

WATCO observes Water Day Money is playing with democracy

Bhubaneswar(KCN): On the occasion of the World Water Day, 2022, Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) observed World Water Day here with the theme 'Groundwater – Making the Invisible Visible'.

Speaking on the occasion G. Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development



Department told that Govt. of Odisha is taking pioneering steps to sustainably manage the state's groundwater reserve and gradually shifting its Drinking Water Supply projects to surface water sources. We need to work together to restore this precious hidden resource for our future generations.

Every year, on 22 March World Water Day is observed globally as an annual UN Obser-

vance Day to highlight the importance of freshwater and to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources he added. Resident Project Manager for WATCO-PMC Chinmay Tripathy made a presentation on this year's theme relating it with WATCO activities as well as the reform measures taken so far in Odisha's water sector.

At the outset Chief Executive Officer WATCO Er. P. K. Swain gave welcome address. Among others Special Secretary Susanta Kumar Purohit and Sagarika

Patnaik, Engineer in Chief PHEO Er. Rabindra Nath Nayak and for OWSSB Er. Hadibandhu Behera, Managing Director, WATCO Er. Sarat Chandra Mishra, Director, Odisha Water Academy Dr.Santanu Rath, transgender leaders Samikshya and Tanushree along with senior officials from WATCO, PHEO, OWSSB, Jalsathis and transgender SHG members from Cuttack were present.

10th edition of Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet inaugurated



Kolkata (KCN): Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet 's (#KALAM) 10th edition was inaugurated on 22nd March 2022 at iconic Victoria Memorial Hall Lawns in Kolkata. KALAM session is being organised from 22nd -27th March . Festival was inaugurated by noted Urdu poet Javed Akhtar in

presence of festival Director Malavika R Banerjee , Curator of Victoria Memorial Hall Dr. Jayanta Sengupta and top brass of Tata Steel . The festival is playing critical role in rejuvenating literary & cultural scape of Kolkata which suffered in a big way during current pandemic .

On Inagural day noted economist & Noble laureate Abhijit V Banerjee addressed a session. Festival sessions are going to be addressed by top & celebrity authors , journalists, musicians, historian & others.

Children ,Youths ,senior citizens and other avid readers are feeling happy to be

physically present in various sessions and to interact with many celebrity authors following Covid safety protocol during current pandemic challenges.

Kolkata Literary Meet is facilitating face to face author - readers interactions and enriching the cultural scape of City of Joy .

All three MLAs of Vikassheel Insaan Party quit, lend support to BJP

PATNA(KCN): The Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) led by Mukesh Sahani received a severe jolt on Wednesday when its three MLAs quit the party and extended their support to



the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The VIP is an ally of the ruling NDA comprising BJP, Janata Dal United (JDU) and the Hindustan Awami Morcha (HAM). VIP chief Mukesh Sahani is animal husbandry and fish-

eries resources minister in the Nitish Kumar cabinet.

The VIP MLAs, Raju Singh, Swarna Singh and Misrilal Yadav, informed the assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Singh about the move. Two deputy chief ministers—Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi—besides state chief of the BJP Sanjay Jaiswal were also present there. The development came hours after the VIP chief visited Muzaffarpur to attend the filing of nomination of Geeta Kumari, who has been fielded as official nominee of VIP for by-election to Bochaha assembly seat. The seat fell vacant after the death of VIP MLA Musafir Paswan.

Earlier in the day, BJP MLA from Bisfi Haribhushan Thakur Bachol had asked Sahani to resign from the

Kolkata [KCN, Niranjan Tripathy (Senior Journalist)]: Democracy is the rule or government of the people. Democracy is a popular system of governance that always strives for the welfare of the people or the welfare of the masses.



In the dictionary definition, democracy "is government by the people in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system." In the phrase of Abraham Lincoln, democracy is a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people

The entire Indian border extends from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Sovereign democracies like India are rare everywhere. Democracy is the hope and dream of 140 crore Indians. After the founding of the Indian Constitutional Council, its father was Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Ambedkar has made history forever in the history of the world by drafting a constitution for the good governance of the country. But in his holy democracy, it has become impossible for a common man / gentleman / honest person to contest the election in the same way that the use of money and force in elections for the sake of power.

The rich, the mafia, the black market, the criminals are all just building the foundation to fight the election. In other words, the common man / gentleman / honest person cannot go to the throne. Only the rich, the mafia, the

black market, the criminals are coming to power, which is a threat to democracy." Therefore, in order to protect democracy, the Election Commission should be vigilant in its efforts to prevent the use of force and force in elections, as well as for the electorate to come to power. "Everywhere you look today, the tide of protectionist sentiment is flowing. In many ways, the team welcomes the departed by throwing wreaths, flowers and sheets. It is sometimes referred to as the "house" or "the house". Our leaders are also shamelessly changing the language of their faces. "She was released this morning; she's talked to her father and she's fine. He is abusing his old team and old friends. This is one of the most important ways in which you can be a part of a great team. They may have been in office for some time, but in the future, they will be reluctant to join the new party. " Yet human narrow-mindedness is a betrayal of one's own party and race, thinking that money is everything for a small amount of money, and does not shy away from auctioning off holy democracy. That is why Jayachandra and Mirzafar are formed in this soil. The government has always been volatile due to the change of party. "Indigenous peoples like Rahu and Ketu have already been devastated by Indian democracies. If they think that leaders who are shameless, deceitful, selfish politicians will be given a good promotion (promotion) of government employees without repeatedly electing them, they will accept it with dignity. Democracy has become a commodity in the game of money . Looking at the real picture, money is the game of democracy .May God give power and money to those who are thirsty, give wisdom and honesty .The dignity of democracy remains intact Pray for the world.

The politics that is going on in the country or in the state right now are only for the greedy for power.

If a person has a lot of money, whether he/she is a good person or not, he/she is said to be a great hero.Gradually we become slaves.Our country will never be able to move forward with this kind of politics.As long as money is playing democracy, it is impossible for society to prosper

Day after Biden's 'shaky' remark, US says India an essential partner

NEW DELHI(KCN): A day after US President Joe Biden said that India was 'shaky' in acting against Russia, US officials said that India was an essential partner. "In terms of India's

Quad's goals," said Ned Price, spokesperson of the US State Department, during a briefing. Price said that just before the March 3rd virtual meeting of the Quad leaders, US

are free from military, economic and political coercion.

"In fact, we heard that emanate from the leaders call on March 3rd. These are principles that we share with our Quad part-

Delhi, had said that though India has a historic defence and security relationship with Russia, the US can be a strong defence and security partner of India.

"Times have changed in terms of our willingness and ability to be a strong defence and security partner of India," said Nuland.

"The fact is that we are a partner of India now. We are a partner of India when it comes to shared interests, when it comes to the values we share in a free and open Indo-Pacific. And we've invested in that relationship in terms of our defence and security. So historical relationships notwithstanding, we are a partner of choice for India now, as are many of our partners and allies around the world," Price added.



place in the Quad, in terms of our relationship with India in the Quad context and the bilateral context, we know that India is an essential partner for us in realising our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. That is really at the heart of the

Secretary of State Antony Blinken had met with External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and reaffirmed their commitment to free and open Indo-Pacific in which the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states are respected and countries

ners. They also reaffirmed their dedication to the Quad as a mechanism to promote regional stability and security," Price added.

Meanwhile, US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, during her recent trip to

Thunder

Flags of bagful colours,
fly in full swing,
signalling a wide spectra of coveted
peace in the planet's sky, however,
bloody thunder of rancour reigns,
ransack all positive vibes,
demon of death roars on castles.
What to say of a common,
fighting for bread n butter,
dreams of kids swallowed,
desires of straggling
lenience swept,

Sanjib Kumar Dash



when pacts are silent,
leading mouths shut.
Black n white drama,
had a havoc one day,
Now, is it mere a deal,
fading coins or anything else?
a trendsetter, drawing cross lines,
intersecting mankind,
shortening the future.
Perhaps were never one,
that the erring human, so eager
to see the doomsday.

Reader in Physics, Deogarh College

The Guest House

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

~ Rumi

Quotation of the Day

A Lesson From Our Hand



All fingers are not in the
same length. But when they
bend, all stands equal. Life
become easy when we bend
and adjust all situations!

Good Morning

Madhubani Paintings: People's Living Cultural Heritage

Mithila, a region in the state of Bihar, northern India (and also stretching into Nepal), has an important tradition of knowledge in the form of paintings. Madhubani paintings (also known as Mithila paintings) have been practised by the women of the region through the centuries and today it is considered as a living tradition of Mithila. The art not only depicts the social structure but also the cultural identity of the land with its depictions on themes of religion, love and fertility. Madhubani paintings are among the most famous paintings in the world. This popular art of the Mithila region expresses the creativity and sensitivity of its people. Like any folk art, it also shows the psychology of the society to which it belongs; it reflects the morals, values and customs of the region in a very interesting way. This age-old art is achieved by the use of fingers, twigs, brushes, nib-pens, and matchsticks, using natural dyes and pigments, and is characterized by eye-catching geometrical patterns. These paintings are predominantly made by the women of the Mithila region and thus it signifies a great deal in a male-dominated society.

The art of Madhubani paintings is a traditional fashion of paintings developed in the Mithila region, in the villages of Jitwarpur and Ranti, near the city of Madhubani. Literally, the word Madhubani means "honey forest". The origins of Madhubani paintings are quite unknown. However, it is believed that King Janak, ruler of Mithila Kingdom in the 8th or 7th century BCE, had asked to develop these paintings in order to capture the moments of his daughter Sita's wedding to Prince Rama (of the Hindu epic – Ramayana). The paintings are the exclusive monopoly of artists and their knowledge has been passed from generation to generation, from mothers to daughters. Girls learn to play with a brush and with colours from childhood. The culminating moment is the decoration of the kohbar - the room of the house where the new couple lives after their wedding. Although the paintings are traditionally made by women, men are becoming more and more involved in order to meet market demand. Also, the traditional process of making this art has been modified. The painting is traditionally done by hand, on a plastered wall or on a mud wall, but now the commercial demand is bringing the paintings to paper and clothes.

Essentially, the paintings are of religious motives. The central theme of all paintings is love and fertility. They are made in special rooms in the house, as in the room for prayer, the ritual area, the bridal room, or the main walls of the village to welcome visitors, etc. The drawings of nature and mythology are adapted and versioned according to the style of each region, as well as the individual artist. The

most-painted themes and designs are the worshipping of Hindu deities and episodes of their sacred writings, such as the episode of Radha and Krishna, Rama, Shiva, Ganesha, Laxmi, Saraswati, the monkey, the sun, the moon, the plant of Tulasi, the Deep (it is a traditional lamp – made of soil, a symbol of a happy life), wedding scenes and other social events. Ten Mahavidyas, Shiva and Sakti Madhubani Painting Ten Mahavidyas, Shiva and Sakti Madhubani Painting

Chandra Shamsher Bahadur Singh

based on experiment and creativity. The artworks on mud-walls were not a symbolic depiction of the stories of the epics; rather they were directly related to, and a true representation of, Hindu mythology. The incessancy of this art was due to the natural and live depiction of social life in which there was a strong interconnectedness among the people. The use of colours also had strong connections with the religious beliefs and hope of their well-being. Some art scholars also suggest that Madhubani Paintings were associated with the tantric culture of ancient India, though this notion is still debated among art historians. The Mithila region has been a centre of tantric practices for both the Saiva and Sakti communities. Historical references to the tantric connection of Madhubani Painting are found in the literary work of the poet Vidyapati who belonged to the 12th century CE. Though the origin of this art form dates back to Ramayana period (ancient India) as the popular oral tradition suggests, it went through various phases of history during the medieval period and very little history is known of this period. Nevertheless, it was W.G. Archer, a British collector of this region (during the British colonial period of India) who was greatly attracted to this art and he named it Mithila Art in the 1940s CE. Modern Madhubani Paintings The commercialization of Madhubani paintings began in 1962 CE, when a foreign artist travelling through this town was attracted by the murals. He persuaded women to paint those same drawings on paper, so that he could take them and show them in his country. The idea was a great success and thus began the commercialization of Madhubani paintings. Since then, the way of painting has diversified in different ways. Mithila paintings or Madhubani paintings will endure as an internationally acclaimed form of painting. Madhubani paintings continue to primarily depict the nature and the Hindu mythological figures and the themes are generally associated with Hindu deities, fish, birds, animals, natural objects like the sun, moon and religious plants like Tulsi (a sacred plant in Hindu mythology) or Banyan tree. Besides these central objects of the artwork, scenes from the royal court and social events like weddings are also widely painted. Madhubani Paintings have traditionally two forms: Bhittichitra (paintings made on a mud-wall) and Aripana (on the ground-soil). Bhittichitra is made on the mud-walls of the houses specifically at three places: the room of the family God/Goddess, the room of the newly wedded couple and the drawing-room. Paintings are also drawn on the walls of these

rooms on some auspicious occasions like marriage, Upnayana and festivities like Dussehra and Diwali. The women of the Mithila region, who are extraordinarily talented in this art form, have made their art a subject of artistic attraction across geographical boundaries. Finding out the artistic excellence of these paintings in the 1960s CE, some government officials took the initiative to popularise the art in order to uplift their financial earnings. They did this by persuading women artists to draw similar paintings on paper, which eventually led to the concept of commercialisation of their work for a worldwide market. The recent initiatives taken by the local government, NGOs and cultural organisations, have brought the Madhubani art to an even greater level of popularity and recognition. In the field of fashion, many designers have launched Madhubani designs collection such as traditional outfits (Stoles, Sarees, Salwar kameez, long skirts, etc.) which are beautifully designed in Madhubani art. Many other day-to-day useable products like pen-cases, bags, diaries, etc. are painted in Mithila art and are very popular. In recent times, digital technology has changed not only how we know, but also what we deem worth knowing. Special-interest tourism is a fast-growing and highly lucrative alternative to traditional mass-market travel. As motives for travel diversify, so do the number of subsectors. Moreover, tourism today is one of the most dynamic and diversified socio-economic activities globally, capable of turning an unnoticed region into a prosperous one by generating employment opportunities for the local people as well giving due importance the local cultural heritage. Madhubani paintings of the Mithila region have great potential along with the other cultural resources of the region to attract foreign tourists. Art-loving tourists from across the world have taken a keen interest in the rural tourism and heritage of India and Madhubani paintings have scaled new heights beyond the boundaries of Mithila. Madhubani painting enjoys an international popularity, especially in countries like Japan, Germany, France and the USA. The Mithila Museum in Tokamachi, Japan, founded by a famous Madhubani art lover, Hashegawa exhibits around 1000 Madhubani paintings of various themes and styles. Several books and research papers have been written on various aspects of Madhubani painting by Indian and foreign writers alike. The Master Craftsmen Association of Mithila, founded by an American in 1977 CE, helps the artists of Madhubani with the sale of their works through exhibitions. Very recently, all the government buildings of the Madhubani city, including the railway station, town hall, administrative office buildings, and government bungalows, etc. have been thoroughly covered by Madhubani paintings. A number of long-distance trains (coaches) of India have been completely turned into artistic works showing Madhubani paintings. With such efforts on the part of government and local artists, Madhubani paintings are once again emerging as a major art form on the artistic canvass of the modern world.



Krishna & Rada M

Toyin Adepoju (CC BY-SA) Before starting the painting, women usually do a prayer to the deities so that their favour accompanies them in their objectives or rituals. For its elaboration, the cotton wrapped on a bamboo stick is used as a brush. The colours that are applied are prepared manually by the artists. The black colour is prepared by mixing blight with cow dung; yellow is prepared based on turmeric and Banyan leaf milk; blue is extracted from indigo; the red of the Kusum flower; the green leaf of the applewood tree; the white of rice powder; and orange of the Palash flower. The main exponents of Madhubani paintings are the Maithil Brahmin style and the Kayasthas style, characteristics of the villages of Jitwarpur and Ranti, very close to the city of Madhubani. There, Madhubani paintings have become a centre of commercial activity. Every day, you can see young people busy in arranging and making the papers by hand and looking for the colours. The uniqueness of this art form is selectiveness in its artistic expression. In antiquity, this art was made on mud-walls or soil-ground on certain auspicious occasions and was erased the very next day. And this is why there has been no preservation of these works. In a sense, the artworks were natural and momentary. Nevertheless, this popular art used to pass easily from one generation to another without the help of any technical tools. The very nature of such transformation of knowledge from one generation to another led to its expansion

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Degree in International Tourism (USD) and Spanish Language (JNU). Pursuing PhD in Cultural Tourism Management (BHU). Associate Vice-President in India at the World Gastronomy Institute. Tourism Researcher and Expert in Academic Affairs.

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'Shakeela' trailer falls flat, lacks the punch expected in a star biopic



The trailer of Indrajit Lankesh's Hindi language film "Shakeela" doesn't hold much to impress. From using modern-day Hindi music to cliched film sets, it feels like a repackaging of Vidya Balan's 'Dirty Picture' except that this version fails to bring the charm Vidya brought to the

screen. The film, as described by the filmmakers of 'Shakeela', is "inspired by life events of a famous star Shakeela who predominantly starred in southern cinema." It features Richa Chadha as the titular adult actor who was one of the biggest stars of the 1990s ar-

iving from Kerala who went on to act in several adult films in languages spanning Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada, while Pankaj Tripathi is the male lead. The film is described to "portray the hardships of the actress as she had to face a lot of criticism, insults and betrayals from

her own family members and the film fraternity who were influential in getting her films banned." The main reason for the success of 'Kinnarathumbikal', one of the films that catapulted her into the limelight, was solely her screen presence and energy, and with no other male lead in the

movie. Trying to fill in the gaping hole left by Silk Smitha in the low-budget softcore industry, Shakeela made her own mark with around 250 movies in her kitty -- heralding the 'Shakeela Tharangam' (The wave of Shakeela). Meanwhile, the Shakeela that

Indrajith is trying to portray doesn't look like she has much story to tell. The screen-space also seems to be overpowered by star cast Pankaj Tripathi. Let's hope the full length movie holds more than what the trailer showed. The film is produced by Sammy Nanwani and Sahil Nanwani, with music by Meet Bros and Veer Samarth.

Priyanka Chopra reveals husband Nick Jonas likes her 'natural' looks, calls him 'appreciator'

WASHINGTON(KCN): Nick Jonas has

Chopra. The actor re-

2019 and revealed how her husband is

natural or a more glamorous look.

"there are days when he likes a really natu-

went all out for the event, wearing a sheer black top with a pussycat bow, a white blazer paired with a matching pair of pants. Adding a pop of colour to the whole look, she opted for striking pink eye makeup with a matching bold lip colour.

Earlier this month, Priyanka joined her fellow J sisters Sophie Turner and Danielle Jonas in celebrating the first night of their husbands' 'Happiness Begins' tour. All three women rocked Jonas Brothers T-shirts.

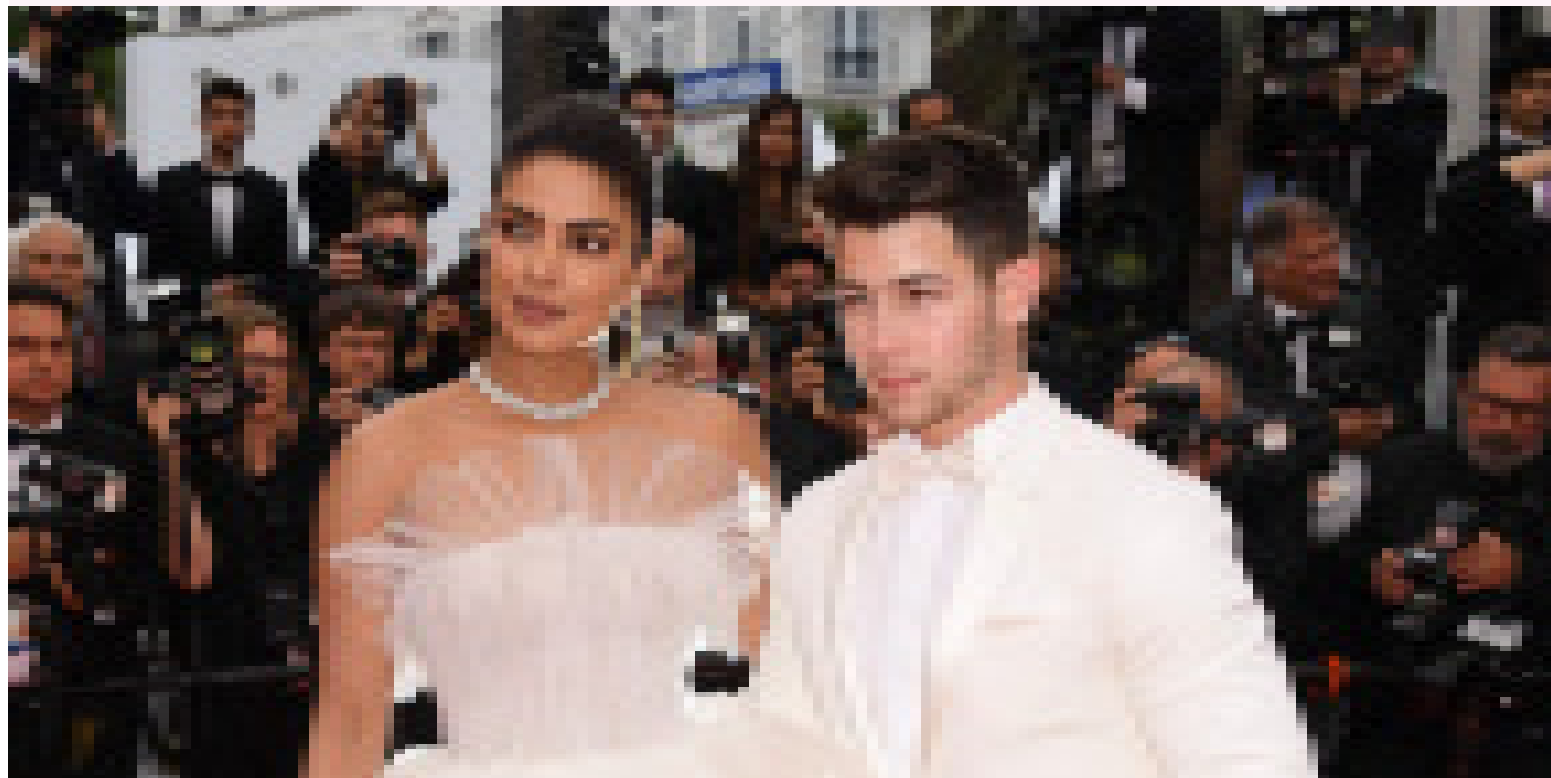
The actor shared that it was "really cool" that they all decided on coordinating their outfits since they "have such distinct personalities."

Just 'normal' to exclude women in decision making process: Adil Hussain

MUMBAI(KCN): Actor Adil Hussain has offered support to the growing group of female artistes who are asking the reason for women's absence from the Bollywood delegation of producers and actors that recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss issues faced by the film industry.

Ritesh Sidhwani and CBFC chief Prasoon Joshi, met Modi to discuss how to take the entertainment industry to the next stage.

The meeting of the delegation came under fire on Wednesday for its exclusion of female representation with some activists and filmmakers pointing out that it was 2018 and asking, "Where are the women?" Adil took to Twitter to criticize the panel that met the prime minister.



nothing but love and admiration for his wife Priyanka

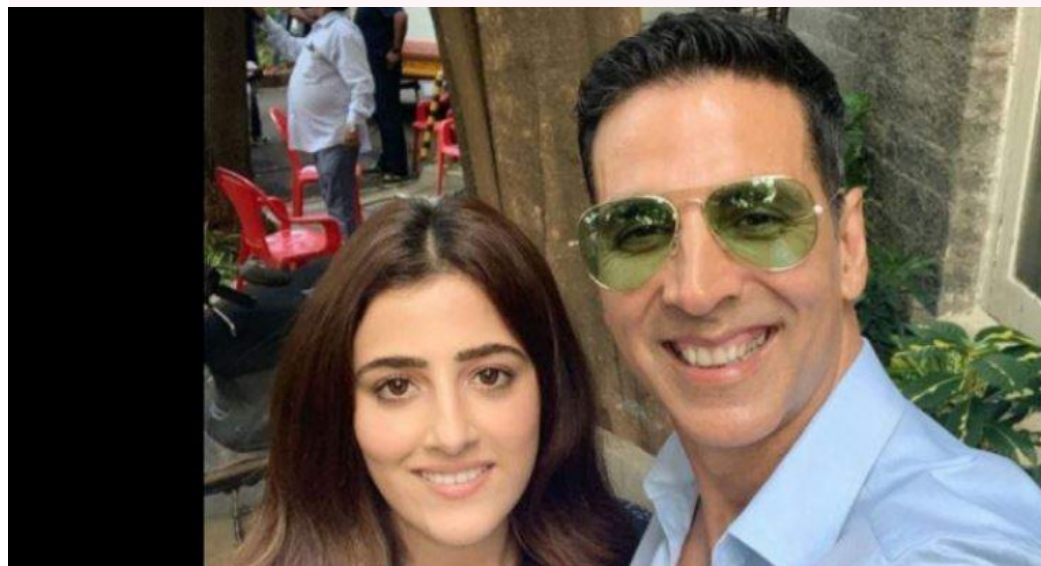
cently spoke to People at Beautycon Festival Los Angeles

full of admiration for her whether she decides to go for a more

"He likes a bit of both," the 'Quantico' star, said, adding that

real thing."

Akshay Kumar shoots with Kriti Sanon's sister Nupur for music video



MUMBAI(KCN): Actor Akshay Kumar on Sunday shot for singer B Praaks new single with actress Kriti Sanon's younger sister Nupur.

written by Jaani. B Praak has previously lent his voice to the song "Teri Mitti" in Akshay's film "Kesari".

London! The song will also feature renowned Punjabi singer Ammy Virk.

posing with Nupur and Ammy at the St. Xavier's college in Mumbai.

It is reported that the romantic song is

ALSO READ: Akshay Kumar has a namesake actor in

A lot of pictures are doing the rounds on the internet in which Akshay is seen

On the work front, Akshay will be seen in "Housefull 4" and "Good Newwz" this year.

Low Banking Density of Odisha

Institutional finance is critical to functioning of the economy. Public and private sector banks as well as specialized banks like regional rural banks (RRB's) and state co-operative banks are central to any state's financial system. These institutions facilitate credit provision (through targeted and non-targeted advances), liquidity provisions (by accepting demand deposits and offering line of credit) and certain risk management services (like handling derivatives transactions).

In Odisha, banking and other financial services have not gained significant strength in terms of outreach and expansion. Total number of bank branches marginally increased from 5031 in 2016-17 to 5,497 in December, 2021.

Total number of bank branches are significantly higher for neighbouring and major states like Andhra Pradesh (7,608), Bihar (7,761), Gujarat (8,811), Karnataka (10,932), Kerala (6,913), Madhya Pradesh (7,513), Maharashtra (13,973), Punjab (6,674), Rajasthan (8,115), Tamil Nadu (12,301), Telangana (5,752), Uttar Pradesh (18,393) and West Bengal (9,790). Number of bank branches are less in Odisha than 14 states.

Across the bank groups, private sector banks have seen faster expansion. From a total of 569 bank branches in 2008-09, the number has increased to 978 in December, 2021. While the number of public sector bank branches has increased marginally from 3128 in 2016-17 to 3,240 in December, 2021, although their branch network remains the largest.

Similarly Regional Rural Bank branches has increased marginally from 991 in 2016-17 to 1,002 in December, 2021. Thus public sector banks continue to dominate the banking industry in Odisha with 58.94 percent share

in total bank branches in the state. The state has repeated

asked banks to set up brick-and-mortar branches in the unbanked regions of the state. While the government is stressing direct benefit transfer (DBT) under several schemes, as many as 4,921 gram panchayats lack brick-and-mortar bank branches in the state. The state has 6,234 gram panchayats.

The state government has urged bankers and the Government of India to set up branches in places that are not connected by the banking system. With the government making payment to various social security schemes beneficiaries through DBT, lack of banks in rural areas was hindering the process.

As per Department of Telecommunication, percentage of inhabited villages with 3G/4G mobile internet coverage is 81.23% in 2021. Uncovered beneficiaries of different schemes are facing difficulty in receiving money in the absence of bank branches and internet connectivity.

One of the important constraints for financial inclusion in the state is the relatively low number of bank branches in certain districts of the state. Districts like Boudh, Deogarh and Malkangiri have very few bank branches. Shares of number of bank branches in these districts are negligible (less than one percent) compared to other districts in Odisha.

Thus it is imperative to identify the areas with poor banking facilities, and come up with ways and means to connect them to the mainstream banking system. One way may be to increase the number of bank branches in areas with poor banking facilities.

Given the cost of operating a bank branch in remote areas, it is more efficient to reach out

Pradeep Kumar Panda

to potential beneficiaries through the Bank

Correspondent Agencies (BCAs) channel. The BCAs, Bank Mitras etc. are often based out of their operational areas and are more suitable to work with the local population.

This potential should further be harnessed to create a successful banking structure. It is essential that through surveys and other means of investigation, banks and related agencies understand the financial needs of individuals. This focus should be on products which are simple, affordable and are of high utility.

Low credit utilization by banks is another problem faced by the banking sector in Odisha. Low credit utilization by commercial banks has resulted in inequality in availability of banking services. To overcome this situation, banks should make population wise assessment of utilization of financial products. This would also help in assessing the spread of financial literacy across the different population groups.

As financial literacy is the key to success in terms of financial inclusion, it is important that subscribers at the grass root level are aware about processes like KYC, various bank schemes/product sets. For this, BCAs can be utilized to further advance the process of financial literacy. Also, NGOs and other social organizations may be involved to encourage the spread of financial services to rural and remote areas.

Regarding the Self Help Group (SHG) model that is quite popular in the state, increasing NPAs are a problem that needs attention. Other challenges include the continued reluctance of banks to lend to SHGs, lack of adequate capacity at the Self-Help Promoting

Institutions (SHPI), and quality of SHGs. Growth of the SHG movement depends upon giving an innovative orientation to the concept. The state government, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and other donor agencies should make serious effort and invest to develop few very large SHPIs capable of supporting and managing a large base of SHGs like the way Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) invested in creating a few large MFIs. Also for the success of the SHG model, it is essential that technology is leveraged enough to further reduce transaction costs or make the linkage process more efficient.

Use of technology along with BCA's can help banks tap the large unbanked sector. For this linking the use of mobile phones, small finance banks, payment banks and micro ATM's with the banking correspondent can help deliver low cost banking solutions to unbanked customers.

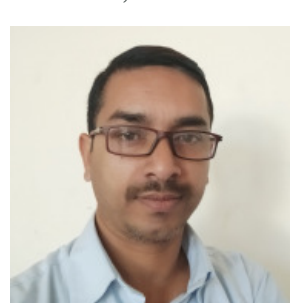
To ensure large coverage and sustainability of this structure it is important to utilize the existing customer identification systems like Aadhaar or MGNREGA job cards along with private telecom companies that have large distribution channels to facilitate the working of BCAs.

Also, in order to ensure efficient functioning of BCAs adequate remuneration should be paid to the BCAs. Finally, proper training to BCAs about basic banking, banking products, customer handling etc. is essential for the sustainability of the BCA-Bank integration model. Ministry of Finance, Government of India may take appropriate steps to increase number of bank branches in the state which will lead to financial inclusion.

Sector Lead - Economics, SDG PMU, Planning & Convergence Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Why is the BJP unable to win elections in Kerala?

The Modi juggernaut is the electoral victories of the BJP since 2014 are ornamentally described as. Winning the Hindi heartlands of India, the BJP has always been making



consistent progress in electoral politics. But towards the south, its influence was exiguous except in Karnataka which the BJP managed to make it a party stronghold. The party

enjoyed meagre support or no support in the remaining south Indian states. But it never hesitated to painstakingly toil to make its presence felt. Among those, Kerala was the only state that rigorously kept the BJP at a distance from winning elections, except once in 2016 the saffron party managed to win one seat in its history, sending the party veteran O. Rajagopal to the state assembly from Thiruvananthapuram. When it comes to the parliament, the party had multiple arduous experiments during elections but it was never successful. Kerala's political intransigence remained unblemished all through the Modi wave, as a large area of the country conceded to the saffron dominance. Interestingly, the BJP has been actively present in the state ever since its first incarnation, the Jan Sangh. The Jan Sangh had its 14th National Plenary session conducted in Kerala in 1967 in which Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay was crowned as its National President. There has always been an inflow of congruent Sangh ideologies into the social life of Kerala. Contribution of intellectuals like P. Parameswaran a senior RSS pracharak and ideologue, who rose to become the National Vice-President of the Jan Sangh, brought great fertility to the saffron thoughts in Kerala. He later chose to leave electoral politics completely and pursued and propagated cultural nationalism. Year 1967 was again crucial for the Jan Sangh as the party was catapulted to the level of a

political pressure force against the E . M . S .

Namboodiripad led Communist government. Kowtowed to the demand of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), the state government decided to trim-size a new district chiseled out of Palakkad, Kozhikode and Kannur districts. This was purely on religious lines as the Malappuram District as it is today, was then a Muslim dominated area. In line with the creation of Pakistan, the IUML wanted a 'Mappilasthan' carved out of the three districts in the Malabar region. The Jan Sangh had fought against this move with great vigor, sending almost all its veteran leaders to jail. Again in 1975 during the emergency, many of its senior leaders were arrested under Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA). So, the presence of RSS, Jan Sangh and the right-wing ideology have always been a part of Kerala's political spectrum. Yet the party despicably failed to make inroads into electoral victories. With all his Chanakya tantra, Amit Shah failed to send his men from Kerala to the parliament, not even once.

The BJP's electoral politics has been consistently progressive increasing the number of votes but inadequate to make any structural impact in the state's political scenario. In the assembly election-2021, the party managed to garner 11.3% of the total polled votes slightly increasing its vote share from 2016, which was 10.53%. Both the Left Democratic Front (LDF) headed by the CPI(M) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) led by the Congress have always been pre-cautious to spread wet blankets on BJP's electoral prospects. They could engineer it by helping each other in case a BJP candidate was predicted to be the winner. The cross-voting trend in Kerala began in 1991, when K.G. Marar, a senior RSS pracharak deputed to BJP, failed to win the election from the Mancheswaram constituency by a thin

M. R. LALU

margin of 1000 votes. Political revelations

after the elections stunningly disclosed the secret that made Marar bite the dust. This continued in the same constituency and in many other constituencies until the last election. Again, K. Surendran, the present party president was defeated on a thin margin by the same unprincipled cross-voting and it is a worst kept secret in Kerala politics.

The BJP has consistently been upfront in trying to establish ties with the minorities especially the Christians. In a pragmatic move, the long-standing dispute between the Jacobite and Orthodox church in Kerala was brought to Narendra Modi's table for a consensus, with the present Goa governor also a BJP veteran P.S. Sreedharan Pillai mediated it. The saffron party has made concerted efforts to make inroads among the unimpressed minority. This being the case, the party could seldom make any impulse in the direction of winning hearts of the 18.4% Christians in the state. Elections 2021 in Kerala was seen as an opportunity for the party to improve its tally, becoming a perceptible opposition in the assembly. Interestingly, the BJP enjoyed the presence of metro man E. Sreedharan, retired civil servant C.V. Ananda Bose, former IPS officers Jacob Thomas and T.P. Senkumar (both retired DGPs) and many more reputed personalities in its bandwagon. Both the IPS officers had burnt their fingers for being truthfully resisting the ruling establishment's unwarrantable propaganda. Despite the party leadership's reach out to the minority, a visible consolidation of votes against the BJP remains a reality in the state. Still unconvinced about the genuineness of the party's secular credentials, the minority is still at a distance from the saffron cohort. Mostly in triangular fights, the BJP slips to triviality and the intense infighting of the party's state leadership hammers the last nail on its coffin

in every election.

Though the party manages to increase its vote share every time, the 'zero tally' pulls it down to the level of a chronic insignificance. The RSS initiative to lift the ailing party to a significant political pedestal has been a routine, per se. Bringing senior RSS pracharak Kummanam Rajashekharan to the party's rescue as its state president could give the party an ideological makeover. His simplicity, commitment and soft-spoken leadership received huge acceptance. He rose to popularity in Kerala as a mass agitator for the Hindu rights. His agitations during the famous Nilakkal violence in 1982 in connection with a church being allegedly built in the forest land of Sabarimala temple and the Marad massacre of 2002 in which eight Hindus were killed by an islamists mob in the Marad beach of Kozhikode got him win a superstardom among the Hindus in the state. But internal feuds in the party could not give him a breathing space, he was later enthroned as the Mizoram governor. The Ezhavas, the caste among the Hindus, predominantly lenient to the Communists, occupy about 24% of the state population as per the last census. The support that it extended to the left parties remained rock-hard until recently, though ripples of denial are surfacing with a slow pace. The Nairs, the second largest Hindu community comprising 14% of the population, is frequently flexible with its votes scattered among various parties. The BJP victory, with Modi taking the center stage winning elections, is still a mirage in the state of Kerala. The RSS keeps drawing discipline lines for the party leadership, but it fails to remain a unified cohort bringing good results in its electoral progress card. Winning elections in God's own country is still an uphill task for the BJP and Modi.

The author is a Freelance Journalist / Social Worker, Meppurathu House, Puthusserimala P.O -Ranni, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala State. Email: mrlalu30@gmail.com

Four of family killed over obscene remarks in Odisha's Ganjam district, three detained

BERHAMPUR(KCN): In a gruesome incident, four persons of a family, including three brothers and their cousin were killed by a group of villagers over a trivial issue at Pitala Chhach under Hinjilicut police limits in Ganjam district, police said on Wednesday.

The deceased are Sambhu Swain, Panda Swain, Raja Swain and their minor cousin Chandan Swain of Narendrapur village. Sambhu owned a fast food centre at Pitala chowk and his two siblings and cousin were assisting him.

Police sources said, the incident took place after Sambhu passed some lewd remarks on Sadhu Swain, who had come to the stall to have fast food on Tuesday night. Accompanied by his associates, Sadhu attacked Sambhu, his brothers and cousin injuring them critically.

Though they were rushed to MKCG Medical College and Hospital (MKCGMCH) at Berhampur, doctors declared them brought dead. One person from the other group was also injured. He is undergoing treatment. All it started after a couple, who was returning home in a bike, slipped at the Chhach and fell down, Sadhu ran to the spot and helped the couple get up. Since the couple met with a minor accident, Sambhu allegedly passed some obscene comments on Sadhu.

"Irrked with this, Sadhu questioned his intention and it led to a heated argument be-

tween them. Humiliated Sadhu left the spot and returned with six associates. When an exchange of words was on someone hit Sadhu on his head. Seeing him bleeding profusely, his friends attacked the four brothers with iron rods," said a police official quoting an eyewitness.

While three of the four brothers died on the spot, Chandan succumbed to his injuries on the way to MKCGMCH. Some others of the Sadhu group who sustained injuries fled the spot fearing arrest.

Receiving information Hinjilicut police station IIC Abhimanyu Das reached at the spot. Police suspected Sambhu and Sadhu had the previous animosity and the latter was provoked by the lewd comments of the former. Police have detained three persons for questioning in this connection. As the news about the quadruple murder spread, locals congregated in large numbers and blocked NH 59 demanding immediate arrest of the accused persons.

A scientific team and forensic experts have visited the spot and collected evidence from the crime scene. A team has been formed to arrest the murders.

Ganjam SP Brijesh Roy visited the spot. He said the investigation is on from all angles to ascertain the reason behind the clash. "Three persons have been detained and efforts are on to locate others. All the accused persons involved in the incident will be nabbed soon," he added.

Chaturdasha Sankirtana Mandali Dola festival observed at Bantunia, 42 Mouza

Cuttack Sadar(KCN) : The Chaturdasha Sankirtana Mandali Dola festival which observed the last 8 days of the last closing ceremony done at Cuttack Sadar 42 Mouza Sri Sri Bantaswar Mahadev Pitha Bantunia. All the members of Sankirtana Mandali like Adhikari, Mhanta, Badyakara and sankirtana liking people were joined



and make the holy traditional festival grand success with felicitating program held. The Gramya Committee also felicated to ACP Chanadan Ghadai, Cuttack Sadar & 42 Mouza Thana Adhikari Sudhanshu Bhushan Jena, Anita Sahoo. This program organised by President Er. Ashok Biswal, Sukanta Debata, Sarbamahanta Surendra nath Panda, Secretary Nanda Kishore Jena, Committee Adhikari Rabindra nath Senapati, Mahanta

Hrudananada Biswal, Raghunath Das, Chandramani Debata, Susanta Tripathi, Krushna Chandra Das, Surjyamani Rout, Kelu Charan Behera, Asit Das, Gajendra Nath Swain, Debendra Senapati, Ashok Kumar Das, Ashok Jena (Bulu Baba), Jogendra Debata, Niranjan Panda, Ashok

Tripathy, Rjakashore Jena, Ramachandra Senapati, Kailash Chandra Sahoo, Krutibash Jena, Ajay Dalai, Sibasankar Mallick, Arata Sethi, Ghanashyam Mallick, Puspa Ranjan Biswal, Birendra Pratap Das, Sadasiba Biswal, Jyotiranjana Sasaki, Bulei Behera, Bidyadhar Patra, Amitav Biswal and all. Youth Leader and the honorable secretary of Grammy committee Binod Bihari Berera given thanks to all for their presence.

Maths Park a new initiative of Crcc

Bargarh(KCN): Maths park is an innovative example to increase the students' proficiency in mathematics and make lessons easier. The crcc of a Lakhamara Cluster of the paikmal block of Bargarh district, Mr Subash Chandra Sahu built maths park in a small landscape of 1500 hundred square feet inside the pujharipali school with help of the Headmaster and youths of the village. It provides a learning opportunity for children where they come to improve their competency in the field of mathematics. Basic arithmetic operations such as Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division had been designed as part of the environment to help students learn maths as fun



activities rather than academic subject. Rocks has been painted with basic math formula. Geometry concepts such as Triangle, Line, Cylinder, Trapezium, Cone, Equal,

Circle, Odd, Even, Tables, Hexagon, Octagon, Pentagon, Rectangle, etc. too has been integrated into the park enabling kids to grasp fundamental concepts of mathematics with curiosity. Not only it encourages the students,

but also guardian sent their kids to school regularly. It was a commendable task for crcc to design such a model garden at a low cost in a short period of time and to make it a reality. In fact such an educational effort will help build a better future

Shaheed Diwas Celebrated at PN Autonomous College

Khordha(KCN): P. N. Autonomous College in association with National Service Scheme (NSS) observing "Shaheed Diwas" to mark the death anniversary of Bhagat Singh, Shivram Hari Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar, the revolutionary leader who were hanged at the Lahore central on March-23, 1931. Principal P. N. Autonomous College Khordha, Dr. Ranjeeta Sethi preside over the meeting. The chief guest of the occasions Senior Journalist and writer Sriram Das said "After the death of the freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai in Nov. 1928 Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev and others vowed to take revenge as Rai was a major leader of India Independent Movement. They conspired to kill James A. Scott who was the Superintendent of police in the British Raj. It was Scott who ordered the police to lathi charge the protesters and made a personal attack on Rai, inflicting serious injuries on him. Lala Lajpat Rai was leading a protest against the Simon Commission which was a silent and nonviolent march but

the police responded with violence. Bhagat Singh witnessed this horrific incident. They killed the assistant superintendent of police John Saunders mistakenly. They threw bombs in the central Assembly on April -8, 1929 and shouted "Inqilab Zindabad". Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were charged with the murder of Saunders and were sentenced to death. The date of execution was fixed on March-23, 1931 in Lahore Jail. When these three were hanged Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev were 23 years old while Rajguru was 22 years old. The sacrifices of these young revolutionaries continue to inspire the youth today." The founder of Amarisatya magazine Dr. Pramod Chandra Dash, Former Vice-chancellor North Odisha University, Maj. Khirod Prasad Mohanty, NSS Programme Officer P. N. Autonomous College Khordha Sukumar Pattnaik, Mrs. Aliva Behura, Subodh Kumar Jagdev and other were present. Principal Dr. Ranjeeta Sethi felicitated the guest of the occasions.

Nightlight data of Uttar Pradesh: report

Kolkata(KCN): India Data Portal (IDP), Bharti Institute of Public Policy (BIPP) at the Indian School of Business (ISB) releases the report on 'Nightlights' data of Uttar Pradesh, showing growth in economic activity at the assembly constituency level. The report compares the Change in luminosity year-by-year that demonstrates how economic activities have expanded to newer areas from 2015 to 2019 and the fall in nightlights during the pandemic year between 2019 - 2020. The growth trend in the constituencies of Uttar Pradesh between 2015 and 2019: Change in total radiance depicts that constituencies of Phulpur (6645 pixels) and Sarojini Nagar (5936 pixels) have shown tremendous transformation, pointing towards an immense surge in economic and developmental activities. The entire Uttar Pradesh saw a percent change in the total radiance of 69%. Region-wise, the central region stands out with the highest percent change in the total radiance of 709.76%, followed by the eastern (109%). Change in percent lit pixels captures the growth of economic activities distributed over space and spread to newer areas. The state records a 42% increase in five years on this parameter. The regional figures reemphasise upon a substantial expansion of economic activities in the central (64.82%) region followed by Bundelkhand (45.55%), eastern (40%) and western (15.71%) regions of UP.

2020: The indicator of percent change in total radiance shows that Uttar Pradesh stays affected by the pandemic as it records a shift to -9.19%. The Bundelkhand region has remained least affected by the pandemic with a -3.18% change, central (-8.1%), western (-8.59%), eastern (-11.88%) regions bear a much more profound impact. The Change in percent lit pixels shows the state (-8.48%) has undergone a sizable reduction in economic activity. The central region has also predominantly remained affected by the pandemic, followed by eastern, Bundelkhand and western areas. Speaking on the data release, Prof. Ashwini Chhatre | Executive Director - BIPP, Indian School of Business, said, "Night-time radiance and Lit pixel as captured by satellites measure the Change in economic activity. It is a reasonable indicator for GDP at the national and sub-national levels. It also helps to understand the Impact of COVID 19 on economic activity. The data allows the discussion to focus on questions around patterns of economic growth and quality of governance. Through this report, you can see and compare economic activity over six years for 2015-2020 in every assembly constituency." The data is available with Bharti Institute for Public Policy for research that will further help to assess and track the development and progress for various indicators. For publication of content from this report, © India Data Portal, BIPP, ISB is mandatory. The report is the intellectual property of BIPP, ISB. India Data Portal has already released detailed reports on Nightlights as indicators of economic growth for Punjab, Goa and Uttarakhand. About: India Data Portal-IDP: The ideation behind building "India Data Portal" came from creating a one-stop open-access portal for journalists and simultaneously aiding the researchers, students, visualisations with a single click of a button, flexibility to select indicators for individual content requirement, datasets and indicators on the portal communicate with each other, can be selected to create new insights and choices of the colour pallet. Create your own indicator: By using mathematical operations, users can create their own indicators that can be visualized. Comparing Variables across Datasets: India Data Portal provides the unique functionality of comparing variables across different datasets. More details at: <https://indiadataportal.com>



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policymakers with the access, interaction, visualisation of the complex data related to agriculture and financial inclusion Food and Agriculture, Economy, Union Budget, Socio-Economic, Rural Development and General domain. The IndiaPulse@ISB is an initiative to track the economic recovery process in post-Covid-19 situation through high-frequency. The portal currently hosts 49 datasets, including agriculture, financial inclusion, rural development, socio-economic data, NSSO rounds etc., including the recent Budget Data. More data on other sectors, such as education, health, crime and assembly elections, will be made available soon on the portal. Salient features of India Data Portal: Easy access to complex data, dynamic Search Bar, Instant data-

Churu Nagarik Parishad felicitates Prahlad Rai Agarwala

Kolkata(KCN): Today, on behalf of Churu Nagarik Parishad its President BL Soti, Immediate Past President Advocate Narayan Jain and Secretary Jagat Singh Baid met and felicitated Padma Shri Prahalad Rai Agarwala on getting Padma Shri Award from His Excellency Ram Nath Kovind, President of India. He was also presented a Citation Letter of congratulation by Mamta Binani and Narayan Jain on behalf of leading NGO Concern for Calcutta. Social Activist Jain said that Agarwala is a Law graduate and he appreciated Prahlad Rai Agarwala for establishing Rupa & Company Ltd. in 1968 and now the "Rupa" brand of knit wears, hosiery goods, T Shirts and many other products has become

quite famous all over India and now one of

On 21st March 2022, Government of India

ning Rupa & Co, one of India's largest



India's largest knitwear brand. Agarwala is also the Honorary Consul of Republic of Columbia and he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in the 7th Reid & Taylor awards for retail excellence organized by the Asia Retail Congress, 2011.

conferred the Padma Shri award, the third highest award in the Padma series of awards, on Prahlad Rai Agarwala for his distinguished service in the field of trade and industry as recognition of his service as a "textile business leader, flag bearer of Make in India run-

clothing manufacturer and exporter. BL Soti also admired his role in the field of education in Rajasthan and other multifold social welfare services undertaken by him. On this occasion. KB Agarwal, the MD of Rupa & Co and LN Purohit were also present.

Police Seizes 24K L Liquor & Arms

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha police have seized 24663 Litres liquor, 98 illegal arms, 3.444 kg of narcotic drugs, during the special drive



launched in view of urban election. The police have registered 1377 excise cases and executed 480 pending warrants during the election process so far. The general elections to 106 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and 3 Municipal Corporations in the State will be held tomorrow and people of urban areas of 30 districts will cast their votes. The State Police have made adequate security arrangements for free, fair and peaceful elections. As many as 100 platoons force and 340 mobile patrolling parties along with district po-

lice officers/ men have been deployed for 106 ULBs over the State for smooth conduct of ULBs elections. Total 1731 wards will go for a poll consisting of 3068 numbers of booths. Similarly, 105 platoons force and 110 mobile patrolling parties along with police officers/ men have been deployed for three Municipal Corporations (BMC, CMC, BeMC) for smooth conduct of elections. Total 168 numbers of wards will go for poll consisting of 1407 number of booths in three Municipal corporations.

The election will be conducted with strict enforcement of State Election Commission guidelines.

Adequate security arrangements have also been made in different Strong Rooms throughout the urban areas with CCTV coverage to ensure round the clock safety of EVMs, the police said.

As many as 6,411 candidates have remained in the fray for election. Over 40.55 lakh voters are eligible to cast their votes in the election for which voting will be done in between 8 AM to 5 PM.

Two EVMs will be used in each booth- one to elect Mayor/Chairperson and another for Corporators and Councillors. For the first time, there will be a none-of-the-above (NOTA) option for voters in the EVMs.

One presiding officer and four polling officers will be engaged in each booth. In total, 22,000 polling officials have been deployed for the poll.

EUS Cystogastrostomy at SUMUM

Bhubaneswar: Gastroenterologists at the SUM Ultimate Medicare have used latest Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) guided Cystogastrostomy on a 27-year-old patient to drain out necrotic pancreatic fluid collection (walled off necrosis) recently. This advanced technique is being done in only few centers in the country. EUS is one of the most advanced procedure done in the hospital's gastroenterology department which can be

used to assess organs like pancreas, hepatobiliary system mediastinum as they could not be reached by conventional USG < a/p or CT-guided approach, Dr. Ayaskanta Singh, HOD of the Gastroenterology department, said.

The new system can enable easy diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. EUS guided Cystogastrostomy is much more safe as the risk of bleeding, perforation or infection is

minimal and the recovery time is much less compared to traditional surgical methods. It is also cost effective if we will compare with surgery Dr. Singh said.

The patient from Sundargarh district had come to the hospital with pain in the abdomen, distension and vomiting which was due to the presence of a very large walled off necrosis caused by acute pancreatitis. But by deploying the new pro-

cedure, a collection of around 2000 ml fluid was reduced to a negligible 150 ml within 24 hours, Dr. Jimmy Narayan, Visiting Consultant, Sum Ultimate said.

There was no post procedural complications hence, the patient was discharged the next day. While open or laparoscopic surgery was the preferred method of treatment earlier, now it can be done endoscopically in a minimal invasive technique.

CB to probe lensman murder

Bhubaneswar: The Crime Branch has taken over the investigation charge of murder of Manas Swain, a cameraman of a local web channel.

"DGP, Odisha has ordered for taking up of investigation of Chandbali PS Case No. 63 dated 14.02.2022 of Bhadrak District by CID-Crime Branch in view of its gravity and involvement of multiple districts," Odisha Police tweeted.

Following this order of DGP, the crime branch has taken over murder case. Multiple districts involved in the case. The kidnap was occurred in one district and murder happened in other and body was disposed off in another district. So, the crime branch has taken over the investigation of this case,

said Crime Branch Chief Sanjeeb Panda.

Mr.Panda said. As the police suspect



"We have formed two teams. One team will investigate the case in all involved places including Bhubaneswar while another team will work for the arrest of prime accused Sarmistha Rout,"

that the prime accused have fled to other State, the crime branch official, if required, will also visit outside Odisha to nab her, informed the ADG. Meanwhile, the police arrested

Sarmistha's brother Parameswar from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. So far, six persons, including former Odisha Information Service (OIS) officer Niranjana Sethi, have been arrested in connection with the brutal murder of the 28-year-old cameraman. However, the prime accused in the case Sarmistha Rout who runs the web channel is still absconding. As per the police, the cameraman was kidnapped from Bhadrak on February 6 and brought to Dayal Ashram, an old age home, run by the prime accused in Bhubaneswar, where he was assaulted physically. Later, on March 12, the body of Swain was recovered from Badhipatna hills in Rajsunakhala area of Nayagarh, the police said.




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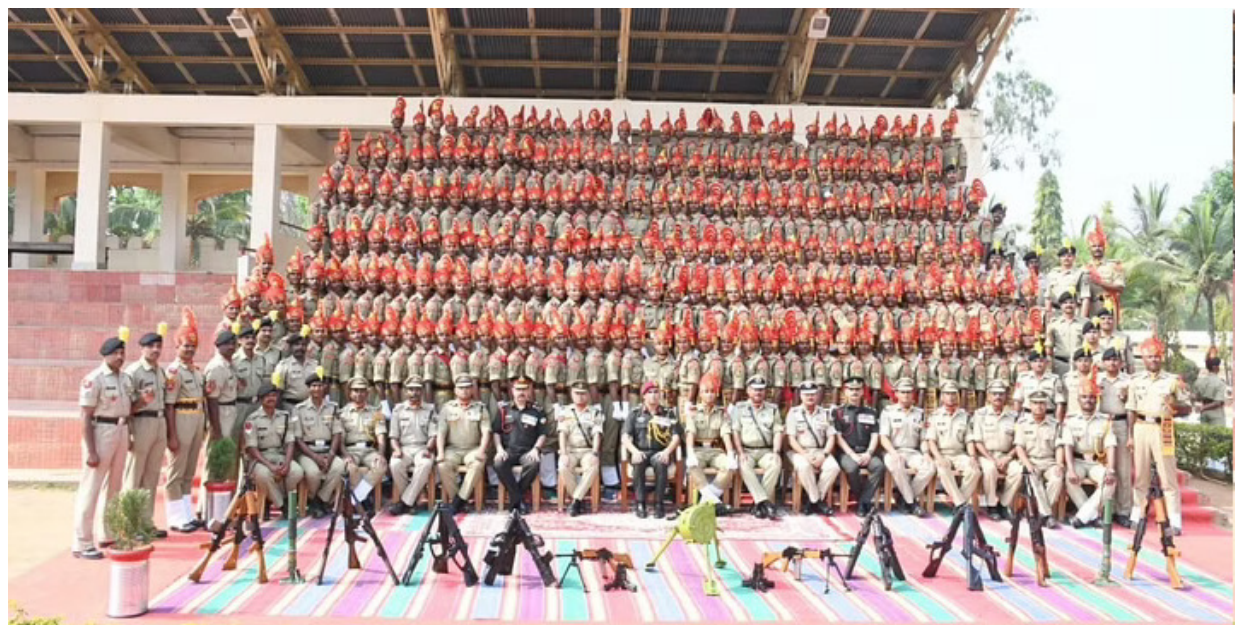
Fresh batch of 446 constables join Border Security Force

NEW DELHI: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday got a large complement of freshly trained constables after completing their grueling Basic Training. The BSF on Wednesday informed, "Passing out cum attestation parade of 446 Constables of Batch No 589 and 590 were

"The newly selected trainees undergo grueling training of around Nine months which includes basic tactics, firing drill, skill at arms, and various attack and defence drills." told an officer. After the successful training and attestation, these constables are assigned to their battalions, added the

been trained here besides the training of BSF personnel. It has been declared the best STC in the force. BSF was raised in the year 1965 as a specialized Force to ensure the sanctity of India's borders; the force proved its mettle in the 1971 war with Pakistan and played a decisive role in the liberation

2.65 Lakhs comprising 13 FTR, 44 Sectors and 193 Battalions (including 3 National Disaster Relief Force Battalions) and is entrusted with the duty of border management along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders. It also serves along the Line of Control with the Indian Army. Meanwhile, Pankaj



held at Subsidiary Training Centre (STC), Bengaluru on Wednesday." Lieutenant General B K Repswal, Commandant, ASC Centre & College, took the salute and reviewed the parade. He congratulated the participating Constable trainees for their smart turnout and excellent drill. A large number of family members of passed-out constables also witnessed the parade.

officer. STC BSF Bangalore is imparting training to basic recruits and in-service courses to all ranks of BSF. The recruits of state police like Bihar, J h a r k h a n d , Lakshadweep and Odisha, India Reserve Battalions and police personnel of North Eastern Police Academy, Railway Protection Force, CISF, National Police Academy and Nepal Armed Police have

of Bangladesh. BSF troops have also been deployed in counter Insurgency/ extremist operations involving the states of Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Assam, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir. Presently 16 Battalions of BSF are deployed in Anti-Naxal operation in most remote areas of Odisha and Chhattisgarh. The Border Guarding Force has a total strength of more than

Kumar Singh, Director General Border Security Force reached Gandhidham on Wednesday on a three-day visit to the BSF Gujarat Frontier. "The DG will take a detailed review of the security scenario of India-Pakistan International Border of Gujarat frontier. He will also be taking stock of the ongoing development works along the IB of the frontier." BSF said in a statement.

Broking industry set for record revenue this fiscal; FY23 growth looks muted: Report

MUMBAI: After a record run in FY2022, when the brokerage industry is set to report over 30 per cent topline growth at around Rs 28,000 crore, the industry is set for a tepid growth next fiscal even though the outlook is stable, says a rating agency report. The market has been on a song since June 2020 when the first wave of the pandemic ebbed and since then it has had a record run with the stock indices more than doubling since the Covid-19 mayhem in March 2020 and scaled new lifetime highs since then. The market frenzy was also visible in the massive number of new investors coming to the equity market, as exempli-

fied in the more than trebling of the Demat accounts since April 2020. In the reporting year itself, the number of Demat accounts jumped to 806 lakh in December 2021 from 551 lakh in March 2021 and from 408 lakh in March 2020. According to the agency, this growth translates into a net addition of 28.33 lakh accounts per month in the current fiscal, more than

twice the monthly addition of 11.91 lakh in FY21 and 4.1 lakh a month in FY20. The broking industry is set to post record performance this fiscal year supported by the healthy participation of retail investors and favourable liquidity. The industry is likely to clock revenue of Rs 27,000-28,000 crore in FY22, a growth of 28-33 per cent, rating agency Icra said in a report

on Wednesday. Apart from the increased trading volume, the average investment by investors also increased during the year, leading to higher revenues, as the broking fee is based on trading volume. For instance, among the retail-focused brokerages, the average revenue per active client rose 25 per cent to Rs 12,788 in FY21 from Rs 10,238 in FY20. The report is based



Fostering tribal development important, says Odisha Governor

MALKANGIRI/ JEYPORE(KCN): It is imperative to ensure development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), said Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal during his visit to Bonda Hill on Tuesday as part of the 41-day Sri Rama Van Gaman Path Kavya Yatra. The yatra aims to collect holy water and soil from 232 places where Lord Ram stayed during his 14 year-exile. Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal performing puja at Sita Kund l ExpressAfter being received by the Bonda community with their traditional dance, the Governor collected holy water and soil from Sita Kund, where Devi Sita, according to folklore, used to take bath during her jour-

ney to Dandakaranya with Lord Ram and Laxman. Addressing media-persons, the Governor said he is committed towards development of tribals in 13 scheduled areas of the State. President of the Bonda Samaj, Surendra Naik, said, "We are happy as this is the first time a

Governor has visited Bonda Hill. We hope this will propel development of the area." The yatra, which began from Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu on Maha Shivaratri, will cover 6,500 km and culminate at Ayodhya on Ram Navami. On the occasion, the Governor announced Rs 1 lakh for the

Bonda women dance troupes. BSF officials were also present. Earlier, the Governor visited the BSF headquarters at Koraput. He was welcomed by BSF IG Satish Chandra Budakoti and DIG Madan Lal, and apprised of the security arrangements and the current Left-Wing extremism situation in the area.



Re-start mid-day meals in schools: Sonia Gandhi to Centre

NEW DELHI(KCN): Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday urged the Centre to restart the mid-day meal scheme in schools which was discontinued during the COVID-19 pandemic. Making a Zero Hour mention, she also asked the government to make available hot, cooked food to children under three years, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Gandhi said children, the future of the country, had suffered the most during the pandemic as schools were among the first institutions to be shut down and the last to reopen. "When schools were shut down, the mid-day



meals scheme was also discontinued. It was because of the National Food Security Act and directions from the Supreme Court that people were given dry rations. But, for children, dry ration is no substitute for cooked and nutritious meals," she said. Gandhi said it was true that children and their families had to face difficult times during the unprecedented pandemic. "But now, as children return to school, they need to be given better nutrition. Mid-day meals will also help bring those children back to school who had dropped out during the pandemic," she said. Gandhi noted that according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019-21, the percentage of malnourished and underweight children, under five years of age, has increased in comparison with 2015-16. "This is worrisome and the government should make every effort to prevent this," she asserted. This is Gandhi's second Zero Hour mention within a week.

MCL lifts 163 MT Coal

Sambalpur(KCN): Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd (CIL) has achieved the coal production target of 163 million tonne (MT) fixed for the current financial year 2021-22. MCL went past its target of 163 MT yesterday, making extra efforts to maximize coal production during the remaining days of the financial year and set a new milestone. All three MLAs of Vikasheel Insaan Party quit, lend support to BJP Continued from page-1 minister's post. Sahani was on the target of the BJP leadership ever since he fielded candidates against the BJP in seven seats in the upcoming legislative council election in the state. On Monday, he announced the candidature of Geeta Kumari for by-election to Bochaha assembly seat to be held on April 12. Geeta is the daughter of former minister and eight time former MLA Ramai Ram. On Wednesday, she filed her nomination papers in the presence of Sahani. Moreover, Sahani's outbursts against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and chief minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath had irked the BJP leadership. Though Sahani didn't win any seat in the assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, he earned the wrath of his alliance partner in Bihar. "Now Sahani's ministerial berth is under threat," a senior BJP leader said. His tenure as MLC will come to an end in July this year.

Pakistan concedes 123-run lead in 3rd test against Australia

LAHORE: Pakistan was 268 all out against the persistent pace of Australia captain Pat Cummins and impeccable reverse swing of Mitchell Starc to concede a massive 123-run lead on Wednesday in the third and final test.

In a sensational collapse after tea on Day 3, Pakistan lost seven wickets for 41 runs — the last four wickets without adding a run — as Cummins finished with 5-56 and Starc took 4-36.

Australia had stretched its lead to 134 runs by reaching 11-0 by stumps with Usman

Khawaja not out on 7 and David Warner

denied Australia a breakthrough in the

95), who dried up the runs with his

tient 150-run stand. Shafique's prolific

knock off 228 balls which featured 11 fours before Lyon struck in the fifth over after lunch and successfully overturned umpire Aleem Dar's not out decision through a television referral. With the second new ball only seven overs old, Cummins took a spectacular return catch to dismiss Azhar in his homecoming test match as Pakistan was restricted at 227-3 at tea.

Azhar, playing in his 94th test match but for the first time in his hometown of Lahore, became the fifth Pakistani batter to complete 7,000 test runs when he reached 74 by sweeping hard at Lyon to deep square leg for a single. Former test cap-

tains Younis Khan (10,099), Javed Miandad (8,832), Inzamam-ul-Haq (8,829) and Mohammad Yousuf (7,530) are the other Pakistan batters to score more than 7,000 test runs.

But Pakistan folded against Cummins and Starc after tea, losing the last six wickets off 40 balls.

Starc, who bowled only two overs with the second new ball, returned in the last session and knocked back the off stumps of Fawad Alam (13) and Mohammad Rizwan (1) with Pakistan batters struggling to cope with the reverse swing. Pakistan's long tail didn't last long with captain Babar Azam making a 67

off 131 balls. The home team had dropped all-rounder Faheem Ashraf to go with an extra fast bowler after drawing the first two test matches.

Cummins hurried the collapse by claiming the wickets of Sajid Khan, Nauman Ali and Hasan Ali within two overs to register his first five-wicket haul against Pakistan in a test match.

Starc wrapped up Pakistan's innings by trapping Babar leg before wicket off a delivery which shaped into the skipper and then clean bowled No. 11 batter Naseem Shah off a searing full pitched delivery.



unbeaten on 4.

In-form opening batter Abdullah Shafique (81) and veteran Azhar Ali (78) had carried Pakistan to 170-1 and

first session after resuming on 90-1 before the visitors took control of the series-deciding test.

Nathan Lyon (1-

marathon spell of 30 overs on Day 3, provided the opening when he found the outside edge of Shafique's bat after lunch to end a pa-

run in the series has seen the opening batter score his maiden test hundred in the drawn first test in Rawalpindi before his patient 96 in Karachi led Pakistan to force a draw. Shafique defied Australia with yet another patient

Pranav Prashant Desai wins India's first gold at Dubai 2022 Para Athletics GP

DUBAI: Sprinter Pranav Prashant Desai won India's

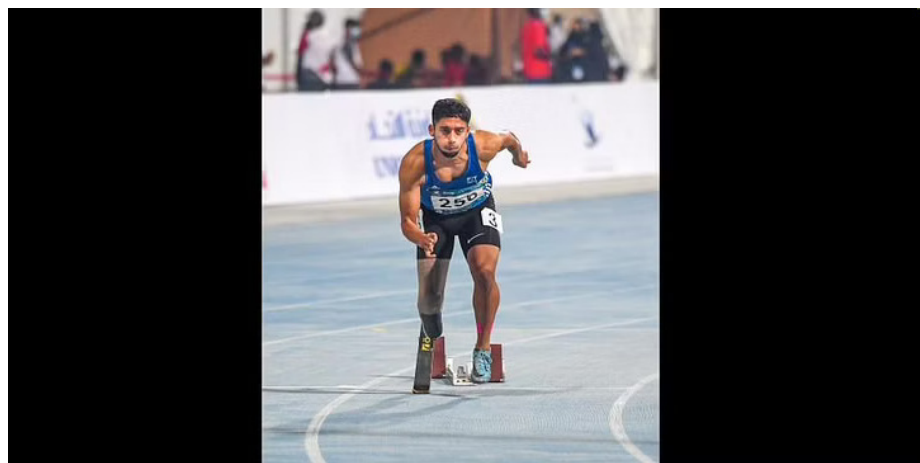
Desai's gold was the only medal for India on the day as

sec) and Kenneth Jenssen Heggdal of Norway (27.08 sec).

100m and 200m gold for India at the Asian Para Games which would pave my way to the Paris 2024 Paralympics," added the 22-year-old, who trains in Sports Authority of India Centre, Gandhinagar.

The day also witnessed a world record in men's javelin F40 finals when Iraq's Naas Ahmed hurled the javelin to a distance of 39.08 metres to take the gold.

After two days, Colombia sits on top of the medals table with 13 podiums, including six gold, followed by Thailand (16) and Tunisia (7). India lies in 15th place with four medals.



first gold medal at the 2022 World Para Athletics Grand Prix here on Wednesday, claiming the top prize in the men's 200m T64 final. T64 classification is for athletes with a leg amputation, who compete with prosthetics in a standing position.

throwers faltered at the Dubai Club for People of Determination grounds.

Desai, a former gold medallist at the Fazza Championships, led from start to finish to end the race in 24.42 seconds, ahead of Thailand's Denpoom Kotcharang (25.78

"I came here with the gold in my mind and I am happy to lead the race from start to finish. It's nice to be back here. I have been working on my endurance speed for the past few months. Happy to execute my plans here," said Desai.

"My target is to win

Ajax coach Erik ten Hag holds talks with Manchester United: reports



MANCHESTER: Manchester United have spoken to Ajax boss Erik ten Hag as the Old Trafford club step up their search for a permanent manager, British media reported on Wednesday.

German Ralf Rangnick was appointed on an interim basis at Old Trafford in November following the sacking of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after nearly three years in charge.

Fifty-two-year-old Dutchman Ten Hag has been at the helm at the Johan Cruyff Arena since 2017 following stints coaching Go Ahead Eagles, Bayern Munich II and Utrecht.

Ajax currently sit top of the Eredivisie standings as Ten Hag looks to win the league title for a third time during a reign that included a run to the UEFA Champions League semi-finals in 2019.

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