGT order and alleged that trees are still being felled for the project. On the



team's arrival, the samiti members along with residents of 15 mouza in the area, Jatni MLA Sura Rout and environmentalists Prafulla Samantara and Dillip Srichandan held discussions on the reported flouting of

orders in the area. Voicing resentment, the samiti members raised questions as to how work was being carried on without any prior public hearing meeting as there has been a stay order on around 121 acres of land atop the

hill and demanded reforestation of the area. They also warned that they will not allow the project work to continue in the name of development.

The tribunal team shared that the review visit was necessitated by the NGT order on reported flouting of its directions. They admitted to non-compliance of the same in the area.

"A report will be submitted to the NGT after reviewing the situation with local enforcement team and subsequent course of action will be decided upon," the NGT team shared.

**Killing Of 3 Ultras: Panic Grips Kalahandi Villagers As Maoist Posters Surface Again**

**M Rampur(KCN):** Panic gripped the villagers as a few Maoist posters surfaced today, following the killing of three ultras by security personnel during an exchange of fire at Taparang under Madanpur-Rampur block of Kalahandi district nearly a month and a half ago.

The posters were put up at different locations on the main road near Taparang Chhak. "The exchange of fire had taken place on May 9 and the red rebels have again tried to establish their presence in this region. This is for the second time that the posters were put up," some locals expressed.

## Road Bonanza For Malkangiri

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved the 21 Road projects proposed by the Rural Development Department in Malkangiri district. These projects will cover 172.53 km at a cost of Rs 158 crores.

It is significant stride towards the transformation of rural infrastructure and connectivity for the interior blocks of Chittrakonda, Kalimela, Korukunda, and Podia. These projects are taken up under the Mukhyamantri Sadak Yojana-Connecting Unconnected Villages in Difficult Areas (MMSY-CUVA) scheme. The MMSY-CUVA scheme, a pathbreaking initiative fully funded by



the State Government, reflects its commitment to rural connectivity in Maoist affected and challenging areas. It marks a significant boost to the infrastructure development efforts in the State.

The suggestions for these projects have been made in the public grievance interaction during the Malkangiri district visit of Secretary (ST) V K Pandian. Chief Minister was briefed by the Secretary (ST) on the significance of these

projects and Chief Minister immediately directed the RD Department to prepare the estimates for the projects. The department took up the survey and estimates on top priority and submitted for the government approvals.

The road from Muduliguda to Amalibeda in Chittrakonda will be constructed at a cost of Rs 30 cr over 32 km. Another important road project is Pollur to Kursanpalli at a cost of Rs 9 cr over 11.6 km.

# Vedanta Aluminium recognised with Highest Exporter Award by Haldia Dock Complex

**Bhubaneswar:** Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has been recognized as the highest exporter of containerised cargo in Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) through Haldia Dock Complex by the Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Formerly Kolkata Port Trust) for the year 2022-23. The company was conferred with an award for this achievement by Shri. Santanu Thakur, Honourable Minister of State for Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, during a trade felicitation meet held recently at Kolkata.

Demonstrating exceptional capabilities in logistics, cargo handling, multi-modal efficiency and extensive connectivity, Vedanta Aluminium, Jharsuguda, received the award for successfully shipping over 1.4 lakh tonnes of containerised cargousing 6100 TEUs to more than 30 countries and 50 ports across the world during FY23. This achievement is underpinned by the company's vision to 'Make in India for the World', exemplifying its role as a flagbearer of India's manufacturing prowess on the global stage. Through this feat, Vedanta Aluminium has demonstrated its commitment to enhancing India's export capabilities and fostering valuable global partnerships. The company's efforts align with national initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti, aimed at strengthening logistics and connectivity infrastructure



towards propelling India's economic growth. The award recognises the collaborative efforts between Vedanta Limited, Jharsuguda and

the Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port in driving industrial growth and development in Eastern India. Expressing delight over

this prestigious award, Mr. Sunil Gupta, CEO, Vedanta Limited, Jharsuguda said "Vedanta Aluminium recognises its role as a

nation-builder and flagbearer of our country's manufacturing prowess. This award therefore comes as an added boost in our

unwavering commitment to representing the highest standards of quality, innovation, and global customer satisfaction. As part of our relentless efforts for excellence, we are focused on contributing to the growth of the Indian economy by expanding our export capabilities. We look forward to setting new benchmarks in the years to come." Offering one of the widest ranges of aluminium products in the industry globally, Vedanta Aluminium caters to the needs of customers in over 50+ countries, including India. Its products find high-end applications in several critical and emerging industries, from aerospace, construction, and transportation to electric

vehicles, renewables and battery technologies. Vedanta Aluminium, a business of Vedanta Limited, is India's largest producer of aluminium, manufacturing more than half of India's aluminium i.e., 2.29 million tonnes in FY23. It is a leader in value-added aluminium products that find critical applications in core industries. Vedanta Aluminium ranks 2nd in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) 2022 world rankings for aluminium industry, a reflection of its sustainable development practices. With its world-class aluminium smelters, alumina refinery and power plants in India, the company fulfils its mission of spurring emerging applications of aluminium as the 'Metal of the Future' for a greener tomorrow.

## Inside Titilagarh Railway Station Prostitution is Going on



waters, launch, dinner & etc. This has been given to a Private Contractor. The Owner/ Contractor/ Manager is regularly doing Prostitution. Today, 3 pm afternoon to 4 pm afternoon, two young Girls, among two, one wore Red T- Shirt & another one wore Black colour T- Shirt. Both Prostitute Girls entered confidently inside that Restaurant & the door was closed from the inside. Generally, this Food Shop or Canteen/Refreshment Room closes from 2/ 2.30pm afternoon daily for two hours or more. In between, the Contractor brings young prostitute Girls which can be detected or found out from the CC TV, Camera, if it has been installed inside the Platform as this Refreshment Room is adjacent to Platform No 1 or in front of Platform No 1. On the same Building, Enquiry & Ticket Counters are there as well as there are near by VIP Lounge & Waiting Rooms where Passangers take rest. Here is a big Question Mark that how the Contractor / Vendor is daring to do Prostitution openly without fear. The Contractor must have an antisocial element & for which one can not doubt it. Such type of hatred & inhuman activities must have to be stopped as quick as possible without further delay & for this No Excuse No Compromise & it is the demand of the sensitive & intellectual Citizen of Titilagarh. One eye catching strong immediate prompt action must have to be instituted against the Contractor/ Vendor/ Manager who is/ are involved in this unsocial bad activities.

**Titilagarh/ Balangir: (KCN):** It is shameful to say that inside the Titilagarh Railway Station, there is one Refreshment Room or Restaurant where Passangers can purchase to eat foods like Biscuits, Tea, Cold drinks, Soft drinks, Package drinking

## Stone Crushers Are Hazardous to Environment & Human Health



**Titilagarh: (KCN):** The Balangir District Sub-Division, Titilagarh Town is totally polluted due to numbers of Stone Crushers Units. It covers or surrounding approximately Ten Kilometers Radius to Titilagarh. It becomes the Godown of Dust. Peoples of Titilagarh are suffering from lots of diseases. Where as the Stone

Crusher Units Owners are openly doing Dabanggiri & Gundagiri. They are openly telling that we kept in our pockets to the Officers, Politicians & So called Journalists by giving regular Bribes. Now, it is a big question mark that why the District Administration is not taking strong action

against the Stone Crusher Unit Owners. It is now a head ache for the Inhabitants of Titilagarh as it is known to all that Stone Crushers are hazardous to Environment & Human Health. Going into the Indepth on humanity ground, the Sensitive & Intellectual Citizens of Titilagarh are appealing & demanding before the

Government to stop all Stone Crusher Units of Titilagarh as quick as possible for the safe & safety of Titilagarh Peoples. They are also cheating lakhs & lakhs rupees of Revenue. Their Dabanggiri & Gundagiri must have to be stopped. Another pettiness is that they are pretending that their Stone Crusher Units are not running properly.

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## Ram Siya Ram Song: Fans Hail Prabhas-Kriti Sanon's New Song From Adipurush, Say 'They Bring Character To Life'

Pan India Star Prabhas has a tremendous fan base all around the country, thanks to his unparalleled talent which he has proven over the years. The celebrated star is currently preparing for the release of his magnum opus "Adipurush," and the public has already gone bonkers after watching his portrayal, and appearance as Lord Ram in the recently released song "Ram Siya Ram," in which the superstar once again wowed fans and audiences with his superb screen presence.



Not just the song, the audiences and fans have shown their love for every content that has been released so far. On the recently released song 'Ram Siya Ram', the fans have gone berserk and the actor is receiving rave reviews for his unmatched presence as Lord Sri Ram in the song. This is what fans have to say. Prabhas, who popularised the phrase "Pan India Superstar" with his historical smash "Baahubali: The Beginning," has consistently won over admirers with his alluring personality and intensely dramatic films. The superstar is more popular than ever right now, and his popularity only gets bigger and better every day. Today, Prabhas is one of India's most bankable actors and enjoys the support of the public. With films like Salaar with Shruti Haasan, Project K with Amitabh Bachchan and Deepika Padukone, Spirit with Sandeep Reddy Vanga, and another intriguing picture with filmmaker Maruthi, he currently has one of the strongest lineups ever.

## Maniesh Paul Unveils Poster Of His Next 'Rafuchakkar,' Fans Are Excited For His Never-Seen-Before Avatar



Maniesh Paul hits it out of the park in his digital debut Rafuchakkar releasing on Jio Cinema, the teaser proves his worth as a versatile actor generating excitement amongst the audience. After an impactful and impressive performance in Jugjugg Jeeyo last year which led to a streak of awards for the actor, Maniesh Paul has pushed his boundaries to unveil different facets of his versatility in his OTT debut - Rafuchakkar. Known for his innate wit and spontaneity, Maniesh Paul has earlier impressed the audience with his comic timing on screen, however, Rafuchakkar delves deep into the acting prowess of the actor, exploring the intense and versatile

performer within him. Donning five different looks, Maniesh plays a con artist in the show. Talking about the show, Maniesh Paul shares says, "After Jugjugg Jeeyo, Rafuchakkar feels the right step as an actor. I love the challenge to push my boundaries and mould myself into different characters. And I have been fortunate enough to experiment with five characters in one for Rafuchakkar especially as it marks my digital debut as well. Special shout-out to Jio Studios for instilling their faith in me to play a role so drastically different from my personality. It has been a wonderful experience, from going through a series of combinations and

experiments for every look to the interesting process of actually slipping into them, I felt like I lived ages and lives in just one show." From a distinctive moustache, sporting a turban, to a suave and sassy man with grey hair and beard, Maniesh Paul is seen slipping into different avatars for the character. The teaser for the Jio Studios' Rafuchakkar was recently unveiled offering a sneak peek into the world of deceit, presented by Maniesh, piquing the interest of the audience for the fun-filled and thrilling show. Directed by Ritam Shrivastava, Rafuchakkar stars Maniesh Paul in the leading role along with Priya Bapat and others.

## I haven't locked the doors for love in my life but they are not wide open too, says Suchitra Krishnamoorthi

Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa fame Suchitra Krishnamoorthi was recently in Lucknow to stage her play Drama Queen. The actress, who got divorced from filmmaker Shekhar Kapur in 2007, has been a single mom. But now with her daughter shifting to college, Suchitra says her life has taken a complete turn. In a chat with us Suchitra talked about her Lucknow visit, theatre, being a single parent and finding love again.... So how was your visit to Lucknow?

The funny part about the visit was that I wasn't aware of chikankari work, so people kept telling me to try chikankari work and I was like but I am a vegetarian and why are people offering me chikan curry? But when I finally realized what chikankari was, I went to Janpath and picked up a lot of stuff. I liked it so much that later on, I picked up more stuff at the airport. I have picked up so many clothes that for the next few months,



I am only going to be seen in chikankari work.

I have been here before but very briefly. This time, I managed to go out and shop. But yes, since I love history and architecture, I would love to come here for a few more days and see all that since Lucknow is the hotbed of all that.

**You had staged your play Drama Queen here for the first time. How did you find the audience here?**

The audience here was very responsive. They were laughing and enjoying it so much. A lot of women in fact came to me later telling me that they enjoyed the show and it managed to touch

a chord with them too. At the end of the day, all our (women) stories are just the same. I am happy that people got the humour in my play.

I have done loads of theatre in school and college. In fact, I got picked up for the TV series Chhunauti because I was so active in theatre. I have done over 100 shows of other musical play too in the past. I did it before marriage. I stopped acting and doing theatre after marriage.

**Why did you choose Drama Queen, a play as your comeback?**

It is because I wanted to do something on my own. The play is written by me, the music is given

by me, and it is based on the book written by me by the same name. I wished to get the discipline of theatre back with my play. By discipline I mean, doing everything on my own and performing in front of a live audience, which is not the case when we are acting in films or web shows. The budgets in theatre are very limited, I need to focus, and rehearse before performing, so all this is the discipline for me.

**How do you find the theatre scene today in our country?**

I watch a lot of theatre. Even when my friends are performing and they have shows, I buy my own tickets, sit quietly and watch. I love theatre more because the budgets are not so extravagant, it gives you a different insight into different stories, and it kind of expands your mind when you watch a play. As far as earning your bread and butter out of theatre is concerned, well, it depends on how lavishly you want to

earn. But yes, for an actor, film, and television is more rewarding than theatre.

**So what else is happening on the career front apart from the play?**

I have done two web series. I decided to get back to acting after my daughter went to college. Fortunately, I am getting good offers too for acting rather than the run-of-the-mill like 'Beta tumne khana khaya' type roles. I started with theatre and then did TV and then films. So for me, the medium doesn't matter at all. Talks are on for films and TV shows too but it is too early to say anything. I want to get fully active again in acting - that's the plan!

**Why did you decide to make a comeback now?**

My daughter has gone to college, what else have I to do now? These are the only things I can do. I was a pretty hands-on mother. I did write a few books and also opened a candle company which I have shut now.

## Lock Upp winner: Munawar Faruqui bags the trophy, wins a cash prize of Rs 20 lakh

Reality show Lock Upp, hosted by Kangana Ranaut, found its first winner in Munawar Faruqui. The comedian emerged victorious after defeating the other two finalists Payal Rohatgi and Anjali Arora.

Along with the trophy, Munawar won a cash prize of Rs 20 lakh, a car and a fully paid trip to Italy.

Munawar's journey in Lock Upp was quite eventful. While some claimed he was



manipulative, there were others with whom he forged a genuine connection in the jail like Prince Narula and

Mandana Karimi. His cute friendship with Anjali Arora was loved by fans. On the show, Munawar ended up

revealing a lot about his personal life. He shared how his mother died by suicide after consuming poison. He added he still feels guilty for not being by her side when she needed him the most. He spoke about his debt and how his mother could not make ends meet which led her to take the drastic step. In one of the episodes, Munawar, who has garnered a massive fan following with Lock Upp, revealed that he is married and has a child. He shared he has been

living separately from his wife for the last one and a half years, and the matter is in the court. He said all of this after Kangana shared his viral photo doing rounds on social media. It sees him with his wife and son. Munawar's popularity is such that he is often seen trending on Twitter. His innocent looks have charmed girls. Several netizens shared tweets on Saturday (May 7) hoping he would bag the trophy. And now they have a reason to rejoice.

## Martin Scorsese Announces His Film On Jesus Christ As He Meets Pope

Martin Scorsese is on a post-Cannes tour of Italy where over the weekend, the director, known for having a religious bent, met Pope Francis and announced that he will make a film about Jesus, reports 'Variety'.

Scorsese was till recently at the Cannes Film Festival, where his film



with Robert De Niro and Leonardo DiCaprio, "Killers of the Flower Moon", received a long-standing ovation after it was screened.

"I have responded to the Pope's appeal to artistes in the only way I know how: by imagining and writing a screenplay for a film about Jesus," Scorsese said on Saturday during a Rome conference at the Vatican, according to multiple reports quoted by 'Variety'.

"And I'm about to start making it," the director added, suggesting that this could be his next film.

The Jesuit publication "La Civiltà Cattolica" and Georgetown University had organised the conference. Antonio Spadaro, the religious periodical's editor, said on the publication's website that during their conversation at the confabulations Scorsese alternated between references to his films and personal anecdotes and explained "How the Holy Father's appeal 'to let us see Jesus' moved him".

Scorsese, notes 'Variety', cited his admiration for Pier Paolo Pasolini's "The Gospel According to St Matthew". He also talked about the meaning of his own 1988 epic "The Last Temptation of Christ" and of "the subsequent step in his research on the figure of Jesus" represented by his smaller-scale 2016 drama "Silence" about the persecution of Jesuits in 17th-century Japan.

That film was screened in 2016 at the Vatican. Francis is the first Jesuit pope and is known to have joined the Jesuit order hoping to become a missionary in Japan.

## Salman Khan Teases Fans With new Look as he Wraps up 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'

The shooting for Salman Khan-starrer 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan' has come to an end. On Wednesday, Salman took to Instagram and shared the update with his fans and followers. He wrote, "KisiKaBhaiKisikiJaan shooting complete ... #eid2023." Salman also dropped a photo of his look from the film. In the image, he is seen wearing a white shirt, gold hoop earrings and his signature blue bracelet.

## Solitary Statement of a prosecutrix sufficient for conviction

Mr. RadhaShyam Jena



The sole statement of a victim in a case of sexual harassment is sufficient for taking cognizance against the accused. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a catena of judgments has confirmed the conviction founded on the solitary statement of the prosecutrix in a sexual harassment case since 1983. In the case of *Bharwada Bhoginbhai Hirji Bai Versus State of Gujarat* (1983) 3 SCR 280 the Supreme Court has taken a pragmatic view specifically in the context of an Indian girl or a woman whether she belongs to urban or rural society or sophisticated or non-sophisticated or un-sophisticated would never make any false allegation of sexual assault because a girl or a woman in the tradition bound or non-permissive society of India would be extremely reluctant even to admit that any incident which is likely to reflect on her chastity as she would be conscious of the danger of being ostracized by the society or being looked down by the society including by her own family members, relatives and neighbours. Therefore, the trial court has to be very circumspect and conscious about the psychological status of a woman or girl while dealing a case of sexual harassment or rape or when there are charges

framed under Sections 354-A, 354-B, 354-C, 354-D and 376, 376-A, 376-B, 376-C & 376-D of the Indian Penal Code. In many cases the trial courts never consider the psychological affect of a lady to make a complaint with the police station of sexual harassment. In these contexts in the above mentioned case the Hon'ble Supreme Court however has taken a vital and substantial views on sexual harassment case categorically holding as under: "Rarely will a girl or a woman in India make such false allegations of sexual assault, whether she belongs to the urban or rural society, or, sophisticated, or, not-so sophisticated, or, unsophisticated society. Only very rarely can one conceivably come across an exception or two and that too possibly from amongst the urban elites. Because:- (1) A girl or a woman in the tradition bound non-permissive Society of India would be extremely reluctant even to admit that any incident which is likely to reflect on her chastity had ever occurred; (2) She would be conscious of the danger of being ostracized by the Society or being looked down by the society including by her own family members, relatives, friends, and neighbours; (3) She would have to brave the whole world; (4) She would face the risk of losing the love and respect of her own husband and near relatives, and of her

matrimonial home and happiness being shattered; (5) If she is unmarried, she would apprehend that it would be, difficult to secure an alliance with a suitable match from a respectable or an acceptable family; (6) It would almost inevitably and almost invariably result in mental torture and suffering to herself; (7) The tear of being taunted by others will always haunt her; (8) She would feel extremely embarrassed in relating the incident to others being over powered by feeling of shame on account of the upbringing in a tradition bound society where by and large sex is taboo; (9) The natural inclination would be to avoid giving publicity to the incident lest the family name and family honour is brought into controversy; (10) The parents of an unmarried girl as also the husband and members of the husband's family of a married woman, would also more often than not, want to avoid publicity on account of the fear of social stigma on the family name and family honour; (11) The fear of the victim herself being considered to be promiscuous or in some way responsible for the incident regardless of her innocence; (12) The reluctance to face interrogation by the investigating agency, to face the court, to face the cross examination by Counsel for the culprit, and the risk of being disbelieved, acts as a deterrent. In view of assurance that the charge

is genuine rather than fabricated. [289 F-H, 290 A-E]" A similar view has also been taken by the Supreme Court in the case of *State of Maharashtra Versus Chandraprakash Kewal Chand Jain* (1990) 1 SCC 550 that if a woman does not lack understanding, ordinarily her evidence must be accepted without requiring further corroboration and conviction can be founded on that basis. Her evidence must receive the same way as attached to an injured witness. It is further held by the Supreme Court in the case of *State of Himachal Pradesh Versus Raghbir Singh* (1993) 2 SCC 622 that there is no legal compulsion to look for corroboration of the evidence of the prosecutrix before dictating an order of conviction. Evidence has to be weighed and not counted. Conviction can be recorded on the sole testimony of the prosecutrix, if her evidence inspires confidence and there is absence of circumstances which militate stand opposed to her veracity. It is unfortunate that now-a-days no law is applicable to the law maker as it is apparent in the case of *MP Mr. Brijbhushan Sharan Singh from Gonda, U.P.* Although the police have filed a 1500 pages charge-sheet against him for alleged sexual harassment, assault and stalking of 6 women wrestlers. The charge-

sheet is a compilation of testimonies of the six wrestlers, statements of 70 – 80 witnesses and technical evidence such as photographs, videos and call detail records. Even then the accused has not been arrested so far. In the eyes of the various judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court relating to the sexual harassment and rape, a complaint lodged by a girl or a woman with the police station is enough to establish a prima facie case against the accused for taking the cognizance by the police or the court. In the case of *State of Punjab Versus Gurmeet Singh & Ors.*, (1996) 2 SCC 384 the Supreme Court has held that it is the duty of a court to deal with the cases involving sexual molestation with utmost sensitivity. Minor contradictions or insignificant discrepancies in the statement of prosecutrix should not be a ground for throwing out an otherwise reliable prosecution case. Subsequently in the case of *State of U.P. Versus Pappu* (2005) 3 SCC 594 the Hon'ble Supreme Court has gone to the extent for the sake of clarification and for the sake of taking cognizance in respect of the prosecutrix alleged to have accustomed to sexual intercourse. It has been clarified that it is not a determinative question whether the victim was previously accustomed to sexual intercourse. The question which has to be required to be adjudicated i.e. does the accused commit

a rape on the victim on the occasion complained of. Even if it is hypothetically accepted that the victim has lost her virginity earlier, it does not and cannot in law give license to any person to rape her. The Supreme Court has further held that if the mother of the prosecutrix has accepted that the character of her daughter not good which does not dilute the offence. The Supreme Court has held in the case of *Krishna Kumar Malik Versus State of Haryana* (2011) 7 SCC 130 wherein it has been observed that to hold an accused guilty of commission of an offence of rape, the solitary evidence of the prosecutrix is sufficient provided the same inspires, confidence and appears to be absolutely trustworthy, unblemished and should be sterling quality. In regard to the sterling witness the Supreme Court in the case of *Rai Sandeep @ Pappu Versus State (N.C.T. of Delhi)* (2012) 8 SCC 21. It has been held at paragraph 22 in regard to the consideration of the sterling witness as under: "In our considered opinion, the "sterling witness" should be of a very high quality and caliber whose version should, therefore, be unassailable. The court considering the version of such witness should be in a position to accept it for its face value without any hesitation. To test the quality of such a witness, the status of the witness would be immaterial and what

would be relevant is the truthfulness of the statement made by such a witness. What would be more relevant would be the consistency of the statement right from the starting point till the end, namely, at the time when the witness makes the initial statement and ultimately before the court. It should be natural and consistent with the case of the prosecution qua the accused. There should not be any prevarication in the version of such a witness. The witness should be in a position to withstand the cross-examination of any length and howsoever strenuous it may be and under no circumstance should give room for any doubt as to the factum of the occurrence, the persons involved, as well as the sequence of it. Such a version should have co-relation with each and every one of other supporting material such as the recoveries made, the manner of offence committed, the scientific evidence and the expert opinion. The said version should consistently match with the version of every other witness. It can even be stated that it should be akin to the test applied in the case of circumstantial evidence where there should not be any missing link in the chain of circumstances to hold the accused guilty of the offence alleged against him. Only if the version of such a witness qualifies the above test as well as all other such similar tests to be applied, can it be held that such a witness can

be called as a "sterling witness" whose version can be accepted by the court without any corroboration and based on which the guilty can be punished. To be more precise, the version of the said witness on the core spectrum of the crime should remain intact while all other attendant materials, namely, oral, documentary and material objects should match the said version in material particulars in order to enable the court trying the offence to rely on the core version to sieve the other supporting materials for holding the offender guilty of the charge alleged." In the latest judgment dated 14th October, 2020 passed in Criminal Appeal No.680 of 2020 *Ganeshan Versus State* (rep. by its Inspector of Police), the three judge bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has gone into the substantial question for the sake of conviction of an accused on the basis of the solitary statement of the prosecutrix /victim in a sexual harassment case /rape case /the case under POCSO Act, 2012 and at length upheld the earlier view that the solitary statement of the victim in a sexual harassment case is enough and unimpeachable for taking the cognizance as well as confirming the conviction of the accused.

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## All Human being is Part of Brahma

Uma Shankar Prasad



Everyone is not super human but that need not stop us from trying to rise above our normal potential. By developing superhuman powers we can awaken the element of eternal humanity in us. To attain this power, meanness must be shunned, because this is sadhana for the Infinite. Feelings of differentiation are a great impediment. So stop thinking of people as being this or that—he is a Muslim, another a

Hindu, yet another a Brahmin—For all such identification comes from mean thoughts. When all Human being and every living being is a manifestation of Brahm, how can you know yourself, without shedding these differentiating feelings? No one is high and no one is low. According to one's virtues and vices one is happy, miserable, rich or poor, one is fool and another is erudite, but all are fundamentally Human beings. So avoid differentitate between people.

I am elaborating here a story of Mahabharata. Both Yudhishthira and Duryodhana had

invited Lord Krishna to their respective houses for dinner. While on his way there, Krishna entered the house of Vidura. Vidura was not in home. Vidura's wife became nervous on the sudden appearance of Krishna. She did not know how to receive him properly. Moreover, there was no food in the house except for bananas. Therefore, after washing his feet she seated him and began to feed him the bananas. When Sage Vidur returned home, he saw Krishna sitting and his wife, fully absorbed in her hospitality, was feeding him the peel of the bananas. Krishna was eating

so happily, that it seemed as if he had never tasted a more delicious food. Vidur was greatly troubled at the folly of his wife and asked; "What are you doing? You are feeding banana skins to Krishna instead of banana fruit." Vidura's wife was taken aback and asked for apologising. Vidura also implored. "O Lord, Thou has taken a good many banana skins; do kindly oblige this poor woman by taking a few bananas". But Krishna said, 'Vidura! My Stomach is full now. These banana-skins had such an exquisite flavour that there could no superior food. So long as your

wife, forgetting all differences, was feeding me, 'I' was not there, but now that the difference between the banana and its skin has intervened "I" is there".

Shankararacharya was an erudite scholar. No doubt he was a great advaitist, yet there was a lack of full harmony between his principles and practices. Once after having a dip in the Ganga at Kashi, he was walking towards the road and he saw an 'untouchable' walking with a number of dogs. For fear that his body might be touched, he tried to bypass them. He even asked the man to stay away

from his path. To which the 'untouchable' said: "O Lord! Is this the result of your principle that there is only Brahm and nothing else? You are known as Brahmajnani, yet you differentiate between you and me". The Supreme Brahm resides within the feeling 'I am' situated amidst the concealed intuition of the mind. Our existence is in Him. Our ego scattered innumerable toys around us. When we come to see Him in all things created by Him our 'EGO' gets lost. A feeling came in mind that All human being and every living being is Part of Brahm.

**Columnist, Khorda**  
(63706 75562)

### Letter to Editor

Sir

Even though the severe super cyclone Biporjoy caused heavy disaster and sadly some losses of life in the coastal area of Gujarat the government definitely need to be applauded for the precautions, measures and immediate actions taken to reduce the number of deaths and very heavy damage to life and property looking at the might and fury of the storm.

Though It did leave a trail of destruction in the region including flooding an inundating low-lying areas the way in which the various authorities, the NDRF, Coastal and Navy and various authorities put up a brave fight is worth praising. The precautionary steps and the measures taken is something that other coastal States can learn from, especially during the monsoon months. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also deserves special mention as it tracked the cyclone throughout giving warning bulletins and necessary information to the state helping the authorities to be well prepared and thus reduce heavy calamities.

**M PRADYU KANNUR**  
Geeth ThalikaVu Kannur 670001

## Honey collection in Sunderbans doubled this year

**Kolkata (Ambar Mukherjee):** Honey collection in West Bengal's Sunderbans has more than doubled compared with last year, according to forest officials. In 2023, honey collection

official of the West Bengal Forest Development Corporation (WBFDC), the agency in-charge of processing, packaging and selling the honey collected from Sunderbans in the retail

said an official of forest department. Bees that gather nectar from the khalsi flower (Aegiceras corniculatum) are believed to be the source of the best honey in the Sunderbans.



was around 38 tonnes whereas last year it was only around 16 tonnes. Sources in the state forest department said honey collection in the mangroves forest in 2020 and 2021 were low due to cyclones and Covid pandemic. "But this year the collection is more than double and we are happy," said the source. He said the bee population and beehives were damaged in the cyclones and there were not enough flowers in the mangroves to attract the insects. The situation had started improving last year as bees were back in Sunderbans. "This year, flowering is much better in the delta region resulting the last four year's record collection," said an

market. The official pointed out that honey collection depends on multiple factors beyond human control. The past couple of years have witnessed a severe damage to the ecosystem but the nature has its own way balancing things. "It seems that the Sunderban is back to its natural shape," he said. According to foresters, there are multiple kinds of bees in Sunderbans and among them, the Apis dorsata type makes more hives and honey. "The bees fly from the Himalayas in search of these flowers in the mangroves. They are migratory and fly upto Indonesia before returning back. Cyclones had destroyed the habitat of the bees and led to much less flowering,"

The Sunderbans, the world's largest mangrove delta which houses home for Royal Bengal Tigers, is spread across 10,000sq km and a little above 4,000sq km is in West Bengal and the rest is in Bangladesh. Honey collection takes place for about a month in summer, usually between April and May. During the venture into forest that continued for two weeks to a month, honey collectors, locally called as moulis, enter forests, which are also territory of Royal Bengal Tiger, harvest honey from beehives and return to the boats anchored in the river stocked with food, water and other essentials. Many honey collectors face fatal attack by Royal Bengal Tigers every year.



The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah meets the family members of the martyrs of Jammu and Kashmir Police and distributes appointment letters to them at Srinagar, in Jammu and Kashmir

## Vizag Jagannath Temple Celebrates Car Festival

**Visakhapatnam, (KCN):** The Annual Car Festival was celebrated yesterday at the Jagannath Temple situated in the scenic hills of Dasapalla in Visakhapatnam with much fanfare and spiritual fervour. Commencing from the morning all the religious rituals have been performed before the Deities in utmost solemnity and pure devotion. Unusual enthusiasm and unprecedented excitements were witnessed among the 4,000 devotees congregated during the occasion to take part in the Grand Ceremony. The managing body of the temple, Utkal Sanskrutika Samaj painstakingly ensured that the Festival should pass on in a smooth and steady manner. Around 3.30 p.m. in the afternoon the Pahandi



Bije of the Gods and Goddess started from the sanctum sanctorum in the presence of Distinguished Guests DRM of Waltair Railways Division, Anup Kumar Satpathy, ADRM Manoj Kumar Sahoo, Ex Chief Commissioner of Income Tax P.K. Dash and Commissioner of

Income Tax Rajiv Singh. Rajmata of Jeypore Mayank Devi graced the auspicious occasion with her august presence and had holy glimpse of Trinity on the chariot. First Lord Sudarshan, then elder Brother Lord Balabhadra, followed by Devi Maa Subhadra and at the end Lord of the

whole universe Lord Jagannath were taken in procession to the colourfully decorated chariot stationed in front of the temple. The entire atmosphere echoed with recitals of hymns, shouting of slogans like Haribol, Jai Jagannath and playing of musical instruments like Ghanta, Kartala, Mardala, Jhanja and Mrudanga. President of Managing Committee of Shree Jagannath Temple Jitendra Kumar Nayak conducted the traditional sweeping on the chariots called Cherrapahanra. Around 4.00 p.m. in the afternoon pulling of Chariot began from Dasapalla hills and reached the Aunt's house at Lawson's Bay Colony covering the distance of nearly 5 km. The special attraction of the Mega Event was the spectacular display of artistic expertise and creative excellence by

the blower of Double Conch from Berhampur and Sankeertan troupes specially invited from Odisha. Then the Idols were taken inside the Aunt's place and were placed in the pandal. The Deities will remain at the Gundicha Temple till the Bahuda Yatra on 28th June and will be available for darshan for general public from there. This year's Festival was actively supported by Marwadi Yuva Manch and Punjab Association. The entire arrangements of Rath Yatra were well managed and smoothly executed by the active supervision of the authorities of Temple's Governing Body which include President Jitendra Kumar Nayak, General Secretary Bimal Kumar Mahanta, Vice President Dr Karunakar Padhi, members Bijay Mahapatra and Rajendra Prasad Sahu.

## SUPERHIT ANTI ADDICTION CAMPAIGN NO. 396 AT SRI SRI ACADEMY, ALIPORE, KOLKATA

**KOLKATA:** It was Actor/Activist/Teacher of Method Acting Bobby Chakraborty's 396th and his 4th session of his award winning, free of cost, global awareness program against addiction and harmful social trends among the youth, at Sri Sri Academy, Kolkata on 23rd June. We have a first hand account of the absolutely engaging, entertaining and educative adda of Bobbydada with his soldiers at SSA. Students of the 7th-9th grade thronged a full house of the school auditorium, eager to hear from him, as the PRO Rita Dasgupta



ma'am along with all the other teachers warmly welcomed him there. The official photographer of this sparkling session was Yuval Lohia of

class IX. Bobbydada was absolutely impressed with Yuval's hardwork, manners and his sense of responsibility. The assistant

photographer was Bhavya from class VII. The Principal, Gargi Banerjee ma'am, who is a great supporter of this mission, felicitated

Bobbydada before he took stage. How the next 2 hours passed by, one couldn't realize as Bobbydada, with his eloquent humour and emotion spoke about

the mishap in his family and the burning issues of substance abuse, smart phone abuse, decline of self respect and social responsibility in

quest of 'views' and 'subscribers' online, rampant use of foul language, online gambling in disguise of 'games' etc. He laid down simple yet powerful ways to stay away from these evils which are destroying our generation. He stressed on following the formula of life which is HCF(Health-Career-Family). He made the audience chant out the positive mantra of life 'I AM THE KING OF MY MIND' on top of their voices which sounded like a war cry. The 'first soldier selected was Eshaan Jain from class VII, who made a promise to remain a soldier all his life. The winners of the surprise contest at the

end were Jasmine J. Sinha (who impressed Bobbydada with her attentiveness and values of life), Anirved Chakraborty, Md. Humza (who gave a big hug to Bobbydada), who along with Yuval were given specially personalized gifts and community service certificates by Bobbydada. After the session was over the students wouldn't allow Dada to leave, as they were totally enthralled by his presence and crowded all around him for a hug, a selfie, touching his feet and getting his autograph on wherever and whatever they could lay their hands on.

# Guhari Captivates Audience iCo.op On Move

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Shree Jagannath Bhakti Sangeet Samaroh – Guhari, organized by Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Center under the supports of the Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture kick started today.

Shyamamani Devi, renowned Singer; Satyabrata Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture and Ranjan Kumar Das, Chief Administrator, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration graced the occasion.

Prominent singers from across the state are participating in the three-day music festival. The main purpose of organizing the festival during the world famous holy Ratha Jatra is to bring Shree Jagannath's devotional music to the



attention of the people and spread it across the globe.

ACS Odia Language, Literature and Culture Shri Sahu, an acclaimed singer captivated the audience with new Shree Jagannath Bhajan.

Among others Madhusudan Das, Additional Secretary, Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture; Prabodh Kumar Rath, Secretary, Odisha Sangeeta Natak Akademi; Subodh Chandra

Acharya, Chief Executive, GKCM Odissi Research Center and Anuja Tarini Mishra, Administrative Officer, GKCM Odissi Research Center. Shri Jagannath is the progenitor of the world, and the progenitor of the orthodox race. His majesty spread throughout universe, from the Vedas to the Puranas, innumerable miraculous accounts are observed in connection with Shri Jagannath.

The greatness of the journey of these universal deities, Darudevata, is spread all over the world. Jagannath, Balabhadra, Subhadra, the three chariots of Nandighosa, Talhwaja and Darpadalana, from all the deities of creation, the best devotees like Graha, Nakshetra, Rasi, Gandharba, Yakshya, Hanuman and Arjuna, regardless of caste, creed, Haribol, Hula Huli, dance music,

Devotees pull the chariot, which vibrates to the sound of Jai Jagannath.

On this auspicious occasion, organizing Shree Jagannath devotional music program 'Guhari' by the Department of Odia Language, Literature and Culture is a very aspiring initiative.

The renowned singers of the first evening were Subas Dash, Mohapatra Minati Bhanja, Bijay Jena, Subhadra Subhadarshini, Swadhin Kumar Pradhan, Priyadarshini Sahu, Pankaj Jal, Kshyanaprabha Besoi, Matruprasad Das and Lakshmi Priya Nayak. The music performance of the artists based on Shree Jagannath was quite impressive and was well received by the audience. The program was anchored by Dr. Srinivas Ghatuari.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN) :** As part of 5T Initiative, the State Government has decided to develop a web and mobile based Cooperation Automation & Monitoring System for real time monitoring and effective implementation of different programs and schemes implemented by the Department of Co-operation. According to official sources, e-governance has been a term used frequently in the modern day governing that has been exclusively providing solutions to people in finding an efficient way of fulfilling their business operations. So, the Department of Co-operation needs to develop a robust system for activity monitoring of the resources and their day to day activities, hierarchical reporting from field level to department level and computerization of officers training and

assessment process monitoring and reporting in time to time purpose of the organizational benefits.

The main thing is that in all above scenarios the department required a centralized dashboard in a single platform for visualization of the entire activities of the department and its all directorates and subordinates. All the offices and activities of the Department will now be brought under one online platform, which can be used 24x7, the source said.

The automation system comes with a motive to serve the purpose of data management, secured framework, timely monitoring & reporting, flexibility of implementation on a large scale.

This application aims to serve as a dynamic solution in dashboard model enabling the transparency in data

collection and reporting from all the districts across the state as well as it helps Co-operation officials for the automatic process of the Department to efficiently carry out their day-to-day activities in a hassle & error free digitized environment.

With the design development of a good web-based application and mobile application, the department can be automated and get all the information to operate over time and for longer hours non-stop.

The interface will make it possible for the integrated system and the users will input the data through application and it will automate processes and formulate the work of multiple decision makers from different levels in their services, they said.

The Department of Co-operation has planned to make all its activities automatic through a robust online system.

## Agri Markets @e-NAM

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha has achieved a new height in the cooperative sector with successful onboarding of all 66 Regulated Marketing Committees (RMCs) of the State in the e-NAM portal.

Odisha has left many agriculturally advanced States in the country far behind and has achieved the unique feat of 100 percent onboarding of its agricultural markets under all RMCs.

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Cooperative Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Principal Secretary Sanjeeb Kumar Chadha and their team achieved the milestone, which immensely helped the farmers of the State, an official said here on Tuesday.

The Odisha State Agricultural Marketing Board (OSAM Board) under the administrative control of the Cooperation Department has taken this initiative. All the 66 Regulated Market Committees of the State have been successfully onboarded to the e-NAM platform. It is pertinent to mention here that e-NAM is a pan India online platform developed by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India with the aim to link all the buyers and sellers of agricultural produce, virtually, through the APMCs (Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees)/Regulated Market Committees (RMCs).

With only 10 RMCs in the e-NAM platform in the year 2017, Odisha has left many agriculturally advanced states in the country far

behind and has achieved the unique feat of 100% onboarding of its agricultural markets under all RMCs, said the Principal Secretary Shri Chadha.

In moving one step further, the Department has onboarded 401 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to the Agri-Marketing platform. About 400 Women Self Help Groups (WSHG) as members of these FPOs, can now reap the benefits of this online platform in marketing of their produce, he said.

Facilities have now been developed enabling transactions through android mobile phones. A farmer having an android mobile phone can now access the Agri-commodities market functioning across the country and sell his produce at the price of his choice from within the comforts of his home by use of his fingertip. All steps are being taken to ensure that the RMCS are operating without hassles, under the guidance of Minister Shri Nayak, he said.

To further facilitate efficient use of the online platform and by foreseeing the required policy level interventions in future, he said the Department has undertaken some strategically important and futuristic Agri-Marketing Reforms. These include-unified licensing system and single point levy of market fee.

The Odisha State Agricultural Produce Marketing Act has been suitably amended to make ways for these much-needed reforms. The e-NAM platform along with these reforms have brought in the benefits of transparency in trade, better pricing, access of

farmers to all the mandis across the country, availability of up to date price information and online receipt of payment. Bargaining power of farmers has increased to a considerable extent due to this futuristic intervention with multiple buyer options, Shri Chadha informed. Further, to boost agricultural marketing, the Cooperation Department has initiated a project on Agri Marketing Network linking all 66 RMCs, 43 Krushak Bazars, 76 Municipal Markets including 800 FPOs and WSHGs.

To facilitate the implementation of the project, OSAM Board has entered into an agreement with the Agri-Business Incubator wing of International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), an international organisation notified by the United Nations and Government of India.

On successful completion of the project, the Board has aimed to bring in transformative changes in the sector of marketing of fruits and vegetables, ultimately empowering the primary producers especially, small and marginal farmers which in turn will serve the target of doubling farmers income. Till date, 3.31 lakh farmers producing surplus marketable agricultural products have been registered by the RMCs of the State in the portal empowering them to sell their products in the pan India market without physically moving out of their villages. In addition to that, 8297

traders from the state have also been registered in the online portal to facilitate their access to the tradable Agri-produces across the country.

The commodities being transacted through the RMCs include fruits and vegetables, coconut, maize, cotton, chilly, turmeric, ginger, cashew nuts, betel leaves, ground nuts, fish, prawn, crab, dry fish etc.

Now, all these efforts of the State Government have started yielding results. The farmers of the state have accepted this modern idea very enthusiastically and till now have traded Agri-Commodities to the tune of 90.44 lakh quintals and fetched a whopping amount of Rs 2364.80 crores.

The registered FPOs have traded 3.20 lakh quintals of Agri-commodities worth Rs 62.95 crores by using this platform. This platform has also helped in executing 20,373 inter-mandi trades of 10.06 lakh quintals of Agri-commodities worth Rs 183.29 crores.

There is also provision of trade via farm gate module within this platform and 129 trades have been executed involving traded quantities of 654.2 quintals of Agri-commodities. As is envisaged, these figures are going to grow in future benefiting the farmers, thanks to the foresightedness of the Department.

To further increase the scope of Agri-marketing the Department is organizing buyer-seller meets in all RMCs across the State. This t e c h n o - l e g a l intervention will certainly fasten the achievement of the goal of doubling farmers' income.



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# Haier India sets a benchmark with Kinouchi 5-Star Heavy Duty Pro Air Conditioners, being awarded as the 'Best Innovative Product of the Year'

Bhubaneswar, 30 May, 2023: Driven by its ethos of customer inspired innovation, Haier Appliances India (Haier India), the global leader in Home Appliances and the World's Number 1 brand in Major Appliances for 14 Consecutive Years, announced the exemplary performance and milestone for Haier Kinouchi 5-Star Heavy Duty Pro air conditioners. Awarded as the 'Best Innovative Product of the Year' it cools the room 20x faster and provides optimum cooling even at extreme temperatures of up to 60°C.

Speaking about the achievement, Mr. Satish NS, President, Haier India, said, "At Haier, we are focused on bringing the best-in-segment products across categories driven by well researched methodology, latest technologies and efficient manufacturing capabilities. With our presence in the Indian market for over two decades, we are proud to celebrate the Kinouchi 5-Star Heavy Duty Pro air conditioners being awarded as the 'Best Innovative Product of the Year'. Such achievements highlight Haier's commitment to deliver high-end products that meet the needs of our customers across India. We are pleased to have made a positive impact in India and are confident, that with support of our consumers, we will continue to deliver successful products, going forward."

In line with the 'Make in India' and 'Make for India' strategy, Haier has been expanding its product range in India, focusing



on innovations that offer energy efficiency, durability, and convenience to its customers. The brand has successfully manufactured over 1 million Frost Self-Clean air conditioners this summer season, owing to the surge in consumer demand for air conditioners that provide energy-saving benefits and the convenience with self-cleaning feature.

In its endeavor to bring ultimate comfort to Indian homes, Haier combined the perfect blend of innovation, design, and energy proficiencies in Kinouchi Heavy-Duty Pro Air Conditioner series. They are designed to provide clean and fresh air to consumers, with features like self-cleaning, anti-bacterial filters, 10 second supersonic cooling and Intelli Convertible - 7 in 1. Equipped with Triple Inverter Plus Technology, their conditioners further benefits consumers, delivering up to 65% energy savings to the users.

The technology quintessentially allows you to clean the evaporator of the split air conditioner, without any hassle. This task can be performed by clicking a button, giving the customers the luxury of enjoying utmost cooling with the ease of cleanliness. With the mechanism of patented inverse-balance cleaning technology, Haier AC's are equipped to self-clean themselves. The self-cleaning is carried out by the AC through defrosting, frosting, cold expansion and the mechanism to remove all the dirt that enters the machine. The double ion sterilization technique tends to clean the residual dirt and bacteria that get stored in the fans & air ducts.

## Vodafone Idea Foundation to Set up Robotic Labs in Schools

Bhubaneswar: Digital Skills are at the centre of the fourth industrial revolution and a prerequisite for future employment opportunities for today's children. With the objective of playing a role in building a future ready talent force from the school level onwards, Vodafone Idea Foundation, the CSR arm of Vi, and Ericsson India have partnered to set up state-of-the-art Robotic Labs in ten schools across the country to provide new-age learning experiences to children from

underserved communities, preparing them to participate in future technological studies.

Digital Labs, an innovative education programme, is designed to hand-hold school going children aged 11-14 years, through their first experience with the world of programming and new technologies. By creating an open atmosphere for learning, Digital Labs aim to instill courage in these students to embrace technology and imbibe a problem-solving approach.

The partnership is

aimed at improving the students' education and employment prospects across Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by providing an exciting learning experience and develop skills such as teamwork, problem-solving skills, critical thinking.

Through this partnership, ten Digital Labs will be set up at Vodafone Idea Foundation schools in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Commenting on this initiative, P Balaji, Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Officer - Vodafone Idea Limited, and Director - Vodafone Idea Foundation said, "Digital skills are a necessity for the holistic growth of the youth in the digital era. Exposing school going children to coding and robotics helps spark creativity, stimulates critical thinking, imbues a collaborative mindset and opens up a world of opportunities. Using our technology based tools, we have been working with

underprivileged children through various programmes aimed at giving them an opportunity to learn, grow and compete. Taking our 'Technology for Good' mission forward, we are happy to partner with Ericsson, to expose the young minds with higher-level skills and development, as well as encourage underserved groups to pursue advanced ICT education and enter science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields."

## Samsung Launches High-Performance Premium Jet™ Cordless Stick Vacuum Cleaners in India

Bhubaneswar: Samsung, India's largest and most trusted consumer electronics brand, has launched its premium, highly powerful and intuitive Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaner line-up, delivering the ultimate end-to-end hygienic home cleaning solution to consumers in India. The line-up of vacuum cleaners will be available on Samsung's official online store, Samsung Shop starting May 04, 2022 and soon on Flipkart. The launch marks Samsung's foray in the vacuum cleaner segment in India with a range that can generate up to 200W of industry-leading suction power.

The range comes with a Jet Cyclone system that features nine cyclones with 27 air inlets to securely trap fine dust particles that are sucked into the vacuum cleaner without compromising on suction power. Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners release clean air out with a Multi-layered Filtration System, which

traps 99.999% of fine dust particles and allergens. This is certified by the British Allergy Foundation & SLG Pruf & Zertifizierungs. Running on a robust Digital Inverter Motor that optimizes airflow with its ultrasonic welded airfoil blades for high energy efficiency, Samsung vacuum cleaners - Jet 70, Jet 75 and Jet 90 - come with the promise to provide high-speed and enhanced cleaning for consumers.

"With increased focus on safety, health and hygiene in the post-pandemic era, consumers are looking for agile and efficient home cleaning solutions. Our all new Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners are here to provide unmatched convenience to our consumers with best-in-class features for a hassle-free cleaning experience. Equipped with cutting-edge technology such as Multi-layered Filtration System, the vacuum cleaners trap 99.999% of fine dust and allergens and provide powerful

and hygienic cleaning. Despite Samsung Jet's remarkably powerful suction capabilities, its body has been designed to be lightweight, allowing our consumers to enjoy the Jet's easy-to-use features more comfortably," said Mohandeep Singh, Senior Vice President, Consumer Electronics Business, Samsung India. The all-new range of Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners will be available in three models - Jet 70, Jet 75 and Jet 90 - with prices ranging from INR 36,990 to INR 52,990. The models will be available on Samsung's official online store Samsung Shop starting May 04, 2022 and soon on Flipkart. For a limited period between May 04 and May 09, 2022, consumers buying Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners can avail no cost EMIs of up to 12 months, starting INR 2,799. Consumers will get one-year warranty on Samsung Jet™ cordless stick vacuum cleaners.

## Gifting ideas for Mother's Day

With Mother's day just around the corner, we must appreciate the role she plays in our lives. While mothers deserve our love round-the-clock, it's all about going all-out on Mother's day. From grand-mothers to new moms, these super women play myriad roles in our lives. And they deserve much appreciation and a lot of CARE!

However, the plethora of choices tend to daunt a person while picking out the perfect gift for your mother. But worry not! If you are on the lookout for a gift that would be the perfect token of love - Here's a gifting guide for mother's day that will tick all your check boxes for the 8th of May 1. Clensta's Super Women Combo Pack for your Super Woman: The super women that our moms are, they hop from one task to another

and make it look effortless and breezy without caring about the toll it takes on their mind, body and skin. This Mother's Day pamper your super-mom with Clensta's Super Women Combo Pack which comprises of a Face Moisturizer, a Sunscreen, a Face Serum and an Under-eye Cream. Laced with the goodness of magical Red Aloe Vera, this essential combo will help your mother in replenishing her natural glow and having the perfect skin she has always dreamt of. The higher concentrations of beneficial phytochemicals in Red Aloe Vera provide it a 22-times more powerful anti-inflammatory effect. High concentrations of salicylic acid and polysaccharides help relax tight muscles and provide a soothing effect.

## Blue Dart reports record performance with positive Q4 and Year-End

Mumbai: Blue Dart Express Limited, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & Distribution Company, declared its Audited financial results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2022 at the Board Meeting held in Mumbai.

The company posted ₹ 1,354 million profit after tax (previous year ₹ 891 million profit) for the quarter ended March 31, 2022, and ₹ 3,764 million profit after tax (previous year ₹ 963 million profit) for the year ended March 31, 2022. Revenue from operations for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 stood at ₹ 11,659 million and 44,090 million for the year ended March 31, 2022.

## Funskool rolls out exclusive new range of toys for children this summer

Chennai: India's leading toy manufacturer, Funskool India Ltd is back with launching yet another blockbuster range of toys for children this summer. The wide range of new products are from a diverse range of categories such as board games, puzzles, Infants & pre-school, dough etc. This range will not only encourage the development of multiple skills: cognitive, physical,

social, and emotional but also help parents to fully engage their children. The product offerings include 3 in 1 Deluxe Play Gymand Mini Vehicles combo packs for Toddlers, traditional board games such as Goats and Tigers (better known as Aadu Puli Attam in Tamil), Mancala, 9 in 1 Super Games apart from other products in Handy Crafts, Fun Dough and Puzzles for young children.

Commenting on the launch of the new products for summer 2022, Mr. R. Jeswant, CEO, of Funskool India said, "Funskool has always strived to introduce the best inspiring and engaging toys with a focus on edutainment. Being indigenously developed and manufactured, the new range of toys and games align with the nation's goal of Atma Nirbhar Bharat."

## India Poker Championship and India Online Poker Championship

Mumbai: Spartan Poker announced the dates for its leading poker championships. The India Poker Championship (IPC) is heading to Casino Vegas by Big Daddy, Nepal, and will be held from 17th - 22nd May 2022. The 13th edition of the Indian Online Poker Championship (IOPC) will be held from 2nd - 19th June 2022. Indian poker enthusiasts will get to experience the best of both felts this summer with a whopping combined Prize-Pool of 36.5 Crore GTD.

India Poker Championship, the five-day live event hosted in Casino Vegas by Big Daddy, Nepal, will include four high-octane tournaments with a combined prize pool of 3.5 Crore. The IPC may

'22 MegaStacks edition is also designed in a best-in-class live tournament structure with heavy buy-ins & deep stacks for a high-quality gaming experience.

The India Online Poker Championship, which follows immediately post IPC, would be the biggest ever online poker series in India with a massive prize pool of 33 Crore GTD! The 18-day-long virtual series will provide an online experience unlike any other gaming event in India.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Amin Rozani, CEO of Spartan Poker Group said, "We are excited to host the India Poker Championship live this year and follow it up with our very successful

India Online Poker Championship that will be hosted on the Spartan Poker platform, along with other streaming partners like AIO Games, Blitzpoker, PokerHigh, and PokerDaddy. We know how incredible the level of play in these competitions can be! We aim to offer an even better experience for players & fans, and even more opportunities for skilled players to raise their games and win huge prizes."

At Spartan Poker, we provide a seamless and a fair gaming experience to the Indian poker community, and we are driven to build Poker as a professional sport in India, along with all its inherent thrill, while also showcasing the country's untapped poker talent. Added Mr. Rozani.

## Sudarshan Venu elevated as Managing Director of TVS Motor Company

Chennai: TVS Motor Company, a reputed manufacturer of two-wheelers and three-wheelers globally, announced at its board meeting today the elevation of Sudarshan Venu as Managing Director of the Company, effective today. Sudarshan has been charting the future of one of India's leading two-wheeler manufacturer and has made it the most awarded two-wheeler company. He has played a pivotal role in the company's growth in India and key

international markets, including Asia, Africa, and more recently in Europe. Prof Sir Ralf Dieter Speth, Chairman, TVS Motor Company said, "Sudarshan has got a clear vision and brings with him both a tremendous passion for advanced technologies and sustainable growth, deep-seated in values. He thinks future-oriented, staying ahead of the emerging trends. Personal, smart mobility, including electrification, are two of his big areas of focus. He has also spearheaded the international growth of

TVS Motor. He has the ability to lead high performing teams internationally with empathy. He takes care of people and society. I am sure that with his leadership, the company will grow stronger and further pivot to the future." Mr Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus, TVS Motor Company said, "Sudarshan's extraordinary efforts have witnessed key decisions to develop aspirational products and grow fast in India and overseas."

## WhatsApp rolls out emoji reactions, bigger groups

San Francisco: With an aim to make the messaging platform more user friendly, Meta-owned WhatsApp has announced that it is rolling out new features, including emoji reactions, bigger files and groups. The company said that it is slowly rolling out the ability to add up to 512 people to a group, which, till now, allowed to add only up to 256. "We are excited to share that emoji reactions are now available on the latest version of the app. Reactions are fun, fast, and they reduce overload in groups too. We will continue improving them by adding an even broader range of expressions in the future," the company said in a blogpost.

## Pujara, Suryakumar to represent West Zone in Duleep Trophy



**New Delhi:** After being dropped from the Indian team, Cheteshwar Pujara has returned to the domestic grind. He has been selected for the West Zone side in the upcoming Duleep Trophy and has agreed to play the tournament straightaway. Pujara will be joined by another Indian cricketer, Suryakumar Yadav, in the West Zone team. The multi-day inter-zonal competition is scheduled to begin in Bengaluru on June 28.

Pujara and Yadav have replaced Ruturaj Gaikwad and Yashasvi Jaiswal, who have been chosen for the Test tour of the West Indies. The West Zone selection committee, led by Sanjay Patel of the Mumbai Cricket Association, informed the other

committee members about their inclusion. Yadav, known for his dynamic batting style and considered a specialist in white-ball cricket, was among the standbys for the World Test Championship final earlier this month. However, he has been included in the India ODI side for the tour. It is also anticipated that he will feature in the subsequent five-match T20I series, although the squad for that series has not yet been announced. The Duleep Trophy should be complete (July 16) by the time the ODI series starts in West Indies on July 27. In other domestic news, the Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) has offered its head coach position to Amol Muzumdar. While the contract has not been

finalized, BCA Secretary Ajit Lele confirmed to Cricbuzz that an offer has indeed been extended. Muzumdar, a legendary figure in domestic cricket, has not officially confirmed his acceptance of the role. He was reportedly under consideration for the position of coach for the India women's team and understandably he is currently weighing his options.

The BCA Cricket Advisory Committee (CIC), consisting of former Baroda players Irfan Pathan, Kiran More, Satyajit Parad, and Valmik Buch, has recommended Muzumdar's name for the head coach position. If he accepts the role, Muzumdar will move from coaching one West Zone state side to another. He previously served as the coach of the Mumbai team for two years but chose not to seek renewal of his contract after it expired earlier this year. Omkar Salvi replaced him at Mumbai team and should Muzumdar accept the Baroda role, he would come in place of Dav Whatmore, who was the coach of Baroda in the last season.

## BCCI, team management target Ireland series for Bumrah's return



**New Delhi:** India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah is expected to back in competitive action very soon. If all goes well, he could return to the international circuit as early as August during the Ireland series. The Indian selectors have not yet announced the squad for the five-match T20I series against the West Indies, which is scheduled from August 3 to 13. While that series may be a little too early for his recall, the subsequent assignment against Ireland, with games on

August 18, 20 and 23, is being targeted by the Indian team's management. The ultimate target, of course, is to have him up to speed for the World Cup in October-November through the Asia Cup in September preceding it. However, before utilising him in the 50-over games, the Indian think-tank wants to test the waters in the T20s. The Ireland series aligns with the plan of the Indian team, the selectors, his handlers at the National Cricket Academy (NCA),

and BCCI, who collectively want him to return to match-play slowly and gradually, starting with four-over games. Bumrah has been out of action since September last year, initially due to back problems and later for back surgery. He is currently undergoing rehabilitation at the NCA in Bengaluru, and the word is that he has made a 70 per cent recovery. With the Ireland games just around two months away, the think-tank is not only hopeful but also

optimistic that he will be ready for the games in Dublin. By then, he would have had six months of rest and rehab since the surgery. The key to his return is how he performs in real-time matches. He is expected to play a few games at the NCA next month. His handlers want to assess how he responds to the workload. More than during the match itself, they want to see how he feels the day after a game. The decision to include him in the Ireland series will therefore

depend on his responses after those games. Meanwhile, KL Rahul has checked into the NCA and is undergoing rehabilitation. Having undergone thigh surgery in May, his return date is still unknown. It is unlikely he will be ready for the Asia Cup. As for Shreyas Iyer, who also had a back surgery, the status is still not fully known. He has been contacted by the Indian team management regarding the reasons for his exclusion from the squad for the two-Test series against the West Indies. It is not clear whether coach Rahul Dravid, the selectors, or both have spoken to him, but some form of communication has taken place regarding his non-selection.

It is understood that Pujara, who has played more than 100 Tests (103), has been informed that new players will be given an opportunity. Whether the conversation had any influence on his decision to play in the Duleep Trophy is not clear, but he immediately made himself available for the West Zone side for the multi-day tournament starting in a few days time.

## It's nice to tick that one off: Beaumont on completing the century set

**London:** Tammy Beaumont hadn't grasped the significance of her achievement as she walked back into the England dressing room at Trent Bridge. Not even when Heather Knight welcomed her to the rather exclusive club did it strike her that she'd become only the second women's cricketer to score a hundred in each format of the game. To get there in an Ashes Test was one thing, to do so in the penultimate over of the day with England still under scoreboard pressure was particularly satisfying.

"[Heather] said to me when I came in the change-room, 'Welcome to the club' but I didn't realise she meant the 'all three formats' one, I thought she just meant an Ashes hundred or something," Beaumont said. "It's always good to

look back at personal milestones and it's nice to tick that one off, it's something I thought might evade me as I'm coming to the latter half of my career. "But for me it's all about how we go on tomorrow and hopefully put the team in a good position." Beaumont's unbeaten century led England's strong response to Australia's 473 all-out with the hosts reaching 218/2 at Stumps, still significantly in the arrears. But with Beaumont among the eight wickets still available, England are by no means out of the contest. "I think it's quite evenly balanced really," Beaumont said. "We're still a long way behind but only two wickets down and the wicket is pretty flat still so I think it's pretty evenly poised and it's

pretty much anyone's game to grasp hold of tomorrow on day three. "[Scoring a hundred] feels pretty good, there were moments where I thought I wasn't going to face enough balls to get there tonight but it's put the team in a good position going into tomorrow. Hopefully we can bat long tomorrow, and that's what it's all about really." Beaumont was one of two centurions on the second day of this Women's Ashes Test. Batting at No.8, Annabel Sutherland made a fine 137\* at a strike-rate of nearly 75 giving the total significant heft after England appeared to have pulled back admirably on Thursday. Sutherland noted that while Australia were still on top in the contest, they would need to take the half chances that came

their way. It was in reference to the multiple reprieves the visitors offered Beaumont on her way to the century. The England batter was dropped at slip by Phoebe Litchfield on four and later reprieved again on 61 when Australia opted not to review a decision for a catch. "Tammy and Nat [Sciver] in particular batted exceptionally well, but in saying that we created seven or eight chances," Sutherland said. "I think given we're 260 [255] ahead, we're still well and truly ahead in the game. If we can start well tomorrow morning that'll put us in good stead and hopefully we can sharpen up a little bit in the field so we can take those chances. "There's still three days to go and lots of time in the game."

## World Table Tennis Championships Finals 2023: Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra To Lead Indian Campaign

**New Delhi:** Achanta Sharath Kamal, the Commonwealth Games winner, and Manika Batra, India's best women's player, will lead the Indian campaign at the World Table Tennis Championships Finals 2023, which begin on Saturday in Durban, South Africa.

There are 11 players in the Indian table tennis team. Sharath Kamal will captain the five-man men's squad, which features Olympian Sathiyam Gnanasekaran and bronze medalists Manav Thakkar and Harmeet Desai from the Asian Games 2018. Manush Shah is also included in the squad, as per Olympics.com. India's top-ranked men's table tennis player is Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, who is rated 51st in the world, followed by



SRG Suppiah in the men's singles both won bronze. The onus will be on world No. 39 Manika Batra to deliver for India in the women's competition. She will compete in singles and women's doubles partnering Archana Kamath. In women's doubles, the pair is rated No. 12 in the world. In women's singles, national champion Sreeja Akula (world No. 112), Olympian Sutirtha Mukherjee (world No.

113), and Reeth Tensionn (world No. 176) will compete. The singles competition will begin with a round of 128 while the doubles events will begin with a round of 64. The event will end on May 28. For the first time since the 1939 edition in Egypt, the table tennis world championships are being hosted on the African continent. Indian squad for ITTF World Table Tennis Championships Finals 2023

## 'Still too early to make any prediction': Thakur presents optimistic front

**London:** Shardul Thakur will not sign off India's chances in the ongoing World Test Championship final and believes the memory of England's recent fourth-innings efforts in this country will keep his team afloat even if they are asked to chase 450 for victory.

India are a long way behind in the final with Australia stretching their lead to 296 but

they did mount a respectable comeback on the third day through Thakur and Ajinkya Rahane's 109-run partnership for the seventh wicket that allowed them to avoid the follow-on and eat into the big deficit. They also produced a better bowling show to prize out four Australian wickets before close of play. "Well, cricket is a funny game. You can

never say what is the right total and this one-off game, especially ICC finals, you never know, I mean, who can handle the pressure better out there - one good partnership and you can even chase down 450 or maybe more than that," Thakur said. "So last year... England chased 400 and they did not lose too many wickets. So that's a positive sign for us.

Whatever they put up on the board, it's too early to make any predictions. We see a lot of times in Test cricket that the game changes within an hour. So yes, we like to be optimistic tomorrow going on the field. And yeah, we'll take it on from there." While Thakur presented an optimistic front, chasing even Australia's current lead is unlikely to be a

straightforward proposition on a pitch that has significantly dried out. Moreover, bowling from the pavilion end at The Oval has proved particularly problematic for the batters to face with the odd ball rearing up from length and another shooting lower from an identical spot. "I think there is an area from where the ball is coming up, there is a

little grass around the crack and the length is such that batsmen can't leave the deliveries easily," Thakur explained. "You have to play committedly because we saw today many balls kept down and I mean, that area is at a good length, a little short of length. So that's the area where the batsmen can't immediately see and leave the ball. "You have to play it.

And if it bounces from there - then good luck for the batsmen. It was bouncing from the other end too - but from a bit behind, so the batsmen were getting time to adjust, I think only Virat [Kohli] got the bounce from further on - but for all the rest, it bounced from behind." There was further acknowledgement from Thakur that India may not have made full use of this variable bounce after

electing to field on the opening day of the Test. After a promising start with the ball, their subsequent lack of discipline allowed Australia, and particularly centurion Travis Head, to get away to a big score. Thakur also seconded bowling coach Paras Mhambrey's assertion that the bowling group may have erred in not testing out Head with short balls early on in his innings.