

Nitish Meets Naveen Three Ultras Killed

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) Veteran, Nitish Kumar met his Odisha counterpart and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) President Naveen Patnaik here at Naveen Niwas on Tuesday. Both the Chief Ministers have lunch together. However, no discussion was held about forming an alliance.

"I am delighted that Nitish Ji is here in Bhubaneswar. We are old friends and colleagues. We have served together under the Vajpayee Government. We were discussing allocation of land in Puri for tourists from Bihar," CM Patnaik said.

The Chief Minister said 1.5 acres of land will be given to the Bihar Government at Puri free of cost for the Bihar tourists and pilgrims, who come to visit the temple of Lord Jagannath.

"No discussion was held about any alliance today," he clarified when



media persons asked about BJD's joining in the possible alliance of anti-BJP parties.

"Glad to meet #Bihar Chief Minister Shri @NitishKumar in #Bhubaneswar. #Odisha shares a special bond with Bihar and the people of the neighbouring state. Hope he had a pleasant and fruitful stay in Odisha," Shri Patnaik tweeted sharing few pictures of the meet.

Nitish Kumar said he has an old relationship with Naveen Patnaik and his father Biju Patnaik. "I was frequently meeting Naveenji. However, due to Covid-19 pandemic, I was not able to meet him. So, I wanted to meet him," the Bihar CM said. When asked about whether there was any political discussion between the two top leaders, the JDU leader, with a smiling face, replied, "Don't worry

about political things. We have such a strong relationship, there is no need to think about political issues and, also, don't compare it with any others." The Bihar CM and JD(U) Veteran had recently announced that he would travel across the country to unite opposition parties ahead of the Lok Sabha polls next year. He has already met Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, and Left leaders Sitaram Yechury and D Raja.

In March, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee had met Naveen Patnaik. During that time also, both the leaders have denied any discussion on formation of a third front or any alliance. However, they had advocated for strengthening of federal structure in India.

Following the break-up of the BJD-BJP coalition government in 2009, the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD has been maintaining equal distance from both BJP and Congress. Besides, it is not much interested to be involved in national politics. The regional party always says its focus is on the interest of Odisha and its people.

Bhubaneswar(KCN):

Three Maoists gunned down by security forces during an exchange of fire with security personnel in forest area under M Rampur police station of Kalahandi district. A DSP rank police official also sustained bullet injury in the exchange of fire. The encounter took place in the Taparanga forest under Madanpur-Rampur police station of Kalahandi district. On this morning, an operation was launched by SIW Team in Taparanga Reserve Forest under M. Rampur Police limits of Kalahandi district basing on a specific intelligence input regarding presence of armed Maoist cadres in the area and their plan to carry out subversive attacks. While the team was conducting a search operation in the area, they came under indiscriminate firing from Maoists. The Team retaliated the



fire in self-defence in a controlled and restrained manner, officials said.

In this exchange of fire one deputy superintendent rank officer sustained bullet injury. Three Maoists were neutralized in this incident, they said.

One AK-47 rifle along with other weapons, ammunition and incriminating articles of Maoists have been recovered from the spot. Operational teams have been sent to the area for search and operations have been launched in the vicinity for

apprehending the other Maoist cadres.

Briefing media persons here, DGP Sunil Bansal said, "An exchange of fire was reported from M. Rampur police station area. We have recovered dead bodies of three Maoists. From the seizure of one AK-47 shows that they might be senior Maoist cadres,"

One police official has also sustained bullet injury in the exchange of fire, but he is out of danger, Shri Bansal said, adding, "We are evacuating him to Bhubaneswar for better treatment."

Further search operations are going on in the area. The DGP once again appealed to the Naxals to shun violence activities and join the mainstream of society.

In neighbouring Chhatisgarh, 10 District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawans and a civilian driver were killed on April 26 in a Naxal attack in the Dantewada area.

Pact For Health Care



Bhubaneswar: Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Odisha, and the Forum for Health Systems Design and Transformation (Health System Transformation Platform or HSTP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the state's health systems.

The MoU was signed on 8 May 2023. The Health System Transformation Platform (HSTP) has been supporting health system strengthening in Odisha since 2019. Odisha is one of the states that is making rapid advances in ensuring universal health coverage for their population. The state is also investing

heavily in strengthening medical education and health care facilities in the state. HSTP, an Indian not-for-profit organization that aims to be an enabler of systems change in the Indian health sector, will collaborate with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Odisha, to improve health outcomes and welfare for the population by strengthening health systems in the state. The collaboration will include strengthening the implementation of the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, improving competencies of public healthcare providers, improving access to medicines at primary health facilities, leadership

development programs, developing long-term investment plans for the health sector, digital and other areas. Focus will be on health systems design, strategy, research, and optimising utilisation of resources. This partnership will create evidence synthesis, and develop conceptual prototypes/models, documentation of learnings from the best practices and innovations. This can lead to scalable and sustainable models for the state and other states in India. HSTP, who also work in other states, will also carry the learnings from interventions in Odisha to other states facilitating inter state sharing of learning.

Imran Khan Supporters Break Into Army HQ After Arrest, Protests Across Pak

Karachi: Supporters of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, protesting against his arrest, have entered the compound of the army commanders' residence in Lahore. Media footage showed them also storming the army headquarters in Rawalpindi. In Peshawar, the Radio Pakistan building has also been set on fire. The 70-year-old cricketer-turned-politician was arrested earlier today as he was entering the Islamabad High Court for a hearing in a case. Protests by Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters broke out across Pakistan soon after his arrest. Prohibitory orders banning large gatherings were imposed across Islamabad. "Section 144



is in force and action will be taken in case of violation," the Islamabad police said. Besides Islamabad, protests started in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Multan, Peshawar, and Mardan, reported Geo News. In Rawalpindi, Imran Khan's supporters smashed the main gate of the army's sprawling headquarters and

chanted slogans against the establishment. The troops, however, exercised restraint. In Lahore, during a demonstration in the Cantonment area, a large number of PTI workers stormed into the residence of the Corps Commander and smashed the gate and window-panes. The army personnel did not try to stop the enraged protesters, who

surrounded them and raised slogans against the 'handlers' of the PML-N led government in the military establishment. In Karachi and Rawalpindi, protesters clashed with the police, who, reports said, threw teargas shells to control the mob. Videos from the spot showed them chanting "Release Imran Khan," and "Shut down Pakistan" slogans. The PTI urged its

supporters to protest, tweeting this is a "now or never opportunity".

The arrest comes a day after the army had accused Mr Khan of levelling baseless allegations against a senior officer of the spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence. Mr Khan had accused top ISI officer Major-General Faisal Naseer of being involved in the assassination attempt against him in Wazirabad.

He had also claimed that Major Naseer was involved in the murder of senior journalist Arshad Sharif.

Amid the allegations and the army reaction, there have been questions if Mr Khan's dramatic arrest could only be attributed to the charges against him.

Preserve, Develop 7th Century-Old Kapileswar Temple: Pradhan Urges Union Culture Minister

Bhubaneswar: Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan today wrote to the Union Minister of Tourism and Culture G Kishan Reddy urging the latter to intervene and direct the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for the preservation and development of the 7th Century-old Kapileswar Temple here. "Kapileswar Temple is on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha. It is believed to have been built in the 7th century CE by the Somavamsi dynasty. The temple is dedicated to

Lord Shiva and is famous for its beautiful architecture, sculptures and paintings. It is also a popular pilgrimage site for devotees who flock to the temple during Shivaratri and other festivals. However, the temple is facing serious threats from urbanization, pollution and neglect. The temple complex is surrounded by encroachments, garbage dumps and sewage outlets. The temple structure is deteriorating due to a lack of maintenance and conservation. The temple art and heritage are fading away due to vandalism



and weathering. The temple atmosphere is losing its sanctity and serenity due to noise and disturbance," the Union Education Minister stated in his letter. "I request you to kindly intervene in this matter and urge the

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to adopt Kapileswar Temple under its protection and development scheme. ASI is the premier organization in India for the preservation and promotion of our cultural heritage. ASI has the

expertise, resources and authority to restore and enhance the glory of Kapileswar Temple. The ASI can also help in creating awareness and appreciation among the public for this ancient and sacred monument," Pradhan added.

"In view of the above, I request you to consider my request and take necessary action at the earliest and ensure that Kapileswar Temple is notified as a protected structure by ASI. Kapileswar Temple is not only a religious site but also a national treasure that deserves our respect and care," Pradhan concluded.

GRSE Secures Deal for 30 more Double Lane Bridges

Kolkata: Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., (GRSE), one of the leading Public Sector Undertaking and Mini-Ratna Category 1 Shipyard, achieved yet another milestone by securing a groundbreaking deal with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for the fabrication, supply, erection and launching of additional 30 Double-Lane Class 70 modular steel bridges in border areas. The two-year contract worth Rs. 80 Crore (approx.) was inked by Deputy Director General (Tech. Admin.), BRO, Brigadier Alok V Mishra and DIG

Subrato Ghosh, ICG (Retd.), Chief General Manager (BB & DEP), GRSE in Pune, witnessed by the august presence of Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Director General Border Roads Organisation, Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhary and Cmde PR Hari, IN (Retd.), Chairman & Managing Director, GRSE during the 64th Raising Day celebration of BRO on May 7, 23. This landmark agreement entails the construction and delivery of 30 cutting-edge Class 70R Double-Lane Bridges, designed exclusively by GRSE,

to enhance connectivity in critical forward areas along India's borders, facilitating seamless troop and equipment deployment. Unparalleled in its innovation, the double-lane Steel Bridge developed by GRSE stands as the sole indigenous solution of its kind, in line with India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. So far, 12 Bridges have been supplied by GRSE under the first MoU signed on March 15, 2022, out of which four Bridges have already been launched and launching works on two-three bridges are in progress. The



first bridge of this kind, was constructed at Flaghill, Dokalam, Sikkim at an altitude of 11,000 feet under Project Swastik of the BRO, inaugurated by Hon'ble Defence Minister Shri Rajnath

Singh on 28 December 2021. The bridges have a carriageway width of 7.5 metres, permitting plying of two-way traffic in compliance with specifications laid down by the National

Highways Authority of India (NHAI). High tensile steel of Grade E-410 ensures high strength, long life and low temperature applications. The galvanised surface finish ensures easier

maintenance and longer service life. Load Class IRC 70R permits movement of both Wheeled/Tracked Vehicles of up to 100 / 70 MT. The modular concept ensures easier transportation of bridge components to remote areas and faster erection of bridges in a short span of 30 to 45 days. In August 2022, GRSE attained an exclusive distinction by becoming the sole Indian organisation qualified for the esteemed Green Channel Certification for Portable Steel Bridges (Bailey Type) from the Indian Army. Remarkably, GRSE's Portable Steel Bridge Division has pushed the

boundaries of innovation through intensive research and development efforts, resulting in the creation of superior versions of portable bridge designs. Over 5,500 portable steel bridges have already been supplied by GRSE to esteemed entities such as the Indian Army, BRO, State Public Works Departments, and the Central Government. These versatile bridges, originally intended for disaster management, have also garnered international recognition, being exported to friendly nations including Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

Guddu Muslim caught on CCTV in Odisha's Bargarh



Bhubaneswar: A new video of slain gangster Atiq Ahmed's aide Guddu Muslim, who is an accused in the Umesh Pal murder case, has reportedly surfaced. Though the CCTV footage has now gone viral, there is no confirmation whether the person seen in the video is the dreaded criminal or not. In the new CCTV footage, Guddu

Muslim is purportedly seen walking into a building. The CCTV clip is reported to be of April 11, 2023. However, the location of the CCTV camera is not clear. Earlier, Uttar Pradesh STF had come to Bargarh after it emerged that Guddu Muslim had stayed here for nearly 12 days after a brief stay in Puri. The latest CCTV footage dated

April 11 has confirmed the presence of the gangster in Bargarh. Guddu Muslim also left behind a bag in Bargarh. Apart from Odisha, Guddu Muslim travelled to places like Meerut, Ajmer, Jhansi, Nashik, Pune. He was frequently changing locations to avoid suspicion and deceive the Special Task Force (STF). It was earlier said

that Raja Khan had links with the Uttar Pradesh gangster who is on the run. Raja Khan had also come under scanner after his alleged links with BJD leaders were claimed by BJP. Commenting on the issue of the link between the most wanted criminal Guddu Muslim and Raja Khan, SP of Mahasamund in Chhattisgarh, Dharmendra Singh Chawai had earlier said, "Raja Khan belongs to Mahasamund area and three cases were registered against him." According to the senior police officer, Raja Khan has been staying at Sohela in Bargarh district for the past four years.

Bhagvat Parayan and Pravachan week started by Subodh Krishna Mission at Satellite City

Cuttack Sadar, (KCN) : Induration of Bhagvat Parayan and Preaching week by Subodh Krishna Mission at Satellite City CDA Sector - 9 Maa Durga Mandap. Nyaymurti Basudev Panigrahi inaugurated this program with joined as guest of Honour spokesman Ramanath Panda, State coordinator of Subodh Krishna Mission Utkal Bhusan Routray, president



Nyaymurti Manoranjan MOhanty, secretary Binaya Kumar Nayak, upadhyaksh Sashibhusan Tripathy, trustee Lingaraj Khadenga, Rajesh Kumar Sahoo, advisor team Milon Badu, Naresh Kumar Sahoo, Sector - 9 Abashika Sangha president Jasobanta Behera, secretary Sanjeeb Satapathy, Rakesh Kumar Sahoo & local peoples, devotees were present.

Women fishers performed river ranching at Hooghly, West Bengal: A CIFRI initiative



Kolkata: ICAR - Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore under Namami Gange programme organised a 'National River Ranching Programme-2023' at Balagarh and Tribeni of Hooghly, West Bengal on 9th May 2023. In continuation of the National River

Ranching Programme which was initiated from 5th of April 2023 from Nabadwip, West Bengal. Till date more than 11.5 lakhs fish fingerlings were ranched during the period of April to May, 2023 with a target of 22 lakhs with the focus to enhance fish stock in river Ganga. In the present river ranching

programme, CIFRI released a total of 4.1 lakhs of advanced Indian Major Carps fingerlings at Balagarh (2.0 lakh) and Tribeni (2.1 lakh) of Hooghly of West Bengal. At Tribeni, the programme was attended by Assistant Fisheries Officer, Mr. Tanmoy Das and members from the local authority. Dr

B.K Das highlighted the importance of river Ganga and briefed about the CIFRI activities under the esteemed Namami Gange program. He asked to avoid indiscriminate fishing practices, and conserve Gangetic biodiversity including Dolphin. In addition to this, Dr. Das urged the fishermen and local residents to be diligent towards conserving the mother Ganges. A mass awareness campaign was also carried out covering more than 100 local fishers and women fishers along with local residence towards sustainable fisheries, Hilsa and Dolphin conservation. The programme was attended by the scientists of CIFRI along NMCG project members.

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Rani Mukerji To Alaya F: Actresses Who Aced Their Roles As A Journalist

Bollywood has produced a large number of films featuring feisty and strong journalist characters who left an indelible mark on the minds of the audience. However, in recent times, playing a journalist on screen is getting more popular with B-town actresses. Here are the actresses who have aced the roles of journalists -

Alaya F – U-Turn
Ever since she has started her career as an actor, Alaya F has been unanimously praised for her choice of films and characters and taking the road less travelled; the latest one which has been hugely appreciated by the audience, industry and critics alike is Radhika Bakshi, her character in 'U-Turn'. While Alaya took on the challenge of essaying the demanding role of a



journalist with great finesse at such a young age, she has delivered a remarkable performance by carrying the film on her shoulders. She shines in intense scenes and commands a good screen presence. After the success of 'Freddy' and

now 'U-Turn', she is considered as one of the most sought after and bankable GenX actors of Bollywood!
Yami Gautam Dhar – Lost
While 'Lost' featuring Yami Gautam Dhar was praised for being an



intriguing and thrilling ride, the prolific performer Yami Gautam Dhar was equally appreciated for taking on the role of a spunky crime reporter who investigates the missing of a college student. The versatile actress also met

a few senior crime journalists during the making of the film.
Kareena Kapoor Khan – Satyagraha
Kareena Kapoor Khan played Yasmin, an aggressive and passionate journalist in the multi-starrer film,

Satyagraha, directed by Prakash Jha. While Kareena is known for playing glamorous roles mostly in her career, her performance as the obstinate and headstrong Yasmin demonstrated her acting prowess in this film.

Rani Mukerji – No One Killed Jessica
One of her best performances till date, Rani Mukerji as feisty television journalist Meera, takes up the case of Jessica Lal murder. Rani's character was inspired from the different TV news reporters covering the case. Meera takes up the cause as Sabrina loses all faith in her ability to ever bring her sister's case to justice. Rani was highly praised for her performance as a staunch journalist and got much critical acclaim.

SaReGaMaPa: Know Everything About the Grand Finale, Deets Inside

The winner of Bangla SaReGaMaPa will be decided based on the basics of the audience's vote and the judges' scores tonight. According to the audience's vote and judges' marks, Padma



Palash Haldar, Riddhiman Biswas, Biman Bullet Sarkar, Albert Kaboo Lepcha, Soniya Gazmer, and Asmita Kar are the top six finalists. Among all others, Padma Palash Haldar is the strongest one as he has grabbed the audience's heart with his Kirtan and classical performances. However, Biman Bullet Sarkar is also giving tough competition with his rockstar singing talent. Kaboo and Albert Kaboo Lepcha have also won millions of hearts with their playback singing skills. Riddhiman Biswas is also a strong competitor who has won the audience's hearts with his singing. Also, Soniya Gazmer and Asmita Kar have improved a lot throughout the season of Zee Bangla Saregamapa 2023 - 2023. The results will be out soon and fans cannot wait who will be crowned this year. Keep watching this space for more updates.

Rishab Shetty Ends Speculation, Says Kantara Prequel in Works

Bringing to a close speculation over a sequel to 'Kantara', director and lead actor Rishab Shetty has announced that a prequel is in the works. He was speaking at the celebrations of the film completing 100 days in cinemas. "What you have seen is actually Part 2; Part 1 will come next year," Shetty said. "The idea flashed in my mind when I was shooting for 'Kantara' because the history of 'Kantara' has more depth to it, and currently, we are in the middle of digging



around for more details. As the research is still progressing, it would be very early to reveal details about the film." Having been made with a budget of just Rs 16 crore, the film booked a

phenomenal run at the box office and went on to collect Rs 450 crore. With its unusual story, 'Kantara' emerged a blockbuster and has become the success story of the year.

Speaking at the event, producer Vijay Kiragandur said 'Kantara' introduced the audience to a new cinema and "we would love to sustain and in fact boost the rage that

the film has created by announcing the sequel". Rishab and our team have been working on the story rigorously as the film has many more things to tell to the audience, opening the back story of 'Kantara'. "We can guarantee that the sequel of 'Kantara' is going to be more massive and grander than before," Kiragandur added. The 'Kantara' prequel will be produced by Vijay Kiragandur and Chaluve Gowda under the Hombale Films banner. The film will feature Rishab Shetty in the lead.

I am in love with Nouran Aly and will settle down with her soon: Vivian Dsena

Love has a habit of often catching you unawares! That's exactly what happened to Vivian Dsena. Just days before he was granted divorce in December 2021, Bombay Times had exclusively reported about the Sirf Tum actor finding love again. We now have it that he is in a relationship with Nouran Aly, a former journalist from Egypt. The two have been together for four-and-a-half years. Vivian says that his failed marriage is a thing of the past, and he is looking forward to exchanging nuptial vows with Nouran.

In an exclusive chat with Bombay Times, he opens up on matters of the heart. The actor says, "Yes, I am in love with Nouran and we are planning to settle down very soon. We first interacted around four-and-a-half years ago, when she contacted me



for an interview. I made her wait for around three months before giving my nod to it. Later, my management team called her for work in Mumbai and I met her here. We started off as friends but fell in love quickly. I think it took me only a month to realise that I was in love with her." While Vivian is known for guarding his privacy rather fiercely from the media, he confesses that he couldn't help falling in love with the charming

journalist. He shares, "She has a lot of patience and perseverance, which is much needed with me (laughs!). While I admire those qualities about her, it was her honesty that attracted me the most. It is an extremely rare quality in today's time. I feel fortunate to have Nouran in my life. In fact, I was looking for a girl like her to settle down with. Maybe, she also likes a thing or two about me; that is why she is ready to

make the mistake of spending her life with me (smiles)." Uncannily enough, Nouran has always felt a strong connection with India. Talking to us for the first time, she says, "I have been in love with India since childhood. People in Egypt idolise Indian celebrities. I have lived most of my life in Bahrain and so, I know many Indians and have also been exposed to Indian culture. It was my love for the country and its actors that made

me pursue an interview with him. He was supposed to come to Egypt for an event and that's when I asked him for an interview. My first impression of him was, 'What does he think of himself?' When I told him that I can't deal with someone like him, he replied, 'I believe this person you described is not me. Please get to know me first.' Well, getting to know him was a trap and I fell in love with him (laughs!)." When Vivian was going through a rough patch in his personal life, Nouran was his pillar of support. Acknowledging her role in helping him sail through difficult times, he says, "She didn't let me take any impulsive decisions and was the reason for my emotional stability. She is the calming factor in my life. She understands even my silence."

The miraculous drug plant Salacia



Salacia plants are a genus of flowering plants that are native to Sri Lanka, India, and several other countries in Southeast Asia. The genus contains approximately 20 species, many of which have been used for their potential health benefits in traditional medicine. One particular species, *Salacia reticulata*, has been the subject of numerous scientific studies due to its potential to improve health outcomes. *Salacia* plants are typically found in tropical and subtropical regions, where they grow as small shrubs or trees. In traditional medicine, the plants have been used to treat a range of health conditions, including diabetes, inflammation, and high cholesterol levels. Research has shown that compounds found in the plant, particularly mangiferin and salacinol, may help to lower blood sugar levels and improve insulin sensitivity. *Salacia reticulata* has also been studied for its potential cholesterol-lowering effects and anti-inflammatory properties. *Salacia* species are typically found in tropical and subtropical regions and can grow as small shrubs or trees. The plants have a long

history of use in traditional medicine in the regions where they grow, and are sometimes used in traditional Ayurvedic medicine. One of the most promising potential benefits of *Salacia* plants is their ability to help lower blood sugar levels. *Salacia reticulata* has been the focus of numerous scientific studies investigating its potential anti-diabetic effects. Research has shown that compounds found in the plant, particularly mangiferin and salacinol, may help to lower blood glucose levels and improve insulin sensitivity. This suggests that *Salacia* plants may have potential benefits for individuals with type 2 diabetes. In addition to its potential anti-diabetic effects, *Salacia* plants have also been studied for their potential cholesterol-lowering effects. One study published in the *International Journal of Vitamin and Nutrition Research* found that consuming fenugreek seed extract helped to reduce levels of total cholesterol and LDL (bad) cholesterol. This suggests that *Salacia* plants may have potential benefits for individuals with high cholesterol levels. Recent scientific studies have supported some of these traditional uses, suggesting that *Salacia* plants may have potential benefits for human health.

Salacia species like *Salacia oblonga*, *Salacia prinoidea* and *Salacia reticulata*, are collectively known as 'Ponkoranti' in Ayurvedic medicine. The species is widely distributed across South and South East Asian countries like India,

greenish white to greenish yellow colour flowers as clusters (2-8) in the leaf axils. Flowers are bisexual, calyx lobes entire, anthers dehiscing transversely. Fruits are globose, tubercular, pinkish orange when ripe. They contain 1-4 seeds. The plant flowers

seeds per a season, the species is considered to be rare implying that the viability and/or germination ability of the seeds are poor. However, laboratory investigations have confirmed that high germination percentage can be obtained by sowing them in coir dust

The first irrigation is given immediately after transplanting, weekly irrigation is enough to obtain good growth and yield. Due to the frequently irrigation during the initial stages, there is a lot of competition from weeds. In order to obtain



China, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia. The species, *S. reticulata* is known to be distributed in Sri Lanka and the Southern region of India. Though rare, this species could also be found in evergreen forests of Western Ghats and the Andaman Islands. It is a large woody climbing shrub belongs to family Hippocrateaceae. The greenish grey colour bark of the plant is smooth, with white inside. The average dimension of a leaf is 3-6 X 1-2 inches. They are opposite and elliptic-oblong, base acute, apex abruptly acuminate; margin toothed with minute rounded teeth, leathery, hairless, shiny, lateral nerves about seven pairs, prominent beneath. It produces

in December under Indian conditions, whereas in Sri Lanka, flowering starts in late November and seeds are available from March-June. A mature plant produces thousands of seeds per a season. The species is generally believed to be regenerated only by means of seed propagation; but, could also be produced via vegetative propagation using stem and root cuttings. Sand media was found to be good for seed germination in which seeds complete germination within 21-30 days. Seedlings should be transplanted into poly bags and 2-3 months later they are ready for field establishment. Though a mature plant produces thousands of

media after pre-soaking in cold water for 24 hrs. Therefore, poor regeneration capacity of the species might be attributed to the poor moisture availability of the soil at the time of seed maturity. Low survival ability of seedlings in a dry spell might be another possible reason for poor regeneration capacity. It thrives best in porous and well-drained soils with a pH ranging from 6.5-7.5 with favourable temperature between 26-32 °C and has been known to tolerate even 35°C and with annual precipitation of 100-160 cm. The nutritional requirement of this crop has shown that it responds well to the application of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium and also cow dung, vermin compost.

economic yields, frequent weeding during the early growth period is desirable. No major insect has been reported to infect the plant. The decoction of the roots has been used in the treatment of itching and swelling, asthma, thirst, amenorrhoea and dysmenorrhoea. The roots are acrid, bitter, thermogenic, urinary, astringent, anodyne, anti-inflammatory. The roots and stem have been widely used in treating diabetes and obesity, gonorrhoea and rheumatism, skin diseases and haemorrhoids. In addition, the water extracts of leaves is known to be beneficial for the prevention of diabetes mellitus and obesity as its multiple effects such as the ability

to increase the plasma insulin level and lower the lipid peroxide level of the *Salacia* inhibits α -glucosidase and decreases postprandial glucose. α -glucosidase inhibitors are well suited to treat postprandial hyperglycaemia, a common and serious problem faced by many people with Type 2 diabetes metabolism. α -glucosidase inhibitors cause competitive, reversible inhibition of α -glucosidase enzyme. This enzyme is present in the brush border of small intestine and hydrolysis complex sugars into monosaccharides'. α -glucosidase inhibitors also cause a concomitant decrease in gastric inhibitory polypeptide and a rise in late postprandial plasma glucagon-like peptide 1 levels. In individuals with normal or impaired glucose tolerance with hyperinsulinemia, α -glucosidase inhibitors decrease hyperinsulinemia and improve insulin sensitivity. In Type 1 diabetic patients, α -glucosidase inhibitors can be used to reduce postprandial glycaemic excursions and decrease postprandial hypoglycaemia. In a sucrose tolerance test on healthy human volunteers, pre-treatment with the aqueous extract of *S. reticulata* before sucrose loading significantly suppressed postprandial

hyperglycaemia. *S. oblonga* root extract lowered acute glycaemia and insulinemia in patients with Type 2 diabetes after a high-carbohydrate meal. *Salacia* inhibits aldose reductase. In diabetics, the glucose flux through the polyol pathway (which converts glucose to sorbitol) due to chronic hyperglycaemia is significantly increased which is believed to be responsible for number of diabetic complications. There are some side effects of *Salacia* it can cause side effects such as gas, belching, pain in the abdomen, nausea, and diarrhoea in some people. The anti-diabetic property of *Salacia reticulata* has been proved scientifically and it is basically attributed to the inhibitory activity of intestinal enzymes (α -glucosidase and α -amylase). Inhibition of intestinal enzymes delays glucose absorption into the blood and suppresses postprandial hyperglycaemia, resulting in improved glycaemic control. The findings have led to increase the consumption of the species across the world and it has now become a subject of broad studies for diabetes management. Increasing demand, on the other hand, may create extra pressure on natural habitats. Thus systematic cultivation is needed in order to ensure the sustainable utilization and conservation of the species.

Kolkata, West Bengal India

Op Kaveri: IAF's trivialized Audacity

Dr. Rahul Bharatbhushan Kamble



On Friday Morning, India wrapped up 'Operation Kaveri' to bring back all the Indians from the war-torn country Sudan, when the last IAF C-130J Aircraft landed on Indian Soil with 47 passengers. With this, the total count of all the Indians rescued from Sudan became 3862. Indian Government along with the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy Culminated Operation Kaveri which was launched to bring back stranded Indians from the country of Sudan which is facing an almost civil war due to groups fighting for power in the country. Operation Kaveri will go down into the annals of history of the force and will be remembered for times to come. It envisaged endless sorties of transport aircrafts of the IAF, flying round the clock and against time. In a recent rescue mission, a C-17 heavy-lifter of the IAF airlifted 192 people, with the full mission lasting almost 24 hours with a refuelling stop at

Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. The mission comes on the back of a Historic rescue mission carried out by a C-130J special operations aircraft in April-end. On the night of April 27, 28, 2023, the IAF C-130J aircraft rescued 121 personnel from a small airstrip at Wadi Seidna, which is about 40 km North of Khartoum, Sudan, the IAF said in a statement. Despite the airstrip in Sudan's Wadi Seidna having no navigational approach, aids or fuel, and landing lights (that are required to guide an aircraft landing at night), the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Garud Commandos carried out a daring, overnight operation to air-lift stranded Indians. Knowing that the airstrip had no facilities to facilitate the rescue mission, the aircrew used their Electro-Optical/Infra-Red sensors to ensure that the runway was free from any obstructions and that no inimical forces were in the vicinity. Having made sure of the same, the aircrew carried out a tactical approach on Night Vision Goggles, on a practically dark night. Upon landing, the aircraft engines were kept running while eight IAF Garud Commandos secured the passengers and their luggage into the aircraft. As with the landing, the take-off from the unlit

runway was also carried out using NVGs. Among the passengers was a pregnant woman, besides those who had no means to reach Port Sudan, the IAF said in a statement. The convoy was led by the Indian Defence Attache, who was in continuous touch with IAF authorities all along, till they reached the airstrip at Wadi Seidna. This approximately two-and-a-half-hour operation between Wadi Sayidna and Jeddah will go down in the books of IAF history for its sheer audacity and flawless execution -- akin to that carried out in Kabul. Sudan is experiencing bloodshed due to clashes between the army and paramilitary forces. Even though there is a 72-hour ceasefire, there have been allegations of violence. Fighting has erupted between soldiers loyal to Sudanese army leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy, paramilitary Rapid Support Soldiers (RSF) commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. Committed to ensuring that no Indian national is left behind in Sudan, India has deployed its military planes and warships in the war-torn country.

'Operation Devi Shakti,' an IAF's C-130J Super Hercules was tasked with a Special Operation into the destabilized war-torn nation of Afghanistan. The embassy staff had already been evacuated prior and hence there was no source to achieve reliable ground intelligence on the situation in Kabul or the areas around the Kabul airport. Group Captain Ravi Nanda, the Commanding Officer of a C-130J Transport Squadron, led the mission to fly into the epicenter of the conflict zone of Kabul to insert a 'Specialised Team' for facilitating the swift evacuation of Indian diaspora under imminent threat to their lives. A high level of unpredictability and danger existed due to a lack of intelligence at the target airfield. This high-risk midnight mission faced the utmost dangers of absolutely uncontrolled airspace, dense traffic of unknown aerial platforms, extremely limited visual inputs in the middle of unforgiving mountainous terrain, and above all, a hostile ground situation with small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and shoulder-launched missiles. Amidst a chaotic ground situation, ongoing, sporadic gunfire in the vicinity of the airport, and possible threat to life and equipment, the C130J and its crew led by Nanda effectively used Night

Vision Goggles (NVG) to land safely at Kabul. It not only led to the subsequent evacuation of all the stranded, but also got scripted into the history as one of the most arduous mission executed. India bought the C-130J primarily for specialist military operations in dangerous terrains under hostile conditions, essentially for operating against Pakistan and China respectively. The C-130J Super Hercules is the most advanced production model of the legendary C-130 Hercules mid-sized tactical airlifter. True to its name Hercules, the mythological superhero, the aircraft is known for its ability to support many tasks and missions in the most challenging conditions. Indian fleet, is now being looked upon as one of the most famous and well-known Super Hercules fleets around the world for performing daring military operations from challenging terrains. An IAF crew used one of the C-130Js to set a new record in August 2013, when the No. 77 Squadron landed one of the aircraft at the Daulat Beg Oldie Advanced Landing Grounds in Ladakh, a small airstrip, that has the distinction of being the highest (at 16,614 ft./5,000m) — and most challenging runways in the world. This feat was a record for the IAF,

which beat its own world record for high altitude operations, and for the C-130 and the C-130J. In May 2020, IAF flew one of its Super Hercules non-stop from Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir to Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, covering the entire stretch of India from North to South in just over 10 hours, covering a distance of over 5,000 km. In 2017, the aircraft had done a 13-hour non-stop flight during an International sortie. IAF deploys the C-130Js for various missions, including humanitarian aid, natural disaster support, airlift, search and rescue, and special operations. An IAF C-130J was the first aircraft to land and extend support during the Nepal earthquake in recent years. The C-130J's capabilities can be expanded to support other critical needs, including tanking, search and rescue, border patrol, and even maritime security surveillance. While the globe acknowledges the Indian Air Force as home to one of the most diverse ecosystem of Fighter aircrafts, the mighty birds of the IAF are very less talked about. Only the stranded shall know the gravity of an Indian transport aircraft landing for their rescue.

Mumbai

Letter To Editor

Dear Sir,
Absolute utilisation of fly ash from TPPs is imperative

Large amounts of fly ash released by thermal power plants (TPPs) are affecting the health of residents in villages of Raichur district in Karnataka. The central government issued guidelines for 100% fly ash utilisation but even today, thermal power plants are not fully complying. Fly ash from power plants is illegally dumped on roadsides, ponds, and other bodies of water. Every day, lakhs of tonnes of fly ash is released from thermal power plants in Karnataka, affecting the lives of the locals. Many of the ponds constructed to store this ash are also completely full. For many years, even though fly ash has been used in road construction, brick production, and the disposal of closed mines, the large quantities of ash released every day is affecting the health of the people. The coal found in India contains 40% ash. This ash contains not only particulate matter 2.5, black carbon, arsenic, boron, chromium, and lead, but also silicon dioxide, aluminium oxide, ferric oxide, and calcium oxide from the combustion of coal in thermal power plants. These ash particles travel for many kilometres in the air before settling on water and other surfaces. It is common to see clouds of ash storms spread over many kilometres in and around near by villages in Raichur. During the monsoon, on the other hand, lakhs of tonnes of ash flow with the water, contaminating fields and polluting water sources. The deadline for utilising 100% of the ash produced by thermal power plants is being extended year after year. Starting from Way back in 1999 to till date, the Ministry of Environment and Forests issuing guidelines for the full utilisation of coal ash. But these guidelines have not been implemented till date. People's health has been adversely affecting due to fly ash, as it directly affects the lungs. Therefore stringent actions has to be taken by the concern so that 100% utilisation of ash takes place in thermal power plants.

Dr. Vijay Kumar H K
Environmentalist
Raichur, Karnataka Dear Sir,



The Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar in group photograph at the occasion of 119th foundation day of CRI at Kasauli, in Himachal Pradesh on May 09, 2023. The Health & Family Welfare Minister (HP), Sh. Col. Dhani Ram Shandil, the Minister of Youth Services & Sports (HP), Sh. Vikramaditya Singh, the MP, Sh. Suresh Kashyap, MLA, Kasuali Sh. Vinod Sultanpuri, The DGHS, Prof. Dr. Atul Goel, The Director, CRI Smt. Dimple Kasana and Addl. DDG, DGHS, Dr. Anil Kumar and other dignitaries are also present.

Caste-Based Survey: High Court Rejects Bihar Government Plea For Early Hearing

Patna: The Patna High Court today rejected the Bihar government's plea, seeking early hearing of its interim stay on caste-based survey in the state. The court said the hearing will take place on July 3, the date fixed earlier, and the stay will remain in effect till then. It had on May 4 put a stay on the caste-based survey in its interim order, while hearing a batch of petitions. The division bench of Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran and Justice Madhuresh Prasad had fixed July 3 as the next date of hearing. Later, an interlocutory application was filed in the high court on behalf



of the Bihar government, urging for an early hearing in the matter. In its May 4 order, the court had termed the caste-based survey as virtually a census by another name, and "prima facie unconstitutional" as it "impinges on the legislative powers of Parliament". "The state government has no right to conduct such a caste census in Bihar," the court said.

The bench had held that the Bihar government's "intention to share data of a caste survey with various political parties in the state assembly raises a larger question of the infringement of the fundamental right to privacy of the people in general". There is also the question of data integrity and security, which has to be more elaborately addressed by the state, it said.

Delhi University To Send Notice To Rahul Gandhi Over "Sudden" Hostel Visit

"Should Check His Own Stature In Party": Sharad Pawar Jabs Congress Leader



New Delhi: Delhi University To Send Notice To Rahul Gandhi Over 'Sudden' Hostel Visit
Rahul Gandhi visited a Post-Graduate Men's Hostel of the university on Friday.
New Delhi: The Delhi University will issue a notice to Rahul Gandhi cautioning him against making any "unauthorised" visit to the campus in future, an senior official said on Tuesday, days after the Congress leader met students at a hostel. The notice will be sent either Tuesday or Wednesday, Delhi University Registrar Vikas Gupta said. He said the university will tell the leader that

this kind of visit "jeopardise" the safety of students and that proper protocol needs to be followed for any such interaction. Mr Gandhi visited a Post-Graduate Men's Hostel of the university on Friday, interacted with some students and had lunch with them. "It was an unauthorised visit. Many students were having lunch when he barged in. We cannot tolerate this on our campus. We will send a notice to Rahul Gandhi, telling him that he should not repeat such action and should not jeopardise the safety of students," the registrar said. Meanwhile, the National Students'

Union of India (NSUI), the student wing of the Congress, has alleged that the administration was under pressure to take action against Gandhi. The registrar refuted the allegation and said, "There is no such pressure. It is a matter of discipline." A day after Gandhi's visit, the Delhi University issued a sharp statement, saying the "sudden and unauthorised" entry raised serious security concerns for the hostel inmates and the leader. "University authorities will take necessary steps to avoid such incidents of this trespassing and will ensure that this does not happen in future again," it had said.

Pune: Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday questioned the "stature" of Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan in his own party after the latter targeted the NCP for fielding its candidates in the upcoming Karnataka Assembly polls. Mr Chavan had earlier expressed disagreement with Mr Pawar's claim that the Congress leadership was stubborn during the talks for the formation of the Maha Vikas Aghadi in 2019. Sharad Pawar was in Satara where some reporters asked him about Mr Chavan's reported comments that the Nationalist Congress Party was the 'B' team of BJP in Karnataka, after the NCP fielded its candidates for the Assembly polls to be held there on Wednesday.



In reply, Mr Pawar said, "He should check what stature he has in his own party...whether it is A, B, C, or D. Any colleague from his party would tell you in private." On the rationale behind fielding candidates in the Karnataka polls, he said the NCP wanted to make an entry into that state with the aim of expanding the party base. "We did not hold any

discussions with the Congress or other allies in Karnataka, as we wanted to start from scratch," he said. "The reason why we did not hold any discussions with the Congress was that the NCP wanted to start from scratch in the state. When there is an alliance with another party, it is imperative to provide strength to that party. But, as we were starting from scratch,

it was not possible to give the assurance that we would be able to provide strength if we go with them," he said. Mr Pawar said his party is contesting limited seats in Karnataka and ensuring that it will not adversely affect the Congress's prospects. Asked about slogans like "Bajrangbali ki Jai" raised by some political leaders during the Karnataka

poll campaign, Sharad Pawar claimed that seeking votes in the name of caste and religion is in breach of the oath taken by a person after becoming an elected representative, as secularism and democracy are key words in the oath. "I am surprised that the country's prime minister puts forth this kind of a stand before the people. You (the government) should tell me what you have done in the last five years as the power was in your hands. Everywhere people talk about 40 per cent commission," he said. Notably, the Congress recently said the people of Karnataka will guarantee the end of the "BJP's 40 per cent Commission Sarkar" on May 10 and all the promises of the Congress will be implemented.

Amit Shah In Bengal, Trinamool Attacks BJP Over Amartya Sen's Property

Kolkata: Union minister Amit Shah's visit to Bengal on Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary as the Centrally-run Visva Bharati evicts another Nobel laureate, Amartya Sen, became the lead point of Trinamool Congress attack on the BJP today. Mr Sen shares a special link with Tagore, as does the University. While Visva Bharati grew from a little school Tagore established in Shantiniketan, the poet had also bestowed the name "Amartya" to the grandson of a close friend. "Amit Shah comes to pay

tribute to Rabindranath but a Nobel laureate, who was named Amartya by Rabindranath Tagore is being served an eviction notice by Visva Bharati," said Bengal minister Shashi Panja at the state's official programme to mark Tagore's birth anniversary. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also threw her weight in. "Some people think Shantiniketan is Tagore's birthplace. Some people's rallies end up destroying a statue of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar," she said, in a jibe directed at BJP chief JP Nadda and Amit



Shah. Mr Shah is currently on a visit to Bengal and the

first item on his itinerary today was a visit to Tagore's ancestral house

in Kolkata's Jorasanko, where he paid floral tributes to the poet.

"Earlier they were confused between the j a n m a b h o o m i

(birthplace) and karmabhoomi (place of work) of Tagore. At least now they know he was born at Jorasanko," Shashi Panja said today in an arch reference to a faux pas by BJP chief JP Nadda. A few years ago, Mr Nadda had mistakenly mentioned Santiniketan -- where the Visva Bharati University stands today -- as the poet's birthplace. Today the Chief Minister hinted that the BJP leaders should know about the state instead of reading out misinformation "from a cheat sheet, or a teleprompter". Over the last week, the

intelligentsia of the state, as well as the ruling Trinamool Congress, have vocally backed the Amartya Sen, who has been embroiled in a battle with the university over several months. The university claims the land attached to Amartya Sen's ancestral property, Pratichi in Shantiniketan, is "illegally occupied". The University has said it would evict the economist if he failed to vacate it within the deadline. Last week, the Calcutta High Court put a freeze against a move by Visva Bharati to take away part of the property.

Window Clears 11 Projects

Bhubaneswar: The State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) led by Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena today approved 11 industrial projects worth Rs 2840.73 crore that would generate 3721 employment opportunities for the people of Odisha. Nine of these proposals converted from the companies participated at Make in Odisha Conclave 2022 and showed investment intent in the State. According to officials, the State Government is working relentlessly towards converting these investment intents into ground reality. Projects spread across diverse sectors like aluminium & aluminium downstream, steel & steel downstream, chemicals & plastics, food processing &

packaging, textiles & apparel, tourism and renewable energy received approvals. The approved projects will be set up across various parts of the State including Bolangir, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Khordha, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts. The SLSWCA has approved the proposal of RCR Steel Works Private Limited, entailing an investment of Rs 896.98 crores. It proposes to set up a steel plant at Jamda in Mayurbhanj district and is expected to provide employment opportunities to about 750 people in the State. Similarly, the committee also approved the expansion proposal of Utkal Alumina International Ltd at Rayagada district and Hindalco Industries Limited at Lapanga, Sambalpur, which



promises cumulative investment of nearly Rs 1000 crores and is expected to provide employment opportunities to over 500 people. The State has also approved the project

proposal of Mahindra Holidays and Resorts India Ltd. to set up a resort at Somolo Island, Chilika Lake in the Ganjam District with an investment of Rs 228.45 crores. This project is expected to

further strengthen Odisha's position in the Tourism Map of India. In the chemicals sector, the Committee gave a nod to a project, by Ion Exchange (India) Ltd. With an investment of Rs 303 crore, the

company proposes to set up a Manufacturing unit of 25000 MT Water Treatment Chemicals & 30000 MT Monomer and Polymers in Paradeep, which will provide employment opportunities to over 150 people of Odisha. In the textiles and apparel sector, Indian Stitches Private Limited has proposed to establish a fabric processing plant with an investment of Rs 100 crores, generating employment opportunities for over 1000 people. In the food processing sector, the Government has approved the project proposal of Taj SATs Ltd to set up food processing and packaging units in Khordha. The project comes with an investment of Rs 51 crores and potential employment for 200 people.

Seetharama Agro Industries Private Limited has decided to set up a Manufacturing unit of rice bran oil at Barapalli Industrial Estate, Kukudakhandi in Ganjam district with an investment of Rs 101 crore. This project is likely to create employment opportunities for 170 persons. The proposal of Indopet Polymer Pvt. Ltd. To set up a manufacturing unit for Pet reform, Pet Bottles and Plastic Container at Khordha was also approved by the SLCWCA today. The company would invest Rs 52 crore in the project and provide employment to 150 persons. Moreover, Vibhor Steel Tubes Pvt. Ltd. Has proposed to set up 120,000 MT ERW black and GI pipes manufacturing unit in

Sundergarh with an investment of Rs 70 crore. The Government has approved the proposal, which will provide employment to 400 people. The proposal of ROMCO Aluminates Private Limited to establish a 12 MW Solar Power Plant was also got the nod of the Government. The company will invest Rs 54 crore in the unit and ensure employment for 70 persons. The State Government has always encouraged and welcomed industrialists to invest in the state. Its industry-friendly policies have positioned the state to be a highly lucrative destination for investors who have been awaiting opportunities to step into Eastern India or expand their footprint in the region.

90-year-old treks 1.5 km to collect PDS rice in Odisha



JAJPUR: For 90-year-old Kali Jena of Bandha Sahi in Jajpur's Binjharpur block, the struggle to collect her quota of rice provided under the public distribution system (PDS) is real. Aided by a stick, the nonagenarian widow walks for one and a half kilometres to collect

PDS rice from the retailer every month. On Sunday, a frail Kali was seen undertaking the arduous trek to the retailer at Alkund village under the scorching sun, a sight which moved many. A resident of Ward no 14 in Bandha Sahi, Kali lives alone in her thatched hut for the last three decades after the death of her

husband. She has a son but he lives with his family at another place. Being alone, the nonagenarian struggles to look after herself. Unable to eke out a living due to her old age and frail health, she solely depends on the 5 kg of rice provided by the government under the Food Security

scheme. And with no one to depend upon for her needs, Kali is forced to undertake the long and difficult trek to the PDS retailer with a bag to collect rice every month throughout the year braving the vagaries of nature.

Locals said the government has launched welfare schemes for the poor and needy but elderly people like Kali have not been able to avail the benefits. They urged the local administration to provide PDS rice at her doorstep every month. Despite repeated attempts, the marketing inspector of Binjharpur block Suvangi Ray was not available for comments.

IMD forecasts hot and sultry days for Odisha



BHUBANESWAR: Odisha is experiencing hot and sultry weather, which is likely to continue for four more days, the Met office said on Monday. IMD Director General Mrununjay Mohapatra said the possible cyclone forming in the Bay of Bengal will not have any direct impact on Odisha or any other state on the east coast as the system is likely to move towards the Bangladesh-Myanmar coast. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu said in

a Twitter post, "#Heatwave conditions/high day temperatures likely to prevail over various parts of the state tomorrow (9th May) as per alerts communicated by @mcbbsr." Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Bhubaneswar Director H R Biswas said that most parts of the state are likely to experience temperatures two to three degrees Celsius above normal during the next two days with no large charge thereafter.

Consequently, the mercury may soar to 40 degrees Celsius or more at a few places during the next four to five days. "Odisha is likely to experience hot and discomfort weather during this period. People are advised to take precautionary measures while going outside," Biswas said. As many as 14 places across the state on Monday recorded temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius with Boudh becoming the hottest place in Odisha at 42 degrees Celsius. Boudh was

followed by Jharsuguda and Sambalpur (41.6), Rourkela (41.4), Angul (41.1), Sundergarh (41), Talcher (40.8), Bolangir and Jagatsinghpur (40.5), Titilagarh, Nayagarh, Sonepur and Kendrapara (40). State capital Bhubaneswar sizzled at 38.2 degrees Celsius while it was 39.5 degrees Celsius in Cuttack.

In another bulletin, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a yellow warning, predicting thunderstorms with lightning in one or two places in Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts till 8.30 am on Tuesday. While there are no warnings thereafter, coastal and southern districts are likely to experience light to moderate rain for the next five days, it said.



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AU Small Finance Bank Launches Business Cashback RuPay Credit Card

Jaipur/ Bhubaneswar, May 8th, 2023: AU Small Finance Bank has partnered with RuPay to introduce the Business Cashback RuPay credit card, an innovative solution tailored to meet the financial requirements of self-employed customers. This latest offering is aimed at providing a diverse range of benefits to small businesses. The Credit Card was launched in the esteemed presence of Mr. Dilip Asbe, CEO of National Payments Corporation of India and Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank.

operations for businesses with benefits like upto 2% cashback, 48 days interest-free credit, and instant loans. It also offers fire insurance, burglary, and housebreaking coverage, making it a one-stop solution for businesses.

"At AU Small Finance Bank, we understand that the small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of Indian economy and we have been serving this segment since the last 28 years. We are committed to providing innovative financial solutions that cater to the unique needs of this segment and Business Cashback RuPay credit card is a testament to our commitment to the



MSMEs. As the self-employed customer segment is at the heart of our bank, we are focused on adding value to these customers and promoting credit inclusion. Going forward, we shall work towards bringing

customized benefits to MSMEs through our other Credit Card variants too," said Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO of AU SFB.

The credit card also provides lifestyle and travel benefits. Their Silver Spoon Dining

Program also offers cardholders up to 30% off at over 300 restaurants, 8 complimentary railway lounge access per annum, and 1%* fuel surcharge waiver.

"I am delighted to attend the launch event and witness the introduction of AU Small Finance Bank's Business Cashback RuPay Credit Card. National Payments Corporation of India is committed to promoting innovation in the banking sector, and this credit card is a clear example of that.

AU Small Finance Bank has consistently demonstrated their dedication to excellence and innovation in the banking industry. This credit card is a fantastic solution that empowers

self-employed individuals and promotes financial inclusion. I'm confident that this credit card will be a great success and benefit numerous businesses. Congratulations to AU SFB, keep up the great work," said Mr. Dilip Asbe, CEO, National Payments Corporation of India.

AU Small Finance Bank is one of the leading providers of innovative and reliable financial solutions for self-employed individuals and businesses. With an unwavering commitment to excellence and credit inclusion, the bank continuously improves and deepens its services, offering a comprehensive range of benefits.

OYO halves stay prices for Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela

Bhubaneswar: Global hospitality technology platform OYO has offered a 50% discount on stay across all its hotels in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela for Hockey World Cup. The scheme is valid for the entire duration of the tournament from January 13-29, 2023. Approximately 800 OYO hotels are covered under this scheme in these two cities. More than 1500 rooms will be available to accommodate the guests. Odisha is hosting the international event for the second consecutive time, the previous one having been held in Bhubaneswar in 2018. Steel City Rourkela will be the fourth Indian city to organise the event. The matches will be held at two venues - Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela and Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Divided into four groups of four teams each, a total of 16 teams this year are vying for the World Cup trophy. The host country, India, has been placed in Group D along with England, Spain, and Wales. Thousands of spectators from all around the world are expected to visit Bhubaneswar and Rourkela for this mega hockey tournament.

To avail this discount, guests can download the OYO App, click on the red 'Nearby' icon to discover a valid participating hotel, select the coupon code 'HockeyWC' and hit the Book Now button. They can also resolve their queries quickly with OYO's 24*7 chatbot - Yo! Chat. There are many hotels such as Hotel Swain Heritage, Hill Side Aqua, Aditya International, Prime Residency and Hotel Bhinna Sakhala in Bhubaneswar and Hotel Priyal Amrit Sagar and The Prestige Tridev in Rourkela located in close proximity to the stadiums making it convenient for the guests to stay and enjoy scintillating hockey matches throughout the tournament.

TRENDS, INDIA'S LARGEST FASHION DESTINATION NOW OPENS INBADABAZAAR, BERHAMPUR

Berhampur / Bhubaneswar, India's largest and fastest growing apparel and accessories specialty chain of Reliance Retail, TRENDS, announced the launch of its third new Store in Berhampur Town of Odisha. Trends is truly democratizing fashion in India, by strengthening its reach & connect with consumers in India - right from Metros, mini metros, to Tier 1, 2 towns and beyond & is India's favorite fashion shopping destination.

The Trends store at Bada Bazaar, Berhampur boasts of modern looks and ambience featuring an exciting range of good quality and fashion merchandise that is relevant to the consumers of the region and at prices that are affordable and seen as high value for money.

Customers of this town can look forward to a uniquely special and superlative experience of shopping for trendy Women's Wear, Men's Wear, Kids Wear & Fashion Accessories, at delightful prices. This 7800 sq. ft store, which is the third Trends store in the Berhampur town has a special inaugural offer for its customers, besides great relevant fashion and amazing prices: - Shop for Rs.3999 and get Merchandise worth Rs 3999 absolutely free and not only that the customers will also get coupon worth Rs.4000 absolutely free on purchase of Rs.3999. So head to Trends new store now in Bada Bazaar, Berhampur, for the joy of a great fashion shopping experience!

Tata Power leads EV charging space with a pan-India network; showcases wide-range of hi-tech EZ Charge solutions

at Auto Expo 2023

Bhubaneswar: Tata Power, one of India's largest and fastest growing EV Charging solutions provider showcased its wide-range of hi-tech EV charging solutions at the ongoing Auto Expo 2023 in Greater Noida. A first-hand experience of the technology that is driving Tata Power's wide-spread EV charging network - EZ (read easy) Charge was provided to the visitors, including the award-winning and one of the most downloaded mobile apps for EV charging - Tata Power EZ Charge, which ensures a seamless user experience through features that will help commuters find the nearest charging station, know the real-time availability of charging points, and receive updates on charging status, amongst many others.

Information about Tata Power's one of its kind Network Operations Center (NOC) located in Mumbai was also on display. This center aids in the effective operational management of charging stations across India. NOC is integrated with the online platform that supports Tata Power's EZ Charge services, has a real-time communication link with all on-board chargers, and aids in the early detection of tech-related issues. The NOC additionally supports quick problem solving, back-end system support, and proactive planning for charging infrastructure upkeep. Tata Power has also kicked off an ambitious nationwide plan of setting up approx. 25000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the country to support faster adoption of e-mobility over the next 5 years.

Muskaan Litfest for Child Authors showcases young literary talent

Bhubaneswar: Some of the leading social, cultural, corporate and literary organizations of the country came together for the first time to host a unique literature festival - 'Muskaan Litfest for Child Authors' - under the Muskaan initiative of Kolkata-based non-profit trusts, Prabha Khaitan Foundation and Education for All Trust. The three-day event was held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) premises in Delhi. Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Dr M u n j a p a r a M a h e n d r a b h a i

Kalubhai, interacted with 30 school-going young authors from all over the country. "Muskaan is a brilliant initiative of PKF to give a platform for the young talented writers to showcase their works and inspire future talents," the minister said. He also gave certificates to the young authors.

Ruskin Bond, the most popular, loved and revered author among the children, in a message lauded Prabha Khaitan Foundation for its commendable efforts to promote the habit of reading among children through the Muskaan initiative. The three-

day Litfest (Jan 10-12) was organized in collaboration with IGNCA and in association with India International Centre and Sahitya Akademi as the knowledge partner. Shree Cement supported the event as a part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The festival was inaugurated in the presence of Priyank Kanoongo, Chairman, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR). Also present on the occasion were Sachchidanand Joshi, member secretary, the executive and academic head of IGNCA; K N Shrivastava, Director of

IIC, and K Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. "Literature is the mirror of society. It is important to provide child authors the right environment and upbringing to promote literature," Kanoongo said. He asserted that instead of social media, the children should take more interest in writing and literature.

The evening was marked by a scintillating cultural programme 'Udaan' conceptualised by Shinjini Kulkarni, Ehsaas Woman of Prabha Khaitan Foundation. Huma Khalil Mirza, Ehsaas Woman of Delhi and Unnati Singh, Ehsaas

Woman of Indore, also chipped in and livened up the show. Teams of women achievers who work to create cultural capital and assets are a part of a Ehsaas Woman network in major cities of India under the aegis of Prabha Khaitan Foundation.

Dancer and choreographer Avirup Sengupta, who works with specially-abled children through Prayas Foundation, presented an enthralling performance. The Foundation had flown in children from Kolkata for the special performance. The latest issue of PKF newsletter Prabha, based on the theme of children's literature, was formally released.

Almonds Food for Fitness

Bhubaneswar: Engaging in exercise promotes a healthful lifestyle, but even when performed correctly, exercise causes fatigue and muscle damage. Recovery from exercise is important because it leads to muscle gain and improved fitness over time. A new study involving people who exercise occasionally (less than three times per week) demonstrated that snacking on almonds reduced feelings of fatigue and tension, increased leg and lower back strength during recovery, and decreased muscle damage during the first day of recovery. David C. Nieman, DrPH, FACSM, Professor and Principal Investigator, Human Performance Laboratory, Appalachian State University, led this novel research, supported with funding from the Almond Board of California. Dr. Nieman's team wanted to see if an almond snack compared to a high-carbohydrate cereal bar snack would improve inflammation and recovery in adults engaging in 90-minute exercise sessions. "What we found tells us definitively that almonds should be added to sports nutrition strategies to help people recover better from exercise," explained Dr. Nieman. "Almonds are food for fitness. Carbs get most of the attention when it comes to fueling for exercise, but almonds offer a nutrition package, including good unsaturated fats, the antioxidant vitamin E, and proanthocyanidins (class of polyphenols, which are protective compounds in plants) that help explain the beneficial outcomes in our study." One serving of almonds (28g) has 13 g of good unsaturated fat and only 1 g of saturated fat.

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Tata Power has also kicked off an ambitious nationwide plan of setting up approx. 25000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the country to support faster adoption of e-mo-

bility over the next 5 years. Greater Noida, January 12, 2023: Taking a leap in the era of sustainability and green mobility, WardWizard, a leading manufacturer of electric two-wheeler Joy ebike, today launched its new high-speed electric scooter 'MIHOS' with Poly Dicyclopentadiene Material (PDCPD) to bring high standards of durability for the riders. Designed and developed by WardWizard's R&D team in Vadodara, MIHOS, is a retro-style electric scooter. It is equipped with advanced technology, and user-friendly features with a vehicle sound simulator for additional safety of the riders on the road. It also features a broad seat for enhanced riding comfort. The production will take place at the company's state-of-the-art manufacturing facil-

ity in Vadodara, Gujarat and the deliveries will commence in a phased manner across the country. Speaking on the launch occasion and the company's prospects, Mr Yatin Gupte, Chairman & Managing Director, WardWizard Innovations & Mobility Ltd, said, "As one of the first promoters of electric mobility in the country, we are committed to building a sustainable environment and greener planet for the generations of today and tomorrow. Our new product MIHOS is designed and developed keeping in mind the aspirations of the customers and market demand. The scooter will not only excite the customers with its retro look and advanced features but will also provide extra safety with its high standards of durability

and comfort across various road conditions. The company is further investing in R&D for creating a holistic e-mobility ecosystem and developing India's first EV ancillary cluster to accelerate the adoption and growth of green mobility in the country. The year 2023 is going to be the establishing year of EV mobility in the country." Making another move in strengthening its product portfolio in the electric motorcycle category, the company also unveiled the concept of its city electric motorcycle 'Rockefeller' at the expo. The concept motorcycle is designed keeping in mind the need of the riders for daily riding. The company is planning to launch the motorcycle by the end of FY'24.

MCA name Omkar Salvi as 'Preparation isn't ideal' - Hathurusingha ahead of Ireland series Mumbai's new coach



Mumbai: Omkar Salvi has been appointed coach of Mumbai senior team. He will replace Amol Muzumdar, who did not apply for the position after completing his two-year contract with the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA). Salvi has been handed a contract for an initial period of one year. A former Mumbai pacer, Salvi (45), was picked by the Lalchand Rajput-headed Cricket Improvement Committee (CIC), which normally takes all cricket-related decisions of the MCA. Sahil Kukreja and Preeti Dimri are the other members of the CIC,

who interviewed seven candidates for the senior coach position. Sameer Dighe, Vinayak Mane, Vinayak Samant, Pradeep Sunderram, Umesh Patwal and Atul Ranade were the other candidates interviewed by the CIC. Dighe, being the only Test player among the aspirants, was considered favourite. But Rajput, himself an international coach of repute, who won India a World Cup (2007 T20 World Cup in South Africa), felt Salvi's vision and plans for Mumbai cricket were much better than the rest. "Among the candidates

who had applied for the head coach post, I felt Omkar was the best person. Because, he has been a coach in the IPL for a number of years and knows how to handle players, including the internationals. He is also well conversant with the modern-day technology. I feel that he is the right person to take Mumbai cricket forward," Rajput told Cricbuzz confirming the appointment.

Salvi has been a bowling coach for the Kolkata Knight Riders team and this website has learnt that he applied for the position with the knowledge of the franchise, which has agreed to release him in case he gets the role. Salvi could not be reached for a comment as KKR were involved in a game, against Punjab Kings at the Eden, at the time of writing the report. Dighe, meanwhile, has been appointed as the in-charge of the MCA academy.

Dhaka: Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha conceded on Monday that their preparation isn't ideal for the upcoming ODI series against Ireland. Bangladesh arrived in England on May 2 to prepare for the series which is part of the ICC Super League but due to bad weather they hardly managed to prepare for the series that is set to be played at Chelmsford from May 9.

Their only practice game against Ireland Wolves was washed away on May 5 and they had an opportunity to practice only once at the match venue ahead of the opening ODI against the 'hosts' who are desperate to seal direct qualification for the World Cup later this year.

"It's a very unique situation since we are playing Ireland in England and normally that doesn't happen," Hathurusingha told reporters on Monday. "We can't blame anyone and it's the first time. If



we knew this, we wouldn't have agreed to this kind of schedule because it's not ideal preparation. We learn from this one," he said. Hathurusingha added that they are not looking too far ahead as far as preparing for the World Cup is concerned as they will not play in similar conditions in India.

"In this series, not much since we are not playing in similar conditions to India. We will contemplate on winning the series in these

conditions. Not much looking into the world cup due to the conditions," he said adding that newcomer Rony Talukdar and Towhid Hridoy have a chance to prove their mettle.

"Yes for sure (it's a good opportunity) and for international cricket, they need to play in all kinds of conditions. This is the first opportunity they get I hope they prove it to themselves." He also added that Bangladesh are

fortunate to have two quality all-rounders in their team in the form of Mehedy Hasan and Shakib Al Hasan. "Actually he (Mehedy) is a genuine batter since he has a Test and an ODI hundred. We can treat him as a genuine all-rounder. We have another genuine all-rounder in Shakib Al Hasan so we are very fortunate in terms of whatever combination we want to go with whether an extra batter or bowler. We will decide tomorrow

morning. Hathurusingha has also backed Mehedy to deliver consistently at No.7 in the 50-over format. "In my mind there are few players who can play the position (number seven) and Miraz (Mehedy) can do that," said Hathurusingha. "It's interesting because sometimes you come in needing 10 runs and then sometimes we are five down for not much and you need to rebuild, which Miraz has done well. So right now no problem with that." Hathurusingha also pointed out that the wicket has a tinge of green at the moment ahead of the game. "There is a tinge of green on the top, looks like the wicket is very good," he noted. "Very hard underneath and little tinge of green and that's because it was covered the last few days due to rain. There was also a match here and they must have covered the wicket. Good wicket at the moment."

Russell, Rinku script another thrilling finish for KKR

Kolkata: Varun Chakravarthy's miserly spell, Nitish Rana's half-century and brisk knocks by Jason Roy, Andre Russell and Rinku Singh powered Kolkata Knight Riders to a last-ball win over Punjab Kings, at the Eden Gardens. The five-wicket win on Monday helped KKR register their fifth win of the season and move to the fifth position on the points table.

Shikhar Dhawan and Prabhsimran Singh came out all guns blazing against KKR's bowlers in the Powerplay. They didn't hold back from stepping out of the crease and playing on the up. Prabhsimran smashed three boundaries in the first over by Vaibhav Arora while Dhawan welcomed Harshit Rana with a couple of more hits to the fence in the first three balls. However, the early assault was negated quickly with a flurry of wickets. Even as the visitors added 58 runs in the Powerplay, they lost the wickets of Prabhsimran, Bhanuka Rajapaksa and Liam Livingstone in the process.

Chakravarthy had imposed himself in the Powerplay itself, trapping Livingstone legbefore. However, on a pitch that was slow and assisted the spinners, Sunil Narine and Suyash Sharma also proved difficult to get away with. The three early strikes had also subdued Dhawan's attacking approach as he tried to steady the innings in the company of Jitesh Sharma. The duo rotated the strike



well and took the odd opportunity that came their way - Dhawan steered a tossed up delivery by Chakravarthy for a boundary while Jitesh put away a half-tracker by Suyash for a six. Just when the duo was promising to up the scoring rate with a flurry of boundaries off Suyash and Narine around the halfway mark of the innings, Jitesh was caught behind off Chakravarthy. Soon after, Dhawan top-edged a sweep off Narine for a six to bring up his fifty but was dismissed a few balls later, miscuing a loft off Nitish Rana to long on. The scoring rate was kept in check and a couple of more wickets fell - Chakravarthy cleaning up Rishi Dhawan and Suyash having Sam Curran caught behind. By the end of the 18th over, PBKS were kept to 143 for 7.

With a desperate need for runs, Shahrukh Khan and Harpreet Brar swung their bats fearlessly, often putting the inexperienced duo

of Harshit and Vaibhav off their lines and lengths. Some were edged for boundaries and some found the middle of the bat as the duo managed to add 36 runs in the last two overs to propel the visitors to a competitive score. Quite unlike PBKS, the KKR openers were more measured with their strokeplay. The two free-flowing batters - Jason Roy and Rahmanullah Gurbaz - were watchful yet took advantage of the scoring opportunities that came their way. While Rishi Dhawan offered a couple of boundary-scoring opportunities to Roy in the third over, Gurbaz used his natural style to play a pick-up shot off Arshdeep for a six and following it up with a couple of cracking boundaries. A slow yorker by Nathan Ellis had Gurbaz pinged on his pads and declared legbefore but a couple of boundaries off Sam Curran had ended PBKS' powerplay on 52 for 1.

While Rahul Chahar did a fine job in controlling the scoring

rate in the middle, especially keeping Venkatesh Iyer in check, the KKR batters took the attack on Livingstone. Roy cracked a couple of boundaries to end the spinner's first over while Rana took him on in his second, welcoming him with two boundaries and a six. Sandwiching those five deliveries were three tight overs which included the dismissal of Roy - caught slogsweeping to deep mid wicket.

Iyer struggled his way to a 13-ball 11 before holing out to long on. The tight overs to follow had kept the hosts in check at 129 for 4 in 16 overs.

Andre Russell, who had walked out to bat in the 14th over, was looking scratchy early on. Even his first boundary came via a top edge of Ellis that got him going. While the plan to go short or yorker to Russell proved quite effective, the all-rounder was quick to go big against the variations and the errors in execution by the PBKS pacers. He belted Ellis's slower

one and Arshdeep full deliveries for boundaries. In the 19th over, he hammered three sixes off Sam Curran - first one off a yorker, second of a slightly shorter length and third a slower bouncer. With 20 runs off the over, KKR were just left needing 6 in the final over.

Arshdeep bowled superbly to bring the equation down to 2 runs off the last delivery, which included Russell's run out. However, a rare error in length - a low full toss on the legs of Rinku was picked up and sent for a boundary through the fine leg region.

Brief Scores: Punjab Kings 179/7 in 20 overs (Shikhar Dhawan 57; Varun Chakravarthy 3-26) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 182/5 in 20 overs (Nitish Rana 51, Andre Russell 42; Rahul Chahar 2-23) by 5 wickets



New Delhi: India have named Ishan Kishan as the replacement for KL Rahul in the WTC final. The injured Rahul is set to undergo surgery followed by rehab.

Rahul is not the only one amongst the injured list in India's WTC squad. Pacers Umesh Yadav and Jaydev Unadkat are also under the scanner for injuries but find themselves still in the WTC squad for now. "Jaydev Unadkat sustained a left shoulder injury by tripping over the side rope while bowling in the nets. A specialist consultation has been sought and the

left-arm fast bowler is currently at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru undergoing strength and rehab sessions for his shoulder.

A decision on his participation in the WTC final will be taken at a later stage," said the BCCI in a media release on Tuesday, May 8.

While Unadkat's participation in the final is under a cloud as of now, with his rehab happening at the NCA, the other pacer Umesh has been allowed to be with his IPL team. "Umesh Yadav sustained a minor left hamstring injury during Match 36

of TATA IPL 2023 between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on 26 April. The fast bowler is currently under the care of the KKR Medical Team and has started low-intensity bowling as part of his rehab process. The BCCI Medical Team is in regular touch with KKR Medical Team and is closely monitoring Umesh's progress," said BCCI in their statement signed by Secretary Jay Shah.

Additionally Ruturaj Gaikwad, Mukesh Kumar and Suryakumar Yadav have been named as the standby players for the WTC final.

WTC squad: Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, KS Bharat (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Jaydev Unadkat, Ishan Kishan (wk).

Ishan Kishan named Rahul's replacement for WTC

Lionel Messi And Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce Win Top Honours At Laureus Sports Awards 2023

New Delhi: Lionel Messi has won a top accolade as world Sportsman of the Year and picked up another award as a member of the team of the year following Argentina's FIFA World Cup football victory in 2022. Jamaican sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce finally broke through to win the Sportswoman of the Year award on her sixth nomination. Fraser-Pryce's 2022 exploits included winning the 100-meter gold at the World Athletics



Championships for the fifth time. The Laureus Sports Awards honoring eight winners were held live in Paris on Monday night for the first time since 2020.

It was Messi's second individual title after

sharing that honor with Formula 1 driver Lewis Hamilton in 2020. Fraser-Pryce, who has won three Olympic and 10 world championship gold medals, called her award "one of the greatest honors of my

career." "When athletes have the spotlight, it's important the example we set is the best it can be... we have a responsibility to influence the next generation in a positive way," she said.

Spanish tennis player Carlos Alcaraz's victory at the 2022 US Open and his rise to the No. 1 ranking saw him take the Breakthrough of the Year award. Alcaraz, who celebrated his 20th birthday last week, won Sunday's final of the Madrid Open.