

## Poll For Hindol & Attabira NACs

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Election to Hindol and Attabira Notified Area Council (NACs) will be held on April 3, 2023, State Election Commissioner (SEC) Aditya Prasad Padhi said on Tuesday.

Briefing Media persons here, Shri Padhi said the tenure of Attabira NAC in Bargarh district and Hindol NAC in Dhenkanal district ends on April 12.

The Bargarh and Dhenkanal District Collectors and Housing & Urban Development Department has completed delimitation of wards and reservation of



seats of the two Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and submitted it to the SEC on December 5, 2022, he said.

The final ward-wise voters list was published on February 21, 2023. Meanwhile, the Housing and Urban Development Department has issued notification for election

to the two NACs. The two NACs have 23,397 voters, 28 wards and 32 booths. Shri Padhi said the voting for Attabira and Hindol NACs in the state will be held on April 3, 2023 while counting of votes shall take place on April 5, 2023. Two EVMs will be used in each booth for councilor and

chairperson elections, he stated. Both the NACs will have Chairpersons from SC Community.

The formal notification for the election will be published on March 3. The nomination process will continue from March 9 to 15. The verification process will be held on March 17 while candidates can withdraw their nominations up to March 20. Election to Vice-Chairperson will be held on April 19, 2023. Notably, the State Election Commission successfully conducted elections for 109 ULBs in March last year. The

BJD has won chairperson seats in 74 municipalities/ NACs and Mayor seats in all three municipal corporations— Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur.

The BJP remained in second position by winning 16 chairperson seats while Congress won 7 seats and independent candidates in nine. Earlier in the forenoon, SEC Shri Padhi held talks with representatives of political parties in which BJD, BJP, Congress and others attended, said sources.

## CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF DENMARK CALL ON THE PRESIDENT



**New Delhi:** Their Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Princess Mary of Denmark called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (February 28, 2023).

Welcoming them to Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President said that India-Denmark relations have grown in both depth and breadth in the last few years. She expressed confidence that the two countries would see an upward trajectory in

bilateral trade and investment.

The President said that climate change is an area on which India and Denmark have a convergence of views and interests. India has set itself on a path of climate responsive development. We have launched a new Mission called 'LIFE - Lifestyles For Sustainable Environment' for sustainable lifestyle and for respecting nature. She expressed confidence that the fight against climate change would unite the world as one family.

## Nikunja Dhal Is New SRC Of Odisha



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Odisha government today appointed senior IAS officer Nikunja Bihari Dhal as the next Special Relief Commissioner (SRC). This official notification comes a day after Pradeep Jena was appointed as the next Chief Secretary of the state. Jena was holding the post of

SRC prior to his elevation. Nikunja Bihari Dhal, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Energy Department with additional charge of Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Excise Department, Chairman of GRIDCO and Chairman of Odisha State Beverages

Corporation Ltd. is allowed to remain in charge of Special Relief Commissioner, Oidhs and Managing Director, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority in addition to his duties, the notification from General Administration and Public Grievance Department read.

Worth mentioning, Dhal will succede Jena and the latter will replace Suresh Kumar Mohapatra. The outgoing chief secretary was given an extension of six months twice. He superannuated on February 28 last year.

## BJP Yuva Morcha Members Clash With Police; Cops, Journalists Injured

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** The Mahatma Gandhi Marg here today witnessed violent scenes as BJP Yuva Morcha members clashed with police during a rally.

Several cops and journalists were injured in the incident as the BJP Yuva Morcha members pelted stones at police.

Protesting the deteriorating law and order situation in the state, the BJP Yuva Morcha workers initially took out a rally from party's State Headquarters here and were heading towards the Odisha Legislative Assembly building



through the Mahatma Gandhi Marg when police intercepted them. Subsequently, they clashed with the cops following which police resorted to lathi charge to disperse them. However, the

situation worsened as the BJP Yuva Morcha members pelted stones, eggs and water pouches at police.

Several policemen, including DSP Amitabh Mohapatra, and journalists were

injured in the incident. The police official was immediately taken to hospital for treatment.

"As many as 21 policemen have been injured in the clash. They are undergoing treatment at Capital

Hospital," Twin City Police Commissioner Souyendra Priyadarshi told media.

DPG Sunil Bansal also enquired about the health of the injured personnel. This apart, Priyadarshi and Bansal met Director of Capital Hospital Laxmidhar Sahoo. On the other hand, some of the agitators also sustained injuries in the clash.

"Minister Naba Das was killed. The law and order situation in the state has deteriorated. We were staging a protest peacefully. We have not resorted to any kind of violent act," said Thakur Ranjit Das, BJP leader.

## CM Naveen Patnaik Launches 'Odisha SDG Indicator Framework-2.0'

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today launched the second version of the Odisha SDG Indicator Framework (OSIF 2.0) and urged every Department to make intelligent use of this framework as together we march towards 2030. Pronouncing the commitment to the SDGs, he said, "Together we can; Together we will."

Joining the programme on virtual platform, the Chief Minister said that the clarion call issued by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a testament that the only way to develop sustainably-integrating the social,

economic and environmental dimensions of development.

The CM enunciated that our principles of 5T amplify our commitment to leave no one behind. Therefore, it becomes highly imperative that we monitor our progress in precise and challenging ways. The Odisha SDG Indicator Framework (OSIF 2.0) intends to do just this. The indicators developed, involving all the SDG Departments, will help us assess and explore effective strategies to bridge gaps to achieve our targets.

He further said that over the years, Odisha has been strengthening its resilience and adaptive capacity in

dealing with natural disasters and is known today for its 'zero casualty' approach to disaster management. Similarly, through the Odisha Millets Mission, the State started the initiative of diversifying the food palette to improve the nutritional requirements of the population, all the while empowering small and marginal farmers. Today, Odisha Millets Mission is hailed internationally for this agro-ecological initiative, he said.

As a coastal state at the frontline, he said, facing the perils of climate change, Odisha has long adopted the concept of sustainable development in all the programmes and schemes being implemented by the



Government of Odisha. As we continue to grow by leaps and bounds, our developmental model remains anchored in the values of equity, inclusiveness and sustainability, he added.

Underlining the significance of citizen centric schemes for empowerment, he said that the commitment of the State towards empowering women by making them self-

reliant through Mission Shakti Self-Help Groups, assuring basic standards of living through Jaga Mission, Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana, Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, BASUDHA, ensuring maternal and neonatal health through schemes like MAMATA, Maa Gruha, SAMMPurNA, wealth transfer to landless & marginal farmers through KALIA, creating world-

class schooling infrastructure through 5T Schools, skilling youth under the aegis of World Skill Centre & many more- every single programme is an embodiment of the SDGs.

He added that easy access to services through digital platforms such as Odisha One, with timelines ensured through Odisha Right to Public Services Act (ORTPSA), is yet another citizen-centric act of the Government of Odisha.

Joining the programme Planning & Convergence Minister Shri Rajendra Dholakia said that the programmes of the state government enhanced and strengthened by 5T Initiative are in perfect sync with the

Sustainable Development Goals of UN. The SDG Indicator Framework 2023 is more equitable and more target specific which will help us achieving a new, empowered Odisha.

Development Commissioner PK Jena, in his welcome address, said that the UN SDG Agenda has 17 goals to be achieved by 2030. The state government has identified 293 indicators in this framework based upon administrative data. These indicators will help department to align their schemes with the SDG goals, he added.

Planning & Convergence Special Secretary Smt Chithra Arumugam proposed the vote of thanks.

Secretary to CM (5T) Shri VK Pandian was

present. Among others, Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Commissioner Cum Secretaries of different departments were present.

It may be mentioned here that the Planning & Convergence Department has come out with OSIF-2.0 with an objective for achieving Agenda 2030 of sustainable goals. The OSIF-1.0 in 2019 had 367 indicators. The OSIF-2.0 has 293 unique indicators in addition to 18 repeat indicators of the previous frame work, having a total of 311 indicators. It is a unique instrument in the hands of administrators at the state and district levels to guide their direction for achievement of the goals.

# More Funds For FARD

**Bhubaneswar:** Minister Fisheries and A R D ( F A R D ) Ranendra Pratap Swain has said that Total Budget Provision in F&ARD sector has increased from Rs 1674.15 crore during 2022-23 to 1769.29 crore in 2023-24 with overall growth of 5.7 per cent as a measure towards welfare of fishing community and livestock farmers of the state along with multiplying their income. Principal Secretary FARD Suresh Kumar Vashisth was present in the Media Briefing. In accordance with the strategy towards amelioration of Fisheries sector of the State, the budget outlay has been enhanced from Rs.552.81 Cr. in 2022-23 to Rs.662.07 Cr in 23-24 with 19.76 % increase.

A new State Sector S c h e m e M u k h y a M a n t r i MatsyaJibi Kalyan Yojana(MMKY)-an umbrella scheme with 17 components have been proposed with Budget outlay of

Rs.210 Cr. This initiative of Government aims at benefiting 50,000 fishers including 11,000 WSHGs directly and more than 1 lakh fishers indirectly. There has been remarkable achievement by WSHGs who have taken up scientific pisciculture under various Government programs specifically pisciculture in Gram Panchayat Tank in last four years and more than 13000 WSHGs have been empowered through this program. Considering the success of WSHGs in scientific pisciculture, a major component of the flagship scheme MMKY is to promote WSHGs to take up pisciculture in Gram Panchayat Tank, Private Tanks and intensive aquaculture using Biofloc technology. A provision of Rs. 84.47 Cr. has been made during the Financial Year 2023-24 which is an increase of 116.5% compare to previous year.



New technology for intensive aquaculture will be promoted through Biofloc technology. A provision of Rs. 18.49 Crore has been provisioned for introduction of 6700 number of biofloc tanks. The seafood export being one of the most lucrative sectors and showed a phenomenal growth. During 2021-22, sea food export reached to 4526 crores and State has plan to enhance the export value in coming years. A new scheme- Promotion of Aquaculture and Shrimp export Cell with an outlay of Rs. 24.00 Cr. has been

provisioned for financial Year :2023-24 to promote processing unit for value addition of fish with in the State. This initiative will further increase the export competency of our marine fish exporters. Rs.22.50 Cr. has been provisioned during the year Financial Year :2023-24 as livelihood assistance to around 15,000 marine fishermen families has been increase to Rs. 15,000/- per family from Rs.7,500/- whose livelihoods are affected due to imposition fishing ban for Olive ridley sea turtle conservation.

Rs.220 Cr. has been provisioned during the year Financial Year :2023-24 for infrastructure development in Fisheries sector i.e. development of Government Fish Farm, development of Brackish water cluster, construction of new Fish Landing Centre and office building of Assistant Fisheries Officer. It has been proposed for dredging of Devi River mouth at Astaranga and Mahanadi River mouth at Paradeep with provision of Rs.20 crore to make them navigable round the year for the benefit of

the Fishers against nil budget during last year. For creating public awareness and digitisation of the sector, outlay of Rs.20 Cr. has been provisioned during the year Financial Year :2023-24 which is four times more than the previous year.

For enhancing fish production in reservoir and enhancement of livelihoods of primary Fishermen Co-op Society members, an outlay of Rs.6.60 Cr. has been provisioned for stocking of 4 crore fingerlings in 130 reservoir during the year Financial Year :2023-24.

An outlay of Rs.180 crore has been proposed under the Central sponsored Scheme for integrated development and management of fisheries sector. There is an increase of 54 per cent in budget outlay of poultry development from Rs 102 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 157 crore in 2023-24, which will help in multiplying income of around 35,000

families. Minimum subsidy provision under State Plan schemes is increased from 40 per cent to 50 per cent for all livestock farmers and to 60 per cent for SC/ST/Women/TG/PwD farmers.

With a budget provision of Rs 28 crore in small animal Development sector, 3000 WSHGs will be supported for setting up semi-commercial goat units of 30+2 goats each and 1500 farmers will be supported for establishing 10+1 goat units. A new scheme "Support to Farmers for Buffalo Rearing" has been introduced under Dairy Development with a budget outlay of Rs 3 crore, benefitting 314 households in the state. An amount of Rs 10 crore has been provisioned for a new programme for establishment of vermicompost units by WSHGs to promote organic farming & sustainable crop prodn. For effective livestock healthcare service delivery in the state, there is a provision of Rs.194

crore under infrastructure support and veterinary service delivery during 2023-24 for strengthening and modernization of 296 Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries. Budget provision under Information, Education & Communication (IEC) has increased threefold from Rs 5 crore to Rs 15 crore as a measure of creating mass awareness and educating livestock farmers to adopt new technology for better production. Cattle breed improvement program is being focused to increase milk production with use of sex sorted semen of high genetic potential bulls. Sex-sorted semen technology will ensure up to 90% chance of production of female calves with high genetic merit along with reduction of male progeny, thereby reducing the burden of farmers to manage male bull calves.

## DPL was held at Dahigaon Playground

**Cuttack Sadar, (KCN):** Cuttack Sadar 42 mouza belongs to village of Dahigaon name of the cricket organization Dahigaon Premier Lig(DPL) at village playground with participation of 16 nos of Cricket team. Final match held with Kalapada Cricket team & Jharakata Cricket team at the end Kalapada Team win with received Seal and



nine thousand, Jharakata Team received six thousand as gift respectively.

Entire cricket match was successfully handled by social worker Radha Gobinda

Pati the DPL team. Local cricket lovers saw the match to encourage the players.

## SUM Tops Times List

**Bhubaneswar:** Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, the faculty of medical sciences of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) here, has maintained its number one position among top multi-speciality hospitals in the capital city in the latest All India Multi-speciality Hospitals Ranking Survey 2023 conducted by the Times of India.

IMS and SUM Hospital, a teaching hospital with 250 MBBS seats, was also ranked the third best multi-speciality hospital in eastern region in the survey. The medical college, which has post-graduate courses in broad specialities besides MCH and DM programs in all super speciality departments, was ranked 18th in the country in the National Institutional Ranking



Framework (NIRF) in 2022.

In the top emerging hospitals category in Bhubaneswar, SUM Ultimate Medicare has been ranked number one among such hospitals.

The 1600-bed NABH accredited IMS and SUM Hospital

offers state-of-the-art medical care services with large number of experienced doctors and super specialty experts. It is the first hospital in Odisha to successfully undertake path-breaking procedures like Bone Marrow Transplantation, Liver

Transplantation and Robotic Surgery for orthopedic cases. About 70 per cent of the patients who come for treatment to the hospital are treated free of cost under the state-sponsored Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY).

Super-speciality consultation at minimum cost is available in the hospital's departments of Nephrology, Urology, Cardiology, CTVS, Clinical Hematology, Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology, Hematology, Immunology and Rheumatology, Pediatric Surgery, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Plastic and Cosmetic Surgery, Gastro Intestinal Surgery, Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

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**Asim Riaz Slams 'Bigg Boss 13' Makers For Not Letting Him Win**

Former 'Bigg Boss 13' contestant Asim Riaz has recently spoken about the 13th season of the Salman Khan-hosted reality show in which the trophy was picked up by late actor Sidharth Shukla. He has slammed the makers for being biased and not letting him win the show despite being a strong contestant. In an interview with RJ Siddharth Kanan, Asim said: "Mere dauraan unhone kya kiya (during my journey what they did), because they didn't want me to win, haanji bhai aaj hum online voting khol denge 15 min



ke liye, jitana hai jitao jisko (they opened online voting and said, make whoever you want win). Come on man, just say you don't want to make me win, it's okay. You made it that obvious that we had to believe that you did whatever and I was like it's okay." However, many fans have reacted to his comment and asked him to move on from all this. One of the social media users wrote: "This chap Asim is such a selfish man. He doesn't remember how Sidharth looked after him in the initial days. Now he's

talking rubbish." Another mentioned: "Crybaby crying as always Sidharth was right." Yet other wrote: "Sid was a clear win!! Move on. You are here because of bigboss, and now everyone knows you because of that reality show, and now you are questioning that show. Such a cry baby." Apart from Asim and Sidharth, the other contestants on 'Bigg Boss 13' included Shehnaaz Gill, Rashami Desai, Paras Chhabra, Mahira Sharma, and Devoleena Bhattacharjee, among others.

**Darlings, Love Hostel, Bob Biswas Win Big This Awards Season**



Red Chillies Entertainment showcased its prowess across genres of storytelling with films like Darlings, a dark comedy about a mother-daughter duo, Love Hostel, a romantic crime thriller that traces the journey of a spirited young couple, being hunted by a ruthless mercenary and Bob Biswas, a crime drama about a contract killer, on a quest to recall his past. Produced by Red Chillies Entertainment, the three films were driven by great content. Having garnered critical acclaim and success, while being appreciated by audiences and critics alike, the films scored big across categories this awards season. Having won such amazing awards, Red Chillies Entertainment has proved their mettle by picking up a variety of promising content ranging from different genres and bringing it to the audience. This has indeed made them one of the largest and most powerful production houses in India. Being headed by India's biggest star Shahrukh Khan and film producer Gauri Khan, Red Chillies Entertainment has a history of delivering path-breaking content that time and again revives their legacy by telling remarkable stories to the audience.

**'It Was Extremely Heartwarming...', Actor Swapnil Joshi Opens Up On Audiences' Response To 'Vaalvi'**

Produced by Zee Studios and Madhugandha Kulkarni, Vaalvi had a successful run at the box office. The film starts with Avni (Anita Date-Kelkar) and Aniket (Swapnil Joshi) deciding to kill themselves at the same time. They are convinced that there is no way out of their financial problems and that suicide is the best solution present at their helm then. However, as it turns out, this is not a suicide mission but an attempt to murder and the masterminds behind this are Aniket and his girlfriend Devika (Shivani Surve) in the hope to get rid of Aniket's nagging wife. There is also a mysterious man (Subodh Bhawe) with a hidden ulterior motive. Now, what happens further on judgement day is what the film is about. The film received critical acclaim and was well-accepted by the audience as well. In an exclusive



conversation, actor Swapnil Joshi opens up on his experience, why he will always remember working on 'Vaalvi' and lots more. Swapnil Joshi, talking about the memorable reaction that you received for Vaalvi, said "When you are doing a Paresh Mokashi film that is written by Paresh and Madhugandha, you know it is going to be critically acclaimed and commercially successful. The kind of

team and setup that we had gathered, we definitely knew that the film was going to make some noise and to top it all we had Zee studios presenting the film. I think all the right boxes were getting ticked as we kept building the team up." "The kind of love that the film has received from the audience and the way the audience has owned up to the film as if it belongs to them in the literal sense

of the term because in the thriller the most difficult part to hide is the end and not reveal it. And in the world of social media and the entire ecosystem the frenzy of revealing everything weather it is reviews, reactions, and posts, it was amazing and very heartening to see that not a single review or audience posting about the film had revealed the end of the film. That response was extremely heartwarming," he added.

**Indian women always stand out when it comes to beauty, poise and confidence: Zeenat Aman**

Bollywood star and actress Zeenat Aman, who won the Femina Miss India pageant and Miss Asia Pacific International in 1970, when she was just 19 years old, is delighted with Harnaaz Sandhu being crowned Miss Universe 2021 in Eilat, Israel.

Zeenat Aman says, "I am extremely happy that another one of our country's girls has been crowned Miss Universe 2021. It's my personal opinion that Indian women are extremely pretty and they always stand out when it comes to beauty, poise and confidence. It is indeed a big



achievement once again for our country." The actress is also impressed with the confidence that young women show on the ramp. She says, "When you watch them



participating in a pageant, you realise that they have got it all right — the correct posture, diction, vocabulary, communication skills and confidence. Everything about them is so flawless, which shows the effort that goes into it." Going down memory lane, she recounts, "I not only won Miss India and Miss Asia Pacific in 1970, but I was also

crowned Miss Photogenic. I remember doing my own make-up and hair, and picking my own costumes. In those days, we did not have such support systems. We just put our best foot forward.

I am glad that the girls now have a great team working with them." Ask the actress about films becoming a natural choice for most pageant winners and she says, "No, it is not mandatory. Reita Faria (Miss World 1966) was a doctor. It seems that most prefer to join showbiz, but not all want to become actresses. I am happy that the youth of our country is exposed to a global culture through various digital platforms and they have knowledge of a lot more things now. I hope that the young men and women of our country continue to shine and make us proud."

## Discover Peace of Mind through Positive Mindset

- Lalit Garg -



Every living being wants peace. Everyone is affected by sorrows and uneasiness in life. Each and every human being wants peace but does not want to follow the right path. How can one reach the destination without following the right path? Without following the path of peace, how can peace be attained? If there are problems in life, there are solutions for them too. There is a need to take steps towards the solution. Try and leave the result to the one above. Those who give a big shape to the problem by sitting and thinking are bound to be disappointed, frustrated and unsuccessful in life. There are many obstacles in the way of success. But these obstacles are not as big as the doubts of the mind. Doubts one after another do not allow us to trust ourselves or others. We are not what we used to be. Rumi has said, 'Why do you shrink

your heart with useless thoughts and whispering doubts? Do you turn this happy world into a narrow prison?'

People who live in narrow thinking and limited circles spend their whole life in unrest. The biggest centre of peace and happiness is the mind. That's why it is necessary to train the mind and control the mind. Mind is a huge collection; it is a junction of different thoughts. Various thoughts, fantasies, hopes, memories, frustrations etc. live in it. Because of this the mind remains restless. The mind is where the seeds of unrest first germinate.

A man planted an acacia tree and took care of it very diligently. People saw him working so hard on the thorny plant and said, "What are you doing?" that you are crazy, where can mangoes grow on the acacia tree? But that man did not understand. Every day he used to see with curiosity that now mangoes will be planted on it, now it will be planted, but where were the mangoes to be planted.

Most of the people in the world are like that ignorant person. They sow the seeds of sorrow

and think that they will reap the harvest of happiness and peace. This is never possible. This is why there is a proverb - "As you sow, so shall you reap." The great philosopher saint

him. As long as the mind is not healthy, calm and meditated till then the experience of burning will continue even in an air-conditioned room in every way. Peace is related to the mind in the

turmoil, and even man himself is in turmoil. All around there is an empire of tension, suffocation, tragedy and violence. Why is it like this? Wealth and glory can provide the

their causes in the present. Life has to be given height, so depth is also necessary. The deeper the foundation, the higher and stronger the house will be. In this way, our personality

revealed and this brings peace in life.

If a person wants to establish peace in life, then he has to imbibe human qualities like love, compassion, harmony, tolerance, equality, kindness, simplicity, alertness, sympathy, peace, friendship. Invest your time, labor and energy in acquiring these qualities. Such efforts are desired which can make a person calm, responsible and socially orientated. In the present way of life, the mutual distance and the difference that has arisen between words and deeds has to be removed. As long as your human life does not give the seeds of peace, irrigation of affection, sunshine of discipline, air of friendship, skilful protection of selflessness, sustenance on the smiling and blooming fertile land of life, till then the cultivation of spiritual happiness and peace will not flourish.

If you want real peace, make a resolution that you will develop the power of renunciation. Will develop maximum restraint in life. Everyone should remember the incident related to Alexander's life. When Alexander asked the monk to go to Greece with him, he flatly refused. At that time Alexander introduced

himself to him as a world conqueror. There was a long dialogue between the hermit and Alexander and in the end world conqueror Alexander had to accept his defeat in front of that self-conquering hermit. When the defeated Alexander asked for something after being pleased with the sacrifice of the monk, the monk said - 'Move to a side and let the sun shine.' Restraint is very important in this materialistic consumerist time. If life is to be run smoothly, to live a peaceful life, then there is no other way than self-restraint and sacrifice.

Peace begins where ambition and craving end. Colton has said that peace is the evening star of the soul, whereas virtue is its sun. These two are never separated from each other. Only through this does spiritual happiness and true peace result. Peace is the highway to all possibilities of development. Eternal happiness resides in peace. The desire for peace should be the way to happiness.

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Acharya Mahapragya has said that when the mind merges with the mind and when the lamp of consciousness is ignited by consciousness, the functional power appears; that is peace of mind.

If the mind is distressed, agitated, fearful, restless, then even if one sleeps on a bed of velvet and flowers, sharp thorns will continue to prick

mind. Peace is not in the external comforts, but in the mind within the person. Man has to become aware of the inexhaustible power hidden within him.

Man has money, glory, family, house, business, fridge, cooler, computer, and car. Despite the huge increase in the means of life's comforts, there is an atmosphere of unrest all around, the nation is in turmoil, the home is in

minimum requirement of man-bread, cloth and house. Today the problem is not of bread, cloth, house, but of peace. Recitation of peace and peace will not bring peace. Peace will not descend on earth from the sky. Peace is not an item to be sold in the market, factory, mill, factories.

Shakespeare said that wise men never weep for their present sorrows, but prevent

associated with the superiority of life values itself becomes ideal. Nevertheless, in the journey of life, it is necessary to have unwavering faith in the mind towards your objectives. It is said that a man does not walk, his faith walks. Self-confidence binds all the qualities in one place, that is, in the light of self-confidence, the whole personality and action of a man is

### Letter To Editor

#### Water scarcity is really scary

Sir  
It is just February but we have already began to feel the scorching heat of summer and in many parts of the country water scarcity has risen it's ugly hood putting people into panic and deep trouble. Even places which never had severe water scarcity earlier have begun to face scarcity. A recent two weeks water crisis in Kerala's Kochi city, surrounded with backwaters and the blue sea, is testimony to how even cities abundant with water can face scarcity if water management is not taken seriously.

Let us not forget that water scarcity can lead to bloody conflicts and crisis. Just a year ago Iran witnessed unexpected cases of strikes, tensions and even people getting killed for the sake of water.

In recent years we have witnessed the severe scenario of many of our towns and metros experiencing severe water scarcity and the citizens running helter skelter for a pot of water.

It is really shocking to know that according to a survey conducted by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), some time ago, almost 350 million people living in 100 cities across the world are at immediate risk of a water crisis by 2050 and more shocking it is as many of our Indian cities too come under the 'high risk category cities' list.

Having been threatened by one of the worst-ever water crisis in recent years, residents of the South African city of Cape town and our own city Chennai became water-wise, that is they learnt to collect, conserve, preserve and use water in a meticulous manner. These methods and techniques can be followed by the other towns and cities.

Mismanagement of water, ignorance of maintenance of water availability, thoughtless construction of dams, careless maintenance of water bodies and lack of planning to save water are some factors that lead to water shortage. If these are attended to properly, to an extent can avert unavailability of water. Climatic changes, shortage in rain fall also end up in water shortage. Water shortage can result in mass migration to other regions causing imbalance of population, inhuman livelihoods, inequalities and societal, regional, national and even international tensions.

Proper studies and use of water conservation techniques, recycling and reuse of effluents, mandatory installation of water harvesting methods, maintenance of groundwater extraction, water collection in lakes and ponds, desalination plants, stopping encroachment of water bodies can to an extent help avoid severe water scarcity.

**M PRADYU KANNUR**  
Geeth Thalikavu kannur 670001.

### A drop of water is worth more than a sack of gold to a thirsty man

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit



There is no life without water. Water is not only important for human beings but for the entire ecosystem. In summer heat wave repeats year after year. This year it is more. We should be prepared. Water sources should be created. Unmindful of bad impact on the ecology, we have been destroying forests, drying up lakes by filling mud and construction of buildings, unplanned urbanization, and the like. The greed has no bounds. Small trees are cut ruthlessly. On the other hand we do not want to reduce harms of infinite solar heat by adopting simplest methods of keeping premises solar passive like white roofs and planting trees drip irrigated by self harvested infinite

water. William Ashworth has said that "Children of a culture born in a water-rich environment, we have never really learned how important water is to us. We understand it, but we do not respect it." India is one of the many countries that are facing water scarcity today. Water Covers two-Thirds of the Surface of the Earth, but fresh Water is only 0.002% on the earth.

Water is central to our lives but has not been the central point of focus in our planning while we rapidly evolve into an urban society. Water is critical for sustainable development, including environmental integrity and the alleviation of poverty and hunger, and is indispensable for human health and well-being.

The water scarcity is mostly man made due to excess

population growth and mismanagement of water resources. Water scarcity can be defined as a situation when people don't have enough water to fulfil their basic needs. Depletion of fresh water has become a threat to our existence. According to some scientists, the quantity and the quality of water are degrading day by day. Although Earth is covered with almost 71% of water, the quality is that we cannot use it in day-to-day life for domestic purposes.

There is an acute water shortage in almost all the cities due to changed lifestyle of people. Most of our lakes have dried up. Ground water levels are abysmally low, besides being contaminated. There is not enough water for the city's burgeoning population.

On must remember that India's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture. Rain

water harvesting can also be used effectively to strengthen irrigation networks. There are plenty of ways to save and recycle water. Fix all leaking taps in your house. Seventy to 150 litres of water are wasted due to dripping taps. As long as water flows from our taps we are satisfied. We don't understand the value of water. One can purify the stored water and use it for various purposes like washing, cleaning and cooking.

The government needs to enhance its investment in technology and include all stakeholders at the planning level to ensure optimization of existing resources. Increasing population and rapid urbanization has led to over-use of water resources leading to water pollution and scarcity. Rain, rivers and wells have been man's traditional sources of fresh water. Global

warming upsets natural patterns of rainfall. Rivers are slowly killed at their sources by steady destruction of forests and the construction of big dams, and overdevelopment of groundwater.

Development cannot be reversed. But technology could be reoriented to serve the dual purpose of conserving water and regulating its use. We have to pay attention to the importance of fresh water and be able to maintain the management of fresh water resources. Don't we think leaving aside global solutions; something should be done at the national and regional levels?

It is rightly said "A drop of water is worth more than a sack of gold to a thirsty man."

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# "We the People of the States of Bharat" : a perspective of an ex - IAS



**Kolkata, (Partha Roy):** An exclusive session on the book - "We the People of the States of Bharat" written by Dr. Sanjeev Chopra ex -IAS, former journalist and former Director of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Administrative Academy was organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) at Bengal Club in Kolkata on 25th February 2023.

The session witnessed valuable insights on the pre & post-independence era and the consolidation of princely states and formation of present modern geopolitical entity called India. Session discussion panel included Soumitra Mohan, IAS, Secretary, Government of West Bengal and former journalist of PTI, Dr. Sandeep

Chatterjee, noted Neurosurgeon, Sanjay Budhia, industrialist & Past President (ICC), Rudra Chatterjee Industrialist & Past President (ICC), and Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General (ICC). Commenting about the book, Soumitra Mohan, said, "The book speaks broadly about the Indian Independence Act. It covers the state of three provinces following the Britishers exit from our country. It further sheds light on chief Commissioner Areas, Governor Provinces and thirdly the princely states. Almost 552 princely states, which were later organised by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The way Sardar Patel along with VP Menon worked tirelessly to annexe the princely states has been mentioned in the book. A lot of autonomy was

given to the princely states. Two agreements were signed to serve as the instrument of accession, while autonomy restricted to the government to ensure this practice was implemented. Interestingly there were 20 names again suggested for Uttar Pradesh such as Aryabhata, Aryabhata Pradesh, Brahma Pradesh etc. So, these are very interesting issues highlighted in the book projecting the division of states and its development which has been discussed further in the book."

Dr. Sandeep Chatterjee, said, "The book is intriguing when you read it showcasing the ultimate paradox. Having said that, the book reveals the history of geography at the beginning and the geography of history during its end."

Rudra Chatterjee, said, "The book interestingly narrates not only the history or geography but an overall summary of our country. The Bangladesh partition in 1971 was one of those periods whose impact was felt at our borders. The partitions of 1905 and 1947 have also been explored in the book."

On the theme of the book, Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, author said, "Today, we see West Bengal seeking changes. There is a very interesting story when Karnataka was previously called Mysore. There were sections from the local community that did not want to change the name, keeping in mind people's emotions. India after partition had several names, Hindustan, Bharat, India but Britishers

mentioned that they never wanted to call ourselves dominion of Pakistan and Hindustan. Further V.P. Menon and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel worked tirelessly making our country the centralised factor. Demographic changes have been affecting politics. Most of states did not face the same wrath after partition which Bengal and Punjab had gone through. Having said that Bengal was not treated well after the partition whereas the Punjabi refugees were accepted with open arms by the other princely states. Precisely the book mentions Identity is fluid and not cast in stone."

Sanjay Budhia, said, "Our author has great passion for literature, which is very much reflected in his book, focusing down on the cherished career of the country. The book takes us back in time to discuss the history of Bharat. The book clearly mentions the national ability to distinct through socio-economic boundaries. The book enlightens the readers with enriching ideas

Dr. Rajeev Singh, said, "Everyone gets the flavour of history from the book. This book is what people of India need to know, especially the young generation."

# Marriage of 108 girls in Surat on March 19, 2023 '5th Sarva Jaati Shahi Samuh Lagnatsav'

Surat: 'Vidya Vikas Education Trust' organized a huge and grand '5th Sarva Jaati Shahi Samuh Lagnatsav' on 19 March, 2023 at Jagdishwar Farm, in front of Mouni International School, Utran, Bada Varachha, Surat (Gujarat). Programs and other cultural activities will start from 4 pm to 9:30 pm, in which 108 girls will get married. The President of the organization is Mehulbhai Malviya and



the Chairman of the ceremony is former IPS DG Vanzara. All these information has been given by Dilip Patel, a social worker

associated with the organization. The program is organized by 'Vidya Vikas Education Trust' with the support of donors.

# Trinamool Twitter Account Restored After More Than 13 Hours



**New Delhi/ Kolkata:** The official Twitter account of TMC was restored after more than 13 hours on Tuesday evening, party officials said.

The account was hacked late on Monday night and its name was changed to 'Yuga Labs', sources in the

party said. "It was restored at around 4 PM after nearly 13 hours," a member of the AITC media team said.

The party lodged a complaint with the cyber cell of Kolkata Police, he said. TMC national spokesperson Derek O'Brien said in a statement this

morning that the account was compromised. "We are in touch with officials from Twitter who are working to rectify the issue. They have assured us of prompt action," O'Brien, who is also the leader of the party in Rajya Sabha, said.

After its account was restored, the party, which is in power in Bengal, posted three tweets about 'Didir Suraksha Kavach' (Didi's Protective Shield), its ongoing mass outreach campaign. The TMC launched the campaign in January this year to ensure that people get benefits from the pro-people projects of the state government. Didi or elder sister denotes Party supremo Mamata Banerjee.

# TSICET -2023 to be held on May 26 and 27



**Warangal:** The Telangana State Integrated Common Entrance Test-2023 (TSICET-2023) will be conducted on May 26 and 27 in two sessions each on two days by the Kakatiya University (KU), Warangal, for admission into first year M.B.A. and M.C.A. courses in nine universities in the State for the academic year 2023-24. Chairman of the Telangana State Council of Higher Education Prof R Limbadri, KU Vice Chancellor Prof T Ramesh, and ICET Convener Prof P

Varalaxmi along with and KU Registrar Prof T Srinivas Rao released the notification at a programme held at the seminar hall of the University College of Commerce and Business Management on the campus here on Tuesday. Eligible candidates who wish to apply for TSICET-2023 may submit their applications through online mode only from March 6 without late fee. With late fee, the candidates can apply till May 18 and download the hall tickets from May 22 after correction of

online application from May 12 to May 18 with the data submitted by the candidates.

The detailed information regarding the eligibility, syllabus and model paper, important instructions, procedure for online submission of application forms, pattern of online examination, the list of regional online test centres and Mock Tests are available on the website <https://icet.tsche.ac.in>. ICET former Convenors Prof P Rajesham and Prof K Raji Reddy were also present.

# BITM Celebrates National Science Day

**Kolkata:** Celebrating the spirit of science and the increasing awareness about the nuances of the scientific method, Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM), Kolkata, a Unit of National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Union Ministry of Culture, commemorated the National Science Day on today befittingly.

The day-long festivities, dedicated to asking the right questions in science, was BITM's tribute to Sir C. V. Raman's ground-breaking work in the field of light scattering, which won him the 1930 Nobel in Physics and whose publication is celebrated as the National Science Day each year.

Supported by the Kolkata Police, the day was initiated with Science March by students and teachers - starting from Park-Circus Maidan to BITM - carrying posters and banners to



increase science engagement and awareness. This was followed by release of gas balloons accompanied with Scientist names. Science from the surroundings was introduced in the form of a spectacular Open-Air Science Show featuring giant smoke clouds, levitating bottles, lethal lasers and vibrating waves. The achievements of Indian scientists were then celebrated in the form of an Open-House Quiz Contest.

Popular Lecture and interactive session on 'Light Illuminates and

the Study of Light Enlightens' by Dr. Bhupati Chakrabarti, Former Head, Department of Physics City College, University of Calcutta elucidated the ubiquity of light and the driving role it plays for the living world. How the dual nature of light proved to be a significant turning point - both in science and philosophy and opened up new vistas - was the crux of this National Science Day Lecture - delivered to the students present at the BITM, Auditorium and also livestreamed at [https://youtu.be/SVr2z\\_dW5m8](https://youtu.be/SVr2z_dW5m8).

This was followed by the screening of BITM's 2021 production 'Characterising Colour - Sir C. V. Raman at Work' - a documentary which has been the Official Selection for the Goethe-Institut Science Film Festival 2021, as one of the "outstanding examples of contemporary international science communication and filmmaking approaches"; the seventh International Science Film Festival of India 2021 in recognition of "the effort and contribution of film producers in the

specialized areas of science and technology" and the 12th National Science Film Festival of India celebrating science outreach through cinema.

An assembly of over 200 clocks from the 1920s, courtesy the personal collection of Shri Tapas Kumar Bose, was inaugurated in the exhibition 'Technological Evolution of Time-keeping Devices'. Featuring an exotic cohort of Wall-Clocks, Table-Clocks, Pocket-Watches, Wrist-Watches - with Quartz, Automatic and Digital varieties alongside Smart-Watches, the vintage collection will be on display at BITM, Kolkata, till March 15, 2023.

This commemorative event was attended by over 950 students and underprivileged children from the BSS School, Patha Bhavan, Swamiji Vidyapith, Bargoda Ananda Charan Banimondir, Uttarpara Children's Own Home, Manirtat Raymoni Institution and Kolkata Bhalobasi Foundation.

# Best State Sports Promo Award

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha has been awarded the 'Best State for the Promotion of Sports' at the Sportstar Aces Awards 2023. The state won this prestigious award for the fourth time. The recognition comes as a result of the state's unique sports model, which is built around the pillars of partnership for sporting excellence, competition, coaching, infrastructure and welfare schemes for meritorious athletes. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik received this award from Suresh Nambath, Editor, The Hindu and legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar, today at a ceremony hosted by The Hindu Group in Mumbai. The jury comprised an eminent panel of champions, with former Indian Captain Sunil Gavaskar at the helm.

Other include, Abhinav Bindra, Aparna Popat, Anjali Bhagwat, Bhaichung Bhutia, MM Somaya and Viswanathan Anand. Thanking The Hindu group for honouring Chief Minister Shri Patnaik dedicated the award to the people of Odisha. Chief Minister lauded the hard work and commitment of the athletes. He also commended Sportstar for its work in recognising the efforts of athletes across India. He said, "This event serves as a wonderful platform to celebrate their (athletes) contributions to the world of sports and to inspire future generations to pursue their passions. Athletes are the true ambassadors of our country, and it is our duty to support and encourage them in every

way possible." Further, on Odisha's sports ecosystem, Chief Minister added, "We are making huge investment in sports, which is investment in youth and therefore investment in our future. We have increased our budget for sports by more than 10 times in last five years. In the coming year, our sports budget is more than 1200 crores. We have successfully hosted many global events including the recent Hockey World Cup. We are building world class facilities and nurturing talent through high performance centres and competitions. I invite you to be a part of Odisha's sporting journey and together we can bring glory to Indian sports." In 2022, athletes from the state of Odisha brought laurels by winning medals at



international and national competitions. Furthermore, the FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 held in Bhubaneswar - Rourkela has garnered attention and admiration for the state of Odisha in the sports fraternity. In 2022, Odisha hosted international

competitions such as Odisha Open, SAAF U20 Championship, FIFA U17 Women's World Cup, FIBA 2022 (SABA Qualifiers), FIH Hockey Pro League, and National competitions such as Indian Women's League, Aquatic Junior Nationals, IWLF Youth Juniors and Senior

National Weightlifting Championship 2022, Para Athletics Championship and Para Badminton Nationals to name a few. Odisha under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is also prioritizing the development of sports infrastructure in the state. It is committed to creating

state-of-the-art facilities that can serve as a training ground for budding athletes. The iconic Kalinga Sports Complex is one of the finest sports facilities in the country. Several mega sports projects within its premises including India's first Indoor Athletics Centre, Tennis Court, Indoor Aquatics Centre, Hockey High Performance Centre and an elaborate Sports Science Centre are near completion and will play a significant role in developing champions of tomorrow for the country. In Rourkela, the Birsamunda Hockey Stadium was recently inducted into the Guinness book of world records as the largest fully-seated hockey stadium of the world. Despite an abundance of pandemic induced challenges, the facility which also houses

an Olympic-style Hockey Village with 225 rooms was built in merely 15 months. Similarly, to promote sports and fitness in the society, Odisha is developing 90 multi-purpose indoor halls across all urban areas. These are complemented with a wide range of other sports infrastructure including swimming pool training centres, football training centres, hockey training centres and sports complexes. The SportStar Aces Awards recognize excellence in sports in India and are highly prestigious. Odisha's Best State for the Promotion of Sport honour is a testament to the state's commitment to promoting sports and providing athletes with the necessary resources to succeed.

## Team IFAD Lauds Mela



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Team IFAD lauded the efforts of the Odisha Government in promoting the natural products of the Tribal Community of the State in an attractive and presentable manner in Adivasi Mela held here. Top Representatives of International Fund For Agriculture Development (IFAD) visited and enjoyed the authentic version of Tribal Market and its

products. Associate Vice President Donal Fransis Brown was visibly happy to see the arrangements made by the Department of ST SC Development and SCSTRTI. Director SCSTRTI Indramani Tripathy presented the details to the Team IFAD. They were very happy with the Women Self Help Group (WSHG)s efforts to sale their

products, which are not only organic but also hygienic, pointed out a senior official of SCSTRTI. WSHGs from Tribal Zones of the State have laid their stalls and are engaged in selling their products, which caught the eye balls of the Team IFAD. Han Ulac Demirag, Reehana Rifat Raza, Piyus Kanal and Meera Mishra visited the stalls and

appreciated the move of the WSHGs and others. Adivasi Mela is being organized at Adivasi Ground in Unit-I, which is attracting huge crowd. The Fortnight Long Adivasi Mela has turned out to be a Grand Success, thanks to efforts of SCSTRTI, admits Buddhadev Sahoo, a Senior citizen, who enjoyed Tribal Market in a hassle free manner.

## 46 PSO On VIP Security

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** As many as 46 Personal Security Officers (PSOs) have been deployed to provide security coverage to VIPs including Ministers, MLAs, MPs, and administrative officers, Minister of State Home, Tusharkanti Behra told the State Legislative Assembly on Monday.

While giving a written reply to a question of senior BJD Lawmaker Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, MoS Shri Behra said 46 PSOs have been given to different Ministers, MLAs and Administrative Officers. Besides, another 249 PSOs have been provided to other ministers, MPs, MLAs and Administrative Officers, by concerned district administrations, as per orders issued by the State Government in



different times, he said. Replying to a question of Congress Lawmaker Narasingha Mishra on the same issue, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said 1279 police personnel of different ranks from districts / battalions / establishments have been specially trained in different training centers inside the State including 43 Police personnel in NSG Training Centre, Manesar, Haryana to work as PSO for

providing security to MLAs, MPs, Ministers, Chief Minister, the Governor of Odisha, IAS, IPS Officers and also Central Ministers, other VIPs during their tour to the State of Odisha. As per Yellow Book, police personnel who have undergone training on specialized courses in preferably VIP security and PSO courses of training. Police personnel who are young, healthy, energetic, smart,

physically and mentally fit are being appointed as PSO, the Chief Minister said.

The other eligibility criteria to become PSO includes proficient in handling weapons and trained in unarmed combat (UAC), having professional attributes like good communication skills and conversant with security drills. Presentable and pleasant personality, conscious of personal cleanliness and Hygiene and high degree of dutifulness, he added.

It should be noted that the then Health Minister Naba Kishore Das was killed by a police man on January 29, 2023, in presence of PSO. This incident has raised questions on the capability of the PSOs to provide security to the VIPs.



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### CarDekho's launches 2nd Mega Refurbishment Centre for Used Cars

**New Delhi :**CarDekho, India's leading auto-tech company, has opened its mega refurbishment centre in Mumbai for Used Cars. This is the company's second mega refurbishment centre in the country after NCR. The Mumbai centre will take full control of the refurb process and set quality benchmark through advanced state-of-the-art infrastructure while optimising cost through scale of operations. The company plans to open 20 such refurbishment centres across India in near future.

With 1000 cars monthly refurbishment capacity, the centre will employ 100+ employees once fully operational. As a result of having best-in-class inhouse refurbishment centers, Cardekhos ensures that all vehicles sold on its platform are of the

highest quality.

CarDekho offers a 7 days 'No Questions Asked' money-back guarantee on all cars where customers can test-own the car and return it if not satisfied. Also included are 6 months of warranty, and complementary Pan-India roadside assistance (RSA) for all car buyers. A free insurance package and RC transfer are also included with the car.

Sharad Saxena, CEO - Used Car Business, CarDekho Group, said, "The opening of our mega refurbishment centre in Mumbai marks another milestone for the company in its quest to provide the best pre-owned vehicles to its customers. The cars refurbished at this centre will carry CarDekho's trust that offers reliability, affordability and unmatched satisfaction. This centre

integrates the Group's best know-how and reinforces our vision to disrupt the personal mobility space in India. We want our customers to live our promise of 'Bharosa Kar Ke Dekho'."

The refurbishment centre is equipped with State-of-the-art Brake, Suspension & Side Slip Tester, Hitech Pneumatic Tools & Equipment, 3D Wheel Alignment, Wheel Balancing, Air Conditioning Service, Injector & Spark Plug Cleaning and a fully mechanised Bodyshop with Electric Dent Pullers, Double action sanders with vacuum extractors, Infrared heating Machine & full functional heated Downdraft Paint Booth along with inhouse paint mixing facility for high-quality painting.

### Odisha records 20x growth in job applications in the last 90 days

**Bhubaneswar.:** As one of the fastest-growing states in terms of economy in India, Odisha has been witnessing a steady growth in job opportunities across sectors and industries and has emerged as a popular destination for job seekers.apna.co- India's largest jobs and professional networking platform - recorded 20x quarter on quarter growth in job postings in the state's capital, Bhubaneswar in the previous quarter. The platform has also noted increased job openings for multiple roles in the last three 90 days.

After recording an economic rating higher than India's GDP, Odisha has become a promising destination for employers to invest in, strengthening the state's economy and creating more job opportunities. apna has become a trusted partner for various popular companies such as Zomato, Bharti AXA, Burger King, TeamLease, Byjus, and Delhivery amongst others in the state to fulfill their hiring requirement. In the last quarter, there has been an increased hiring momentum for roles such as telecallers/BPO, sales, computer/data entry operator, delivery persons, and business development executives amongst others. The capital city continues to be one of the top commercial hubs in Eastern India.

With more than 25 percent female users from Bhubaneswar, apna has become a default partner for women to build their professional networks and participate in helping India unlock its economic potential. According to the platform, there has been a quarter-on-quarter increase in women joining the workforce from the state and participating in uplifting Odisha's economy. Telecalling and business development have consistently been the most popular role amongst women in Bhubaneswar followed by data entry operators. Interestingly, women also opted to get on the field by joining the sales workforce for various organizations after COVID cases dropped drastically.

Commenting on the growth, Manas Singh, Chief Business Officer, apna.co said, "Odisha is witnessing tremendous growth in the past quarter, emerging as one of the key markets with a rise in both workers and employers on apna. We will continue creating more hyperlocal opportunities to help accelerate the economic growth of Bhubaneswar."

### FURO Sports Shoes welcomes Shahid Kapoor as its Brand Ambassador

**Bhubaneswar:** FURO Sports Shoes, (from the house of Red Chief Shoes), is thrilled to announce its much-coveted collaboration with the Bollywood Superstar, Shahid Kapoor. Shahid's youthful and sporty personality of an affable boy gels with the aspiring core values and ethos of FURO Sports Shoes. Shahid appeals to a wider audience across all age groups. While his exceptional fitness lifestyle, dancing prowess, and romantic-action-oriented movies attract the youth, his responsible family guy persona connects with relatively mature age groups as well. Mr. Manoj Gyanchandani (Managing Director) expressing his views on the collaboration, shares, "We are extremely honored to welcome Shahid Kapoor as the newest FURO family member. We couldn't have asked for a better partner in 2022 who comes with such high credible energy which is much needed in such dynamic times to inspire the youth towards athleisure lifestyle. We look forward to a successful partnership with him and hope to have a mutually beneficial long-term relationship."

Mr. Rahul Sharma, (Marketing Head) further shared "To continue leveraging our association both in mass media & digital platforms - Shahid would be part of our forthcoming Brand campaigns, which are back to back lined up starting few weeks from now."

### BOB Financial crosses the 1 Million Credit Cards mark

**Mumbai:** BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (Bank) that issues and manages Bank of Baroda Credit Cards, has crossed the 1 Million Credit Cards mark.

As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Bank of Baroda Credit Cards have grown 9X over the last four years - from 0.12 million cards in March 2018 to over 1.1 million cards in March 2022. Further, the monthly spends on credit cards have grown 10X over the same period - from Rs.80 crore in March 2018 to Rs.830 crore in March 2022.

In CY2022, cobranding with IRCTC, HPCL, Defence Services, and partnerships with fintechs have been some of the key initiatives in the ongoing transformation journey.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shailendra Singh, MD & CEO, BFSL said, "In 2017, we started on a journey of transforming BOB Financial into a leading credit card issuer in India. Crossing the 1 million credit cards mark is an important milestone. However, while we celebrate this achievement, our ultimate aspiration is to become one of the largest Credit Card issuers in the country, serving customers of every demographic and socio-economic classification."

BFSL has been focusing on investing in people, processes and technology to enhance customer experience.

### India's Biggest and Most Popular Poker Tournament, India Poker Championship, ends on a high

**New Delhi:** The recently concluded India Poker Championship (IPC), India's biggest and most popular poker tournament, presented by Spartan Poker, witnessed some thrilling battles between India's best poker players. Among the mega pool of players, the 4 winners that emerged were Siddhanth Kripalani - Main Event winner, Alok Birewar - 100K High Roller Winner, Mahesh Shyamsundar - 25K Kick-Off Winner, and Vivek Singh - 15K Mystery Bounty Winner.

"Every year the India Poker Championship brings in amazing poker players from around the country and this year it was quite competitive. This year's Main Event has exceeded expectations across the board. I would like to congratulate all the winners on their win, truly well deserved. We were excited to host one of the biggest poker

tournaments in the country and look forward to the next tournaments," said Mr. Amin Rozani, CEO of Spartan Poker Group.

Mumbai boy Siddhanth Kripalani bagged a Phygital trophy and a cash prize of INR 39.72 lakhs along with the coveted India Poker Champion 2022 title. Kripalani defeated India's first WSOP bracelet winner Aditya Sushant in the heads-up session and grabbed ₹39,72,700 prize money post the deal, which happens to be his biggest live cash. Resuming the final table with a massive chip lead, Kripalani continued to dominate and won the prestigious trophy.

In the heads-up clash, Ahmedabad-based Alok Birewar shipped the coveted 100K High Roller beating poker pro Arsh Grover. Birewar grabbed his career-best cash of ₹40.71 Lakh and bagged the Phygital trophy as well. Birewar

put up an impressive show to climb up the ladder and win the IPC 100K High Roller title. Birewar is a well-known player from the Indian poker circuit, who also plays at the international level. Bengaluru-based Chartered Accountant Mahesh Shyamsundar clinched the IPC 25K Kick-Off title. After a four-way deal, he took home a lucrative first place prize of ₹8,15,579.

Chennai-based Vivek Singh is the 15K Mystery Bounty Winner. The poker pro created history by winning the inaugural 15K Mystery Bounty event at the IPC Megastacks May 2022. The India Poker Championship introduced India's first-ever Phygital trophies that were awarded to the winners of all four events. All winners owned a piece of the physical IPC trophies paired with a digital NFT twin.

### Flipkart clocks over 200 Million Fashion products in the Spring-Summer

**Bhubaneswar:** As the Spring Summer season 2022 draws to a close, Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has recorded a sale of over 200 million fashion products across close to 19,200 pin codes. The Spring Summer Season also played a key role for customers and sellers and saw close to 175,000 fashion sellers participating. These sellers came from not just metros but from tier 2 and tier 3 towns as well. Customers shopped for fashion and lifestyle products including sarees, men's t-shirts, watches, sunglasses, women's kurtis and footwear, from national, international and homegrown fashion brands.

The season saw customers shopping for fashion products from across the country including metros and a majority of these customers also from tier 3, 4 and 5 cities shop for fashion products from cities like Ranchi, Ernakulam, Kanpur,

Medinipur, Cuttack to name a few; and a substantial number of the overall customer base were first-time fashion shoppers.

Sandeep Karwa, Vice President, Flipkart Fashion, said, "We are extremely delighted with this overwhelming response from the customers, who consistently choose Flipkart for all their fashion and lifestyle needs. This year's spring-summer season saw a resurgence in consumption on the back of renewed economic recovery post-pandemic and we are pleased that lakhs of sellers saw a phenomenal response during this season. It is also a testament to our efforts to bring unparalleled value in fashion shopping to our customers. With a range of technology-led innovations that are making shopping experiences personalised and seamless for our customers, we are bringing India and Bharat closer ushering in considerable growth

opportunities for lakhs of sellers and brand partners."

Ayush Baid, a Flipkart Fashion seller who sells Women's ethnic wear from Surat, Gujarat, said, "We have grown on Flipkart by 500% during the spring-summer season and this was possible due to the technology and power of ecommerce. Growth on Flipkart has led to the overall growth of the company."

Harish Dadwani, a Flipkart Fashion seller partner from Agra, Uttar Pradesh, said, "It has been 4 years since I joined ecommerce and through the Flipkart platform have seen a growth of over 10X since then.

I had launched several new products in the spring-summer collection which has seen a 50X growth spike. I am very positive to set new milestones and garner new opportunities in the coming years and feel that I can achieve much more through ecommerce, technology and Flipkart."

### IIT Delhi Student Wins Coveted TCS CodeVita Season 10

**MUMBAI:** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) (BSE: 532540, NSE: TCS), announced the winners of Season 10 of its flagship global coding contest, TCS CodeVita, at a virtual grand finale. CodeVita, holder of the Guinness World Records™ title as the world's largest computer programming competition, has been inspiring students across the world to build and test their coding expertise for the past 10 years. The contest promotes programming as a sport and encourages participants to pit their skills against each other and solve intriguing real-life challenges.

The winner claimed the grand prize of \$10,000, while the first and the second runners-up were awarded \$7,000 and \$3,000 respectively. In a first, the third runner up, Michal Stanik from Czech Republic, was also recognized by TCS with a prize of \$1,000. Moreover, all four winners earned an internship opportunity with TCS' Research & Innovation organization. Registration for Season 11 of TCS CodeVita will commence soon.

"Season 10 of CodeVita has been remarkable in harnessing the passion for coding among the youth. We were thrilled to see how the four finalists

solved all the 10 problems, which has never happened before. I am happy to see CodeVita is encouraging youngsters to write good code and apply it to solve challenging problems," said K Ananth Krishnan, Chief Technology Officer, TCS. Winner Kalash Guptasaid, "Thank you so much, it's unbelievable! When I started with the contest, I never thought I would even be in the top 3 but this is a very humbling experience. I'm very excited about the prize money. Initially I was not confident, as I took longer than I expected to solve the first problem.

### Ambuja Cements introduces Cool Walls, a special product that keep homes cool in summers and hot in winters

**Mumbai :** Ambuja Cements Ltd, one of India's most sustainable cement manufacturers, is now offering an innovative green solution for constructing strong walls. Ambuja Cool Walls is a unique wall solution that keeps the house cool during summer and retains inside temperature to make the house warmer in winter. Ambuja Cements is among the first Indian cement companies to offer this unique block and mortar solution to individual house builders.

Ambuja Cool Walls is a sustainable product made with an innovative heat-barrier technology that is far superior to any other products available in the market. The 'heat barrier technology' of this product helps to maintain inside temperature of any house lesser by 5°Celsius as compared to external temperature. These innovative heat barrier

technology, consistent quality and enhanced strength (>5 MPa) are the main differentiators of this product.

Ambuja Cool Walls is an innovative solution to the problem faced by traditional construction with non-sustainable products. The challenge posed by traditional construction today are efflorescence on walls, termite attack, water absorption and highly prone to earthquakes. Ambuja Cool Walls along with unique jointing mortar makes the wall stronger and eliminates the problem faced by traditional construction practices. This helps the consumers in cost saving on electricity due to thermal insulation, low frequency of repeat painting because of no efflorescence, lesser repeat maintenance and lower construction cost. Additional benefits include noise reduction,

high fire resistance etc. Also it enables speedy construction and reduces project completion time by ~ 30%.

Ambuja Cool Walls is a sustainable product as it consumes large volume of fly ash in its manufacturing. The walls does not require curing during construction and thus saves 5000 liters of water for a 1000-square feet house. Mr. Neeraj Akhoury, CEO India Holcim and MD & CEO of Ambuja Cements Ltd., said, "Ambuja Cements has always pursued innovation to provide customers with eco-friendly solutions for a better and a greener future. It's our endeavor to provide world class solutions to customers in India. Ambuja Cool Walls is a testimony to our commitment to provide sustainable, high strength and durable solutions to our customers".

### KiiT International School becomes the only school from Odisha to win at Toycathon

**Bhubaneswar:** The revered founder of KiiT International School, Shri Achyuta Samanta, has always inspired and encouraged the youth to think outside the box. This motivation has led to an immense achievement for the school. A game, 'Untold Stories', designed by Shree Roy, a 10th Grade student of KiiT International School, has been selected as one of the top 7 winning games at Toycathon, an inter-ministerial initiative of GOI, in association with AICTE.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mona Lisa Bal, Chairperson, KiiT International School said, "This is an extremely proud moment for KiiT International School family. I congratulate Shree for her endeavours. This is an

accomplishment not just for her but the entire school. We always nurture our students to think beyond their textbooks and take interest in activities outside their classroom. I am glad that this morale-boosting has steered us to achieve this great honour. I firmly believe that these leaders of tomorrow can drive us towards a better tomorrow with proper education and guidance."

Shree's game 'Untold Stories' is a multiplayer game where one must answer questions about India's heritage to move on to the next level. With this game, Shree intended to revive the art and culture of India. With modernization and technology, most youngsters are glued to their smartphones and the internet. Shree designed this

with the help of the school's research wing, Inspiron, in a pursuit to move them away from this exposure while enhancing their knowledge on India's art, history, and culture. From over 14 lakh online entries, 200 games were chosen for the physical edition of Toycathon. Untold stories was the only winner from Odisha among the top 7 felicitated games.

Under the 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' initiated by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi, Toycathon is conceived to challenge India's innovative minds to conceptualize novel Toy and Games based on Bharatiya civilization, history, culture, mythology and ethos.

# Neil Wagner powers New Zealand to historic one-run win

**New Delhi:** Neil Wagner's bouncer-infused second-session spell paved the way for New Zealand's dramatic comeback in Basin Reserve as they became just the third team (after England and India) to win a Test match after following on. It was also only the fourth instance of such an occurrence in 2494 Tests and 146 years of Test cricket, as New Zealand completed a one-run victory - a result margin achieved only for the second time in Test history. The win gave them series parity, and ensured England didn't become the first team since 2017 to win a Test series in New Zealand.

Despite losing four wickets in the first hour of the morning session, Joe Root put England on course for a series sweep as well as their seventh successive Test victory - a feat last achieved by England 19 years ago. Wagner however, extended the wait to pull

that off as he first bounced out a struggling Ben Stokes and then dismissed Root to expose the tail and leave them to chase the remaining 56 runs.

This was Wagner's best spell of the series. In each of the innings preceding it, England batters have taken runs at at least five an over against the left-arter. In the second innings in Bay Oval, he went at 8.50. But the Day 5 variable bounce in Basin Reserve worked as a perfect ally for him. First, he bowled a well directed bouncer to a hobbling Stokes, who moved his front foot out and went for the pull but the hurt back knee meant he had no control over his shot. He ended up mistiming it to Tom Latham at square leg. In his next over, Root went for a pull against a length ball that came up to his midriff, but he too mistimed the shot and walked back for 95 after



giving Michael Bracewell a simple catch at midwicket.

As Stuart Broad walked out, New Zealand's ploy was straightforward. A bouncer barrage from both ends through Wagner and Matt Henry, who recovered well during the Lunch break after going off with a back problem. Wagner tested Broad with the rising deliveries, but

Broad too was willing to fight fire with fire as he attempted to put them away each time. Wagner built up all the pressure with short balls at one end, and Henry reaped the rewards as Broad played a ramp shot against a well-directed bouncer and ended up hitting to Wagner at third man. With that, England were eight down and New Zealand were clear favourites to complete

what would be an incredible heist.

Henry bowled to Jack Leach with two silly points and kept firing short balls, with the England No.10's resolve to stay put at one end being tested. Wagner nearly dismissed Foakes when the latter took on the bouncer and played a pull shot, but Bracewell at deep square leg took a couple of steps in and ended up out of position

to take a catch. Foakes got a four off that ball to take the target down to the 20s. Another momentum shift at this stage was palpable. Foakes, now full of confidence, pulled a Wagner short ball down the ground for a four and then pulled one from outside the off-stump past mid-wicket.

In their desperation for one more breakthrough, Wagner and Tim Southee bowled short balls that sailed way above the batter's helmet that were adjudged wides to take two more runs off the target. As the pressure ramped up on New Zealand, they burned a review for a caught behind appeal against Leach. Just when it looked like the game had slipped away from New Zealand's hands, Southee returned to bowl a fine bouncer to Foakes who pulled and top-edged it to Wagner at fine leg. England were down to

their final-wicket pair with seven to get for a win.

There was more drama in store as a top-edge off Leach's bat went high but fell between two converging fielders. Next ball, Anderson stepped out, swung wildly and connected to send the ball to the midwicket fence. England came within two runs of winning the game, when Anderson nicked a ball from Wagner on the leg side and Blundell took a diving catch to bring the series to an incredibly epic end.

Earlier in the day, Root helmed England's chase as New Zealand began the day with a spring in their step. They picked four wickets in the first hour, and Southee - who himself bowled a testing spell - brought his wicketkeeper up to all the pacers and got them to bowl a bit shorter to deny England the chance to dance

down or play expansive shots against pitched up bowling. From 80 for 5, Root and Ben Stokes arrested England's slide and quickly put their side on top in the chase. Stokes, who suffered a knee injury, played second fiddle to a free-stroking Root, who went to Lunch break on a run-a-ball 74. At that stage, England were only 90 runs short of the target and seemed on course. New Zealand, however, flipped the game on its head in a single session.

**Brief Scores:** England 435/8 decl. (Harry Brook 186, Joe Root 153\*; Matt Henry 4-100, Michael Bracewell 2-54) & 256 (Joe Root 95, Ben Foakes 35; Neil Wagner 4-62, Tim Southee 3-45) lost to New Zealand 209 (Tim Southee 73, Tom Blundell 38; Stuart Broad 4-61, James Anderson 3-37) & 483 (Kane Williamson 132, Tom Blundell 90; Jack Leach 5-157) by 1 run

## Beth Mooney to lead Gujarat Giants in inaugural WPL

**New Delhi:** Gujarat Giants have appointed Australia's wicketkeeper-bat Beth Mooney as their captain for the inaugural season of the Women's Premier League. Indian off-spinning allrounder Sneha Rana has been named Mooney's deputy.

Mooney, 29, has a stellar record in T20Is, having amassed 2350 runs in 83 matches at a stellar average of 40.51 and a strike-rate of 124.60. She's hit two international hundreds in the format, and 18 fifties, the latest of which came in the just-concluded Women's T20 World Cup final against South Africa, where Australia completed a historic



second hat-trick of titles riding on the back of her Player of the Match performance of 74\* (53 balls).

Besides the three World Cup trophies in the format and a Commonwealth Games gold, Mooney also has won the Women's Big Bash League thrice. "I am delighted to be given the opportunity to lead Gujarat Giants in

the historic Women's Premier League's inaugural edition in 2023," said Mooney in a statement released by the franchise.

"The squad is keen to get the ball rolling soon and put out an entertaining and effective brand of cricket in the debut season of WPL which will hopefully lead us to the trophy. It will be

absolutely fantastic to have the likes of Sneha as my deputy and Mithali Raj, Rachael Haynes and Nooshin Al Khadeer as pivotal parts of the team," she added. Rana, 29, has played 25 T20Is for India and bagged 24 wickets with an economy rate of 6.21. She made her national comeback after a six-year hiatus on India's tour of England in 2021 and has been in India's white-ball plans since.

"Being the vice-captain of Gujarat Giants is a huge responsibility and I am keenly looking forward to putting up a great show for the debut edition of the Women's Premier League," said Rana. "Along with captain Beth Mooney, I

hope to lead a strong and talented squad during the tournament."

Giants will be playing their first match on the opening day of the league, when they take on the Mumbai Indians on March 4 at the DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai.

**Gujarat Giants Squad:** Beth Mooney (Captain), Sneha Rana (Vice-Captain), Ashleigh Gardner, Sophia Dunkley, Annabel Sutherland, Harleen Deol, Deandra Dottin, S Meghana, Georgia Wareham, Mansi Joshi, Dayalan Hemalatha, Monica Patel, Tanuja Kanwer, Sushma Verma, Hurley Gala, Ashwani Kumari, Parunika Sisodia, Shabman Shakil.

## Starc geared up for return in Indore Test despite some 'discomfort'

**Indore:** Australia pacer Mitchell Starc, who is set to replace Pat Cummins in the Indore Test, has admitted that he still has discomfort in his injured finger that's kept him out of action since last year's Boxing Day Test. Starc, however, reckoned the third Test wouldn't be the first time he's played a game with 'some sort of discomfort'.

"If I only played when I was at 100% I would have only played five or 10 Tests," Starc said during the fixture. "I'm happy with where it's at and I've built up enough of a pain threshold to deal with that stuff over the last 10 or 12 years." He also revealed that while he's still working on full mobility of the

finger, it is not set to affect his performance in the match.

"Nothing physically in terms of what the finger does, there's not the same amount of movement in it. It's more the discomfort of the joint being restricted having been in a splint for six weeks and still having to be in a splint for another couple of weeks yet. That's probably the only part - dealing with the discomfort of it, getting the mobility back into it. That'll come over the next couple of weeks and it's progressed again, it's progression each day I bowl. It's not a concern for me, the comfort levels - it's doing what I need it to do to be available to play.

"I had 10 days off when



I first did the injury and then I've been bowling since. workload wise, body-wise no concern at all, I'm comfortable and happy with where my numbers are, where my body is at preparing for this series and then obviously not having the first two Tests to continue that as well. In that regard very happy with where it's all at, now it's just an execution of skills having had a break from game time."

With the unavailability of Cummins, Australia will have a new stand-in captain in Steve Smith but Starc does not believe that it will affect the team too much. "I think it's pretty seamless. He's [Smith] obviously done it for a long time. Certainly, I've played a lot of cricket with Steve as captain as well. Personally, it's been a pretty easy transition. Not much changes. It's still the same group of players, obviously with

Pat out, but not much changes. He's obviously going to have certain ways that he likes to captain as well or different ideas, which is no different when he is vice-captain to Pat. It's going to be slightly different, but I think we've seen over the last sort of 12-18 months when he's stepped in, he's done a fantastic job again," he said. Starc also expects his role to be that of subtly aiding the other bowlers in the group as well. With the left-arm angle that he brings in, it could prove to be an added advantage for the spinners on dry pitches. "There's always an element of that in the subcontinent and particularly in this series with spin playing a huge part.

## Middlesex sign Keshav Maharaj for 2023 season



**New Delhi:** Middlesex have signed Keshav Maharaj for the 2023 season, the club confirmed on Monday (February 27). Maharaj will be Middlesex's second overseas signing, joining countryman Pieter Malan.

South Africa's leading spinner will be available

to play the County Championship and the T20 Blast as the club aims to strengthen the squad ahead of their return to the first division. While Maharaj will miss the first two county games, he will feature in the next eight red-ball games, according to the

club. "I'm really excited to be linking up with such a professional and experienced county and am looking forward to wearing the Middlesex colours and calling the Home of Cricket my home," Maharaj said. "I hope I can contribute to the team's success across the various formats and am excited to form part of the Middlesex family." Having made his debut for the national side in 2016, Maharaj has featured for South Africa in 100 matches across formats, picking up over 200 wickets. The 33-year-old has also led his country previously. This will be Maharaj's third stint in county cricket, having already played for Lancashire and Yorkshire previously.