

Mamata In Odisha

Bhubaneswar(KCN): West Bengal Chief Minister and All India Trinamool Congress' President Mamata Banerjee arrived here this afternoon on a three-day visit to Odisha. MoS for Home and Sports & Youth Affairs, Tusharkanti Behera received the West Bengal CM at the Biju Patnaik International Airport. Soon after landing at the airport, she left for Puri by road with a police escort. She is scheduled to meet Biju Janata Dal (BJD) President and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here on 23 March.

"Naveen Patnaik Ji is our senior leader. I will meet him," Mamata told reporters here at the airport. The CM also informed that she will offer prayer at Lord Jagannath temple in Puri. Mamata will spend this night in Puri. Tomorrow, she will visit Shree Jagannath Temple in the afternoon to offer prayers, said Puri District Collector Samarth Verma. The West Bengal CM will also stay in Puri Wednesday and then leave for Bhubaneswar on Thursday, he said. The Puri district administration has made security arrangements



for Mamata, as per the protocol, said Puri superintendent of police K.V. Singh. She will also lay the foundation stone for

construction of a Bhakta Niwas for West Bengal devotees in Puri, officials said. On 23 March, before taking the return flight to

Kolkata from Bhubaneswar, she is very likely to meet with Naveen Patnaik. However, Odisha CMO is yet to confirm it. The possibilities of the one-to-one meeting between Mamata Banerjee and Naveen Patnaik has sparked speculation of the West Bengal Chief Minister's initiative to forge an alliance of regional parties for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls without keeping Congress in the fray. On Friday afternoon, she held a one-to-one meeting with Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav.

Post-Mortem Report Reveals Cause Of DJ Azex's Death

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Post-mortem of deceased DJ Azex alias Akshay Kumar Maharana has revealed that he died due to asphyxiation, sources said. The body also bore some ligature marks, the autopsy report said. He died by suicide and it is ante-mortem in nature. No suspicion is arising from his viscera. However, sample has been sent for further examination, said an official of the Capital Hospital here. The Twin City Commissionerate Police has registered an 'abetment of suicide' case against his girlfriend and her male friend. The case has been



registered under Sections 306 and 34 of the IPC. The girl and her friend will be summoned and questioned soon, police sources said. DJ Azex was found hanging at his residence in Bhubaneswar on Saturday night. Holding Akshay's girlfriend and her male friend accountable for abetting his suicide, his mother alleged that he was being subjected to torture and

mental harassment by the duo. As per the contents of the FIR, Akshay and his girlfriend, who is an MBBS student in a private college here, were in a relationship since a year. She was apparently exploiting him for money and was demanding a two-wheeler. WhatsApp chats revealed that Akshay had even transferred Rs 15,000 to her account through PhonePe. The girl however ditched him and got involved with another male friend who started threatening Akshay to leave her failing which he would leak an intimate video of them, the FIR read.

PM To Pay His 7th Visit To Poll-Bound Karnataka This Year On Saturday

Bengaluru: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a visit to poll-bound Karnataka on March 25 -- his seventh this year -- during which he will take part in various events including a Metro ride, and address a mega public meeting organised by the BJP. Assembly polls are due by May, and the schedule is likely to be announced by the Election Commission in the coming days. During the visit, the Prime Minister will participate in programmes organised in Chikkaballapura, Bengaluru, and Davangere districts. According to an official release, the Prime Minister on his arrival in the morning on that day, will travel to Chikkaballapura by helicopter to inaugurate Sri



Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research there. He will then fly back to Bengaluru in the afternoon to inaugurate the Whitefield Metro Line and will ride in the Metro. PM Modi will then proceed to Davangere to address a public meeting, and after that will proceed to Shivamogga to emplane for Delhi from Shivamogga Airport. Though details about the public meeting have not been shared in the official release, it is

said to be a mega rally of the ruling BJP as part of its poll preparations in Karnataka. Karnataka BJP and its leaders including Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai have said that PM Modi will attend a mega rally in the district headquarters town of Davangere on March 25, to mark the culmination of the 8,000-km long 'Vijay Sankalpa Yatre'. The 20-day state-wide tour, which began from four different parts of the state, in specially designed vehicles or 'Rathas', was

kickstarted on March 1 by BJP national President JP Nadda at Male Mahadeshwara Hills in Chamara Nagar district. Several senior BJP leaders, Chief Ministers of other BJP-governed states, and Union Ministers have taken part in the programme. This is said to be the first party meeting, which the Prime Minister will be attending, since the poll preparations began in Karnataka. According to party functionaries, the event is aimed at energising the BJP cadres in the run-up to Assembly polls. BJP, which aims to come back to power in the state with an absolute majority this time, has set a target of winning at least 150 of the total 224 seats in the Assembly.

"Out Of The Box Thinking Needed To Unclutter System": Supreme Court

New Delhi: Some "out of the box thinking" is needed to save judicial time and unclutter the system, the Supreme Court Tuesday said while asking the Centre to apprise it of the developments on the suggestion to look into the issue of accused who are in custody for long time pending trial for a single incident. In August last year, the Supreme Court had observed when the country is celebrating 75th year of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', it is an appropriate time to explore and look into the issue of accused, who have been incarcerated for a long period of time or who may be from weaker economic and social sections of society with a single incident involved, as to what administrative orders can be issued in such a scenario to give relief to them. In its last year's order, the top court had said, "We consider it appropriate to



put it to the Government of India, for that matter for discussion with the States as to whether in offences where period in custody has exceeded a certain percentage of the maximum sentence say one-third or forty percent and the person is willing to submit a bond of good behaviour, those cases can be closed in one go after scrutiny so that the trial courts are unburdened of these cases and are able to concentrate on more heinous cases." During the hearing on Tuesday in a separate matter related to guidelines while considering bail applications, a bench

headed by Justice S K Kaul asked Additional Solicitor General (ASG) KM Nataraj as to whether some developments or discussions have taken place on this issue. "Plea bargaining somehow has not succeeded so far in our country," the bench, also comprising Justices A Amanullah and Aravind Kumar, observed. Nataraj said after the court's order, deliberations have taken place and the Centre has issued some circulars asking the state governments to proceed further on this issue. "We thought that is a methodology of saving

judicial time, uncluttering the judicial system. If they don't agree, it is different but I thought it is a good idea so that courts are able to concentrate on more heinous cases. What happens is that the volume is so large that it never ends," Justice Kaul observed, adding, an "out of the box thinking" is needed to unclutter the judicial system. Nataraj told the bench that the matter, in which the top court had passed the order in August last year, was not listed today and he would get instructions on the issue. The bench told him to find out about the developments on this issue. It said thereafter, the court master could be informed so that the matter could be listed for hearing. In its August last year order, the apex court had observed that clogging of the courts by the criminal matters on "all hues of various vintages is an important aspect".

Hostels For Workers

Bhubaneswar(KCN): To provide accommodation to the workers serving in different industrial areas of Odisha, the State Government has decided to construct worker's hostels at 13 such locations across the State. Addressing the post-budget press conference here on Tuesday, Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb said the target has been set for construction of worker's hostels at 13 locations having a combined capacity of 26,000 in multiple locations across the State. Worker's hostels will be a value proposition as a basic infrastructure for MSME/large units

coming to set up their units inside Government developed Industrial Estates, he said. Industries Department has been provided with budget of Rs. 710.20 crore in FY 2023-24. Similarly, the State Government has a target to incur expenditure of about Rs. 200 crore during the financial year 2023-24 for land bank for procurement of Government and private land, making it ready for attracting investors. The Minister said the State Government has identified more than 5,000 acres of land along the Biju expressway for development of more than 25 clusters starting from Rourkela (Sundergarh) to Motu

(Malkangiri) of 10 districts. Government has made special provision of incentives for the units that will set up units along Biju Expressway in notified Industrial areas, he said. Further, Shri Deb said, the Government has also taken steps for development of large area industrial estates from surrendered land by Central PSU or identifying new land parcels for industry ready infrastructure from day 0. Such facilities will come up at Neulopoi (Dhenkanal), Naraj (Cuttack), Gajamara & Kamakhyanagar in Dhenkanal District. Principal Secretary Industries, Hemant



Sharma said that the Government has set a target for construction of commercial built-up space for industries as enabling infrastructure at 8 locations in the first phase. The places are—Khurda, Angul, Sambalpur, Jajpur, Paradeep, Balasore,

Berhampur & Barbil and further 3 locations (Rourkela, Khurda and Kalahandi) with a combined capacity of more than 50 lakhs sq.ft. Bhupinder Singh Poonia, Managing Director IDCO and IPICOL was present in the Media Meet.

Odisha has had significant industrial development over the last two decades. The increase in investment to the state necessitates higher emphasis and facilitation for quick development of linked infrastructure facilities at a district level, Sharma said. District Investment Promotion Agency (DIPA) has been set up in 15 districts, further, it will be expanded phase wise to balance 15 districts in the upcoming financial year 2023-24, he added. Informing about the Budget for MSME Department, Shri Deb said Rs.570.35 crore has been provided to the department in this

Budget. Saswat Mishra, Principal Secretary MSME and Sadiq Alam, Director Industries was present in the Media Meet. During 2022-23 about 98 Micro & Small Enterprises have been sanctioned CIS worth Rs.20 crore under Odisha MSME Development Policy as against Budget provision of Rs 20 crore. In the FY 2023-24, there is a budgetary provision of Rs 25 crore under this scheme. In pursuance to decision of establishment of MSME Park in each of the 30 Districts, Rs 100 crore has been released to IDCO for establishment of MSME Parks at Chhatabar in

Khorda, Reuna in Sundergarh, Talamulasasan in Angul, Basantapur of Sambalpur, Barapalli-Hinjili in Ganjam, Kurlupada-Kesinga in Kalahandi, Ramdaspur in Cuttack, Gandhigram of Boudh, Kalinga Nagar in Jajpur and Bamani in Nabarangpur. These projects are at various stages of implementation, the Minister said. Work on MSME Parks at Tareikela in Subarnapur, Nirakarapur in Nayagarh, Panchapada in Jharsuguda, Sadeipali in Bolangir have been proposed to commence in the FY 2023-24 under the scheme through IDCO.

Leading NGO Spread Happiness Foundation Organizes Blood Donation camp in Shikrapur, Pune

Pune(KCN): On the Eve of Shivaji Jayanti on 19th of March a blood donation camp was organized by Spread Happiness Foundation in coordination with local NGO Bhumata Brigade led by Mangal Saswade and KEM Hospital Pune, at Shikrapur.



During the event many migrants from U.P, Bihar, Odisha donated blood including the organization Chairman Mr.Soumya Ranjan Mahapatro, general Secretary Mr.Anand Kumar Mahapatra, Shikrapur POC Saroj Roul, Ganesh Mohanty, Satya Prakash donated blood.. The aim of Spread Happiness Foundation is the organization to fulfilling the social responsibility

by donating blood. It is notable that such social responsibility programs have been organized by Spread Happiness Foundation from time to time. According to the advice of experts, regular blood donation keeps the blood

pressure normal and also reduces the chances of heart attack. The event was completed under the supervision of Saroj Roul, Ganesh Mohanty of Spread Happiness Foundation. Other members Naveen Nayak, Sataprakash

Das, Ganesh Mohanty played important roles and managed the program smoothly and efficiently. Abhijit Das (Lipu), Deviprasad Mohanty and were present till the end and supported the program. Rishi

Khond and Pratik Rout engineering student from JSPM engineering college managed the discipline in the camp.

At the beginning of the camp everyone was encouraged by Mr.Soumya informing about the importance and benefits of blood donation. Donors who made great donations like blood donation were welcomed and given certificates of appreciation for their humanity. And an awareness message was conveyed with the migrants by Mr. Chairman to enroll them the name in all social security scheme provided by Government of India.

JINDAL STAINLESS LIMITED organised a plithora of awareness events to celebrate the 52nd National Safety Week

Kalinganagar(Sapan Kar) :JINDAL STAINLESS LIMITED organised a plithora of awareness events to celebrate the 52nd National Safety Week which started on 4th March and culminated in 20th March

Safety gave the welcome address followed by deliberations by distinguished speakers Business Head Phase-1 Mr. AK Singh, Plant Head HR Mr. Rakesh Pathak who spoke on the importance of following safe practices



in workplace as well as at home. In his address Unit Head JSL , Mr Agrawal emphasized on practice of safety behaviour linking it to performance evaluation of employees of JSL ,which can take

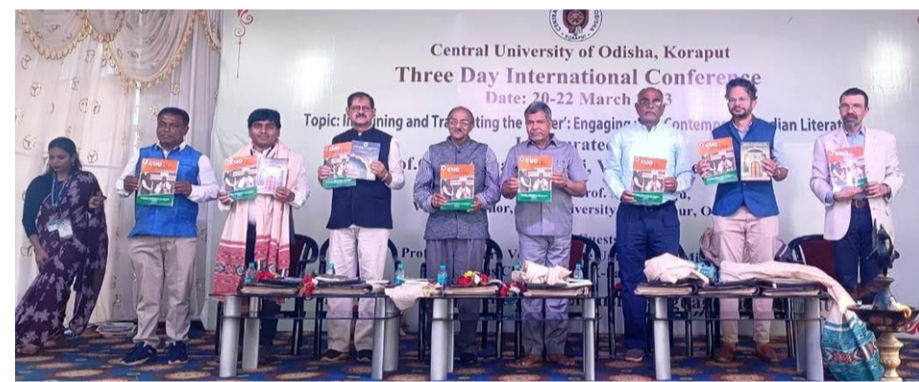
the theme for this year's National Safety Week was "OUR AIM ZERO AIM" . The Closing ceremony was held this afternoon in premise of JSL in the chairmanship of Unit Head Sri Deepak Agrawal. The events at the closing function started with Safety Rally set up by different departments showing their self motivation towards safety. Mr Manoj Bal Head Fire &

JSL to the excellency of Safety Culture to a whole new level. Chief Guest of the Closing ceremony Deputy Director Er UC Sutar , Deputy Director of Factories & Boilers, Jajpur Road Division addressed the august gathering & in his address he emphasized on reduction of accidents in Factories and praised JSL for its best effort for reduction in injuries.

The International Conference on "Imagining and Translating the 'Other': Engaging with Contemporary Indian Literature" inaugurated at CUO

English language is an international language by which we can reflect our rich culture and literature to the world: Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi

Koraput: The International Conference on "Imagining and Translating the 'Other': Engaging with Contemporary Indian Literature" of the Department of English Language and Literature (DELL), Central University of Odisha, Koraput kicked off at 2.30 P.M. on 20 March 2023.



The engaging and stimulating curtain raiser was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of CUO, Prof.Chakradhara Tripathi. He highlighted the significant features of Indian and western literature and the importance of the English language. He said, "The English language is an international language by which we can reflect our rich culture and literature to the world. So, translation plays an important role in maintaining a balance between two cultures". A perfect human culture will be developed through the mixture of East and Western cultures. And it is possible only by means of translation, he added. He emphasized the

cosmopolitan nature of English and its role in connecting the local with the global. In addition to this, he explained the mission and the vision of the University. He hoped the Conference will look at the whole range of subject matters that have animated modern Indian literature, thereby helping to build bridges across regions and imagine a nation that is truly unified in its diversity. The inaugural session of the conference was carried forward stylishly by a galaxy of luminaries of the subject present on the dais: Prof. N. Nagaraju, Vice Chancellor, G.M. University, Sambalpur; Mr. Chandrabhas Choudhury, UK-based Indian Writer in English and Prof. Alessandro

Vescovi from the State University of Milan, Italy. Prof. Nagaraju focused on the significance of environmentalism in Literature in context of Koraput, as well as he highlighted on the need to introduce eco-criticism in the courses of the Universities in India. Mr. Choudhury appreciated the concept of the conference shedding light upon the role of writers and translators in the contemporary times. Prof. Vescovi, began with an anecdote from his classroom, back in Italy. He referred to the challenges of translating a 16th concept to the students of 21st century. The director of the conference, Prof Himansu Mohapatra,

introduced the guests and the conference theme. The Head of the Department Mr. Sanjeet Kumar Das welcomed the delegates and participants. Prof.N.C. Panda, Head of the Department of Sanskrit and Dean of School of Languages, CUO presided over the inaugural session and gave his rich insights. Four books – CUO Newsletter, The Book of Abstracts, Following My Heart; an English translation of Manu by Himansu S. Mohapatra and Paul St. Pierre and Niranjana an English translation of Tata Niranjana by Mr. Sanjeet Kumar Das, were launched by the dignitaries present on the dais.

Parkinson and Movement Disorder Conference held in Kolkata

KOLKATA,(-ADVAITA SETH): The Institute of Neurosciences, Kolkata recently hosted an international conference on Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorder at ITC Royal Bengal, Kolkata. Movement Disorders are neurological conditions affecting abnormality of the motor system in a human body such as Parkinson's Disease, tremor, dystonia, walking difficulties etc. The global conference was a combined meeting of the Asian & Oceanian

section of International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society and Movement Disorder Society of India, which happens to be the society of Indian neurologists who are working in this field. Dr. Hrishikesh Kumar, Head of Neurology and Vice-chairman of Institute of Neurosciences, Kolkata and the honorary secretary of Movement Disorder Society of India, was one of the key organizers of this global conference. The conference was

graced by the President of International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society - Prof. Francisco Cardoso from Brazil; the President elect of the society Dr. Victor Fung from Australia; Chair of the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society (Asian and Oceanian Section) – Dr. Raymond Rosales from Philippines among others. The conference consisted of plenary lectures, symposia, scientific sessions,

workshops, case presentations and debates. This conference improved the awareness of movement disorders including Parkinson's Disease and allowed exchange of ideas among the experts and imparted knowledge to the doctors so that they can treat such patients in the optimal way in the near future. Large number of delegates flew in from Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Australia and other countries from Asia to take part in the conference.

ZSI Scientists Discover a new Catfish from North Eastern Himalayan Area

Kolkata: The scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new freshwater Catfish from the North Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity hotspot in India. During an ichthyological survey conducted in the Siang River drainage in the Indo-China border areas, Drs. Pratima Singh, SD Gurumayum & Mr. S. Rath collected some specimens of the genus Exostoma under the tour party leader, Dr L. Kosygin, Officer-in-Charge of the Freshwater Fish Section of ZSI, Kolkata. After carefully examining the specimens in the Laboratory the researchers identified it as a new species and

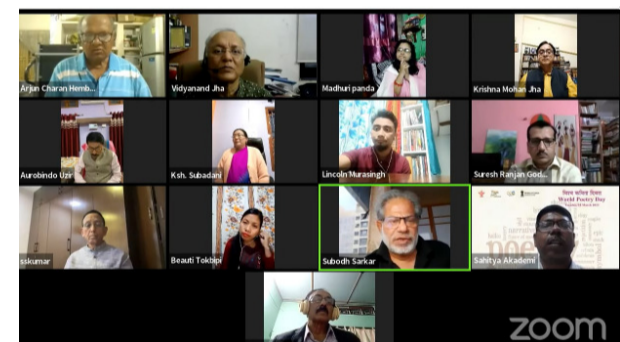
described it as Exostoma dhritiae sp. nov. The new species is named after Dr Dhriti Banerjee, the first women Director of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) , Union Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change to honour her contribution to the knowledge of the fauna of India. The catfish genus Exostoma is characterised by having homodont dentition consisting of distally flattened oar-shaped teeth on both jaws, bilaterally separated tooth patches in the upper jaw, a continuous postlabial groove, gill openings not extending to the ventral surface of the head, and

10-11 branched pectoral-fin rays. The genus is known from the Brahmaputra River drainage eastwards to the Chao Phraya drainage in North-western Thailand. Exostoma dhritiae is currently known only from the type locality Siking stream, a tributary of Siang River near Yingkiang (Brahmaputra River drainage), Upper Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh, India. The Siking stream is shallow, cold and swiftly flowing, with a substrate of cobbles and pebbles. The new species has some affinities with other species of the genus reported from Bhutan, China and India. However, it can be distinguished from its

congeners by the condition of the posterior extremity of the adipose-fin base, the degree of tuberculation on the dorsal surface of the head, the shape of striae on the anterolateral surface of lips and other morphometric data of the body. Before the discovery of this fish, 19 species of Exostoma were known to be valid. It is the 20th reported species of Exostoma in the world and the sixth in the Brahmaputra River basin in the North Eastern Himalayan area. It is a small hill stream fish locally known as Ngorang in Adi dialect and caught by the local tribal people for their consumption.

Multilingual Poets Meet on the occasion of World Poetry Day

Kolkata :Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Kolkata has organised an online Multilingual Poets' Meet on the occasion of World Poetry Day. The meet was chaired by eminent Bengali poet Subodh Sarkar. Other poet participants were Suresh Ranjan Goduka (Assamese), Aurobindo Uzir (Bodo), S. Sampath Kumar (English),



Krishna Mohan Jha (Hindi), Beauti Tokbipi (Karbi), Lincoln Murasingh (Kokborok),

Vidyanand Jha (Maithili), Kshetriyum Subadani (Manipuri), Krishna Prasad Bhattarai

(Nepali), Madhuri Panda (Odia) and Arjun Charan Hembram (Santali), who recited their poems along with Hindi/English translations. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi while compering the programme said about the positive and important role and place of poetry in our day to day life.



Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik with Santwana Bhattacharya, Group Editor, The New Indian Express at Naveen Niwas

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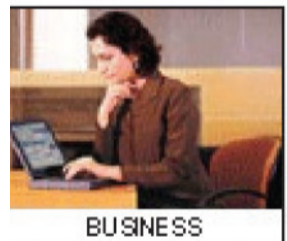
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All Indian Cine Workers Association Demands Investigation On 'Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein' Set Fire

The All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) on Monday demanded an investigation on the fire on the set of TV serial "Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein" from Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde. AICWA has also requested that an FIR should be registered against The Cockcrow Entertainment and Shaika Films Production House, Producers Pradeep Gupta, Rajesh Ram Singh, Pia Bajpiee, Shaika Parween and Channel.



Taking to Twitter, the President of the association, shared a picture of the letter written to CM Shinde and wrote, "All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) Demanded From The Chief Minister Of Maharashtra To Investigate The Case Of Fire On The Set Of The Serial 'Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein' In Filmcity And Demanded That A FIR Should Be Registered Against The Cockcrow Entertainment and Shaika Films Production House,

Producers Pradeep Gupta, Rajesh Ram Singh, Pia Bajpiee, Shaika Parween and Channel!!" The letter reads, "Respected Sir, I am writing this letter to bring to your attention a serious matter that requires your immediate attention. On the 10th of March 2023, a massive fire broke out on the set of the television series 'Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein' Serial at Filmcity, Mumbai. The

fire not only destroyed the entire set but also caused extensive damage to the adjacent sets of "Teri Meri Doriyaann" and "Ajooni" Serial. The incident occurred at around 4 pm and endangered the lives of more than 1,000 workers and artists present on the set." He added, "What is alarming is the fact that there was no provision for fire safety, and neither were any fire norms being followed.

The set was being used for a scene involving children, and there was no stunt master or fire safety arrangements in place. This sheer negligence and irresponsibility on the part of the production house, producer and the channel have put the lives of innocent people in danger." The letter further reads, "The production house responsible for the serial, 'Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Mein,' is

Cockcrow Entertainment and Shaika Films, The producers are Pradeep Gupta, Rajesh Ram Singh, and Pia Bajpiee and channel. The incident is not the first of its kind as a similar mishap occurred at Chitrakoot studio, Andheri last year, which resulted in the death of a worker. It is disheartening to know that the film industry in Maharashtra has been functioning without following any fire safety

norms for the past years."

"Therefore, I request you to initiate a high-level inquiry into the incident and ensure that the responsible production house, producers, and the channel are held accountable for their gross negligence. I urge you to take immediate action and file an FIR against Production House Cockcrow Entertainment and Shaika Films, Producers Pradeep Gupta, Rajesh Ram Singh, Pia Bajpiee, Shaika Parween, and the Channel involved in this unfortunate incident. I hope that you will take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and well-being of the workers and artists in the film industry and prevent such incidents from occurring in the future," the letter concludes.

Recently, a fire broke out on the set of 'Ghum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meini' at Film City. According to reports, no casualties were reported, and the entire set was gutted. The fire also affected the sets of two other shows.

Salgaonkar Family Is Back, Watch Ajay Devgn-Starrer 'Drishyam 2' On Television

Get ready to experience an edge-of-the-seat thriller as the Salgaonkar family fights for their survival in the World Television Premiere of the blockbuster movie 'Drishyam 2' co-presented by Kia Motors, co-powered by Cadbury Fuse, special partner Club Mahindra and Parle Smooth Lassi in association with Ramdev Strong Hing and Acko General Insurance on Viacom18's premium movie channel, COLORS Cineplex. Produced by Panorama Studios, Viacom18 Studios,

and T-Series Films, this highly anticipated sequel to the 2015 hit 'Drishyam' boasts an A-list cast, including the likes of Ajay Devgn, Akshaye Khanna, Tabu, Shriya Saran and others. Directed by Abhishek Pathak, the film traces the turmoil that erupts in the Salgaonkar family after a homicide case opens and wreaks havoc in the lives of its family members living in Goa. The sequel of the movie captures how far one can go to protect their family when an

investigation for a murder case is resuscitated. Packed with suspense, drama, and unexpected twists, 'Drishyam 2' is sure to leave you mesmerized and eager for more. Don't miss the chance to witness this heart-stopping thriller as it premieres on COLORS Cineplex on Saturday, 25th March 2023 at 8 pm. Actor Ajay Devgn expressed his excitement for the world television premiere of Drishyam 2 saying, "With the premiere of Drishyam 2 on

COLORS Cineplex, the audience will get another chance to unravel the mystery and suspense that this thriller holds. It will now be accessible to a wider range of viewers across the globe. This film is not just a mere continuation of the first part, but a whole new story with unexpected twists and turns. The dramatic-suspense thriller will air on a weekend and that makes it a perfect must-watch to be enjoyed with family, especially because this one is about a man who keeps his

family's interests first. I thank the audience for their love and support for Drishyam 2's world television premiere." Stay tuned to COLORS Cineplex for the World Television Premiere of the blockbuster movie 'Drishyam 2' co-presented by Kia Motors, co-powered by Cadbury Fuse, special partner Club Mahindra and Parle Smooth Lassi in association with Ramdev Strong Hing and Acko General Insurance on the Saturday, 25th of March 2023 at 8 pm.

Shoaib Ibrahim buys his first property in Mumbai; wife Dipika Kakar beams with joy

Shoaib Ibrahim is currently over the moon as he has finally fulfilled his long awaited dream. The good-looking actor has bought his first property in Mumbai and made the big announcement with wife Dipika Kakar in a new video. Dipika also couldn't control her excitement and was beaming with joy.

Shoaib shared the news and said, "I want to share some good news with you all. I've finally bought my own property in Mumbai. I came to Mumbai in 2009 and finally in 2022, I've managed to buy a house. The 13 year old dream is now going to get fulfilled. Main Mumbai mein ek property le raha hoon apne naam se... (Dipika beams with joy and hugs him, she even calls him cute). The most important thing is that I am buying this house for my mother."

Dipika, who was sitting beside him while sharing the news added, "The building and flat where we are staying, the



best part about it is that we bought my first property in Mumbai which is this flat. And when Shoaib shifted Ammi and everyone to Mumbai, the flat which is below ours was available on rent and we took it. From that time till now, Ammi and everyone have been staying in that same flat on rent."The couple explained how Shoaib had an opportunity to

buy the rented flat 4 years ago, when the owner was selling it, but at that time he couldn't afford it. Finally, he is able to do it. Shoaib further explained in the video how he doesn't want his family to locate to some other wing in the same society as he used to spending time with his family and don't want them to shift anywhere else. He said, "Every man dreams of buying

his own house and has a name plate on his name. I tried doing it early but it did not happen as I had and still have many responsibilities. But things are better now and my sister Saba is also growing in her life. The dream has been possible because of your support and prayers. You all have also been an important part of my journey." Shoaib went on to praise Dipika how proud

he is of her as she is self-made and at the same time he mentioned about his happiness of buying a property on his own, "Everyone knows Dipika is very popular as compared to me and I happily accept this and I am very proud about it. She has already achieved so much in a short span of life and it is incredible. People like her who do everything on their own and independently, hats off to them and I am proud that my wife is one of them who is self-made. At the same time, I am very happy that I've bought something of my own. Everything is our own. A relationship is strong when a couple supports each other."Dipika added, "I feel really proud because Shoaib is not one of those men who just say things for the heck of it. He practices what he preaches. He makes me feel in day-to-day life how proud he is of me. We don't have ego between us at all and I am proud about that because it is not an easy thing for a man."

Rishab Shetty's 'Kantara' Receives Praises At UNHCR Meet For Highlighting Environmental Concerns

Kannada blockbuster film 'Kantara' was screened at the Pathe Balaxert theatre Geneva on March 17. An audience of about 220 people including the UN representatives, Heads of International Organisations from Germany, Brazil, UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), ITU (International Telecommunication Union) WHO (World Health Organisation), Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Indian diaspora attended the screening. The audience gave a rapturous response to the film. Set in the fictional village of Dakshina Kannada, 'Kantara' followed the character of Rishab Shetty (who is also the director of the movie), playing the role of a Kambala champion, who had a faceoff with an upright Forest Range officer.

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Efforts to Control Gun Culture in America



America, which speaks the language of violence, which supports violence, which brings a storm of weapons in the world, when it itself started becoming a victim of violence, then its time of self realization. The biggest difficulty of the modern civilization of America has been that violence has become so comfortable here that everything has been answered only in the language of violence. The environment of violence there has become so strong that the people there have become very insecure in their own homes due to the gun-culture there. After taking the brunt of the easy availability of guns for a long time, the people there have started opening a front against it at their level and

President Joe Biden has been forced to sign an executive order related to curbing the misuse of weapons.

In June last year, a large number of people took to the streets demanding a change in the law related to the purchase and sale of guns. What is needed is that along with giving relief to the victims of this problem, strict laws should be brought on the buyers of guns as well as its manufacturers and sellers. Like in America, gun-culture flourishing in Punjab also needs to be controlled.

In America, such news kept coming every day that some madman started firing indiscriminately with his gun somewhere in the school or sometimes in the market and people were unnecessarily killed in it. One of the major reasons behind this is the easy availability of all kinds of guns to the common people there and the use of these guns for indiscriminate firing on trivial matters and hysterics, which continues to be a cause

of deep concern. There is always a fear of some major untoward happening due to the whims of a crazy person in the life of the common people, their beliefs and loyalties have been so wounded that there is no protective shield like trust between man and man.

It is difficult to say who hides such an ugly and insane mind within the clean faces. America's arms race and technological race is pushing the entire human race into a corner from which it has become difficult to return. Now, along with the world, America itself is a victim of these weapons and violent mentality. The entire humanity is moaning and suffering because of the bad culture that America has spread in the world to establish supremacy over the world and to flourish its arms business. America has talked about the New World Order, it has talked about openness, it seems that the "world man" is suffocating and wants to come out of the suffocation. See

the irony that America is the most powerful and secure country in the world but its citizens are the most insecure and feared citizens. There are more prisoners in the jails there than in any other country in the world. There have been many such incidents that suddenly some madman started firing at a restaurant, hotel or gathering and a large number of people were killed. In 2014, guns were used in 68 percent of the total 14,000 murder cases registered in the US. A study commissioned by the government itself revealed the fact that about 1300 children under the age of 17 are injured by guns in America every year. The US administration will have to curb not only the 'gun culture' but also the weapon culture, now it will have to change its mindset to make the world livable. The United States has seen at close quarters the consequences of petty quarrels or unnecessary paranoia after carrying a deadly weapon, where it kills hundreds of people

-: Lalit Garg :-

every year. Any sensitive society should see and understand this situation as a serious problem. It is not without reason that in America, where most families have had different types of guns; voices have started rising against this weapon culture. It was very important to raise this voice, according to the saying that sooner or later, America's eyes are open, and then a message of peace and non-violence will go to the world with America. Certainly, it was absolutely necessary to control this culture of violence in America. Because America is today the biggest hub of crime in the world and today it is a victim of the culture of violence it spread in the world. It is obvious that the incidents of firing there have been taking the lives of hundreds of people, which were not incidents of Islamic terrorism, and then what was it? It is a

question that exposes American civilization. Is this a product of America's materialistic and violent culture? Realizing the mental trauma and other difficulties of the victims, US President Joe Biden on Tuesday took a meaningful initiative towards curbing gun abuse. Under this, the 'background check' done during the sale of guns will be improved. Through this, Biden has directed the cabinet to create a better government system to support communities struggling with gun violence. It is not hidden that the kind of mental trauma and other difficulties that those who lose a loved one in unprovoked firing have to deal with. The mentality of 'do what you want' thrives where the values of human relationships have ended, where children grow up independent in an individualistic system. In the situation of 'not in a good mood', an event is just an event, it neither gives happiness nor sorrow. In such a situation man

dwarfs his infinite powers. This is a stereotypical way of expressing inner turmoil. Such people do not have a decent and non-violent way of living right. There is no recognition of time. In such people, there is no special concern for dignity, etiquette, intimacy of relations, peaceful co-existence etc. Material comforts become the ultimate goal of life. Such isolation among American citizens is fueling deep frustration, intense resentment, and vindictiveness. They become mentally ill and commit murder using dangerous and deadly guns available with them. Actually, the psychology associated with having a weapon in hand works behind firing a gun in a fit of rage on trivial matters.

Even so, much of the distortion and brutality in the nature of violence depends on the availability of weapons. Such incidents of murder usually happen because a man in a frenzy who could not

control his anger or frustrations had a gun available when he was angry. Such cases are common, in which even after reaching the peak of anger and excitement in a mutual debate, two people or parties are reconciled, because they did not have weapons at the time of the dispute. America is becoming a cultureless country – this nation is riding on physical development and weapon culture. The citizens there can keep as many arms as they want. In some places even a license for arms is not required. There are very few homes in America that do not have a gun or pistol. This weapon culture of America is connected with its birth. It has become prosperous on this weapon culture and has ruled the world. Today the same violent weapon culture is taking a heavy toll on its own.

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United Opposition in India-A Facade



The opposition in India is an odd creature. When articulating the issues of harassment, victimisation, and institutional erosion brought on by the political executive's "overzealousness" to steer every wheel turning the establishment, the parties and the leaders that make up this disparate entity—that refuses to hang together even as a loose coalition—share similar problems with the ruling NDA government. They also use the same language. But they cannot agree on the fundamental issues of facing the obstacles on their path. The opposition's inability to agree on the first step of formalising the terms of cooperation and forging a unifying front against the BJP has a ludicrous quality, marked not by confusion but by weariness, disinterest, and—most importantly—gamesmanship. The latter is absurd since, although claiming to

have national goals, the majority of actors operate on modest provincial grounds, while the Congress, the sole national actor, occupies territory that is quickly contracting and may soon join the ranks of the regional parties. The opposition has definitely punched above its weight.

In a speech on February 28 at Cambridge University's Judge Business School, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said: "What is happening is that the institutional framework required for a democracy—Parliament, free press, judiciary—just the idea of mobilising, just the idea of moving around... these are all getting constrained." The same issues were raised more forcefully on March 11 by former Congressman and current Independent Rajya Sabha Member Kapil Sibal, who announced the start of a "people's movement for Insaaf (justice)" against the backdrop of raids on opposition party members, the fall of elected governments, and lynching incidents. Sibal emphasised that "equity, economic, social, and political" is the core of the Constitution while

making an intriguing connection.

With Parliament as the first wheel, the Election Commission as the second, and the executive as the third, he compared the Constitution to a car being driven by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. According to Sibal, the executive, which was in the control of the BJP, was working hard to seize control of the judiciary. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) will declare that you are free to travel wherever once the driver has control of all the wheels. He questioned, expressing the desperation engulfing the Opposition, "What sort of democracy is this?"

After the Hindenburg Report accused the Adani group of stock manipulation and accounting fraud scheme over decades, allegedly patronised and facilitated by "friendly" governments in Gujarat and at the Center, the Opposition was expected to go ballistic in the second leg of the budget session of Parliament and revive its attack on the Gautam Adani issue. On the first day of the session, Mallikarjun Kharge, the president of the

Pratap Kishore Mohany

Congress and the leader of the Rajya Sabha opposition, called a meeting that was attended by 16 parties, including the Aam Aadmi Party and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi for obvious reasons. While BRS leader K Kavitha is being questioned by the ED for her suspected involvement in the same case, Manish Sisodia, the AAP's second-in-command, is imprisoned and accused of being involved in a liquor scam.

As a result, the AAP and the BRS, who would ordinarily oppose the Congress, require all the assistance they can muster. It is noteworthy that the Trinamool Congress Party was not present, despite the fact that at various stages its leaders were wilting under the scrutiny of the investigative agencies. The TMC's chairperson, Mamata Banerjee, was quoted as saying that the Opposition unity effort was "premature" and that she would have to negotiate "bilaterally" with the Congress, which was in a good mood following its victory over Mamata's nominee in the most recent Sagardighi Assembly bypoll. Similar to how Sandeep Dikshit and two other

former Delhi ministers agitated the AAP by requesting that Sisodia be charged with "sedition," Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena received a letter from them. Saxena immediately requested the chief secretary to utilise the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against Sisodia and the other accused for alleged "snooping and spying" by the now-defunct feedback unit or FBU in order to take action for "sedition" and take action against Sisodia. The BJP and Congress were said by the AAP to be working together. The West Bengal and Delhi examples highlight the fundamental conflicts that run across the Opposition despite the different situations. In stressful circumstances, the differences become more apparent. As an illustration, the Congress perceives a potential to revive itself in Delhi as a result of the AAP's serious problems, which is an unreasonable claim, given that the Congress is devoid of local leaders and

burdened with a moth-eaten organisation. The budget session's opening days provided a sobering reality check for the Congress, which may have thought that the Opposition's struggles, which were brought on by ED-CBI, offered optimism for the party. While the Congress attempted to revive the Adani controversy, the BJP skillfully turned the tables by using Rahul Gandhi's recent trip to the UK and his comments at various forums to play the "nationalist" card. A union minister in the Rajya Sabha took the BJP's anti-Rahul campaign so far that the Congress issued him with a violation of privilege notice. The Congress was prepared to confront the government over its alleged "misuse" of the central investigative agencies and demand an investigation into the Adani case by a joint parliamentary committee. The Congress was accompanied by some Opposition parties. The treasury benches escalated the campaign in response to Prime Minister Modi's criticism of Rahul the day before the session reconvened. "Some people are putting Indian democracy on trial and insulting the

country's inhabitants (on foreign soil)," claimed Modi. The Congress made a concerted effort to portray Modi as "humiliating" India during the UPA administration, but their claims fell flat. This was largely because the Congress's sally had turned into a lone endeavour that was entirely focused on defending Rahul, something the rest of the Opposition was plainly uninterested in. The BJP's tried-and-true argument that political dynasties and

innate entitlement were synonyms for corruption covered the full spectrum of leaders who were outspokenly opposed to the CBI and ED. The AAP was an anomaly, but Sisodia was now squarely in the BJP's crosshairs. Where does the endeavour to unify the opposition start? Simply on topics or with coalitions in states? In either case, there are no simple solutions.

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Letter To Editor

Dear Editor

It is important to note that our planet earth does not belong to us humans only; but to all other species of animals and plants that are co-inhabitants of our ecosystem. The sparrow is a tiny bird and a humble species that has co-inhabited with humans from time immemorial. They have lived beside humans in both urban and rural environments in both developed and developing nations. But human greed for exploiting more resources and changes in our life style as also the changes in the construction of our buildings; sparrows had little opportunity to adjust to this changing world around them. Anthropogenic impacts has been the major factor including pollution, rapid unplanned urbanization and industrialization; together with human greed has decimated global sparrow population. Today in World Sparrow Day (March 20) it is our responsibility to protect this beautiful species by offering them protection and conservation.

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Study reveals poor and vulnerable that were battling hunger now have more access to unhealthy ultra-processed food

New Delhi (KCN) : A recent study has revealed that India's marginalised and economically weak are consuming high quantities of ultra-processed and packaged food. In a country that faces one of the world's gravest double burden of malnutrition, the lowest income quintile has gone from facing hunger to relying on unhealthy snacks. This finding reinforces the concern that sub-optimal or poor nutrition is escalating diet related non communicable diseases (DR-NCDs) in India, putting at risk millions, particularly children across all socio-economic categories. Releasing the study on 20 March, 2023 at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi in the MPs Round-table: Children Nutrition and Ultra-Processed food organized by Peoples' Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) and PIPAL, senior Members of Parliament and civil society representatives, called

for urgent policy measures to make healthier foods available in the market and introduce clear warnings on packaged food to guide people's choices. "India is home to around 45 million children who are stunted and 15 million who are obese. It is also the epicentre of adult obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. With 65% deaths every year due to NCDs, India is on the brink of a diet linked health catastrophe. Poor nutrition, as a result of growing consumption of ultra-processed foods containing high levels of sugar, sodium, saturated fats, is considered by experts as a key risk factor. "Speaking at the event, Shri Ashok Bajpai, senior Rajya Sabha MP from BJP said, "Ultra-processed foods and drinks are relatively cheap and ready-to-eat which saves cost and time for daily wage earners. This important study has revealed that Dalit families or those from backward classes

who have a meagre income, are relying more and more on these easy to purchase food items, without realising the negative impact it has on their health. We, as representatives of the people, can play an important role in ensuring that packaged food available in the market is healthy and contains safe limits of negative nutrients." "PIPAL (People's Initiative for Participatory Action on Food Labeling) – a national grassroots initiative for a healthier food system, conducted this survey in two districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar – Varanasi and Gaya. More than 90% of respondents who were queried on their consumption of ultra-processed and packaged food, have a daily earning of Rs 400 or less and about 40% are from the Dalit (Musahar) community. Majority of those surveyed are not literate. The survey found that Dalit families are spending 94% of



their income on food and about 10-15% of that expenditure is towards ultra-processed and packaged foods such as chocolates, carbonated drinks, jellies, biscuits, and chips. Compared to this, their spending on healthcare and education is a meagre 1.3% and 0.5%. Findings also point to the fact that families with lower on no literacy were likely to spend more on packaged food. "Releasing the survey, founder and CEO of People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) and one of the authors, Dr Lenin Raghuvanshi, said, "Adverse impact of ultra-processed food and beverages is even more

pronounced on children who are stunted or have received inadequate nutrition early in their life. They are more susceptible to obesity and may have a higher risk of NCDs as adults. For a country that bears the double burden of malnutrition, the best policy solution to ensure a healthier tomorrow for our children would be to make clear warnings regarding high content of sugar, sodium and saturated fat, mandatory on the front of all packaged food. It would convey to the vulnerable and poor, about the health harms of the packaged food and influence their purchasing decisions. It will also hopefully

motivate+ the highly profitable and fast-growing food industry to make their products healthier." "India is one of the global leaders in the food and beverage industry with a sales volume of 34 million tons. As per forecasts of the Euromonitor data, India was set to emerge as the third largest market for packaged food in the world by 2020, after China and the United States. "Shri B P Saroj, Member of Parliament, BJP from Machhlisahar, observed that, "In Uttar Pradesh, especially in Varanasi, ready to eat or ready to heat ultra-processed food, is fast becoming the food of choice for the migrant workforce who neither

have time nor resource for cooked meals." A member of the Consultative Committee, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Shri Saroj further stated that, "It is the right time for a policy instrument that can empower people to make healthier choices and save lives. Evidence from across the world and India has shown that a simple front-of-pack label that warns people about unhealthy ingredients will have the most impact. We provide our support to FSSAI and eagerly await an FOPL regulation that is good for the people of this country. It is the need of the hour." "Shri Imran Pratapgarhi, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, " A member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, Ensure to extend his all support for bringing the warning label for the betterment of Women and Child health. "With the debilitating impact of poor diets more than ever in focus, PVCHR and PIPAL hosted this consultation in the capital, timing it with

the ongoing Parliament Session. Present at the deliberation were senior MPs, Shri Suhail Kumar Singh representing Aurangabad constituency, Shri Sakal Deep Rajbhar, Member of Parliament – Rajya Sabha Ms. Sanghmitra Maurya representing Badaun constituency and member of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, Shri Ashok Thakur, Director, NAFED, Shri Pakauri Lal Kol representing Robertsganj constituency and Ms. Netta D'Souza, Chairperson All India Mahila Congress, Shri Kamal Kishor Commando former MP, Rajesh Pratap Singh, ex-assistant director-Home Ministry, Dr. O P Vyas-Ex-joint registrar, NHRC and renowned members of the civil society, Ms Shruti Nagvanshi, Pandit Vikash Maharaj, famous sarod maestro, Shri Varun Pathak, Chairman, Bench of Magistrates Child Welfare committee and famous pediatrician Dr. Arun Gupta.



The Secretary of US Air Force, Mr. Frank Kendall calls on the Defence Secretary, Shri Giridhar Aramane, in New Delhi

Sharad Pawar's NCP's National Status To Be Reviewed By Poll Body: Sources

New Delhi: The Election Commission has decided to review the "national party" status of Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress party. The Commission will hear a representation from the party today, which seeks a review of its decision. Sources said the NCP does not satisfy the requirements for national party status any more. A political party is recognised as a "national party" if it is 'recognised' in four or more states or got at least 6 per cent votes in at least four states. Else, it should win at least 2 per cent seats

in the Lok Sabha from three states or have at least four MPs in the last Lok Sabha polls. The national party status for any party comes with a host of advantages. They get a common party symbol across states, space for a party office in New Delhi, and free airtime during elections on public broadcasters. The NCP, along with Mayawati's BSP and CPI, stood to lose their national party status after the 2014 parliamentary poll. But the Election Commission had agreed at the time to take a lenient view and decided

to review their status after two poll cycles. The national party status of NCP again came up for review before the poll commission after the 2019 general election, along with that of CPI and Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress. But the commission again decided to retain status quo in view of a string of assembly elections that were coming up. In case NCP's representation is not accepted, the party will be able to use its election symbol only in states where it is recognised as a state party.

"BJP World's Most Important Foreign Political Party": Wall Street Journal

New Delhi: The BJP is the world's most important foreign political party and it may also be the least understood according to an opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal authored by Walter Russell Mead. "India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is, from the standpoint of American national interests, the most important foreign political party in the world. It may also be the least understood," the WSJ piece read. BJP, after successive victories in 2014, and 2019 is also headed for a repeat victory in 2024, the publication stated, adding that, India is emerging both as a leading economic power and, along with Japan, as the linchpin of American strategy in the Indo-Pacific. "For the foreseeable future the BJP will be calling the shots in a country without whose help American efforts to balance rising Chinese

power are likely to fall short," it added. The author Mr Mead believes that BJP is poorly understood because it grows out of a political and cultural history unfamiliar to most non-Indians. The BJP's electoral dominance reflects the success of a once obscure and marginal social movement of national renewal based on efforts by generations of social thinkers and activists to chart a distinctively 'Hindu path' to modernization, the Wall Street Journal piece stated. "Like the Muslim Brotherhood, the BJP rejects many ideas and priorities of Western liberalism even as it embraces key features of modernity. Like the Chinese Communist Party, the BJP hopes to lead a nation with more than a billion people to become a global superpower. Like the Likud Party in Israel, the BJP combines a basically

pro-market economic stance with populist rhetoric and traditionalist values, even as it channels the anger of those who've felt excluded and despised by a cosmopolitan, Western-focused cultural and political elite," it added. American analysts, particularly those of a left-liberal persuasion, often look at Narendra Modi's India and ask why it isn't more like Denmark. Their concerns aren't wholly misplaced. Journalists who are critical of the ruling coalition can face harassment and worse. Religious minorities who fall afoul of the resurgent Hindu pride that marks BJP India speak of mob violence and point to hostile official measures like broadly drafted anti-conversion laws as well as occasional outbursts of mob violence. Many fear the power of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, or RSS, a nationwide Hindu



nationalist organization with close ties to BJP leadership, it added. However, Mr Mead believes that India is a complicated place, and there are other stories as well. Some of the BJP's most striking recent political successes have come in predominantly Christian states in India's northeast. The BJP government of Uttar Pradesh, a state with a population of about 200 million, enjoys strong support from Shia

Muslims. RSS activists have played a significant role in efforts to fight caste discrimination, the opinion piece said. "After an intensive series of meetings with senior BJP and RSS leaders, as well as some of their critics, I am convinced that Americans and Westerners generally need to engage much more deeply with a complex and powerful movement," Mr Mead wrote. From a fringe of mostly

intellectuals and religious enthusiasts, the RSS has become perhaps the "most powerful civil-society organization in the world". Its rural and urban development programs, religious education and revival efforts and civic activism, staffed by thousands of volunteers from all walks of life, have succeeded in forming the political consciousness and focusing the energies of hundreds of millions of people, the Wall Street

Journal piece added. Recalling his meeting with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Mr Mead writes, "The movement seems to have reached a crossroads. When I met with Yogi Adityanath, a Hindu monk serving as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, considered one of the most radical voices in the movement--and sometimes spoken of as a successor to 72-year-old Prime Minister Modi--the conversation was about bringing investment and development to his state. Similarly, Mohan Bhagwat, the spiritual leader of the RSS, spoke to me about the need to accelerate India's economic growth, and disavowed the idea that religious minorities should suffer discrimination or loss of civil rights". How these statements by top leaders to a foreign journalist will percolate

down to the grassroots is impossible to predict. But I did get the impression that the leadership of a once-marginalized movement wants to position itself as the natural establishment of a rising power and is looking to engage deeply and fruitfully with the outside world without losing touch with its social and political base, he writes. The invitation to engage with the BJP and RSS is one that Americans can't afford to reject. As tensions with China rise, the US needs India as both an economic and political partner. Understanding the ideology and the trajectory of the Hindu nationalist movement is as important for business leaders and investors seeking to engage economically with India as it is for diplomats and policymakers wanting to put the strategic relationship on a stable footing, the Wall Street Journal stated.

10K MW RE By 30'

Bhubaneswar: The State Government has set an ambitious target to enhance its Renewable Energy (RE) production to 10,000 MW by 2030. This was informed by Energy Minister Pratap Keshari Deb while addressing the post budget press conference here at Geeta Gobinda Sadan on Monday. "We have launched a new Renewable Energy Policy during Make in Odisha Conclave, 2022. Budgetary provisions have been to implement the Policy. In this budget, Rs. 50 crore has been provided for Green Energy Evacuation Corridor (new scheme) while another Rs.50

crore has been provided for Odisha Renewable Energy Development Fund (new scheme)," said the Minister. In order to provide 24x7 quality and reliable power supply to all consumers, the Energy department has been taking several measures in power generation, transmission and distribution sectors, he said. OPGC added 1,320 MW to its capacity in 2019 to ensure energy security for the State. With the present generation capacity of 7920 MW, the State is able to meet the average peak power of around 4,500-5,000 MW conveniently, the Minister said.

The transmission and distribution infrastructure has grown commensurately with the increase in consumer numbers as well as the growing demands of the industrial & service sectors, said Shri Deb. Giving a detailed note on the Budget 2023-24, the Energy Minister said that the transmission system availability is more than 99.9 percent in the last 10 years. Provisions have been made in the Budget to address low voltage issues in a few pockets of the last mile consumers. He said the Budget has contemplated two umbrella schemes, namely, Chief Minister's Power Development

Program (CMPDP) with an allocation of Rs.1,446.50 crore and Chief Minister's Energy Conservation Program (CMECP) with an outlay of Rs.272.60 crore by consolidating ongoing schemes & proposed new schemes. More than 100 33/11 KV sub-stations will be commissioned by March 2024 to improve the voltage in low voltage pockets, he said. For ensuring disaster resilient power infrastructure, schemes like Radial to Ring Conversion Project (RRCPP Phase-II), State Capital Region Improvement of Power System (SCRIPS),

Disaster Resilient Power System (DRPS Phase-II) are planned for implementation and a budget provision of Rs. 477 crore has been kept collectively. Under the CMECP, a budget provision of Rs.250 crore has been made for the Household Energy Efficiency Program (new scheme) with an objective of promoting use of energy efficient home/ household appliances. About 1,000 Energy Clubs are actively operating in schools as part of energy conservation & energy efficiency awareness programs. It is proposed to have such clubs in all high

schools. The Energy Department also continued with its flagship program Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana (BGJY) with provision of Rs.150 crore for 2023-24 to electrify all leftover households by August 2023. He also mentioned that Rs.415 crore has already been provided to the DISCOMs for providing electricity to the left over habitations & households after closure of SAUBHAGYA in 2021. In order to prevent electrocution of elephants, a budget provision of Rs.50 crore is kept in 2023-24 Budget under Elephant Corridor Scheme. Another

Rs.690.2 crore has already been allocated so far for strengthening of electrical infra. Additional Chief Secretary, Energy, Nikunja Bihari Dhal said that GRIDCO is supplying bulk power to DISCOMs at an average price of Rs.3.12/unit (FY 2022-23), which is one of the lowest in the country. GRIDCO's financial sustainability is critical to the energy security of the State. GRIDCO's outstanding liability as on 31.12.2022 is about Rs.6,500 crore. Hence, the State Government has started providing soft loans to GRIDCO at 5 percent per annum interest rate & 5 years moratorium

period. The Government has provided Rs.700 crore soft loan to GRIDCO during FY 2022-23 while another Rs.700 crore has been made for the same in the Budget 2023-24. Shri Dhal said Rs.138 crore is allocated to OPGC and Rs.100 crore to OPTCL as equity support. Total Budget Estimate of Energy Department is Rs.3,002.53 crore, of which Programme Expenditure is Rs.2,954 crore, Administration Expenditure- Rs.48.53 crore. All these measures would help in keeping the retail tariff low, facilitate growth of industry & economy and improve the quality of life of our people, said ACS Shri Dhal

NTCE Promotes Tribal Handicrafts



Bhubaneswar: Odisha Government's efforts to organize National Tribal Craft Exhibition (NTCE) in a big way has been appreciated by the Participants. In fact the National Craft Exhibition-2023 has provided a platform to the tribal weavers and artisans to showcase their products as well as interact with artisans from other states. It has also given them a huge platform for marketing of their products. Department of ST SC Development and SCSTRTI joined hands with Ministry of Tribal Affairs to organize the National Show, which

has been conducted in a professional manner for which participants were very happy. STSC Secretary Roopa Roshan Sahoo has taken the overdrive for organizing the National Exhibition, said a senior Tribal Team of Madhya Pradesh, who was leading the Team. SCSTRTI Director Indramani Tripathy took all care of the participants, who enjoyed the hospitality of the State Administration and showcased their unique products in the National Meet, said a Team Member of Tamil Nadu.

Members of Tribal Groups apart from Odisha, 13 states have participated to show case their rich art and craft traditions. Tribal Communities from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh NTCE showcases the colorful tribal art and craft, forest and tribal produces along with stage performance of tribal dances every evening. NTCE presented 'Live demo of tribal and

crafts' are the special highlights of the National Exhibition. Team Members of various states talked to the customers and elaborated details about the unique products, which were colorful, delicately crafted and long lasting in its use. Elaborating about the organization of NTCE, SCSTRTI Director Shri Tripathy said this National Exhibition was organized not only to show case Art and Crafts of Tribal People across the country, but to connect them with cultural ties.

Boyanika Showcases Handloom Products

Bhubaneswar: Team Odisha Handloom presented a Joint effort to showcase the unique products of Odisha to a larger audience in Special Handloom Expo organized here on 20 March at Ekamra Haat. Principal Secretary Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts, Arabinda Kumar Padhee and Special Secretary Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts, Srikanta Prusty graced the occasion. Odisha State Handloom Weavers Coop. Society Ltd, popularly known as Boyanika, the only Apex Society of the State is organizing the "Special Handloom Expo at Ekamra Bazar in the premises of

Ekamra Haat, Bhubaneswar up to 31 March. This move is for facilitating sustainable livelihood to the weavers of the State by providing a common platform for marketing of Handloom Products. In fact the art of Handloom Weaving is highly evolved and its fabrics bear testimony to the artistic ability and tradition of weavers of the State as well as whole Country. Handloom Expo is organized with an objective to showcase & sell different Handloom Products of the State. The Expo is sponsored by Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles,

Government of India. 40 Leading Primary Weavers' Co-op Societies, Self help Groups and Master Craftsman of the State and 20 Handloom Agencies from outside state along with Boyanika are participating in this Expo. The Exhibition will remain open from 11 AM to 9 PM on all days and Special Government Rebate is being given to the valued customers on purchase of every Handloom Product in this Expo. Dr.Padhee inaugurated the Expo. Srikanta Prusty, Special Secretary Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts and Managing Director, Boyanika, Prakash

Chandra Meher, President, Boyanika and Shovan Krishna Sahu, Director of Textiles & Handloom, Odisha graced the occasion along with other officials. Apart from marketing of Odisha Handlooms, Boyanika is committed for all round socio-economic development of weavers of the State. Boyanika will go on exploring every new horizon for expanding its market in and outside the State in the coming years. Above all, for wide publicity of Odisha Handlooms, the role of Media has always been immense and praiseworthy, said a senior official.



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CFA Institute in India Expands Student Accessibility with a New Exam Center in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : CFA Institute, the professional body for excellence and thought leadership in finance, has opened registrations for their upcoming February 2023 intake. Additionally, with the rising demand to increase candidate accessibility and convenience, the institute will have 4 new exam centers in Kochi, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati for the CFA Program. These centers will take the total number of test center cities for the CFA exam to 16 across India and over 400 worldwide.

The recent CFA Institute Investor Trust survey showed that Indians place a high level of trust on the potential growth in job opportunities in the financial services sector. However, in the post-pandemic era, students as

well as professionals are prioritizing safety, accessibility and ease of travel while accomplishing their life and career goals. Ease of accessibility to exam centers is expected to improve a candidate journey through the program and reduce costs associated with travelling to take exams.

The CFA Charter continues to be the global gold standard for professionals aspiring to work in the investment management industry. We constantly work to make the CFA Program affordable, accessible, meritocratic and relevant. During the pandemic we moved our examinations to Computer Based Testing from Paper Based Exams and started offering examinations four times in a year. By expanding of our test center

network, we are taking one more step to bring the CFA Program within the reach of aspiring professionals and students in India." Said Arati Porwal, Director Society Relations at CFA Institute in India.

India has a robust banking, insurance and investment industry It has a diversified financial sector undergoing rapid expansion, both in terms of strong growth of existing financial services firms and new entities entering the market. With such rapid expansion, there is a growing demand for professionals with relevant competencies and high standards of ethics. The CFA Institute works closely with the industry and regulators to support an inclusive and secure financial services industry in India.

SBI now offers Real Time Xpress Credit on YONO app

Mumbai : With an aim to digitally empower customers and offer additional convenience, the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the introduction of Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) on YONO. The bank's flagship personal loan product for salaried customers - Xpress Credit has a Digital Avatar now. Customers can now avail RTXC from the comfort of their homes through YONO - which is going to be 100% paperless and digital. The end-to-end 8 step journey would be easy and instant for the customers.

Under Real Time Xpress Credit, Central/ State Government and Defence salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch for availing a personal loan. The credit checks, eligibility, sanction & documentation will now be done digitally in real-time.

Shri Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI said, "We are pleased to introduce Real Time Xpress Credit (RTXC) Loan facility for our eligible salaried customers on YONO. The Xpress Credit product will enable our customers to experience a digital, hassle-free, and paperless loan process. We at SBI constantly endeavour to offer technology-led enhanced digital banking experience to the customers in order to simplify banking." The digitalization of Xpress Credit delivery will also help the bank to do away with the need to handle and store enormous paperwork.

Blenders Pride Fashion Nights arrives in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar : Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, a unique travelling experiential property, arrived in the City of Temples - Bhubaneswar - celebrating the authentic spirit of the city through fashion and style. A spirit that echoes with Pride and inspires the creators of today to become icons of tomorrow. Bhubaneswar's 'Made of Artistic Flair' edition for Blenders Pride Fashion Nights, brought together an eclectic evening that blended fashion, culture and dance, celebrating a symbolic amalgamation of homegrown artistry and the unwavering spirit of local talent.

Exemplifying the region's signature weave through a curated evening at the majestic Vivanta, Bhubaneswar, DC Square was Odia designer Sabyasachi Satpathy, whose intricately crafted ensembles drew inspiration from the multicultural city and its colourful history. In a true celebration of Odisha's distinct and masterful craftsmanship, the show was elevated with a captivating performance by the Prince Dance Group - from the small Odisha town of Berhampur - widely lauded for their artistry. The show drew to a finale with none other than actor Diana Penty, who captivated the audience in a beautiful ensemble by the designer. The "Made of Artistic Flair" edition of Blenders Pride Fashion Nights was a beautiful embodiment of the rich craft and cultural heritage of the city in a modern and contemporary setting.

Taking us on a 'Jatra' - The Journey of a Young Woman - the show encapsulated the journey of a woman from post adolescence to her nuptials, navigating the various challenges, trials and significant moments that come her way. The enigmatic journey was captured through the array of colours and textiles that Odisha Bandha/Ikkat offers. Truly encapsulating the spirit of 'Made of Pride', the designer made use of Odisha weave, which is sustainable, hand-woven, organic and a homegrown initiative of design, painstakingly woven by the weavers of Odisha. The upbeat set was a composition designed to narrate the spirit of Bhubaneswar along with the flair of the designer. The evening was attended by the city's A-listers & influencers. The fashion walk truly left the guests mesmerized and engaged.

Through this unique showcase of Pride encompassing diverse talent across creative fields, Blenders Pride Fashion Nights 2022, encourages everyone, especially youth at large to celebrate & take pride in their authentic and individual journeys. The evening spotlighted individuals who take Pride in their choices, are comfortable in their skin and, most importantly, embrace their authentic selves - truly living a life that is 'Made of Pride'.

Mahindra Unveils its Disruptive Product Innovation, the brand-new 'G75 Smart' Motor Grader at EXCON

Bengaluru: Mahindra's Construction Equipment Division (MCE), a part of the Mahindra Group, announced expansion of its road construction equipment range with the launch of the brand-new Mahindra RoadMaster G75 Smart - "Profit Ka Partner".

Speaking on the occasion, Jalaj Gupta, Business Head, Commercial Vehicles Business Unit, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, said, "We at Mahindra are committed to provide disruptive products and services for our customers and are launching yet another product innovation in the fast-growing road construction equipment segment, the Mahindra RoadMaster G75 Smart Motor Grader. It has been designed and developed in India based

on deep insights of the needs of smaller road contractors. Our aim is to help small contractors break free from sub-optimal grading practices and to upgrade them to mechanization and enable them to participate in nation building. The brand-new G75 Smart motor grader is a highly reliable machine with low owning and operating costs and will truly be their "Profit Ka Partner". Our existing RoadMaster range of motor graders has already captured over 20% market share, and we are confident that G75 Smart will further strengthen our position while transforming construction of small roads in India, which constitute about 60% of country's roads." The RoadMaster G75 Smart offers road contractors, liberation

from compromised makeshift solution, such as manual labor and farm tractor-based graders. It is the ideal machine for spreading and grading applications for the rural, semi-rural and district roads, land development, internal housing and commercial roads. It enables small road contractors to participate in projects with grading needs for government flagship programs as Smart City, as well as PMGSY roads. The RoadMaster G75 Smart provides small contractors affordable uncompromised mechanization and an opportunity to deploy a registered motor grader in the smaller projects which was not possible hitherto with the conventional graders. Also, it will help improve the quality and longevity of work and quicker turnaround of projects.

Experience the best-in-class customer services at 11 new Alpha Service Centers across India

Bhubaneswar : Sony India is expanding its Alpha Service Network across 11 cities in India including Mumbai, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Chennai, Indore, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati. This is expansion for Alpha Camera body and lens repairs facilities is a testament to the brand's continued dedication to customer satisfaction. Sony now has the widest service network of after sales support for Digital Imaging products with 8 service centers for lens repairs, 18 service centers for Alpha Camera Body repair, 40+ service centers which can offer basic services like CCD

Imager cleaning and firmware updates and 220+ collection centers nationwide.

The service centers are equipped with necessary jigs and tools to deliver best quality repair of Alpha camera body, Camera Lens, Professional Cameras and other digital imaging products like Digital Still Cameras and Camcorders. Customers can also avail instant services for basic supports like CCD Imager cleaning and getting the latest firmware update to enjoy best performance from their products. The friendly customer care staff at these service centers will help customers to register their in-warranty products on

Sony Alpha Community portal to enable them avail free of cost additional one year warranty on applicable products.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Mukesh Srivastava, Head of Digital Imaging Business at Sony India, said, "By supporting and assisting partners in local markets, Sony aims to ensure customers receive exceptional service and satisfaction along with quicker and faster turnaround at all outlets across the country. The new service centers will offer customers a seamless experience across multiple touch-points to provide a consistent brand experience that surpasses expectations."

ATLAS OF AFFLUENCE - INDIA'S FIRST EVER WHITE PAPER ON LUXURY LAUNCHED AS A YEARLY FEATURE

Mumbai: Amidst leading luminaries of industries spanning across the business of luxury, the Atlas of Affluence (AOA) 2022 has been launched in Mumbai. Created by The Voice of Fashion (TVOF), a division of Reliance Brands Limited, the daily digital magazine that tracks and leads conversations on Indian fashion, design, crafts and retail, AOA 2022, is

the first such wide and deep white paper from India that dissects consumer behaviour studied through the prism of luxury. A collective reflection on what affluence means in India spiked during the two years of the pandemic. Charting the post-pandemic market and the clearly altered consumer mindset through a specially commissioned study

across six cities and markets of India, AOA 2022 has been published as a book with exclusively commissioned artworks. This study uses the time graph of "pre-pandemic" and "post-pandemic" months to specify a comparative matrix. It also helps debunk long-held ideas about what affluence and luxury have meant to Indians.

NSDL launches "Market ka Eklavya- Express" in 75 cities to mark 75 years of Independence

Mumbai: India's largest depository, National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) launched 'Market ka Eklavya- Express', an online investment awareness program for students that will be conducted in 8 different languages including Hindi. The program would serve as a beginner's guide for investing for the youth.

To mark the significance of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an

initiative of Government of India to celebrate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of our people, culture and achievements, NSDL has launched a new initiative towards investor awareness 'Market Ka Eklavya - Express' across 75 cities, especially aimed at the college students who would very soon be entering the phase where they would start earning and naturally,

look for avenues of investment. Earlier this month, Market ka Eklavya (5-hours program) was launched by the honorable Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman at the silver jubilee event of NSDL.

On the launch of the initiative Ms. Padmaja Chundur, MD & CEO, NSDL said, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a special initiative launched by

our Prime Minister to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. Our program has been particularly aimed to create awareness about the financial markets to the young minds who will be the future of our country. In this Amrit Kaal, our digital education initiative focuses on building a path towards Financial Freedom for our youth, symbolizing the spirit of

Atmanirbhar Bharat." Students across India will benefit from this program as it does not restrict to just an area of the population. The program will be conducted for 1 hour and mainly educate the students on demystifying the jargons, 3I's - types of Income; Inflation and its impact, types of Investment; 3S - Start early- Power of Compounding, Spread wide, Stay long etc.

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Bangladesh aim for aggressive intent in ODI batting

Dhaka: Litton Das, Bangladesh's ODI vice-captain, said on Monday that playing on the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium (SICS) pitches for the ongoing three-match series against Ireland will help them in the World Cup preparations as he is expecting similar conditions for the mega tournament.

Bangladesh have traditionally produced pitches that are low and slow in nature or the double paced where scoring in the range of 270 is considered a very good total.

As a part of their world cup preparation, the hosts wanted to make a habit of scoring over 300 runs in ODIs and it was reported that the

players have demanded that the pitches for the Ireland ODIs at the SICS be one with even bounce where free stroke-making is easy.

Apart from that, the SICS pitches also have some assistance for the pacers, who get some movement early on to challenge the top-order batters, while there is also some turn available at the latter stage of the game. So far, the hosts have posted 300-plus totals in first two games against Ireland.

"It will help playing in this kind of a wicket because in the world cup when you will be playing against good bowling attacks, there will be such movement and they will bowl similarly," Litton told reporters after



the second ODI was abandoned mid way due to rain on Monday.

"When you are continuously scoring 300-350, it suggests that you are playing good cricket," he said. "We want this (aggressive

brand of cricket) and if our batter can score runs in big events, it will be scored in this manner. Even if they don't score 300 in every match, they will score 280-plus. We would always want to play on a good wicket

and get good results.

"These runs are important in ODIs. Big teams often get hundred or close to hundred runs in the last ten overs. It was a challenge for us. We have been talking about how we can get

100 runs in the last ten overs of a T20I too, so it is a good sign that we have started to do it."

"Everyone is batting with intent in the middle overs [10-40]. It is a good intent. They are not just targeting big sixes but the focus is on ones, twos and fours."

Litton said that there's no regret among any of his team-mates even though many of them failed to convert their fifties into centuries. In the opening game Shakib al Hasan and Touhid Hridoy got out in the 90's while in the second both Liton and Nazmul looked set to reach the three-digit mark but couldn't.

"The top four batters want to finish the innings, which these

days can even mean a double-hundred. Century shouldn't be a target. If Shanto and I had batted till the 45th over, we could have got 150-180. We were batting quite well. I had a soft dismissal, Shanto was unlucky. But Mushfiq bhai played a spectacular knock, way better than our efforts," he said. Even though Bangladesh scored over 300 runs on both occasions, their openers made a cautious start after being challenged early on with the movement on offer for the pacers.

"It was quite difficult to bat in the early overs. After a long time we felt like we were batting in overseas conditions. The ball was moving. It was

quite challenging. It is summer, but it felt like winter. It was due to the rain," he said. "We were totally successful in fulfilling our batting targets in the last two matches. We didn't give any wickets in the first ten overs today, they were bowling very well. We did lose a wicket at the end of the tenth over, but it could have been a different ball game had we lost too many wickets early. "I think our 40-42 [in the first powerplay] isn't a lot of runs but it was quite effective in the end. Shanto and I also helped put the foundation for the big score, we got to around 140 in the 25th over. Wickets in hand always makes scoring runs more comfortable in the latter overs."

Gujarat Titans 'upset' with Miller missing IPL's opening fixture

New Delhi: David Miller has admitted that Gujarat Titans were "really upset" with the decision that he and other likely members of South Africa's ODI squad would miss the start of this year's IPL in order to be available for two World Cup Super League (WCSL) matches against the Netherlands.

The games against the Dutch are scheduled for Benoni on March 31 and the Wanderers on April 2. The IPL starts with a game between Gujarat, the defending champions, and Chennai Super Kings in Ahmedabad on March 31. South Africa probably need to win both ODIs to qualify directly for the World Cup in India in October and November. But the Titans will pay Miller USD380,000 for his services this year. What did they think of his absence for the opener?

"They were really upset," Miller told a press conference in Potchefstroom on Monday. "It's always a



big thing playing in Ahmedabad, especially in an opening game against Chennai. I am a bit disappointed to be missing that, but to put on the green and gold has always been a huge privilege and honour. And we have got some work to do in those two games against the Netherlands, so I think having a strong team - the best squad we can pick - is definitely the way forward. I will be missing one game so, whether I'm somewhat

disappointed or not, the process has taken place." The same will apply to other South Africans on the books of IPL franchises. The squad to play the Dutch ODIs has yet to be named, but it is likely to include Miller along with Aiden Markram, Heinrich Klaasen and Marco Jansen, who all play for Sunrisers Hyderabad, Delhi Capitals' Anrich Nortje and Lungi Ngidi, Mumbai Indians' Tristan Stubbs and Dewald Brevis, Lucknow Super

Giants' Quinton de Kock, and Punjab Kings' Kagiso Rabada. All 10 IPL sides will be in action before the South African contingent is able to leave for India. A similar situation arose before the start of last year's IPL, when Rabada, Ngidi, Jansen, Markram and Rassie van der Dussen chose to go to the tournament instead of play in a home Test series against Bangladesh. Then, CSA left the decision up to the players.

"We weren't given an option in any way," Miller said when he was asked who had made the call - meaning CSA, which has the right to refuse to release contracted players for franchise leagues, put their foot down in the national cause. "Be that as it may, we've got our best squad on the park and we've got a lot of work to do in those two games. So it will be nice to be able to focus on that," Miller said.

He was freshly back in South Africa after helping Multan Sultans reach the PSL final in Lahore on Saturday, which Lahore Qalandars won by one run. That meant Miller missed the first two of South Africa's ODIs against West Indies, which do not count for WCSL points.

The first, in East London on Thursday, was washed out and the Windies won the second, at the same venue on Saturday, by 48 runs. The series will end in Potchefstroom on Tuesday.

Women's World Boxing Championship: Nikhat Zareen, Manisha Moun Cruise Into Quarters

New Delhi: India's top pugilists Nikhat Zareen and Manisha Moun dominated proceedings on Day 4 of the Mahindra IBA Women's World Boxing Championships and advanced to the pre-quarterfinals after securing identical wins by unanimous decision at the Indra Gandhi Sports Complex on Sunday (March 19).

Being at her razor-sharp best, Nikhat toppled the top seed Boualam Roumaysa of Algeria with a 5-0 victory in the 50kg category. The reigning World Champion asserted her dominance over the Algerian from the get-go and landed accurate, powerful punches to have the first round to her name.

The 26-year-old maintained her momentum from the first round in scintillating fashion and kept her opponent at bay in the next two rounds as well to earn the win by unanimous decision. Speaking after her stellar victory, Nikhat said, "My strategy today was to



dominate a little from the first round itself as she (Roumaysa) is the top seed and had an advantage. I have never played against her before but I have seen her bouts previously. She is a fighter and she gets aggressive if one goes in close range with her so my strategy was to play from distance. There was some clinching from time to time but in the end, I won so I am happy. Nikhat will now take on Mexico's Herrera Alvarez Fatima in what will be a rematch of last edition's Round of 32 bout between the two pugilists.

Similar to Nikhat, the 2022 World Championships bronze medallist Manisha (57kg) also recorded a 5-0 win by ousting Tina Rahimi of Australia.

marking a successful day at the office for India. Starting on the front foot, the 25-year-old pugilist from Haryana was in cruise control throughout the bout and gave her opponent no chance to make a comeback. "While we had planned the strategy for this bout beforehand, the coaches' advice in between the bout helped me understand the opposition's mindset, land my punches perfectly and conserve my energy. I am here to fight and feel great carrying the weight of the country on my shoulders. I would like to thank the amazing support from Indians which has been crucial in helping the women boxers reach pre-quarters," said Manisha.

Rafael Nadal Drops Out Of Top 10 In Ranking For First Time In 18 years, Carlos Alcaraz At No 1

New Delhi: Carlos Alcaraz returned to No. 1 in the ATP rankings on Monday (March 20), replacing Novak Djokovic, and Rafael Nadal dropped out of the top 10 for the first time in 18 years. Alcaraz rose one spot, swapping places with Djokovic, a day after ending Daniil Medvedev's 19-match winning streak by beating him in straight sets in the final at Indian Wells, California. Alcaraz, a 19-year-old from Spain who first ascended to No. 1 by winning the US Open in September, didn't drop a set in the hard-court tournament.

Djokovic has spent more weeks at No. 1 than any man or woman in tennis history. He did not play in Indian Wells because he is not allowed to enter the United States as a foreign citizen who is not vaccinated against COVID-19. He also will miss the Miami Open that begins this week; Alcaraz is the defending champion there. Nadal has been sidelined since January by an injured hip flexor and he slipped four spots to No. 13 on Monday, ending a stay in the top 10 that began in April 2005. It is the

longest such run in the ATP; Jimmy Connors is next on the list with about 15 years. Djokovic and Nadal currently share the men's record of 22 Grand Slam singles titles. Elena Rybakina's straight-set victory over Aryna Sabalenka for the Indian Wells trophy pushed Rybakina up three spots to a career-high No. 7 in the WTA rankings. Iga Swiatek remained at No. 1, followed by Sabalenka, who defeated Rybakina in the Australian Open final in January. Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal is aiming to make his comeback



from a hip injury at the clay-court Monte Carlo Masters next last week. The 22-time Grand Slam champion

has been sidelined with a left hip flexor injury since the Australian Open, and pulled out of hard-court tournaments at Indian Wells and Miami. The Monte Carlo Masters begins on April 8 and tournament director David Massey is optimistic Nadal will play. "Rafa was the first (player) to be registered," Massey said in statement. "He really wants to play at the Monte Carlo Masters and is giving himself every chance to take part in the tournament he's so fond of." Nadal has won the tournament a record

11 times, including an Open Era record streak of eight consecutive titles from 2005 to 2012. The 36-year-old Spaniard uses the event as a key part of his preparations for the French Open, which takes place May 28-June 11. Nadal has won 14 of his major titles on clay at Roland Garros, including last year while dealing with chronic pain in his left foot. In January, Nadal hurt his hip flexor during a second-round loss to Mackenzie McDonald of the United States at the Australian Open.