

BJP+ retains Tripura, Nagaland, reunites with NPP to take Meghalaya




New Delhi: As the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and allies retained Tripura and Nagaland, and will be forming the government in Meghalaya with the ruling National People's Party seeking support for majority, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday thanked the people of the northeast states for the winning

mandate and also congratulated the party workers for their efforts. Addressing party workers at the BJP headquarters during the party's victory celebrations, PM Modi said: "Today's results show there is full faith in democracy and democratic institutions." As the counting of votes came to an end

on Thursday, the BJP and allies comfortably crossed the halfway mark in Tripura and Nagaland. In Nagaland, the NDPP+BJP raced into the lead right from the word go and maintained the pole position throughout. This was in keeping with exit poll projections. It was a close fight in Tripura where the

BJP+ went only slightly above the majority mark of 31 winning 33 seats. The Left+ Congress was down to half the BJP+ number, with the Tipra Motha bagging 13 seats. The BJP local leadership still reached out to the TIPRA Motha, saying it is open to all their demands except the one for 'Greater Tripaland'. In Meghalaya, the NPP ended up winning 26 seats, which is four short of the majority mark of 30. Both the Congress and TMC won 5 each, while the BJP could finish with 3. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma called Union Home Minister Amit Shah seeking his support.


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Odisha: Enrollment For D.El.Ed Likely In 2023-24 Academic Year

Bhubaneswar(KCN): After a gap of three years, candidates will be enrolled for Diploma in Elementary Education (D.El.Ed) in Odisha in 2023-24 academic year, sources said. The state government has initiated the process for the same, they added. The state government has invited tenders from various private agencies to conduct the computer-based test (CBT) for enrollment candidates for the D.El.Ed, earlier known as Certificate Training (CT) course for teachers. "The agencies have been asked to submit their tenders by March 22. As many as 1.20 lakh candidates are likely to appear for the CBT.

PRIME MINISTER OF ITALY CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT

New Delhi: The Prime Minister of the Italian Republic, H.E. Ms. Giorgia Meloni called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (March 2, 2023).

Welcoming the Italian Prime Minister on her first visit to India, the President said that she was happy to see a young and confident woman leading Italy. She noted that Ms Meloni is not only the first woman Prime Minister of Italy, but also the youngest ever Prime Minister of her country.

The President said that India and Italy enjoy excellent friendly



relations. As modern and mature democracies, India and Italy are committed to achieving economic growth based on rule of law, respect for human

rights, and inclusive development. She expressed confidence that this visit would re-energize India-Italy bilateral relations. The President said

that Italy is one of India's major economic partners. She noted that partnership between India and Italy in the areas such as clean energy, science and technology, food processing and infrastructure is making good progress. She invited Italian companies to make the best use of the opportunities in India.

The President said that under India's presidency of the G-20 and Italy's upcoming presidency of the G-7, there is potential for India and Italy to work together in areas of mutual interest - such as healthcare, climate change and digital technology.



Sr Journalist Vivekanand jena & Parthasarathi jena congratulating the newly appointed chief secretary Sri Pradeep jena at his office

Cycle For Community Partners

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday distributed 8000 bicycles among community partners working in different urban areas of the State. A program in this regard was held here at the Convention Centre in Lok Seva Bhawan. Free bicycles have been distributed to sanitation workers, Swachh Sathi, Aahaar Centre workers, Jala Sathis and supervisors etc. The program was jointly organized by the Housing and Urban Development Department and Mission Shakti

Department. Addressing the occasion, the Chief Minister said that partnership of community workers has made Mission Shakti a successful program. The CM said that he is going to different areas of Odisha and meeting the Mission Shakti members. They are also visiting his home Naveen Niwas to meet him. "Success of the Mission Shakti mothers makes me very happy. Your confidence and enthusiasm have made the Mission Shakti a number one successful program," Shri Patnaik said. He also said that



Mission Shakti mothers have taken up many responsibilities in community participation programs in different cities. They are managing Aahaar Centres, solid waste management, sanitation,

water supply, etc. Stating that everyone is happy with their work, the Chief Minister said that the State Government is providing them bicycles so that they can discharge their responsibilities

smoothly. He lauded the Housing and Urban Development and Mission Shakti Departments for granting incentives of Rs.100 crore. The Mission Shakti

program of the State Government has created a reputation in the entire world on community participation programs, he added. The Chief Minister called upon everyone to work together and

increase the reputation of Odisha. Participating in the program, Housing and Urban Development Minister Usha Devi said that Mission Shakti mothers are doing a great job to realize the Chief Minister's dream of building a new Odisha. Having a bicycle can give them a lot of convenience and freedom in the workplace, she said. Mission Shakti Minister Basanti Hembram said that Mission Shakti has set a new milestone today under the direction of the Chief Minister. During the program, two Mission Shakti

members, Padmavati Das (Aahaar centre worker) and Sita Murmu (sanitation worker) narrated their own experience and said that due to the Mission Shakti program, they have become self-reliant and able to resolve small problems of their families. Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, G. Mathivathana delivered the welcome address while BMC Commissioner Vijay Amrita Kulange gave a vote of thanks. BMC Mayor Sulochana Das granted the occasion.

CUO organizes University Special Lecture on 'Bonda Life: Outsider-Insider Perspectives' Bonda Society is nature worshiper – Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi

KORAPUT :The Central University of Odisha launched the first University Special Lectures Series by inviting eminent personalities of National and International repute who specialize in their areas to bring an authentic, vivid picture of the real world to students, enabling multi-disciplinary learning in the University campus on 01 March 2023. Prof. Bishnu Charan Barik, former Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University and well-known sociologist attended the programme as the chief guest and delivered his insightful lecture on 'Bonda Life: Outsider-Insider Perspectives'. Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi inaugurated the programme. He appreciated the tradition and culture of the Bonda tribe and their paramount contribution towards nature. He said, "Bonda caste is a worshiper of nature. They think nature to be supreme and also consider it their sacred and pious duty to protect nature". He advised students to learn about the different tribes and their life that existed at the University surrounding. Prof. P.C. Patnaik, Professor of Rajib Gandhi Chair for Tribal Studies and



Coordinator of this lecture series delivered the welcome address. The Chief Speaker Prof. Barik briefed about the demographic view of the tribal population in India and particularly in Odisha. He said "there are more than 1000 types of tribes all over the world. There are

many types of tribes in India itself, whose culture is different from each other. Odisha is a non-Hindi speaking region and many tribes live here; among them, the Bonda tribe has an important place". Narrating his recent visit to Bonda village near Bonda Hill he said "Female population is more than the male population amongst the Bonda tribes. After 75 years of independence, the culture, food habits, lifestyle, and clothing of the Bonda tribes are really amazing." He mentioned 14 characteristics of the Bonda tribe. Such as they consider Mudlipada, located on Bonda Hills, as their capital, the literacy rate among them is very low, agriculture is the sole basis of their livelihood, they are very frugal, their nature is very aggressive, they don't leave the molester,

they believe in collective life, their behavior is rough and tough, they like to consume salapa (wine), older girls prefer to marry boys who are 10 years younger than them, they have a strong and cordial relationship, they are the nurturers of the old tradition, they do not believe in modernity. On this occasion, students, research scholars and faculty of all departments including Prof. Sudhendu Mandal, Dr. N.N. Rath, Dr. J.B. Pandey, Dr. S.N. Panda, Dr. Pradosh Kumar Rath, Dr. Sourav Gupta, Dr. Sanjeet Kumar Dash, Dr. Meenati Sahu, Dr. Alok Baral, Dr. Ramendra Padhi, Dr. Kapila Khemundu, Dr. Nupur Pattanayak, Dr. Saurabh Gupta, Dr. B.N. Pradhan, Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Dr. Talat Jahan Begum, Dr. Soumya Ranjan Dash, Dr. Rani Singh, Dr. Dulamani Talukdar, Dr. Appa Saheb, Dr. Pradeep K Samantray, Shri Laxman Prasad, Er. G. K. Mishra etc. were present. Dr. Maitreyi Misra compeered the programme and Dr. Barkha extended the vote of thanks. The programme concluded with the national anthem.

Youth social worker Ashirbad Mohapatra received the best volunteers award

Cuttack Sadar, (KCN) : Neheru Yuva Kendra under Ministry of sports & Juba affairs Bargarh branch organized a district level neighbourhood youth parliament program in presence of honorable guests like Manoranjan Sahoo, Mohan Sahoo, Amrendra Narayan Jadab, Sadasiba Kar, Pankaj Kumar, Mamta Sathapathy, Roshan



Tonda, Trilochan Satapaty, as chief speaker Dr. Sujit Pruset, Odisha millet mission state coordinator Narayan Panigrahi. In this great occasion youth social worker, mountain climber Ashirbad Mahapatra belongs to Attabira Block, Tukura Village felicitated as best volunteers for his best quality.

LPG Price Hike Slur On Center

Bhubaneswar: When the BJP is attacking the BJD Government over Minister Naba Kisore Das murder case and arrest of its young wing activists, the Governing Party on Thursday slammed the BJP-led Centre over hike in LPG cooking gas prices.



Addressing a press conference here this morning, senior BJD Lawmaker Soumya Ranjan Patnaik said, "We have been supporting Centre's almost all decisions for implementation of welfare schemes. But we will not support this LPG price hike decision." The Centre brought in Ujjwala Yojana to provide subsidized cylinders with intent that women of Odisha and India will not have tears in their eyes due to the earlier smoke of firewood, he said. But the rapid hiking of LPG cooking gas prices by them has brought tears not only to the eyes of the mothers and sisters of Odisha but today the kitchen in households of Odisha is also in tears, bringing them great pain and hardship, Patnaik said. While rising prices of essential commodities, fuel and inflation are causing great pain to the 4.5 crore people of Odisha, the Centre does not seem serious about reducing the price of LPG cooking gas, he

stated. The price of one domestic LPG cylinder (14.2 kg cylinder) in March, 2014 was Rs. 410 which has now become Rs. 1103 as on 1st March, 2023 with the Centre making a further hike with effect from 1st March, 2023, the BJD leader pointed out. "The price of one LPG cylinder has been increased by almost 3 times in the past 9 years by the Centre. Can you imagine 3 times in 9 years?," he asked. Shri Patnaik further said this steep rise has caused great pain and anguish to the lakhs of mothers and sisters of Odisha and to the lakhs of Kitchens of Odisha. On one hand, the Centre speaks about cheaper cooking gas and on the other hand they are hiking the cooking gas prices so high. Due to such steep hiking of Cooking Gas, lakhs of mothers and sisters of Odisha are unable to refill the gas and are again compelled to

return to using firewood. The Centre stopped the 5 kg free rice per person under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) which was being added to the 5 kg free rice under NFSA. Now by hiking the cooking gas prices by three times in 9 years, they have dealt a double blow on the common man's kitchen and household, said the BJD leader. "We are surprised as to why the Odisha BJP is so silent? It seems they are more interested in diverting peoples and women issues. Why are they not wanting to discuss issues like this which affects the common man and woman, his and her kitchen, family, life and livelihood?," asked the BJD Lawmaker. Is playing politics all that matters to Odisha BJP and not the tears of the mothers due to the hiking of LPG cooking gas?," he again asked the BJP leaders. The Governing Biju Janata Dal demanded that the Government of India must take immediate steps in reducing the price of LPG cooking gas. The BJD stands with the people of Odisha and especially the mothers and sisters of Odisha who are facing a tough time in running the kitchen with these escalating prices. "We hope the Centre will

take urgent and immediate steps in this regard and ensure that the common man and especially the mothers and sisters of Odisha are not adversely affected in these troubled times," said BJD spokesperson Shreemayee Mishra. She said the BJD also hopes that the Odisha BJP will also break its silence and speak up for such issues that affects the lives of 4.5 crore people of Odisha, and especially severely affects the lakhs of mothers and sisters of Odisha and their kitchens. Reacting to Shri Patnaik's statement, BJP Chief Whip Mohan Majhi said the LPG price hike is depending on crude oil price in the international market. The present hike is a reflection of the international market price rise, he said. The Centre was providing additional 5 kg free rice under PMGKAY for Covid-19 pandemic. As the pandemic is over now, the scheme was stopped, Shri Majhi added. He also said that whether Soumya Patnaik is in the BJD or not, will be known very soon. The BJD is putting words in his mouth to show that Shri Patnaik is with them. But, in reality, he is not with the BJD, claimed the senior BJD Lawmaker.

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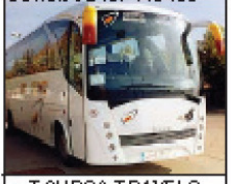
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Jacqueline Fernandez Shares Glimpse Of Her 'Selfie' Song 'Deewaane' With Emraan Hashmi

Sunshine girl Jacqueline Fernandez is gearing up for a new song release of 'Deewaane' from the recently released film 'Selfie' where she will starring next to Emraan Hashmi. Jacqueline is one of the most popular and glamorous actresses Bollywood has ever seen and her fans patiently await her new releases. After a long wait, Jacqueline Fernandez is all set to serve us with another enthralling number with her special appearance in song 'Deewaane'.

Taking to social media, the actress shares that her song Deewaane is all set to release and the teaser will be dropped tomorrow. She writes "'Deewaane" aa rahe hain, hum sabko Diwaana banane Dropping Teaser Tomorrow!" Jacqueline Fernandez stars along with Emraan Hashmi in the song Deewaane. Her tandem has always been loved and appreciated by the fans and now that the two of them are coming together in this latest song, the excitement among fans is



off the charts. Taking to comment section, several fans over flooded as they wrote "After a long time this Chemistry." Another wrote "Biggest fan mam." A fan penned down saying "Can't wait." Apart from that, the actress recently had one of the biggest brand coups as she became the first woman to become an ambassador for a male innerwear brand. Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress will next be seen in 'Crakk' along with Vidyut Jamwal and 'Fateh' with Sonu Sood.

Kangana Ranaut To Shoot For A Crucial Scene Of Chandramukhi 2



Actress Kangana Ranaut, who has been busy with the post-production of her upcoming directorial 'Emergency', is managing her duties on two fronts - as a director and as an actor. The 'Queen' actress recently got back on the sets of

'Chandramukhi 2'. On Wednesday, Kangana took to her Twitter to share pictures from her vanity van in which she can be seen getting decked up for her part in the film. She tweeted: "Back on the sets of my upcoming movie Chandramukhi 2 with my team. It's a very dramatic look and situation we are all very excited about it." The actress had earlier shared that she was rehearsing for the climax song for 'Chandramukhi 2' and mentioned that it's choreographed by Kala Masterji with the melody composed by Golden Globe Award winner M. M. Keeravani, whose 'Naatu Naatu' from 'RRR' has become a global rage as it continues to sweep awards on international platforms. The 'Varaai' song of Chandramukhi is a big hit and commands a massive fan following. Fans are expecting Kangana to deliver the same magic. 'Chandramukhi 2' is a sequel to the popular Rajinikanth film titled 'Chandramukhi'. While Kangana will play the lead role of a dancer in the sequel, Raghava Lawrence will play the male lead in the movie directed by P. Vasu and produced by Lyca productions. On the work front, apart from 'Chandramukhi 2' Kangana Ranaut has 'Emergency' lined up for release this year. She will essay the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. She also has 'Tejas' in which she will play an Air Force pilot.

Amitabh Bachchan To Headline Courtroom Thriller Section 84



Megastar Amitabh Bachchan is all set to headline director Ribhu Dasgupta's courtroom thriller 'Section 84'. The film, a Reliance Entertainment, Film Hangar and Saraswati Entertainment Pvt project in association with Jio Studios, will mark the third collaboration between Bachchan and Dasgupta, who also directed the actor in miniseries 'Yudh' and 'Te3n'. "I feel happy, blessed, and honoured to collaborate with Sir again. Looking forward to it," Dasgupta said in a statement.

Vivek B Agrawal, Producer, Reliance Entertainment, said, "It's an honour to have Mr. Bachchan on board in our next film and I'm thrilled to be starting this adventure with him and Ribhu in 'Section 84'." Sameer Chopra, VP Marketing, Reliance Entertainment, said, "We are absolutely delighted to start work on 'Section 84'. Mr. Bachchan's unparalleled superstardom paired with Ribhu's amazing story telling craft would make 'Section 84' an incredible watch for audiences worldwide."

Aayush Sharma: Earlier it used to affect me a lot when Salman Khan was given credit for my success

did Aayush Sharma is riding high on the success of 'Antim' and fans are in awe of his new mean avatar. In an exclusive interaction with ETimes, the actor opened up about his struggling days, social media trolls and how Salman Khan played mentor to him among other things. Excerpts: It took me nearly three years to get into the skin of Rahulji for 'Antim'. In 2018, we had a rough idea about the movie but the main training started in January 2019. That's when I realized I had to put on weight and change myself completely. The way I looked post 'Loveyatri' was not going to work for this film. It was a



three-year long journey of transforming my body, voice, acting, demeanor, everything. It was a gradual change. I realized that the character that I am playing doesn't like to be liked, he doesn't want to be someone presentable. For that, I had to change myself as a person. That was the most difficult part. I remember watching 'Joker' and at that point of time, it was of big help. When I was working on 'Antim' I thought my role was that of an antagonist. But after I watched 'Joker', I realized that it is for the audience to decide whether Rahulji is an antagonist or just a grey character. I simply essayed it like I am the protagonist. You looked nervous during your fight sequence with Salman Khan, were you skeptical about sharing screen space with him? My character changes according to his equation with Rajveer (Salman Khan) in the movie. When I was laughing during my fight sequence with Salman bhai, people were like 'Why are you laughing? You have to be angry'. But at that point my character was having fun, he was enjoying the fact that the cop is losing his cool but he also knows that the cop is stronger than him. He likes to irk the cop, that's why he smirks all the time. But Rahulji changes when he realizes that he has done something wrong and seeks help from the cop.

Renunciation (Samarpan)



Yoga of action superior to that of knowledge

Mr. Radha Shyam Jena

The sum and substance of the Gita is to lead a life of sacrifice or renunciation for the betterment of mankind. Renunciation means submitting the fruit of actions to Almighty. The Gita means a secret version expressed in the form of a poem. The Gita contains the scientific opinion of Lord Krishna narrated to Arjun in the battlefield of the Mahabharata. It was not a message for the then entire human beings but for the present and the future. The principle of renunciation as narrated in the Gita has also been explained in

the simple language in the form of a devotional poem by Thakura Abhiram Paramahansain His own term i.e. 'Samarpan Gita'. Samarpan, it means renunciation. A question may strike the mind of a devotee what has to be renounced or surrendered. A question may also strike in the mind of a spiritual person about the yoga of knowledge. Whether yoga of knowledge is sufficient to lead a disciplined life in the society or to follow the yoga of action with the consciousness of sacrifice/renunciation. If the action with the object to achieve a certain result according to Him a sin and the action without

object is a virtue. Lord Abhiram in his 'Samarpan Gita' has emphasized the renunciation of the fruit of actions. If the fruit of action is submitted to Almighty there would be no sin. As per Thakura Abhiram (Lord Abhiram) if the action is done with the consciousness of Renunciation or Samarpan, then it would never be a sin. The consciousness of renunciation or samarpan is the cornerstone of his 'Samarpan Gita'.

It is also important that the consciousness of body is also a sin because the consciousness of body begets a feeling of separate entity begetting arrogance. If there is a



consciousness of soul that holds a body may lead a man towards the light of knowledge. It helps a soul lead towards Almighty and a life without sin or virtuous life. It depends on a person how he would practice in his life. He has stated with

an example that a spoon is used for the preparation of food in a kitchen. The person who uses the spoon enjoys the taste of food but the spoon does not enjoy the taste of food. It is similar to a person or a devotee who

practices in his life, the yoga or consciousness of renunciation or the submission of the result of action enjoys the taste of renunciation by using his body i.e. the real spiritual pleasure. It was the Gopis who practiced the consciousness of renunciation through their bodies to achieve the contiguity of Almighty.

Therefore, the Gopis had no attachment with their bodies. The only attachment was the concentration to consciousness of renunciation of the result of their actions i.e. called the regularity of practice of consciousness inside the body. Once the soul is mingled with the Supreme Soul, the entity of body becomes

extinct. This is called the substance of yoga of actions. The sense of action without consciousness of renunciation leads a person to mundane attachment. The attachment is the sole cause of worldly sorrow, pain and pleasure. Lord Abhiram says if the fruit of action is surrendered to Almighty by a soul, it would never reap the consequence of sorrow or pleasure. The said practice would always lead a person to stability of mind and he would live always in a serene spiritual environment. In the absence of sense of renunciation, one suffers arrogance and eccentricity and the action with consciousness of renunciation would

therefore remain superior to yoga of knowledge. Thakura Abhiram has made it clear that yoga of karma (action) is superior to yoga of knowledge. Lord Krishna in Chapter V of the Gita, has emphatically put the yoga of karma with the sense of renunciation is superior to yoga of knowledge. The relevant glittering lines of the Gita on this context emanated from Lord Krishna are as under:

संन्यासः कर्मयोगश्च निःश्रेयसकरावुभौ ।
तयोस्तु कर्मसंन्यासात्कर्मयोगो विशिष्यते ॥

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Letter To Editor

Dear Sir, Halt Mining Projects

The Karnataka reserve forests in Ballari are at the mercy of profit-driven mining companies. Last year, the Supreme Court lifted a decade-old ban and increased the annual mining limit from 28 million tonnes to 35 million tonnes. Following that, mining companies filed requests to explore minerals in thousands of acres of forest land. As a result, biodiversity hotspots such as the 500-acre Hosapete Reserve Forest, which borders the eco-sensitive Daroji Bear Sanctuary, are under threat. Kudremukh Iron Ore Corporation Limited (KIOCL) recently registered a 50-year mining lease to explore iron ore in Swamimalai Block Forest and manganese ore in Devadari Hill Range. The terrestrial and scrub forests allocated for excavation cradles diverse species of flora and fauna. The dense ecosystem is home to leopards, sloth bears, black bucks, jackals, wolf, tiger, lions amongst other thriving wildlife forms. According to reports, the government ignored Forest Department concerns about a mining proposal by KIOCL in Sandur's virgin forests. Last December the company received final clearance for a project that involves cutting of almost one lakh trees. While the government has completely ignored the negative environmental impact, there is also no accurate Environmental Impact Assessment. Ballari was the mining capital of Karnataka. When illegal mining depleted natural resources, the Supreme Court prohibited mining in 2011, citing environmental concerns. The hazardous mining waste that was carelessly dumped proved toxic to the environment. It caused massive soil erosion and water contamination, as well as the destruction of agricultural and forest lands. The chemicals emitted by rampant mining contaminated the air, reducing air quality and endangering citizens' health. Mining activities in ecologically sensitive areas, such as Sandur, have a negative impact on wildlife while causing unnecessary disruption to their fragile habitats. Excessive mining activities in the past have robbed indigenous peoples of their health and livelihoods, while depriving Ballari of its abundant natural resources. Human intervention in Nature's intricately linked ecosystems will disrupt organic harmony, resulting in irreversible loss of indigenous biodiversity. Time is running out to learn from past mistakes and protect what we have left. As a result, the Karnataka Forest Department must publish an accurate Environmental Impact Assessment and halt mining projects for the sake of our environment and that of future generations.

Vijaykumar H K
Environmentalist
Raichur
Karnataka

Emergence of Plant Tissue Culture (PTC) and its Impact on Our Society



Bishop Debnath & Saikat Kumar Basu

In festive months the price of dates skyrockets. There is a pre-notion of not having as juicy dates as gulf countries. "Saudi Arabia has the finest dates in the world. One fine day I thought why such dates can not be grown in India? It seemed possible and I bought 100 plants for testing and the idea blossomed." - meet Nizamuddin S., a Saudi-return Indian farmer who is growing over 32 luscious dates in his Tamilnadu based farm (Source: AlArabiya News).

This one of the many examples of the practical application of Plant tissue culture (PTC). So what is tissue culture? a promising genre of advanced scientific approaches giving Midas touch to crucial answer findings. Grown in vitro (lab condition) using a single tissue is establishing itself to be a huge success for scientists around the world.

PTC usage for Bio production, conservation, transformation and biosynthetic studies

has made United Nations believe that it is going to play key role eradicating lack of



regular access to nutrition and food. Thus making UN's Zero Hunger project fulfill by 2030.

There are four ways of regenerating plants using PTC namely somatic embryogenesis, node culture, shoot culture, shoot organogenesis. In simple language these are the gold standards of the process those are going to generate a cell line from a tissue transforming into a whole plant body.

An article by Persian daily Forsat-e Emruz investigates the advantages and challenges of investing in the science-based industry. Advantages and Limitations

Tissue culture micropropagation offers many unique advantages over other propagation methods, including:
- Production of more robust plants, leading to accelerated growth compared to similar plants produced by conventional methods;

- Producing rooted plantlets ready for growth, saving time for the commercial grower when seeds or cuttings are slow to establish or grow;
- Production of disease-free plants;
- Re-production or cloning of one plant with particular characteristics and traits beneficial to optimal growth and success;

- Multiplying plants which produce seeds in uneconomical amounts, or when plants are sterile and do not produce viable seeds or when seeds cannot be stored;
- And, producing a greater number of plants per square meter while the propagules can be

stored longer and in a smaller area. (source: Financial Tribune) Despite of all these pros and cons the global market for tissue culture micropropagation is estimated at about 1 billion plants per year. The PTC ranges widely from ornamental to forest

trees. Plants important to developing countries that have been grown in tissue culture are oil palm, plantain, pine, banana, date, eggplant, jojoba, pineapple, rubber tree, cassava, yam,



sweet potato, and tomato. This application is the most commonly applied form of traditional biotechnology in Africa. Prunus africana is one endangered medicinal plant that is conserved by PTC. (source: Frontiers) Producing plants throughout the year, growing it in soil less culture, providing enough nutrition all are favouring the futuristic vision of the process.

Not only that globally plant tissue cultured bananas are accepted and marketed but also many Indian Institutes growing other crops

and fruits such as sugarcane, palm as well. This is not only giving extensive yield but also generating employment, contributing in the growth of nation. From saving the endangered species to turning it into a life savior PTC is playing the king's role. Though less skilled manpower is a hurdle for the applications of the technique but it's the key to food security.

Bishop Debnath:
MTech student, IIT
Kharagpur
Saikat Kumar
Basu :Kolkata,
West Bengal India



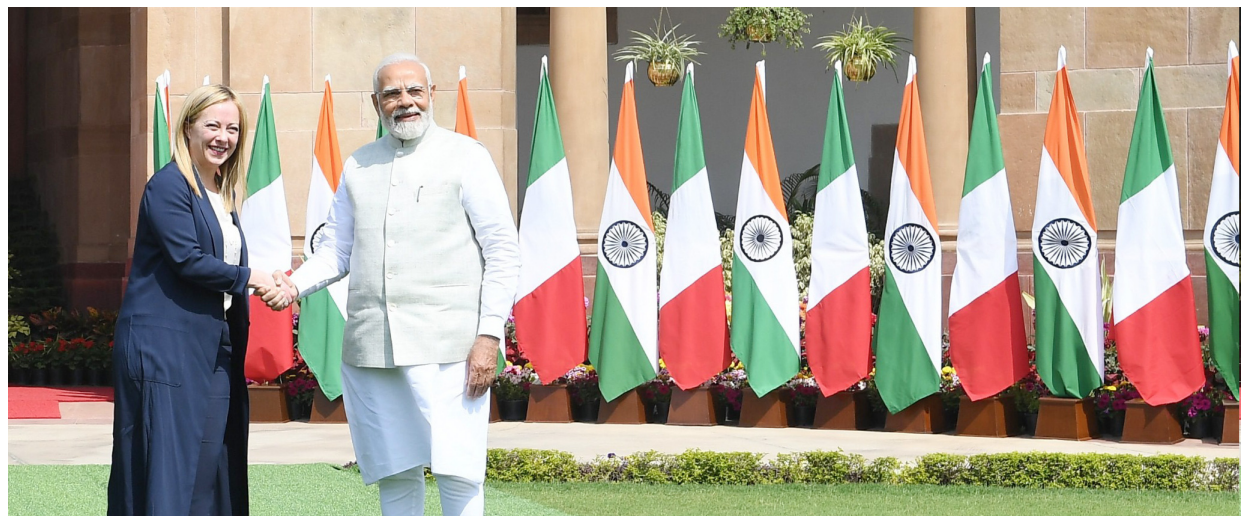
CM Hemant Soren should take the responsibility of defeat of UPA in Ramgarh Assembly constituency

Ranchi(KCN):NDA's victory in Ramgarh is the result of current Chief Minister Hemant Soren not fulfilling election promises. Vijay Shankar Nayak, Central Convenor of Jharkhand Bachao Morcha and Central Vice President of Adivasi Moolvasi Janadhikar Manch said in his reaction today on the defeat of UPA in Ramgarh assembly elections. He also said that the Chief Minister of the UPA alliance Mr. Hemant Soren has not fulfilled the promises made to the people of Jharkhand till date, due to which the people of Ramgarh Vidhan Sabha defeated their supported candidate and gave a message that now the leadership of jumlebaaz leaders will not be allowed to continue in Jharkhand. Mr. Nayak further said

that during his tenure, the Chief Minister has broken the dreams seen by the Dalit tribal native community of Jharkhand and has played with their feelings and has done the job of playing the role of speaking only and only by making jumlebaazi. The objectives for which the Hemant government was brought to power in Jharkhand by defeating the Raghuvar government, all those objectives could not be fulfilled and this government is also following the path of the Raghuvar government to break the dreams of the Dalit tribal native community of Jharkhand. All the promises Hemant

Sarkar had made in the elections worked 1% have not been completed whether it is Khatian based local community in contracting. There should be a question, whether in the mainstream of the nation whether it is the question of bringing Dalits forward, whether it is the question of reservation for OBCs, whether it is the question of land loot, he did the work of breaking his promise, so that the Dalit tribal community of Jharkhand, which stood with him with faith, has withdrawn its support today. Mr. Nayak further said that the leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party and NDA should not do much work of celebrating because the people of Jharkhand have also seen the working style

of BJP NDA government for 15 years, tested it, understood it, extinguished it. NDA leaders should do the work of not dreaming of Mungerilal. If he comes back to power again in the 24 Vidhansabha elections, then Jharkhandi society will never allow his vision to be fulfilled and in the coming days, a new third power will emerge as an alternative in Jharkhand by rounding up small powers in the alternative of UPA and NDA. It will be presented in a form which reflects the feelings of the son of the soil of Jharkhand. Will be consistent and the third power will be dedicated towards Jharkhandi society.



PM meets the Italian Prime Minister, Ms. Giorgia Meloni, in New Delhi

KCR's Party Protest In Telangana Over Cooking Gas Price Hike



Hyderabad: The ruling Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) on Thursday held protest demonstrations across Telangana against the hike in the price of LPG cylinders and requested the Centre to roll back the increased amount. BRS Ministers including T Harish Rao, Mohd Mahmood Ali, T Srinivas Yadav, V Prashant Reddy, V Srinivas Goud, G Jagadish Reddy, E

Dayakar Rao, party leaders and workers took part in protests that were organised in Hyderabad and other places across the State. Telangana Minister K T Rama Rao tweeted: "Congratulations to the 'Double Engine' NPA Government on successfully Tripling the LPG Cylinder prices". The protesters including women squatted on roads with LPG cylinders.

The agitators also blocked roads in some places and raised slogans while holding placards that read "BJP ko hatao- Desk ko bachao" and "Modi Sarkar Down Down". Cooking gas price on Wednesday was hiked by 50 per cent -- the first increase in rates in almost eight months -- that came within days of end of northeastern States

Have Lot Of Respect For Gautam Adani, His Company": Former Australia PM

New Delhi: Former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, a known backer of Adani Group's coal mine projects in his country, today came out in support of the embattled group's Chairman Gautam Adani, saying he has a lot of admiration and respect for the tycoon and his company. Mr Abbott, who had in 2015 as the Prime Minister of Australia decried a court ruling against Adani Group's Carmichael coal mine project, said the relevant regulators will "do their job" regarding any allegation of wrongdoing by the apples-to-airport conglomerate. As much as USD 140 billion of the market value of the conglomerate's listed companies was wiped out after US short seller Hindenburg Research on January 24 accused the Adani empire of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud" and using a number of offshore



companies to inflate stock prices. Adani Group has denied all allegations and called them an attack on India. "I have a lot of respect and admiration for Adani and Adani Group," Mr Abbott said at a media briefing here. The coal produced from Adani's Carmichael mines in Australia "will certainly be part of the ongoing process of electrification here in India". "I am all in favour of Adani mine. I think Adani and his team for what they have done to

provide electricity to Indians and jobs and prosperity to Australia," he said. In 2015, when a local court revoked the environmental approval for the Adani building one of the world's largest coal mine in Queensland, Abbot had stated that it was "tragic for a wider world" if legal safeguards are allowed to stall large mining projects. The group, in 2019, received the final and last approval for the project and coal mined from Carmichael is routinely shipped to Indian power plants to

produce electricity. On the allegations by Hindenburg Research, Mr Abbott said that he has not seen the details of the report and "I assume if there is anything in them, the relevant corporate regulators will do their job". "As far as I am concerned I regard Adani as a benefactor to Australia and I admire his success in building up a very large diverse business empire from scratch," he said. On India-Australia trade relations, he said the Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

implemented between the two countries would help boost economic ties and bilateral trade. "The existing FTA is good... can it be further developed? Yes, it can (be) and my understanding is that the trade ministers (of both the countries) will start discussions in coming days (on expanding the scope of the existing trade deal)," he said. Mr Abbott also said that businesses of both sides should formulate strategies to take advantage of the agreement. "I will make it my personal mission... to make India a much more important strategic partner of Australia than China," the former prime minister said. In recent times, he said it was observed that China is using trade as a weapon against Australia and India would never do anything like that. "India will always going to be a much more reliable economic partner (than China)," he said.

Kolkata(ABHIJIT SETH):On the eve of World Disability Prevention Day, observed on 3 March 2023 throughout the world, Press Club Kolkata joined hands with the Spina Bifida Foundation West Bengal and The Indian Society for Paediatric Neurosurgery Association to initiate a campaign to prevent the disability of the new borns. Addressing a Press Conference at the Press Club Kolkata, eminent Neuro Surgeon Dr. Sandip Chatterjee called for a campaign and a strategic policy decision to put Folic Acid in the iodized salt

so that all can have it along with all women of childbearing age. All women of childbearing age need to consume adequate amounts of folic acid. Folic acid is given to pregnant women mainly to prevent anaemia. During the initial stages of pregnancy when the foetal head or central nervous system of a child is formed, the mother's body needs extra folic acid in their blood to stop the horrendous disability in the new-born called spina bifida. Eminent Professor of Neuro Surgery Dr. Sandip Chatterjee attended the special session organized at Press Club Kolkata and said, "We

need fortification with folic acid in sufficient doses to reduce this a l m o s t completely preventable congenital disease. The need is awareness and willingness, the time to act is now". Noted Pediatric Surgeon Dr. Subhasis Sahatao attended the session and said, "All patients with spina bifida are born with normal kidneys, but many of them go on to develop renal failure in later life. This is fully preventable if parents can be counselled from the first day of life about the possibility. Proper care of bladder and bowel should be initiated from the beginning".

RUNNING OF SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN KOLKATA-PURI-KOLKATA

Kolkata: Keeping in view the extra rush of the passengers, the South Eastern Railway (SER) authority has decided to run a Special train between Kolkata-Puri-Kolkata leaving Kolkata every Sunday from March 5, 2023 to March 26, 2023 and leaving Puri

every Monday from March 6, 2023 to March 27, 2023. The 03101 Kolkata-Puri Special will leave Kolkata at 11.40 pm at night and will reach Puri at 9.35 am, the next day. In the return direction, the 03102 Puri-Kolkata Special will leave

Puri at 3.50 pm and will arrive at Kolkata at 2.00 am, the next day. The Special train will have stoppages at Andul, Kharagpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Khurda Road stations en route.

SANTRAGACHHI-PURI-SANTRAGACHHI SPECIAL TO CONTINUE

Kolkata: With a view to clear the extra rush of passengers, the South Eastern Railway (SER) authority has decided to continue the running of

Santragachhi-Puri-Santragachhi Special as per the given schedule:- The 02837 Santragachhi-Puri Special will continue

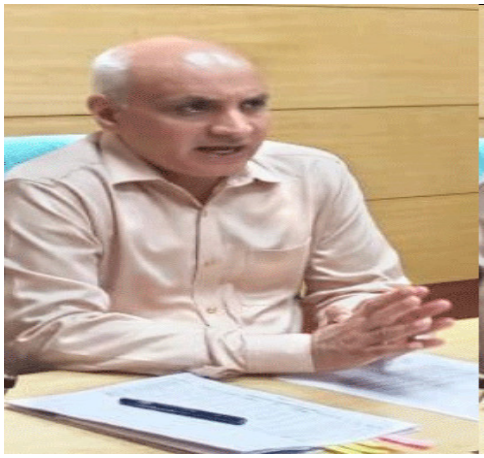
to run till April 28, 2023 (Every Friday). The 02838 Puri-Santragachhi Special will continue to run till April 29, 2023 (Every Saturday).

OBC Survey Soon

Bhubaneswar: The State Government has asked Collectors and Municipal Commissioners to resume the survey for enumeration of other backward classes (OBCs) in the State and complete it by July second week.

Member Secretary of Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes (OSCBC), Vir Vikram Yadav has recently written a letter to all Collectors and Commissioners of Municipal Corporations, in this regard.

"The Government of Odisha has been pleased to accept the proposal of the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes (OSCBC) to resume the survey of the social and educational conditions of the



people belonging to backward classes in Odisha," Shri Yadav said.

Various activities under the survey shall be carried out as per the revised schedule, he said.

The Collectors and Commissioners of Municipal Corporations will be in overall charge of the survey and hence they

prepared and sent to the Commission by the first week of March, 2023," he stated.

The Collectors and Commissioners have been asked to ensure that the detailed action points are carried out promptly to avoid any dislocation in the survey process.

They have been directed to ensure that enumerators and supervisors retiring by July 31, 2023, are not deployed for the survey. It has also been instructed to identify the venue for training and arrange logistics.

The Collectors have been further asked to make provisions of adequate number of vehicles for the surveys.

The Odisha Government had requested the

Government of India to insert appropriate columns in the Census Format 2021 to get a clear picture regarding the socio-economic and educational status of Socially Educationally Backward Classes, OBC and other classes. However, the Centre rejected the request of the state. Following which, the State Government has set up the Commission to conduct enumeration of other backward classes (OBCs) in the state. However, the survey work was halted due to Covid-19 pandemic.

As per available data, OBCs constitute more than 50% of the State's population followed by tribals (22.85%), SC (22.85%), upper caste (6%), Muslims 2.17% and others 2%.

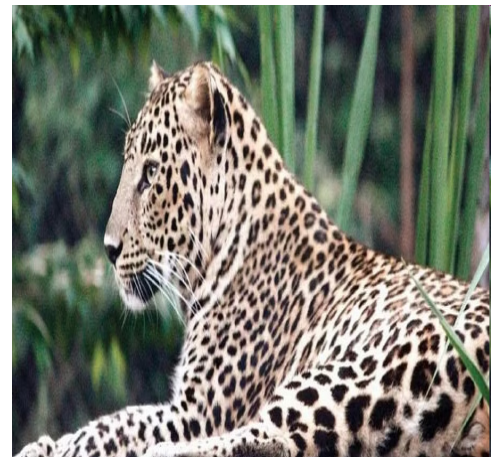
Leopard keeps forest personnel on toes

ROURKELA (KCN):

A leopard that strayed into Gelaibahal village in Bargaon village of Sundargarh district, kept forest officials on toes for several hours on Wednesday.

The leopard which hid in a bush for hours before moving on to another, had allegedly strayed into the village from nearby Runga reserve forest. While one of the leopard's legs got entangled in a plastic net, the animal somehow managed to set itself free and hid in a bush nearby.

On being informed, a team of forest personnel led by Sundargarh DFO Pradeep Mirasa reached the spot and cordoned off the bush with long plastic nets



to prevent the animal from entering human settlement. A team from Rourkela tried to tranquilise the leopard with darts which failed to hit the target.

The leopard then moved to another bush where it remained holed up. Mirasa said the movement of the

leopard is being tracked and efforts are on to guide it towards Runga reserve forest, around four km from the village. He said it is the first such incident reported from the area. While no local was attacked by the leopard, the animal is in good health.

Cuttack Municipal Corporation to rope in govt agencies for big projects



CUTTACK: Even though the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has more than 20 engineers, the civic body has started hiring different government agencies for carrying out different projects as it is lacking adequate manpower and technical experts. The construction of Biswanath Pandit Central Library, CMC office (Biju Bhawan)

expansion, Bali sahi gheri bandha on Kathajodi riverbank, multi-purpose park and food court near Judicial Academy have been assigned to Odisha Police Housing and Welfare Corporation, while construction of seven smart parks in CDA locality, working women's hostel at Buxi Bazar, community hall and

library, development of Gora Kabar have been assigned to Odisha Small Industries Corporation. CMC's executive engineer D R Tripathy said the civic body lacks adequate manpower and technical experts for implementation of big projects. Besides, the private agencies are delaying in completion of the projects in time.

This move of the CMC has not gone down well with the corporators. "We cannot find the reason behind assigning works to government agencies while the CMC has more than 20 engineers. It shows their inefficiency towards implementation of these projects," said corporator Gagan Ojha.

Jumbo herds spread panic in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district

BARIPADA: Residents of Betnoti and Baisinga in Baripada forest division of Mayurbhanj district are living in fear for the last five days after two elephant herds entered human settlements and damaged property.

While one of the herds has nine elephants including two tuskers, four females and three calves, the second has eight jumbos including a tusker, four females and three calves. The herds strayed into human settlements and have been roaming in the division for the last five days. Rajat Singh of Mantapal



village said the elephants that entered the villages in search of food, have also damaged houses in the area.

The elephants are also damaging harvested paddy affecting farmers. The Forest department should at least compensate for damage to property caused by the jumbos, he said, adding farmers of Betnoti, Baisinga, Morada and

Rasgovindpur are suffering for the last five to seven years due to their crops which are often damaged by the elephants.


A forest officer said the herds have damaged at least seven houses, five in Agada village and two in Nuagaon. This apart, a house in Durgapur under Neda gram panchayat in Baisinga has been partially damaged by the herds.

The herd comprising nine elephants is roaming in Badampur reserve forest and the other is in Sukhilakhali forest. While the Forest department is keeping a watch on the herds, it has asked the affected residents to upload the photographs of their damaged houses and other documents in 'Anukampa' app for a v a i l i n g compensation.



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Capri Global Appoints Coaching Beyond as Consultant for UAE ILT20 League

Mumbai: Capri Global has announced an association with Coaching Beyond, a premier cricket coaching institute, as a consultant for the franchise team of the UAE ILT20 League. The institution will assist Capri Global in appointment of coaching staff and matters related to cricket operations. R Sridhar, former fielding coach of the Indian Cricket Team and one of the founding members of Coaching Beyond, will be the Director of Cricket for Capri Global during the UAE ILT20 League. Capri Global intends to strengthen the cricket ecosystem on the global platform by engaging the right sporting talent and nurturing them. The company aims to play a vital role as an enabler by empowering deserving talent to showcase their sporting strength to the globe. Speaking on the association, Mr. Rajesh Sharma, Director, Capri Global, said, "Capri Global aims to reinforce the visibility and

popularity of sports nationally and globally and popularize homegrown sports to create opportunities for aspiring talent. We are pleased to associate with Coaching Beyond, a brainchild of sports stalwarts who will assist us in evaluating the deserving talent and offer state-of-the-art sports training infrastructure, world-class technology, and training to sportspeople. Mr. Sridhar's experience as a player and coach is almost unrivaled and his strategic insights, coaching approach, and collaborative style will be invaluable for our franchise team. We see great synergy coming through this alliance, including a host of exciting moments that are set to elevate the cricketing experience for the Indian audience on the global platform." Coaching Beyond is a premier cricket coaching institute in India that provides performance-driven

cricket coaching, training, and education to individuals, teams, and coaches from the grassroots to various experience levels. It has recently launched its first high-performance cricket academy in Hyderabad and is on track to launch its second project in Chennai by August. R Sridhar, Co-Founder of Coaching Beyond, said, "We are delighted to announce our partnership with Capri Global for the upcoming UAE ILT20 League. It is an exciting opportunity to work and do justice to the enormous cricketing talent and add value to the international platform. With a focused team effort, inclusive vision, and holistic approach, we can achieve consistent success during the tournament. We are confident that the League will be a grand success and are looking forward to a successful season".

Ashok Leyland launches industry first 8-wheel truck – AVTR 2620

Chennai: Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja Group and India's leading commercial vehicle manufacturer, today, launched the industry first 8-wheeler truck – AVTR 2620. With this launch of AVTR 2620, Ashok Leyland becomes the first and only player in the country to have a full range of trucks based on lift axle technology from GVW of 25.5 to 47.5T. This new product can be operated as 25.5 T (6x2) truck with the lift axle down (offering

payload closer to regular 6x2 MAV truck) and a 4x2 truck (18.5T GVW) with lift axle up (lower fuel and operating cost similar to 4x2) during light load/partial load/return empty. This new product thus offers an excellent operational flexibility to customers to choose the option based on their load, offering best-in-class Total Cost of Operation (TCO) benefits. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head - M&HCV, Ashok Leyland, said,

"Ashok Leyland has a history of introducing products which have disrupted the CV industry. AVTR 2620 with its unique lift axle configuration offers higher TCO advantage to our customers operating in Ecom, Parcel & tanker. AVTR 2620 is a testament of Ashok Leyland's technological prudence & our commitment towards providing better logistical solutions to our customers, aligning with our philosophy of AppkiJeet, HamariJeet."

AirAsia India launches Splash Sale with fares starting at Rs1,620

New Delhi: AirAsia India announced the launch of a splash sale with fares starting at ₹1,620, while riding on the launch of its loyalty marketing campaign and inviting flyers to sign up on its website or mobile app to "make the most of fast bookings, fab deals and fantastic value" with the NeuPass. Special sale fares are open for advance booking till 3rd June for travel from 20th June till 14 Dec 2022 and include fares such as Bengaluru-Chennai at Rs1,620. The sale fares are bookable on AirAsia India's website www.airasia.co.in, mobile app and partner booking channels.

As reported by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), AirAsia India topped the charts with 94.8% On Time Performance while also having the lowest cancellation percentage (0.00%) in April 2022.

Get your daily grocery needs fulfilled during Super Value Days on Amazon Fresh

Bhubaneswar: Get ready to shop for daily grocery essentials during Amazon.in 'Super Value Days' till 7th June, 2022. Customers can avail up to 50% off on fresh produce, daily and household essentials, packaged foods, personal care, baby products, pet care essentials and much more. They can enjoy grocery deals starting at ₹1 and free delivery for prime members. Customers can also avail great prices and fresh offers from popular brands including Daawat, Fortune, Tata, Nestle, Godrej, Cadbury, and Himalaya among others at convenient delivery slots options from a single online destination. Credit card holders can avail of an instant discount of 10% by using SBI Bank Credit Card and Credit EMI with a minimum transaction of INR 2,500, and discounts up to INR 300 till 3rd June 2022. From 4th to 7th June 2022, customers can avail of an instant discount of 10% by using ICICI Bank Credit Card and Credit EMI with a minimum transaction of INR 2,500, and discounts up to INR 500.

Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

Mumbai: Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the

Bhubaneswar: TP Central Odisha Distribution Ltd. (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Government of Odisha, today celebrated the completion of two years of its successful operations in Odisha. In its first two years, TPCODL has extensively leveraged technology for reliable power supply. The company has kept its prime focus on customer centricity, network augmentation, safety and infrastructure refurbishment for improvement of the overall scenario in electricity distribution in its licensed area of operations. TPCODL serves a huge population of 1.36 crore with a customer base of more than 27.5 lakh and a vast distribution area of 29,354 sq. km. in the state. To improve customer experience, TPCODL has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen distribution infrastructure, adopt new technologies and

digitalize its services. Strengthened network and developed robust distribution infrastructure. In the past two years, the company has taken a number of proactive steps on maintenance that have resulted in robust distribution infrastructure. Condition-based maintenance systems like Thermography and Dissolved Gas Analysis are used by the company to detect the lifespan of equipment and perform maintenance at right time. Such initiatives helped in a 37% reduction in 11kV interruptions and a 64% reduction in 33kV interruptions on a Y-o-Y basis during FY2021-22. Additionally, the company has added, augmented and replaced overhead 33 kV electric wires of over 100 circuit kilometres (ckms) and 11kV wires of more than 1100 ckms. TPCODL has also added 42,743 new LT and HT poles, refurbished more than 1,000 distribution substations (DSS) apart from strengthening

around 10,900 poles and concreting 37800 poles. Ensured customer centricity. Keeping customer satisfaction at the core, TPCODL took many steps for addressing customers' pain points and resolve their issues at the earliest. The company has set up 15 customer care centers including the new ones at Dhenkanal, Paradip, Salipur and Jagatsinghpur. TPCODL systematically reached out to both rural and urban customers. The company organised over 660 camps in various villages through its Gaon Chalo initiative and 46 Resident Welfare Meetings in different housing societies to reach rural and urban customers respectively. Taking a step towards innovation, TPCODL introduced a mobile compact substation for maintaining continuity of power supply in emergency conditions. To ensure seamless complaint registration and bill payments, TPCODL adopted digital solutions such as the TPCODL

Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd. placed in Leadership position in CRISIL's Sustainability Yearbook, 2022

Mumbai: In recognition of its relentless commitment towards sustainability and the environment, Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd (KNPL) has been placed in the 'Leadership' category in the CRISIL Sustainability Yearbook 2022. The company is one among the only 14 companies that have been placed in this category for their ESG initiatives. Further, Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd has earned the highest ESG score amongst paint and manufacturing companies. This recognition further reinforces the company's commitment towards nurturing a beautiful and healthy world for future generations. The CRISIL

Sustainability Yearbook is one of the most comprehensive annual publications based on CRISIL's proprietary ESG framework on Indian companies. Analyzing over 575 companies across 53 sectors in India based on data from the fiscal data from 2021, the Yearbook covers the latest global and domestic developments in the ESG space, incorporation of climate risks by global financial institutions, decarbonization of hard-to-abate sectors in India, implications of transitioning from BRR to BRSR for Indian companies and showcases insights on ESG trends based on the scores and data of the Indian companies.

Commenting on the achievement, Mr. Anuj Jain, Managing Director, Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd. said, "We are elated to be placed in the 'Leadership' position in the CRISIL Sustainability Yearbook 2022. This report is a testament to our commitment towards sustainability. At Nerolac, sustainability is at the forefront of all our operations to deliver value to our stakeholders. ESG continues to remain a priority and that has helped us create a positive impact on our communities and the environment. We will continue increasing our ESG efforts as we focus on growing our business sustainably."

Unacademy produces 178 Rankers for UPSC CSE 2021

Bhubaneswar: Unacademy, India's largest learning platform*, today announced that 178 out of 685 rank holders of UPSC CSE 2021 are Unacademy Learners. Among the top rankers from the Unacademy platform are Gamini Singla (AIR - 3), Aishwarya Verma (AIR - 4), Utkarsh Dwivedi (AIR - 5) and Yaksh Chaudhary (AIR - 6). 3 Learners have secured ranks between 1-5, 32 have secured ranks from 6-100 and 143 have secured AIRs from 101-685.

From the 178 Rankers, 45 Learners were Unacademy's Plus/ Iconic subscribers guided by India's Top Educators. The other rankers were guided by Unacademy's Last Mile Programme for UPSC CSE 2021 Interview. Last Mile Programme is an interview guidance program for the last stage of the UPSC CSE exam that helps Learners who have qualified the Mains exam to crack the Personal Interview stage. The questions are asked by retired bureaucrats, former UPSC members and Top Educators in a mock set-up. In last year's Unacademy's Interview Guidance Program 170+ Rankers qualified the Interview stage by securing AIR 2.

Blue Dart signs the UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now Pledge

Bhubaneswar: Blue Dart, South Asia's premier express air and integrated transportation & distribution company and a part of the Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group has signed the 'Climate Neutral Now' (CNN) pledge by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The pledge highlights the organisation's commitment to ambitious CO2 reduction targets. Deutsche Post DHL Group has adopted a package of measures worth up to ₹7 billion to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, primarily to expand the use of sustainable technologies and fuels in its fleets and buildings. Its long term goal is to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by

India to see largest increase in energy demand worldwide over the next 20 years, says Infomerics

New Delhi,: India faces the twin dilemma of co-existence of shortage and abundance in several parts of its energy system. While the provision of electricity has increased significantly over the years, weak institutions and utility governance hamper the power sector's financial performance with issues of accountability, operational efficiency, customer service, and transmission to state-level transmission institutions. The sector takes a huge and grossly unacceptable hit due to extensive losses, leakages and pilferages, and the cost recovery

from tariffs. These are some major findings of a report titled Power Sector in India: New Emerging Opportunities and Challenges released by Infomerics Valuation and Rating Pvt Ltd., the well-known SEBI-registered and RBI-accredited financial services credit rating company. The report explores the opportunities and challenges ahead for India as it seeks to ensure reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for a growing population. During FY20 and FY19, the growth of electricity generation was lower than in the previous financial years because

of the impact of COVID-19. The report quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) stating that during FY21 recovery in electricity demand from the COVID-19 pandemic was faster and stronger in India than in EU countries. India is the third-largest producer and the third-largest consumer of electricity in the world. With the increasing population, electricity demand is rising at a fast clip and India has improved its power generation capacity over the years. India has added more than 500 billion units until FY22 from FY10.

Statement by State Bank of India

Mumbai: Shri Vijay Kumar, Branch Manager, Arreah branch of Ellaquai Dehati Bank (EBD), a Srinagar-headquartered Regional Rural Bank sponsored by SBI was shot dead today in the branch premises by a terrorist. Vijay Kumar, who belonged to

Rajasthan, was just 29 years old and had joined EBD in March 2019. Vijay Kumar was one of many such bankers hailing from different parts of the country, who are working in the Kashmir Valley and other difficult places to ensure delivery of

uninterrupted banking services to the public. SBI, as the sponsor of Ellaquai Dehati Bank, remains committed to ensure the safety and well-being of all its employees, including those posted in the Valley.

2050. The Climate Neutral Now Initiative encourages and supports interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The initiative is a tool to promote voluntary action on climate change. Blue Dart has already invested extensively in remaining a Sustainable Provider of Choice by being the first

in the industry to set quantified carbon-reduction targets. The organisation, as a part of the Deutsche Post DHL Group aimed to increase their CO2 efficiency by 10% by the year 2012 and 30% by the year 2020. Against the 30% target, Blue Dart achieved a 34% CO2 efficiency in 2021. Pablo Ciano, EVP Corporate Development, DPDHL Group says, "As a Group, we have

developed a Sustainability Roadmap that supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are constantly working towards introducing innovative green logistics solutions that improve our carbon footprint. I am delighted to share that representing the DHL eCommerce Solutions Division in India, Blue Dart has been delivering high on its sustainability initiatives."

Australia's Nathan Lyon takes 8, India stare at defeat in Indore

Indore: Silence descended swiftly at the Holkar Stadium. Some had their hands on head; some stared blankly into the waning sun, some turned their heads away and began to leave their seats. A supremely composed knock from Cheteshwar Pujara had woken up the audience from the post-noon nap and filled their hearts with hope and joy. The stands turned livelier, heaving with the prospects of a comeback. But just then, shredding the last shreds of hope, Steve Smith, at leg-slip, flung low and quick to his right and pounced with one hand a glide off Pujara, like a spider would a fly. The passage captured the narrative of the day — one of long pauses and spontaneous thrills.

As opposed to the violent tunes of Day One, this was a day of slow riffs interspersed with sudden, high-tempo notes. It was a day culled from the pages of Boycott's era rather than the Bazball milieu, and at the end of it, Australia would fancy themselves in hunting down the target of 75, barring a miracle of epic-scale. The match would seem to flow smoothly, like a river in autumn, before it would furiously explode, like after a monsoon downpour. The scorebook would lie — 16 wickets on the day implies dramatic, thrilling action. But it was rather a day of old-fashioned attrition, of being cold and calculative, patient and persistent. Bowlers had to labour for wickets, batsmen had to toil for runs under the baking

Indore sun. The day saw-sawed, supremacy of the game switching hands, but everything unfolded incrementally rather than hurriedly, as though it was a longer day than usual, as though there was more action than it actually transpired. The game slow-burned for most of the day, seldom catching fire. For an hour in the morning, India's bowlers restlessly ploughed for a flurry of wickets that would put them back in the game. Mohammed Siraj would get a look-in; all of Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel were rotated in wishfulness that someone would bargain a wicket. The strip seemed largely anaesthetised, but then it would suddenly wake up and pull out an odd party-trick, as if to say that it is still conscious, and



return to sleep again. Nothing untoward happened, even as Jadeja and Axar tried too hard to coerce the evil side of the pitch. Then, soon after the drinks break, Ashwin produced the breakthrough, removing the stubborn Peter Handscomb, who chewed up 98 balls for his 19. This was no trick of the pitch but the craft of Ashwin, who sow the

fear of lbw in Handscomb's mind by probing the middle-and-leg stump line from around the stumps, making him more conscious of the bat coming across the front-pad. Then came Umesh Yadav and scythed through the lower order, orchestrating a dramatic collapse, Australia losing six wickets for mere 12 runs. Hope flickered again. An

88-run lead is daunting enough, but the second and third sessions tend to be relatively easier for batting, when the sun has sucked the moisture that makes the ball snap and bite. A roaring applause greeted Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill to the crease. Every run was applauded; every block was cheered; every four inspired delirium. Then, all smiles stopped altogether, when Gill

logged hideously to get bowled. Whirled a sense of foreboding that the day might end in tears. For nearly 10 overs, Rohit and Pujara revived belief, displaying composure and common sense. Then the inspired Lyon gobbled up Rohit, who misjudged the length to be trapped in front. Ensued another dreary stretch of silence when the gazes of the spectators wandered aimlessly and their focus drifted. Excitement burst forth again, when Kohli crashed the tiring Matthew Kuhnemann through covers. There was something about Kohli, who looked assertive and defiant to end his century drought. Perhaps, in the blood-rush of the moment, he pulled a ball he judged was short, but it kept just a fraction low to blast his pads. It was a marginal decision, in that the

review reckoned all three parameters as the umpire's call. On such fine margins hinge the outcome of a match. Kohli was distraught, and the crowd gasped in despair. But there was still hope; after all it's a country obsessed with miracles. Assurance assumed the frame of Pujara, who produced a masterclass on subduing a turner. He was impenetrable against his nemesis Lyon, defending him robustly on the front-foot, stepping out to dishevel his lengths and making him resort to unusual fields and plans. Such was his conviction that he glided out to the pitch and drove him through cover. He would flick, cut, drive and punish anything marginally punishable with aplomb to help India erase the deficit and swell the lead, and hardly ever did he look fazed.

Virat Kohli's Dancing Moves Entertain Crowd In Indore After Batting Failure



New Delhi: Former India captain Virat Kohli has failed to fire with the bat in the Border Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) Test series against Australia so far. Kohli top-scored with 22 in the first innings of the third Test at the Holkar Stadium in Indore as India were bowled out for just 109 on Day 1 on Wednesday (March 1). Kohli has managed just 98 runs in the 3 Tests so far with a best of 44 runs

in Delhi. However, the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) batter kept the crowd entertained as India took the field after lunch on Day 1. Kohli's dancing moves enthralled the crowd in Australia's first innings. Meanwhile, Team India batting coach Vikram Rathour spoke to the media after the end of Day 1. Asked, if the batters deviated from their plans, Rathour

replied in negative. "Not really. The plan was to trust your defense and wait for the loose balls and score as many as runs you can. It was one of those days when everything you did went into the hands (of fielders). Basically we just had an off day," Rathour said on Wednesday. Australia were guilty of playing uber-aggressive cricket in the Delhi Test. On Wednesday, the likes

of Rohit Sharma, Shreyas Iyer and Ravindra Jadeja fell while going for their strokes. Cheteshwar Pujara tried to score off a ripper that turned back sharply from wide of off-stump. "That was misjudgement in the length. He (Pujara) saw a ball which was outside off stump and expected it to come straighter but it turned. It was a misjudgement which can happen. On Rohit, this is how he bats, he likes to take the game on and score runs. Most days it comes off, today it didn't," said the batting coach. At stumps on Day 1, Australia lead India by 47 runs with Peter Handscomb and all-rounder Cameron Green in the middle and the score reading 156 for 4. India lead the series 2-0 after winning the first two Tests in Nagpur and Delhi.

Malan credits domestic experience in Bangladesh after match-winning ton

New Delhi: England batter Dawid Malan said that his experience of playing domestic cricket helped him during his match-winning knock in the opening ODI against Bangladesh which the visitors won by three wickets. Malan, who featured in two matches for champions Comilla Victorians, struck an unbeaten 114 in a tricky chase of 210 in Dhaka on Wednesday (March 1) to help England take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.



England were struggling at 103/5 at one stage and later slipped to 161/7. But Malan put on an unbroken 51-run partnership with Adil Rashid for the eighth wicket to see his team over the line with eight deliveries to spare. "The more you can play in different conditions, the more your game grows.

Whether you are successful in the past or not, it is just great to learn in different conditions. I have had some experience here. It is not the easiest wicket to start on. It is to trust the method to get through the tough times, and cash in towards the end and especially when it gets dewy," Malan said. Malan added that his experience in the Dhaka Premier League, Bangladesh's list A competition, helped him

play spin in a different way. He played for Prime Dholeswar Sporting Club in 2013-14 and 2014-15, featuring in 24 matches in DPL. "It was brilliant to play two seasons for them. It helped my game. You get to play the ball a lot squarer in England. Here, the wickets are skiddy during the day. It gets better as the game goes on and gets slower in the evening. I had to learn to play spin in a different way than I

helped my game progress massively before the franchise stuff happened. It was a massive help," said Malan, who played his first game for England in Bangladesh. Malan rated this innings as one of his best knocks. "I think even domestic cricket, talking about knocks that you, when you retire you can walk away, thinking it was extremely satisfying, this was definitely up there. Just the situation of the game, to be out there in the end. It is one of my better innings in my whole career." It got a bit dewy, and the ball was skidding on. We started early because the dew plays a massive factor here. We thought that it might get slightly easier in the end, if we were still in the game. Key was to keep yourself in the game as long as

Bangladesh pick uncapped trio for England T20Is

Dhaka: The Bangladesh Cricket Board has included three uncapped cricketers - Towhid Hridoy, Rejaur Rahman Raja and Tanvir Islam in their 15-member squad for the opening two T20Is of the three-match series against England at home. Apart from the trio, opening batsman Rony Talukdar returned to the national squad after a gap of eight years via his brilliant batting performances in the Bangladesh Premier League. Talukdar represented Bangladesh in this shortest format only once back in 2015 but has now forced his way back into the side. Shamim Hossain also returned to the side for the first time since 2021.

"All of them performed well in the BPL and that is the reason we picked them. Rony really played well in the tournament while it was the same for Shamim and as far as the debutants are concerned they did well in the shortest format to earn their spot," BCB's chief selector Minhajul Abedin told Cricbuzz on Wednesday. Minhajul added that though they have dropped- Yasir Ali, Soumya Sarkar, Ebadot Hossain, Mosaddek Hossain and Shoriful Islam - who were part of the last T20 squad which toured Australia for the ICC T20 World Cup, the doors are not completely closed on them. "We are going to sit with them in the coming days to

discuss with them about our plans because they are under our 20 to 22 members pool," he said. The three-match T20I series will start in Chattogram on March 9. The second and third games are scheduled in Dhaka on March 12 and 14 respectively. This will be the first bilateral T20 international series between the two teams. Bangladesh squad: Shakib Al Hasan (capt), Liton Das, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Afif Hossain, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Nasum Ahmed, Nurul Hasan Sohan, Shamim Hossain, Rony Talukdar, Towhid Hridoy, Rejaur Rahman Raja and Tanvir Islam

Archer available for entire IPL, workload set to be managed

Mumbai : Mumbai Indians, facing the prospect of missing spearhead Jasprit Bumrah for the entire season of the Indian Premier League (IPL), have got a much-needed impetus. Jofra Archer, the English fast bowler plagued by injuries in recent times, has been confirmed as a certainty for the full season. Officials of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the IPL have confirmed this to Cricbuzz on Wednesday (March 1). "He should be able to play a full part in the IPL and as always his franchise and the ECB will manage his workload," an ECB source said while an IPL counterpart added saying, "Jofra is very much available, have you



not seen him in action in the Dhaka ODI." How the workload is remotely managed by a home board has been a matter of debate among the franchise circles but as once reported by this website, the foreign boards insist on their players, mainly the fast bowlers, not to be used for a certain number of

games at a stretch, the number of balls to be bowled in a net session and regular updates on their fitness. Archer was part of the England ODI squad against Bangladesh in Dhaka on Wednesday when he finished with two for 37 in 10 overs. England are in Bangladesh for three

ODIs and three T20Is, which run till March 14 and after that he could be travelling to India. He is expected to be available for the five-time champions and lead their attack from their first game, against Royal Challengers Bangalore at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on April 2. Mumbai Indians had invested in Archer by buying him for Rs 8 crore in the 2022 mega auction despite knowing the Barbados-born English pacer will not be available for the season. They had planned to form a formidable pace combo of Bumrah and Archer in their arsenal. In a rather quirk of fate

the franchise would be missing out on the services of Bumrah but their investment on Archer seems to be yielding returns. Archer missed out on competitive cricket for close to 18 months -- the second half of 2021 and almost full year of 2022. He played his first major competitive game for MI Cape Town, a fully owned subsidiary of the Mumbai Indians management, in the SA20 in January. He played five games in the tournament and played for England as well in the three-match ODI series against South Africa. Meanwhile, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is yet to inform the MI management about Bumrah's unavailability.