

Severe Cyclone Mocha Hits Bangladesh, Myanmar Coast

Dhaka: Severe cyclone Mocha, equivalent to category five storm, on Sunday hit Bangladesh and Myanmar coast bringing heavy rain and high velocity winds with speed of 195 kmph. Mohammad Azizur Rahman, director of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, has said that the cyclone is likely to weaken by evening, the Dhaka Tribune reported. The government also issued an official



landslide warning linked to the predicted very heavy rainfall forecast for Sunday.

Gas supply from two floating LNG terminals was suspended due to the cyclone. The

authorities have suspended Monday's Secondary School Certificate or SSC

exam under all educational boards due to Mocha.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina herself is monitoring the situation and giving directives to tackle the Cyclone, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said. In the Sittwe area in Myanmar, electricity and wi-fi connections were disrupted. Rescue teams in Sittwe said they were receiving distress calls from people trapped by flooding, BBC reported.

Congress Announces Karnataka Chief Minister Oath on Thursday



Bengaluru: The new Karnataka Chief Minister and the cabinet will take oath on Thursday, sources said. The Gandhis and national Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge will attend the event. The Congress has sent invitations to all "like-minded" parties to attend the oath-taking event.

The final contours of the Karnataka cabinet will take shape in a day or two, people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The BJP has been voted out of power in Karnataka, its only bastion in the south until yesterday, when the Congress took 135 seats in the 224-member house.

The BJP won only 66 seats, down from 104 in the 2018 state election. It did not win a single seat reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. Karnataka has 51 reserved constituencies,

out of which 36 are for Scheduled Castes (SC) candidates and 15 for ST candidates.

The Congress called a meeting of its MLAs today to discuss who would be the Chief Minister.

The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) is expected to pass a resolution leaving it to the Congress national president to decide the Chief Minister pick.

No final decision will be taken today, but the views of all MLAs will be ascertained, sources said. Congress General Secretaries Sushil Kumar Shinde, Deepak Babaria and Jitendra Singh Alwar are the observers of the Karnataka CLP meeting.

Congress leaders DK Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah have expressed interest for the top post, raising concerns over a stand-off if the matter is not resolved. Mr Shivakumar has gone with his family and

brother, Congress MP from Bangalore Rural DK Suresh, to a temple 120 km away from the state capital Bengaluru. Siddaramaiah's supporters have put up a poster outside his home in Bengaluru, referring to him as "the next Chief Minister of Karnataka".

Posters also came up outside Mr Shivakumar's house, wishing "birthday greetings" to "the new Chief Minister of Karnataka". His birthday is tomorrow.

The scale of the Congress win is a record in terms of both seats and vote share in over 30 years. The party won 135 seats - 55 more than in 2018 - with a vote share of 42.88 per cent. The closest the Congress came to this score was in 1999 when it won 132 seats and had a vote share of 40.84 per cent. In 1989, it won 178 seats with a vote share of 43.76 per cent

Heat Wave Conditions Likely To Intensify In Odisha From Today

Bhubaneswar: Heat wave conditions are likely to intensify in several districts of Odisha from tomorrow, the Regional Meteorological Centre here said.

Under influence of dry westerly/northwesterly winds and high solar insolation, maximum temperature (day temperature) very likely to rise by 3 to 5°C during the next 2 days at many places over the districts of Odisha, the Meteorological Centre said. Consequently, heat wave condition is likely in some districts of interior Odisha from 15th May and maximum



temperature (day temperature) likely to be more than 40°C and above normal by 3 to 5°C at a few places over the districts of Odisha, it added.

People have been advised to take precautionary measure while going outside during daytime between 11 AM and 3 PM.

Below is day-wise forecast in connection with heat wave.

May 15: Heat wave condition very likely to prevail at a few places over the districts of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Sonepur. May 16: Heat wave condition very likely to prevail at a few places over the districts of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Angul, Deogarh, Boudh and Bolangir.

May 17: Heat wave condition very likely to prevail at a few places over the districts of Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sonepur, Boudh and Bolangir.

ICSE Class 10th, 12th Exam Results Out



Bhubaneswar: Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) announced Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) Class 10th and Indian School Certificate (ISC) Class 12 board exam results. Students can check their results on cisce.org and results.cisce.org using unique ID and index number. The ICSE Class 10th Examination was held from February 27 to March 29. The ISC Class 12th examination was conducted from February 13 to March 31. Around 2.5 lakh candidates had appeared in the board examinations for the year 2023.

3 Workers Critically Injured As Oxygen Cylinder Blasts In Odisha's Keonjhar District



Barbil: Three workers sustained grievous injuries after an oxygen cylinder exploded in Arya Iron & Steel Company Private Limited (AISCO)'s 1.2MTPA iron ore pellet plant in Barbil of Keonjhar, today. The injured persons were identified as Prem Shankar Sharma, Krishna Das and Karan Mahanta.

An eyewitness said that the fatal mishap took place when oxygen cylinders were being unloaded inside the plant premises. The three workers belong to Barbil locality in the district. The injured were rescued and immediately admitted to a nearby health facility for treatment.

Later, the workers were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) in Cuttack after their conditions deteriorated.

"Two of the injured persons named Krishna and Karan are labourers engaged in the cylinder-laden truck and the third is an employee of Arya Iron & Steel Company. The three sustained severe injuries on their chests and faces including eyes," driver of the vehicle Sachin Kumar stated.

Praveen Sood, Karnataka Police Chief, To Be Next CBI Director For 2 Years

New Delhi: Karnataka police chief Praveen Sood has been chosen as the next director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He will succeed current director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, whose term ends on May 25.

Mr Sood had hit the headlines in March when Karnataka Congress chief DK Shivakumar accused him of protecting the BJP government in the state. Mr Shivakumar sought the arrest of the state's



Director general of police claiming that he was filing cases against Congress leaders.

His name was cleared on Saturday in a meeting of a high-powered committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice of

India DY Chandrachud and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

Mr Sood is a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Karnataka cadre and the senior-most IPS officer in the country after Mr Jaiswal. "Approval of the competent authority is hereby conveyed to the appointment of Praveen Sood, IPS (KN:86) as Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a period of two years

from the date of assumption of charge of the office vice Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, IPS (MH:85) consequent upon completion of his tenure," the Department of Personnel and Training said in an order. The CBI Director is selected by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha

Mystery of woman, 2 kids' deaths in Sambalpur yet to unfold



Sambalpur: The mystery behind the deaths of a woman and her two minor children, whose decomposed bodies were found in their house at Sunapali area under Dhanupali police limits in Sambalpur district, is yet to be cracked by the police.

The cops with the help of a forensic team are still on the job to find out what circumstances led to their deaths.

The deceased were identified as Sazia Parwin, her eight-year-old son Abdul Rehman and six-year-old daughter Humera Tayiba. Sazia's husband had predeceased her two years ago.

According to the police, the neighbours noticed the house closed for the last three days. Yesterday morning, the local residents observed a foul smell emanating from the house and immediately informed the police.

After getting information, a team from Dhanupali Police Station reached the spot and broke open the door in the presence of the magistrate and family members.

Police said, prima facie it seems to be a case of murder. However, they are investigating the case from all possible angles.

Meanwhile, the disappearance of a person who was visiting the woman's house frequently has further deepened the mystery. It is suspected that the missing person has an involvement in the crime.



The Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar at unveiling ceremony of the statue of late Shri Nathuram Mirdha at Merta City, Nagaur, in Rajasthan

IREDA Achievements Lauded

New Delhi: Stakeholders of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) have expressed their profound appreciation for IREDA's exceptional achievement of becoming the first public sector undertaking (PSU) to publish its Annual Audited Financial Results within an impressive 25-day time frame, surpassing SEBI's mandated 60-day deadline. They were lauding efforts of the most dynamic and visionary Chairman and Managing Director of IREDA Pradip Kumar Das.

IREDA under his leadership is scaling new heights. They also recognized IREDA's commitment for providing competitive interest rates and handholding support reflecting its understanding of the needs and aspirations of its stakeholders. The 13th Stakeholders' Interaction meet held on 12 May facilitated encouraging discussions on new initiatives, future plans, and taking feedback from esteemed business partners. Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA chaired the meet,



which took place through a virtual platform, facilitating broad participation. The stakeholders' meet commenced with a comprehensive presentation, highlighting IREDA's historic financial results, recent achievements, major initiatives undertaken for Renewable

Energy sector development, and the effective implementation of suggestions received during previous interaction meets. Emphasis was also placed on future plans aligned with the ambitious targets set by the Government of India

for the growth of the RE sector. Subsequently, an interactive session was conducted, enabling stakeholders to directly engage with CMD and Team IREDA. In his opening remarks, CMD, IREDA underlined the organization's

unwavering commitment to supporting borrowers by providing loans at competitive rates, despite the recent repo rate hike by the Reserve Bank of India. He further highlighted the significant IREDA's credit rating

upgradation by ICRA, elevating its ratings to 'AAA' (Outlook: Stable) from 'AA+' (Outlook: Positive) and 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status granted to IREDA by RBI. This upgrade positions IREDA to secure funds at lower interest rates, with the resultant cost savings to be directly passed on to borrowers. Shri Das urged all stakeholders to continue providing their valuable feedback, recognizing the invaluable contribution received from previous interaction meetings.

These inputs have played a pivotal role in enhancing the "Ease of Doing Business," streamlining processes through digital platforms, and reducing loan sanction, documentation, and disbursement cycles. Overall, the stakeholders' meet was a success, and it demonstrated IREDA's commitment to promoting Renewable Energy development in the country. IREDA will continue to work with its business partners to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Odisha farmers opt for open market, skip mandis



ROURKELA: Even as Sundargarh district is yet to achieve its procurement target, farmers have stopped arriving at mandis to sell their produce. The district had set a target to procure 22.31 lakh quintal paddy during 2022 kharif season. As of now, a little over 20 lakh quintal has been purchased from farmers. Sources said the possible reason could be the farmers selling their produce in the open market instead of the paddy procurement centres (PPCs) due to 'harassment'. Sources said a quintal of

paddy fetches Rs 1,800- Rs 1,900 in the open market against the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 2,040 for fair average quality produce. The practice of 'katni-chhatni' is rampant at the mandis where five kg paddy is deducted from a quintal. This apart, farmers have to bear the cost of gunny bags, ropes and labour which makes selling their produce at mandis a less profitable affair. Due to such 'harassment' at mandis and the fact that the MSP remains only on paper, farmers opt for the open market.

In 2021-22 kharif marketing season, around 22.48 lakh quintal paddy was procured from 44,183 farmers against the target of 22 lakh quintal. Around 3,500 farmers who were issued tokens had complained that they were unable to sell their produce at the procurement centres. But the scenario changed during the 2022 kharif season. In-charge deputy registrar of cooperative societies (DRCS) Gabriel Soreng said in next few days, procurement centres will be closed in the

district. The PPCs are reporting that despite having active tokens, farmers have stopped coming. The remaining farmers do not have surplus paddy to sell, he added. In Sundargarh, around 5,400 hectare of fallow land was left out of paddy cultivation due to delayed monsoon during 2022 kharif season. Paddy was grown on the remaining 1,98,600 hectare land. However, chief district agriculture officer Birendra Behera said despite late arrival of monsoon, Sundargarh reported a decent yield of 32.5 quintal per hectare.

Contractual staff of SLN MCH in Odisha on strike claiming unfair recruitment

KORAPUT: Alleging corruption in recruitment of permanent staff, contractual and outsourcing employees of Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital (SLN MCH) have been staging relay strike in front of the medical college since Saturday. The protestors allege that though they qualified for the permanent positions, the medical college authorities deliberately ignored them and recruited new people through unfair means. Around 300 of them were temporarily recruited through an



outsourcing agency 12 years back to work as attendants, cleaners, ambulance drivers and plumbers among other positions. The staff meanwhile continued working with hopes that their jobs would soon be converted into a permanent one. They had also applied for

permanent positions after an advertisement was floated by the medical college authorities in 2019 for filling up the posts. However, after the recruitment letter was published on February 21, 2023, they realised that none of them were included in the 54 names

that were selected for permanent positions. They informed that the list was released on the day the principal-cum-dean of the MCH retired. "The appointed staff were pre-arranged," the agitators alleged. The agitators further demanded revocation of the recruitment list and called for fresh recruitment process considering their experience. "We will continue with the strike till our demands are fulfilled," they threatened. Administrative officer Madhusmita Nayak was unavailable to comment on the matter.

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'Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai' Director Apoorv Singh Karki Opens Up On Working With Manoj Bajpayee

Actor Manoj Bajpayee's upcoming courtroom drama 'Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai', which is all set for release on Zee5 is already winning hearts. Manoj essays the role of a lawyer in his film 'Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai', who single-handedly goes against a self-styled Godman for allegedly raping a minor girl under the POCSO Act. Director Apoorv Singh Karki opens up on ZEE5's upcoming film 'Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai' and shared many anecdotes.



The movie marks his first feature directorial debut, here's what he

said about the highlight of it, "The highlight of Bandaa is the monologue in the climax scene because it is a very long and impactful moment in the film and overall,

the movie is a very dialogue-heavy film. Initially, when I had discussed the script with Manoj sir and we discussed that let's do this dialogue, he said that we need to spend

a lot of time on it because this 6-page scene is the ethos of the film."

"I can't discuss a lot about it because it is not released yet but for that scene Manoj sir

has read the monologue at least 150 times with me and I remember that before the shoot, we were staying in a hotel, and he called his wife to hear the monologue and my house help as well. That scene was very challenging for all of us. The reading of this scene was very important because of the impact this dialogue has on everyone," he concluded.

Als, when he asked about if his film is inspired by true events, and what challenges he faced, he said, "Yes, there have been

challenges because this story is inspired by true events, so we need to maintain a fine balance when we are dealing with a subject like this because realism is a factor in this, and we also need to balance the entertainment part since that's the purpose of the film."

Further, he added, "There is a lot of research gone into this film. It took 1-1.5 years of research where we spent a lot of time with PC Solanki and the script went through 18 drafts of discussions with the makers and with Manoj Sir. All in all, we took a lot of efforts."

The Little Mermaid Trailer: Halle Bailey Looks Surreal as 'Ariel' In This Magical World

The trailer and poster for Disney's 'The Little Mermaid', the live-action reimagining of the studio's animated musical classic, are here! Two of the film's stars, Halle Bailey and Melissa McCarthy, debuted the trailer yesterday on ABC's live broadcast of the 95th Annual Academy Awards?. 'The Little Mermaid,' helmed by visionary filmmaker Rob Marshall, opens exclusively in theaters nationwide May 26, 2023. 'The Little Mermaid' is the beloved story of Ariel, a beautiful and spirited young mermaid with a thirst for adventure. The youngest of King Triton's daughters and the most defiant, Ariel longs to find out more about the world beyond the sea and, while visiting the surface, falls for the dashing Prince Eric. While mermaids are forbidden to interact with humans, Ariel must follow her heart. She makes a deal with the evil sea witch, Ursula, which gives her a chance to experience life on land but ultimately places her life – and her father's crown – in jeopardy.

The film stars singer and actress Halle Bailey ("grown-ish") as Ariel; Jonah Hauer-King ("A Dog's Way Home") as Prince Eric; Tony Award winner Daveed Diggs ("Hamilton") as the voice of Sebastian; Awkwafina ("Raya and the Last Dragon") as the voice of Scuttle; Jacob Tremblay ("Luca") as the voice of Flounder; Noma Dumezweni ("Mary Poppins Returns") as Queen Selina; Art Malik ("Homeland") as Sir Grimsby; with Oscar winner Javier Bardem ("No Country for Old Men") as King Triton; and two-time Academy Award nominee Melissa McCarthy ("Can You Ever Forgive Me?" "Bridesmaids") as Ursula.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu Watches Her Film 'Shaakuntalam', Shares First Hand Review

Samantha Ruth Prabhu has already wowed everyone with her performance in Yashoda and has left us impressed. Now the actress is gearing up with an interesting lineup and her fans can not contain their excitement. Recently, the actress watched her upcoming film Shaakuntalam and has expressed her emotions towards the film.



As the actress shares a picture of herself standing along with the team, she writes "And I finally watched the movie today! Gunashekar garu.. you have my heart. What a beautiful film! One of our greatest epics brought to life so endearingly! I can't wait for our family audiences to be swept away by the powerful emotions! And all you kids out there... you're going to love our

magical world! Dil Raju garu and Neelima... thank you for this wonderful journey.#Shaakuntalam will forever be close to me!"
Apart from this, Samantha is also gearing up for the highly anticipated Indian version of Citadel. The actress is working hard on the

action sequences and recently shot in Nanital for it and has also resumed shooting for her upcoming film Kushi opposite Vijay Deverakonda. Samantha reigned the year 2022 with her dazzling presence in the 'Oo Antava' song from Pushpa: The Rise, which quickly became a rage. Apart from that,

she has reigned as the reigning queen of a leading research report month after month in 2022, topping the survey of India's Most Popular Female Stars. She has an interesting slate of projects including Shaakuntalam which will be releasing in April along with Kushi and Citadel.

Gaslight Trailer Out: Sara Ali Khan, Vikrant Massey's Suspense-Thriller Will Give You Chills

Makers of the upcoming suspense thriller film Gaslight unveiled the official trailer on Monday. Taking to Instagram, Disney+ Hotstar shared the trailer which he captioned, "Shaq ka ghera hai badhta jaa raha...aakhir khooni hai kaun? Watch the trailer now! #Gaslight streaming on 31st March."



Helmed by Pavan Kripalani the film stars Sara Ali Khan, Vikrant Massey, Chitrangda Singh and Akshay Oberoi in the lead roles and is all set to stream on the OTT platform Disney+ Hotstar from March 31. Soon after the makers unveiled the official trailer, fans flooded the comment section with red hearts and fire emoticons. "You improved sm sara love how subtle you did it here. Looks so interesting can't wait to watch," a fan

commented. Talking about the film, actor Sara Ali Khan, said, "Gaslight is a classic whodunit- set in an eerie yet beautiful palatial estate. It revolves around the character of Misha who's trying to find the truth behind her fathers 'absence'. During her endeavour she comes

across a lot of strange and terrifying instances, and the story then becomes about how she navigates her way through this unknown terrain. It was challenging to get into this role both mentally and physically as she's a very layered and nuanced character. I

hope this film is going to be a thrilling ride for the audience as each scene will keep them at the edge of their seat. I am grateful for the association with Tips Films Ltd., 12th Street Entertainment, Pavan Kirpalani and Disney+ Hotstar." Vikrant said, "It's been an incredible journey

while shooting for Gaslight, the film is a murder mystery with unraveling of truths of each character which makes it more interesting. Kapil is a complex character. The audience will enjoy the film throughout. I am excited to collaborate with Disney+ Hotstar

and hope audiences enjoy this film." Chitrangda Singh said, "I have always been fascinated by thrillers. Gaslight gave me the opportunity to explore that and enabled me to mold myself into a character like never before. I could explore various facets of myself as an actor with the character of Rukmini and it was indeed something very different. I am glad to be a part of the Disney+ Hotstar family and hope audiences are ready to experience this thrilling journey with Gaslight." Apart from this Sara will also be seen in Laxman Utekar's upcoming untitled rom-com film opposite Vicky Kaushal and in Homi Adajania's next 'Murder Mubarak'.

NEW TAX REGIME IS NOW "DEFAULT REGIME"



Adv. Narayan Jain & CA Dilip Loyalka

(Contd from 8th May 2023)
12. NEW TAX REGIME HAS BECOME "DEFAULT REGIME" [Section 115BAC(6)]
12.1 New Tax Regime now default Tax Regime: W.e.f. AY 2024-25, the alternative tax regime u/s 115BAC has been made the default tax regime for an individual/HUF/AOP/BOI/artificial juridical person. However, in case there is no income from Business or profession, the option can be exercised to change from one Regime to another Regime. [Prior to the amendment, from AY 2021-22 to AY 2023-24, the regular tax regime was the default regime while an assessee had an option to opt for alternative tax regime].
12.2 Standard deduction from salary u/s 16(ia), standard deduction from family pension u/s 57(ia) and Employer's contribution to Agniveer Corpus Fund u/s 80CCH(2) shall now be

available under new tax regime also [Section 115BAC(1A)]: W.e.f. AY 2024-25, standard deduction from salary u/s 16(ia), standard deduction from family pension u/s 57(ia) and employer's (Central Government) contribution to Agniveer Corpus Fund u/s 80CCH(2) shall be available as deduction from gross total income under new tax regime. Deduction u/s 80CCD(2) and Section 80JJAA shall continue to be allowed.
13. Co-operative society is also entitled for concessional rate of taxation @ 15% in line with companies [Section 115BAE]: W.e.f. AY 2024-25 new section 115BAE has been introduced to provide that a Co-operative society resident in India can opt for concessional rate of 15% if the following conditions are fulfilled:
 a) The Co-operative society has been set up and registered on or

after the 1st April 2023 and has commenced manufacturing or production of an article or thing on or before the 31st March 2024.
 b) Such business is not formed by splitting up or the reconstruction of a business already in existence.
 c) Such business does not use machinery or plant previously used for any purpose.
 d) The co-operative society is not engaged in any business other than the business of manufacture or production of any article or thing and research in relation to or distribution of such article or thing manufactured or produced by it.
 e) The total income of the assessee has been computed:-
 i) without any deduction under the provisions of section 10AA or clause (ia) of sub-section (1) of section 32 or section 33AB or section 33ABA or subclause (ii) or subclause (iia) or sub-clause (iii) of sub-section (1) or subsection (2AA) of section 35 or section 35AD or section 35CCC or under any of the provisions of Chapter VI-A other than the provisions of section 80JJAA;
 ii) without set off of any loss carried forward or depreciation from any earlier assessment year,

if such loss or depreciation is attributable to any of the deductions referred to in (i) above; and
 iii) by claiming the depreciation, if any, under section 32, other than clause (iia) of sub-section (1) of the said section, determined in such manner as may be prescribed;
 Further, the loss and depreciation referred to in above shall be deemed to have been given full effect to and no further deduction for such loss shall be allowed for any subsequent year.
 The co-operative society is required to exercise the option in prescribed form on or before the due date for furnishing the first of the returns of income for any previous year relevant to the assessment year commencing on or after 1st day of April, 2024 and such option once exercised shall apply to subsequent assessment years. The option so exercised cannot be withdrawn.
 Also if the income of the assessee, includes any income, which has neither been derived from nor is incidental to manufacturing or production of an article or thing and in respect of which no specific rate of tax has been provided separately, such income shall be taxed at the rate of 22 per cent and no

deduction or allowance in respect of any expenditure or allowance shall be made in computing such income. [1st proviso to sec. 115BAE(1)]
 Further sec. 115BAE(4) provides that where it appears to the Assessing Officer that, owing to the close connection between the assessee to which this section applies and any other person, or for any other reason, the course of business between them is so arranged that the business transacted between them produces to the assessee more than the ordinary profits which might be expected to arise in such business, the Assessing Officer shall, in computing the profits and gains of such business for the purposes of this section, take the amount of profits as may be reasonably deemed to have been derived therefrom and as per second proviso to sec. 115BAE(1) such income shall be charged at the rate of thirty per cent.;
 The income-tax payable in respect of income, being short term capital gains derived from transfer of a capital asset on which no depreciation is allowable under the Act shall be computed

at the rate of 22 per cent [3rd proviso to sec. 115BAE(1)]
 Also where the assessee fails to satisfy the specified conditions under section 115BAE(2) in any previous year, the option shall become invalid in respect of the assessment year relevant to that previous year and subsequent assessment years and other provisions of the Act shall apply to the assessee as if the option had not been exercised for the assessment year relevant to that previous year and subsequent assessment years. [4th proviso to sec. 115BAE(1)]
14. SEARCH & SEIZURE
14.1 Search officer can now take assistance of any person or entity approved by the Principal Chief Commissioner or the Chief Commissioner or the Principal Director General or the Director General [Section 132(2)]: Prior to the amendment, authorised officer in the course of search was entitled to take assistance of any police officer or any officer of the Central Government or both. However, w.e.f. 01.04.2023 search officer can also take assistance of any

person or entity like digital forensic professionals, valuers, archive experts, locksmith, carpenters etc. during the search with the approval of Principal Chief Commissioner or the Chief Commissioner or the Principal Director General or the Director General.
14.2 Search officer can now take assistance of any person or entity or any registered valuer approved by the Principal Chief Commissioner or the Chief Commissioner or the Principal Director General or the Director General [Section 132(9D)]: W.e.f. 01.04.2023, search officer can also take assistance of any person or entity or a valuer registered by or under any law, during the search or within sixty days from the date on which the last of the authorisations for search was executed with the approval of Principal Chief Commissioner or the Chief Commissioner or the Principal Director General or the Director General. Prior to the amendment, authorised officer was entitled to take assistance of a Valuation officer referred to Section 142A.
15. S P E C I A L

AUDIT/INVENTORY VALUATION
15.1 AO empowered to direct for inventory valuation in the course of any proceedings [Section 142(2A)]: W.e.f. AY 2023-24, with the prior approval of PCCIT/CCIT/PCIT/CIT, during the course of any proceedings, AO may direct the assessee to get inventory valued by any cost accountant nominated by PCCIT/CCIT/PCIT/CIT. Such direction can be given after the assessee has been allowed a reasonable opportunity of being heard. Expenses of and incidental to such inventory valuation shall be determined by the PCCIT/CCIT/PCIT/CIT and shall be borne by the Central Government as per amended provisions. The time taken for inventory valuation shall be excluded for computing time limit u/s 153 for the completion of assessment.

(Adv. Narayan Jain and CA Dilip Loyalka are authors of the famous books "How to Handle Income Tax Problems" and "Income Tax Pleading & Practice". They are also members of AIFTP as well as DTPA)

Defeat of despotism, communalism, cronyism

Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra



Many Indian voters may be emotional, credulous, and gullible, but they cannot be deluded or cannot be taken for granted always. The voters, especially at grassroots levels, including floating voters decide the election result by exercising suffrage cheekily, audaciously, and independently too. This is clearly manifested in the recent outcomes of the Assembly's election of Karnataka. The Karnataka election was a prestige issue for BJP as it had invested its human, political, and financial resources to the utmost capacity to retain power. Prime Minister addressed huge numbers of meetings, and rallies, and made many road shows at the cost of taxpayers' money to prevent a party from defeat as predicted earlier.
 For Congress, it was a battle for identity while for voters, it was against emotional and religion-based politics, obscurantism, unscientific temper, communal polarization, polarisation, religious fanaticism, partisan news media, the brutality of crony capitalism, and

corruption. It was an election to prove a point that vindictive politics or politics of raid and fear cannot influence electoral outcomes. Even though the election was seen as a battle for political suzerainty between Prime Minister Modi and Congress leaders of Karnataka, the magic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was found eroded and waning.
 Exit polls had predicted a tight contest between Congress and the BJP with JD(S) playing a crucial role. But, voters of India's prosperous state powered the Congress party to an astounding victory in a vicious battle marred by violence, denigration, mudslinging, communal polarisation and religious fanaticism. The precipitous decline of BJP's popularity is clearly palpable as the Karnataka verdict shows that Congress has a clear majority and the BJP has lost its only stronghold in the south. What if the BJP has fallen to less than half of the Congress? If governance is bad, deceptive, and publicity-oriented, you cannot hoodwink voters always. Money and muscle power cannot fully influence the verdict always.
 As per the latest trends in Karnataka Election Results, the Congress party is expected to win 136 seats out of 224 seats. The BJP is leading

in 64 seats, and JD(S) in 20 others. The Mallikarjun Kharge-led Congress was leading by 44.4 percent vote share, while the BJP was at 37.4 per cent vote share. At the same time, the JD(S) was at 10.5 percent vote share, the EC's website showed. During Karnataka Assembly Elections 2018 —BJP has own 104, Congress 78, and JD(S) 37 seats.
 According to some election analysts, Congress has won the 2023 Karnataka assembly elections by the biggest vote share and seats after a whopping 34 years. This election is the biggest victory for "any party in Karnataka" after 1989 during Veerendra Patil's regime when the Congress had won 178 seats with a vote share of 43.76 percent.
 In 1999, the Congress won 132 seats with a vote share of 40.84 percent, followed by 2013 when the party bagged 122 seats with a vote share of 36.6 percent. In 1994, JDS won a total of 115 seats with a vote percentage of 33.54. The BJP won 110 seats in 2008 with a vote share of 36.86 percent, followed by 2018 with 104 seats with a vote percentage of 36.3. In 2004, BJP got a total of 79 seats with a vote share of 28.33 per cent. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP had swept 170 of the 224 assembly segments. The

Congress and the JD(S), despite a pre-poll alliance, won merely 47 (36 Congress, 11 JD (S)). Today's reversal, with the Congress and JD(S) nearly reaching 170 between them despite having no alliance, shows that Indian voters are too discerning to put their emotions above rational expectations.
 Why didn't the intense, personalized campaign by Prime Minister Narendra Modi work? Does it show a decline in his popularity and erosion of his magic? The Congress has reposed its faith in Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra as Rahul Gandhi spent 27 days in the state covering seven districts. Rahul Gandhi touched upon 51 assembly seats during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Out of these 51 seats, the Congress won over 30 seats. This shows that Bharat Jodo Yatra was successful in connecting voters with the Congress.
 It is told that Congress promised many freebies claiming it to be an assistance in its fight against inflation. While the party fervently raised the issues like high prices of petrol and LPG cylinders, it promised Rs 2000 per month for every woman head of each household. To help youth fight unemployment, Congress promised a monthly allowance of Rs 3,000 to unemployed graduates and Rs 1,500 to unemployed diploma holders. It also promised to restore the old pension

scheme and provide 200 units of free electricity. These issues may not be much relevant to urban cities like Bengaluru but echoed the sentiments of the rural population.
 The Congress promised to ban organisations like Bajrang Dal and Popular Front of India (PFI) which spread hatred. While the BJP made it a poll issue saying the Congress wants to ban Bajrang Bali, the voters did not resonate with the BJP's plank. The recital of Hanuman Chalisa publicly also did not help the BJP. The Congress appears to have effectively countered the narrative by promising the development of Hanuman temples across the state. The issue also appears to have polarised Muslim voters in the Old Mysuru region where JDS ceded its vote bank to Congress.
 The Congress has been cornering BJP over corruption issues in the state. It accused the ruling BJP of taking a 40 per cent commission in every government contract. The issue even led to the suicide of a government contractor. Though the BJP did not field K. S. Eshwarappa or his son K.E. Kantesh who were at the centre of the controversy, Congress successfully took the issue to the masses and reaped

dividends. Since 2014, despite exerting enormous power and a brutal majority at the Centre, the BJP has not been able to master and settle well into new territories. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal are tough states to snap for the BJP. Even after nine long years of maintaining a grip in New Delhi and calling for 'Hindi, Hindu, and Hindustan', the party has been inept to make a deeper imprint in these states.
 The result of this election will influence the BJP's strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The result has shown the limitation of using Hindutva politics and polarising voters, which the BJP did in many regions of India. Fifth, the Karnataka election results' most positive message is one that goes to all of India: There are no substitutes to regional political leadership in Indian politics. Indian democracy works miracles only if regional leaders flourish along with national leadership. In their 10th year in power now, the Modi-Shah BJP has shown a stark inadequacy at repeating their Lok Sabha success in Vidhan Sabhas. They've suffered serial losses in the states or settled for coalitions conceding

much more ground to the partner than they would've liked. Check out Maharashtra, Haryana, and Bihar for as long as Nitish's wagon was tied to their engine.
 However, democracy cannot survive without a strong opposition as absolute power leads to autocracy, and oligarchy and makes rulers more supercilious, arrogant, vindictive, nonchalant, and insensitive to others' problems as seen today. If there will be no strong brake, then the ruling steamroller with its brute

majority, will bulldoze and crush the masses and become more pro-rich, pro-corporate, and embrace cronyism as already experienced in the last few years. Congress's victory will democracy by strengthening brake. Similarly, BJP needs to act as a constructive opposition in Karnataka.

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Letter To Editor

Dear sir,
Karnataka Switches; Congress wrest it from BJP

Karnataka had a long history of not repeating the same government. Reshuffle in power is of vital importance otherwise an obituary would be written for the other political parties and citizens would just have to make do with what they have. This time Congress set the tone for National Political Landscape in Karnataka by announcing its victory in the state's assembly election. The results of the Karnataka Polls 2023 was closely watched by the political parties and analysts as they were giving an indication of the public sentiment and the direction that the country may take in the coming years. Winning 135 seats out of 224, it may be the effort of Bharat Jodo Yatra or something else, Congress now has the favourable outcome and it wrested Karnataka from Bhartiya Janta Party by leapfrogging one of the strongest political parties in the country.

Surbhi Mishra
 Indian Institute of Mass Communication,
 Dhenkanal
 8826716929



The Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences (I/C), Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh presenting awards during Valedictory Function & National Technology Awards ceremony, in New Delhi on May 14, 2023. Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor, Govt. of India and other dignitaries are also seen.

"Amazing Thailand": three day Thai Festival inaugurated as a part of "Visit Thailand Year 2023" in Kolkata on 12th May

Kolkata (Partha Roy): "Amazing Thailand": three day Thai Festival inaugurated in Kolkata on 12th May 2023 at South City Mall by Ms. Pattarat Hongtong Ambassador of Thailand in India and Bhutan in august presence of Miss Acharapan Yavaprasas, Consul-General of Thailand in Kolkata, Ms. Siriges-a-nong Trirattanasongpol Director, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) New Delhi, Ms. Saithong Soipheth, Director, Thai Trade Centre New Delhi and other officials of Thailand in India. Amazing Thailand Festival Inauguration ceremony was attended by Consul General of USA in Kolkata Ms. Melinda Pavek, Consul General of Russia in Kolkata Mr. Alexey Idamkin, Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner Janab Andalib Elias, Ms. Minakshi Misra Zonal Director of ICCR Kolkata, Director MEA Branch Secretariat in Kolkata, several diplomats based in the city and Dr. Arpan Mitra, Honorary Consul of Burundi and Honorary Consul of several other countries, Corporate & business



leaders and others. High point of Amazing Thailand Festival Inauguration ceremony was Consul General of USA and Russia participating & celebrating and sharing the spirit of joy together !! Amazing Thailand Festival in Kolkata this year is largest Thai Festival since its inception in Kolkata as mentioned by Consul General of Thailand in Kolkata. The festival is part of "Visit Thailand Year 2023" organised by Tourism Authority of Thailand in several countries to promote Thailand as preferred

tourist destination. 'Visit Thailand Year 2023: Amazing New Chapters' is also theme and is promoting the leveraging Thailand's 5Fs soft-power foundations - Food, Film, Fashion, Festival, and Fight. Thailand's new direction is towards more sustainable and responsible tourism with a focus on meaningful travel experiences. Ambassador Pattarat Hongtong in her address mentioned about historical relationship between India and Thailand over thousand years as well

as current efforts to further strengthen bilateral relationship between India and Thailand. She mentioned efforts are on to strengthen multi dimensional India-Thailand relationship to face new challenges in evolving global political - economic scenario. Ambassador Pattarat Hongtong mentioned about historical relationship between Kolkata and Thailand and last year was 150th anniversary of visit of King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) in Kolkata. Ambassador Pattarat Hongtong said efforts

are on to promote tourism and trade as well as develop people to people relationship as well as enhance cooperation. Ms. Saithong Soipheth, Director, Thai Trade Centre New Delhi mentioned DITP has initiated several measures including quality control and quality certification processes for wide range of Thai products under its "Thai Trust Mark" certification initiative which takes into consideration "Fair Labour", "Environmental Concern", "Social Responsibility". Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) Ministry of Commerce, Thailand initiated "Thai Select-Thai Cuisine" award & certification for restaurants and food outlets as well as range of Thai food products to give the trusted stamp of authentic Thai Taste. Amazing Thailand Festival will be open at South City Mall till 14th May 2023. As a part the festival, several restaurants in luxury hotels are organising authentic Thai food festival for next several days in Kolkata.

United Nations observing 29th "International Day of Families" on 15th May globally

Kolkata (Partha Roy): United Nations observing 29th "International Day of Families" on 15th May 2023 around the world. The theme of 29th International Day of Families is "Demographic Trends and Families". The 2023 International Day of Families observance is to raise awareness of the impact of demographic trends on families. The World Population has reached 8 billions in late 2022 which is a "milestone in human development" as mentioned by United Nations Secretary General earlier. It is projected to reach 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100 rising concerns about the prospects of sustainable urbanization and management of climate change. Demographic change is one of the most important megatrends impacting our world and the life and well-being of families worldwide. Demographic trends are mostly shaped by fertility and mortality patterns. Declining fertility rates result in benefits for families as they are more able to invest in their children's health and education which in turns helps with poverty reduction and better socio-economic development. The milestone in human development indicates major advancements in

health extending human lifespans. Population growth is to continue albeit at a decreasing rate. Some Research indicates fertility declines results in smaller families which are less likely to cope with care and other household obligations. As such in time of unemployment or illness, families have fewer members to rely on. Moreover, low fertility rates may undermine labour forces and social structures triggering drastic responses with hard to predict consequences for issues ranging from social security to gender equality. United Nations is organising several events to mark the 29th International Day of Families which includes: **Launch of the Background Paper on "The Impact of Demographic Trends on Families" **Presentation of the World Social Report 2023 "Leaving No One Behind in an Ageing World" **Presentation on intergenerational equity and solidarity **An overview of recommendations of policies in response to demographic trends Presentation of civil society initiatives for IYF+30 As part of the preparations for the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2024 (IYF+30),

the 2023 observance of the International Day of Families focuses on major demographic changes and their impact on families to share current knowledge about demographic trends, including ageing, and intergenerational solidarity; facilitate the analysis of their impacts on family life; and recommend family-oriented policies that respond to the needs of families around the world. In 1993, the General Assembly passed a resolution that 15 May of every year should be observed as The International Day of Families to provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. On 25 September 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations unanimously adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, a set of 17 goals aiming to eliminate poverty, discrimination, abuse and preventable deaths, address environmental destruction, and usher in an era of development for all people, everywhere. Families and family-oriented policies and programmes are vital for the achievement of many of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

US Confirms Indian-American As Envoy For Global Women's Issues Office

Washington: The US Senate confirmed Dr Geeta Rao Gupta, an Indian-American, for the position of Ambassador-at-Large for the Office of Global Women's Issues in the State Department. "Dr Geeta Rao Gupta was confirmed by the US Senate as the Ambassador-at-Large for the Office of Global Women's Issues. @StateDept looks forward to her efforts to promote women and girls' rights through US foreign policy," tweeted The Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues. Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta was confirmed by the U.S.

Senate as the Ambassador-at-Large for the Office of Global Women's Issues. @StateDept looks forward to her efforts to promote women and girls' rights through U.S. foreign policy. pic.twitter.com/lm8X3lcIae Gupta is known internationally as a leader in promoting gender equality and women's economic security and US State Department welcomed her appointment. The State Department tweeted Friday it "looks forward to her efforts to promote women and

girls' rights through US foreign policy." Gupta worked closely with various United Nations (UN) agencies and programs. She worked as the Executive Director of the UN Foundation's 3D Programme for Girls and Women. She also advises the UNAIDS Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and is on the boards of InterAction and the Moriah Fund. She also held the position of co-chair of the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality.

Pakistan's Relationship With India Will Drive Its Defence Policy: US Official

Washington: Pakistan is likely to continue to modernise and expand its nuclear capabilities by conducting training with its deployed weapons and developing new delivery systems in 2022 as it perceives it as key to its survival, given India's nuclear arsenal and conventional force superiority, the Pentagon's top intelligence official has told lawmakers. Lt Gen Scott Berrier, Director, Defence

Intelligence Agency told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee during a recent Congressional hearing that Pakistan's tense relationship with India will continue to drive its defence policy. He said Pakistan "perceives nuclear weapons as key to its national survival, given India's nuclear arsenal and conventional force superiority." "Pakistan very likely will continue to modernise and expand

its nuclear capabilities by conducting training with its deployed weapons and developing new delivery systems in 2022," Mr Berrier said. "Pakistan's relations with India remain strained since a high-profile anti-India militant attack in the Union Territory of Kashmir in February 2019," he said, referring to the Pulwama attack in which 40 Indian

paramilitary troopers were killed. "New Delhi's August 2019 revocation of Kashmir's semiautonomous status added to these tensions. However, cross-border

violence has decreased since February 2021, when both countries recommitted to a ceasefire," Berrier said, adding, "India and Pakistan have not made meaningful progress toward a long-lasting diplomatic solution since then." India announced withdrawing the special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation

of the state into two union territories in August 2019. India's move to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 outraged Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad. India has said that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility, and violence. India has said

the onus is on Pakistan to create an environment free of terror and hostility. Last year, India and Pakistan announced that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on a ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors. In his testimony, Mr Berrier said that on April 11, Shehbaz Sharif was elected as Pakistan's new prime minister after a no-

confidence vote removed Imran Khan from the post. In his first speech as prime minister, Sharif called for rebuilding the US-Pakistan relationship and denounced Khan's conspiracy theory that the US had orchestrated his removal. "Sharif probably will give priority to addressing Pakistan's economy while deferring to the Army on security issues for at least the first 6 months of his term," he said.



Straight Fight Ahead

Bhubaneswar: There was a celebration and a "Dahi-Bara" party in Congress Bhavan here after the party won in the Karnataka Assembly elections after trouncing the Mighty BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, there was no "Rudali" (the woman who cries after the death of a man or woman) for the Jharsuguda by-poll, the result of which was announced on Saturday. The party leaders had no remorse over the humiliating defeat of Congress in Jharsuguda, which was once a strong fort of the old party. It appears nobody in Congress is worried or wants to show the real picture of Congress in Odisha. The Jharsuguda by-poll result has, however, made it clear that Odisha politics is now polarized. There is no more triangular fight among the BJD Congress or BJP as the oldest party of the country has gone to oblivion. Congress is no more a force in the state and the next election fight will be between the BJD and the BJP. Congress will



be no more in the political scenario when Odisha goes for the next twin poll for Lok Sabha and State Assembly. The Congress has now 9 MLAs and 1 MP and keeping in view the present situation; the party may not retain its number after the next elections. In Jharsuguda by-poll, the Congress candidate Tarun Pandey, the son of a former three times MLA Biren Pandey, could secure less than 5,000 votes in the party's once favourite seat. Sadly Shri Pandey lost his deposit. The Congress's vote share,

which was 10.68%, has declined to only 2.56 per cent. Even as OPCC President Sarat Pattanayak claimed that his party would win in the next elections, the ground reality is completely different. The Congress candidates have not been able to secure their deposits in subsequent by-elections. In Padampur by-poll also, the party's vote share drastically fell to 1.73 per cent from 16.25 per cent in 2019. The party had fielded a strong candidate like Satya Bhusan Sahu in the Padampur by-poll.

Similar was the case in Dhamnagar by-poll when the party candidate could secure only 2.18 per cent votes from the 2019 vote share of 4.42 per cent. The party candidates also performed in similar manner in Bijepur and Balasore. However, there was a little bit better performance in Tirtol and Brajrajnagar by-polls. After Jharsuguda by-poll results were announced, Sarat Pattanayak justified that the Congress rank and file had shifted to BJD after Naba Kishore Das joined the regional

party in 2019. Interestingly, the Congress candidate could secure 10.68 per cent vote even after Naba Das shifted to BJD. It has been five years since Naba Das left Congress. His people had also gone to BJD five years ago. Still, the party has not been able to reorganize the organization during the last five year. Rather, the party's vote share also dropped from the 2019 elections. In the previous Assembly elections in the state, Congress had secured 16.12 per cent of votes, less by 7 per

cent than the 2014 elections. However, the party has failed to improve its performance, rather went down despite the tall claims made by leaders. Now, all politicians in Congress have virtually failed to take up the party cause. Though former Chief Secretary Bijay Kumar Patnaik has of late joined Congress, he does not have any electoral experiences, particularly electioneering. Therefore, the question arises before the people of Odisha that can Congress revive in Odisha or keep itself

happy over the victory in Karnataka and other states? BJP State President Manmohan Samal in his reaction after Jharsuguda results, said that there will be a straight fight between the BJD and the BJP as the Congress is now deleted from Odisha's political scenario. He claimed that the people will get two alternatives, either the BJD or the BJP. It will be better for democracy and there will be no possibility of a hung assembly if there are two party systems in the state. While the Congress is

on the verge of extinction from Odisha's political scenario, both the BJD and BJP are busy in making strategies for capturing the votes of the old party. The BJD has a better chance of capturing the Congress votes as the people supporting the old party have an ideology which is opposed to BJP. BJD candidate Barsha Singh Bariha winning the Padampur by-poll, is a glaring example of how the Congress votes shifted to Naveen Patnaik's party. Therefore, the BJD is likely to add something more to its kitty without making much labour. The BJP on the other hand has to do hard work in order to bring some Congress votes to its kitty. As such, the BJP's vote share has initially increased due to early shifting of Congress votes. Now that the residue Congress votes are left, they may rather help the BJD than the BJP. The Congress votes may be a deciding factor in different assembly segments in the 2024 general elections.

XIM University successfully conducted its 3rd Scholarship Awarding Ceremony

Bhubaneswar: XIM University successfully conducted its 3rd Scholarship Awarding Ceremony for undergraduate students on 15th March 2023. XIM University's UG degree has a globally aligned curriculum with a wide variety of courses and lays a strong foundational base for students to accomplish their career aspirations. To affirm its mission for excellence and quality, the University has a Scholarship Programme for the meritorious and academically outstanding students in their undergraduate studies. XIM University, through these scholarship opportunities, offers a platform for the deserving students to continue their education

without any financial constraints. Scholarships help empower students with financial resources to excel in their life. Therefore, the University spends a significant amount every year to encourage the students to build their careers. This year from among thousand students across eight schools having ten undergraduate courses, 165 students from the undergraduate programmes were awarded scholarship by the University. The University spent around INR 1.57 Crores for this noble cause. The occasion was presided by Fr. S. Antony Raj S.J., Registrar, XIM University. Dr. Sudhanshu Sarangi, IPS, Addl. DG Railways, Coastal Security & Chairman of the Odisha Police Recruitment

Board, was the Chief Guest for the occasion. Among other distinguished personalities present were Fr. V. Arockia Das, S.J., Chief Finance Officer, and Chairperson of the UG Scholarship Committee, XIM University along with the Academic Deans, faculty, and staff members of the University. Welcoming the guests, faculty, and staff members along with the students, Prof. P.K. Mohanty, Academic Dean, School of Commerce, XIM University, congratulated the awardees for their academic distinction. Dr. Sudhanshu Sarangi, IPS, Chief Guest of the event, applauded the University's commendable initiative

to promote education and congratulated the student awardees. "He gave importance to reinforcement of continuous learning in life and urged the students not to walk but to run in their career paths. He stressed that rather being the products of social media platforms, you should imbibe reading books as a continuous reinforcement to learning." Finally, the event came to a successful end with the vote of thanks by Fr. S. Antony Raj, S.J., Registrar, XIM University, wherein he thanked all and expressed his gratitude for making the event a success, congratulated the meritorious students and acknowledged the contribution and efforts of all the employees of the University.

Plea For Hand-Woven Wear

Bhubaneswar: Ace Mandarin, Arabinda Kumar Padhee has appealed all the Government employees to wear hand-woven clothing on at least one day a week for promotion of Odishan rich handloom heritage. Principal Secretary Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts, Dr. Padhee, who is known for his passion to wear hand woven clothing, has written to all the District Collectors in this regard. Dr. Padhee has said that "Our culture is our

brand. Odisha's handlooms have always been the hallmark of showcasing the rich cultural and vibrant artistic heritage of the State." He said that "The handloom products of Odisha have received national and international acclaim for highly artistic design, craftsmanship and durability. To establish their uniqueness, Nine different handloom products have already received GI Tags. Making a heartfelt

appeal, Dr. Padhee has requested the Government Employees working in the Districts to 'Voluntarily' wear hand-woven fabrics at least one day a week. He has also said that one may decide the day of the week, depending on local factors and holding cultural considerations, if any. Those in uniform or official dress code may please be excluded from this endeavour, he clarified. Dr. Padhee said that "I am happy to note that few of you have already

taken the leadership in this regard. In the Departments of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment and Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts, officials and staff have already started wearing hand-woven products in most of the week days. This is indeed heartening! Dr. Padhee has said that the purpose of the appeal is to sustain Odisha's dexterous weavers and preserve their pristine art, besides establishing a conducive market environment.



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MCL smashes coal production records in 2022-23



Sambalpur, March 6, 2023: Continuing with its record-breaking spree, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has surpassed its coal production target of 176 million tonnes (MCL) for financial year 2022-23, registering a growth of over 15 per cent.

Shri OP Singh, Chairman - cum - Managing Director, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), on Monday congratulated General Managers, Heads of Departments and their teams for putting in untiring efforts to scale the steep target of 176

MT coal production and dispatch for 2022-23. Addressing the General Managers' Coordination Meeting for the month of March 2023, the CMD appreciated the team effort for achieving the target 27 days ahead of schedule respectively. Meanwhile, the functional directors of MCL, including Shri Keshav Rao, Director (Personnel), Shri Jugal Kumar Borah, Director (Technical) and Shri Ajit Kumar Behura, Director (Finance) also congratulated the Team MCL for concerted efforts and achieving all the assigned goals well before schedule.

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India inaugurates its 3rd Skill Enhancement Centre in Rourkela, Odisha

Rourkela, 6 March 2023: Committed to Skill India Mission, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) inaugurated Odisha's 3rd Skill Enhancement Centre at Rourkela in collaboration with Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) of the city. The new centre will empower local youth with job-oriented technical skill training in the city. The inauguration was held in the august presence of Sh. Subrata Kumar Pattnaik (President, Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Rourkela, Odisha), Sh. Bibhabanjan Samantasingh (Regional Transport Officer, Rourkela,



Odisha), Sh. Dhananjaya Khura (Principal, Industrial Training Institute, Rourkela, Odisha), Sh. Rajendra Bhimrao Shinde (General Manager, Regional Business East Customer Service, HMSI) and other dignitaries from Government ITI, Rourkela and HMSI. On this occasion, Mr. Atsushi Ogata - Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, "Fulfilling its corporate social responsibility, HMSI proactively supports Skill India Mission to empower Indian youth. Constant changes in rapidly evolving automobile industry have raised the demand of skilled technical manpower. Keeping this

as a priority, HMSI has inaugurated its third Skill Enhancement Centre of Odisha. The new developed centre in Rourkela is a testimony to our commitment to upskill local youth and enhance their employability." HMSI's Skill Enhancement Centre at Jail Road, Near Reserve Police line in Rourkela has a fully functional workshop with two-wheelers and service infrastructure and latest tools & technology to give practical training to students on technical aspects of two-wheelers maintenance & repair and empowers them with recruitment opportunities at two-wheeler dealerships across India.

Godrej Appliances aims for 20% growth in Q1 FY compared to pre-pandemic period

Bhubaneswar: Kamal Nandi, Business Head and Executive Vice President - Godrej Appliances, part of Godrej & Boyce said, "Odisha is one of the fast-evolving markets in India and consumption has been going up significantly. Godrej Appliances has a stronghold in this market for cooling categories. Last 2 summers were heavily impacted by lockdown, therefore this summer we have seen 100% growth over last summer and expecting 20% growth in Q1 FY 2022-23 in comparison

to the pre pandemic Q1 FY 2019-20. Godrej Appliances currently has the largest number of Exclusive Brand Outlets in Odisha in comparison to other states in India; and we are aiming to expand our network further across retail stores, presence in modern trade outlets and exclusive chain stores by 10-15% year-on-year. Overall, the cooling segment has performed well this year, given the pent-up demand due to previous lockdowns, and the heatwave leading to discretionary spends being diverted towards

cooling products. We have also witnessed a trend of hybrid work culture post the pandemic that has increased demand for Air Conditioners. Consumers are using ACs for a longer duration of time at home, and have therefore showcased higher intent towards purchasing energy efficient ACs with 5-Star rating to save more on their electricity cost. This year we have witnessed, around 40% volume growth in sales of 5 Star ACs as compared to pre pandemic period in Odisha."

Jindal Stainless invests over 120 crores to install rooftop solar plants at its Jajpur and Hisar units

Jajpur, 6th March 2023: Furthering its commitment to reduce its carbon footprint, Jindal Stainless plans to install two rooftop solar plants of 21 Megawatt Peak (MWp) capacity and 6 MWp capacity at its Jajpur and Hisar units respectively. The roofs of various shop-floors at both units have been identified to install these rooftop solar plants with an overall investment of more than INR 120 crores. Both projects are scheduled to be completed by March 2024. The two rooftop solar plants will be generating about 795 million units of electricity, with a carbon abatement potential of 5, 64, 450 tonnes in its life span of 25 years. In addition to the environmental



benefits, these rooftop solar plants will also save 108 acres of land that would have been used if the plant was located on the ground. Commenting on this development, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Abhyuday Jindal, said "This is an important step towards

adopting renewable energy solutions. From introducing a senior position of Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) to becoming India's first stainless steel company to install a Green Hydrogen Plant at Hisar, Jindal Stainless is dedicated to helping India attain its reduced carbon footprint target. The company successfully reduced its carbon emissions by 1.4 lakh tonnes in FY22. Recently, it also signed a contract with ReNew Power to develop a utility scale captive renewable energy project for its plant in Jajpur. This project will generate 700 million units per year using a combination of solar and wind power generation technologies. The company is taking significant strides towards achieving its Net Zero carbon emissions by implementing sustainable initiatives

Myntra's EORS-16 is geared to serve over 50 lakh shoppers

Bhubaneswar: The 16th edition of Myntra's biannual EORS, India's grandest fashion event is arriving, bringing with it the joy and euphoria to the millions of fashion aficionados in the country. The event, which will be held from 11 to 16 June, is going to be bigger than previous versions, comprising the biggest-ever collection of 14 lakh styles across 5000+ brands. The 6-day event is set to provide unprecedented offers from fashion, lifestyle, beauty and personal care and home categories, catering to over 50 lakh unique customers across the country, with an expected uptick in demand by over 3X of BAU and 26% increase in traffic over the

previous July edition. Myntra expects over 1 million new customers with over 40% of the overall traffic coming from tier 2 and 3 cities and towns. The brands have specially curated a vast selection with a strong focus on summer essentials, Gen-Z trends, beauty and personal care as well as celebrity-led EORS special collections. First-time shoppers will get ₹500 cashback on their initial transaction, exciting coupons for future use and free delivery for the first 4 orders. On the payments front, there are exciting offers too from banks, such as ICICI and Axis Bank, offering a 10% instant discount, while users

of Paytm will get assured cashback on wallet & postpaid transactions. To cater to the changing needs of the customers, Myntra has on-boarded 100 new brands ahead of EORS and increased its style selection by a whopping 40% from the previous July edition, giving shoppers a wide catalogue of products from the best of international and domestic brands, including D2C brands to choose from. Speaking about EORS, Nandita Sinha, CEO, Myntra, said, "Over the years, EORS has become one of the most sought-after fashion events in the country.

TPCODL warns customers against fraudulent messages for updating KYC

Bhubaneswar: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), the joint venture between Tata Power and Odisha Government for power distribution in Central Odisha region, has issued an advisory for its consumers against the unscrupulous elements, who are misleading people with messages to update their KYC to avoid disconnection of electricity supply. With malicious intent these individuals are engaging with customers without any authorisation of TPCODL. Such messages threaten the consumers stating that their power supply will be disconnected at 9.30 pm on the same day as they have not updated their KYC and advise to contact the electricity officer at certain phone numbers which are different from TPCODL's dedicated customer care numbers.

TPCODL urges customers to take all precautions before responding to any such messages / calls. The company never asks any customer to share any password, OTP or any other personal details with any Executive. The company urges to customers to use TPCODL Mitra App to verify the credibility of their employees.

TPCODL has dedicated 24x7 Toll Free Number 1800-345-7122 / 1912 as a one-point solution for all the grievances. The company urges all its customers to immediately report any such message / call by any individual asking for transaction or banking details. Customers can also e-mail at customercare@tpcentralodisha.com for any queries. "While our team is keeping a close watch on such fraudulent activities, we intend to alert our esteemed customers as well. We request our customers to use the TPCODL Mitra App and follow authorised channels / gateways to reach out to us for any grievances or queries," said Mr. Shenbagam, Chief Executive Officer, TP Central Odisha Distribution Ltd.

Tata Steel announces winner of its open innovation programme MaterialNEXT 3.0

Jamshedpur: Team 'Nano Tribe' of IIT Hyderabad was declared the winner of the third edition of 'Tata Steel MaterialNEXT' at the Finale held in Jamshedpur on June 1, 2022. The team comprising Sushmitha Veeralingam, Hari Prakash, and Jaladurgam Eshwari, was mentored by Dr Sushmee Badhulika and presented the solution titled 'self-powering sensor to detect pre-diabetes in human breath'. The winning team received a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh. Team 'Materials Engineering lab' of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) Kolkata showcased the solution titled 'facile, high yield and room temperature synthesis process for two-dimensional (2D) materials' and secured the 1st runner-up slot. The members, Sukhendu Maity and Dr. Krishnendu Sarkar, were mentored by Dr. Praveen

Kumar and received a cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakh. Team 'TCN-IITRPR' of IIT Ropar which showcased the solution titled 'Recovery of pure hydrogen from H2S by greener electrochemical approach', bagged the 2nd runner-up position. This team, consisting of a member Mukesh Kumar, was mentored by Dr. C N Tharamani and received a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh. Congratulating all the winners and the finalists, T. V. Narendran, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Tata Steel, said: "Knowledge and Technology have emerged as key enablers for driving value creation and enhancing the geopolitical worth of our country. As India moves forward to become a \$10 trillion economy in the next few decades while also realising its net zero ambitions, it is imperative we achieve this in a clean, smart, and innovative way. At Tata Steel, our endeavour has

been to tap into the innovation ecosystem that exists outside of the Company, work with scientific establishments, academic institutions, and start-ups to create sustainable solutions and accelerate our journey to becoming a technology leader in the metals and mining space. The breakthrough ideations and innovations evolved by the young minds, who participated in the competition, are indeed laudable and offer a glimpse into exciting times ahead." On the occasion, Dr. Debashish Bhattacharjee, Vice President, Technology & New Materials Business, Tata Steel, said: "Technological excellence of an organisation does not happen in isolation, it needs a highly capable and supportive ecosystem. Students and academia form the foundation of such an ecosystem of a country.

NHAI's escrow guidelines a huge positive for BOT road projects: Infomeric Ratings

New Delhi: National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) recently issued a guideline on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to monitor the escrow defaults and take appropriate action to safeguard the NHAI interest in the arbitration matters on claims made by the concessionaire. Infomeric Ratings believes that this is a positive development from a credit risk perspective while analysing BOT road

project companies. It is observed that at times the waterfall mechanism where escrow account has been in place between the NHAI, the concessionaire & the lender, is not followed. Adherence to waterfall escrow arrangement is the basic premise while assigning ratings to such projects. The applicability of the new SOP to all BOT projects, whether toll or annuity where escrow mechanism is in place, has been mandated to

with ensure that all project cash flows (inflows & outflows) must be necessarily routed through the escrow accounts and funds shall be applied in the waterfall of priorities set forth in the concession agreement. Any deviation by the escrow lender will be a breach of trust to be dealt in accordance with the provisions of concession agreement and the lender shall be liable for damages

We should have been sitting high on the points table - Lara

New Delhi: Having posted a challenging total of 182/6 on the board, Sunrisers Hyderabad were on the money with the ball as they conceded only 30 runs in the powerplay against Lucknow Super Giants. By the time the 15th over was completed, LSG had upped the ante, scoring 84 runs in the middle overs (7-15) at more than nine an over. But still needing 69 to win off the last five overs, the pressure was on LSG. The 16th over of the chase, however, changed the equation completely. SRH handed the ball to Abhishek Sharma and he ended up being hit for five sixes - two by Marcus Stoinis and three by Nicholas Pooran - in a 31-run over. It was easy sailing for LSG after that as Pooran (44 not out off 13) along with useful contributions from Prerak Makad (64* off 45) and Stoinis (40 off

25) helped their side to victory with four deliveries to spare. This was yet another game that SRH were in control of but weren't able to close out, a fact that head coach Brian Lara was quick to point out. Speaking about the 16th over and the decision to hand the ball to Abhishek, Lara said: "I suppose you can say that now, in hindsight. Obviously it did not work out for us. It was a stage where we had one over of spin to bowl. We always back our fast bowlers to get the job done. So we knew that one over was going to be attacked. Unfortunately all six or seven balls they had an opportunity to score. We got a wicket with one of it. But so be it. Sometimes these things happen. We've had our luck, we've seen in the tournament other teams pulled off amazing victories and we got to give it for Lucknow

Super Giants for the way they played right till the end." SRH are precariously placed at the ninth position with only eight points in 11 games, but Lara hasn't ruled out their chances yet. "It's a situation where we should be sitting down pretty high on this table. We've had some close games and games that entering the final strides of the game, we were ahead. And we did not close it off. It's fair to say we could have been well-placed in this tournament and it's not the case now. We've got three games left and we've got to get the guys motivated to get results in these three games. It's not over and I would hate to see heads drop and attitudes drop. I would like to keep it as upbeat as possible and see if we can get wins in the remaining games." The SRH head coach also lamented the lack of contributions from the



majority of the batters while he praised Heinrich Klaasen and Abdul Samad for putting up a partnership in the latter half of their batting which has helped the team post a good total. He also felt it was an above par score but the one over made all the difference. "It's not consistent. The highest run-scorer, I don't think has crossed 300

runs for the tournament. That is not cutting it for a batting unit. You can piece partnerships together, that's the good thing about this game, it's such a short version of the game you get two or three partnerships. As you saw with Klaasen and Samad, you get some partnerships going there and then you know you can get a

total. If it was a 50-over game, we'd be in dire straits, factoring with the way we've been batting. But you must commend a player like Klaasen, a player like Samad, for what they've been able to do from being in precarious situations and trying to still put a total up for us. "I felt today we were above par. When I saw

a couple of deliveries from Krunal Pandya, I thought 'well, we've got spinners and we can use the conditions'. For a majority of the game...the way our opening bowlers restricted LSG in the powerplay, they were just tremendous to see and it was always going to be an uphill battle for them after that. And just that one over, if we can take that off our back, it could be a different story," said Lara.

The home record hasn't been great for many teams in this edition of the IPL, especially so for SRH who have just one victory in six outings at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. Having dominated against LSG for the majority of the match, SRH slipped to their seventh loss. Lara felt for the supporters of the team and

apologised on behalf of the side for their poor results at home.

"Our performances at home, the results that we got at home - one win in six games - doesn't equate to the support that we've been getting. We've been getting tremendous support here in Hyderabad, great home support. Coming to the ground, the roads are lined up, even leaving the hotel. So we are hurting as a team.

"All I can say is sorry for the results. I know the guys tried their best and the guys are hurting as well. I suppose it's the time where we sort of reflect. We have got three games left and we have to play good cricket. Today it was a situation where we literally played about 39 overs of good cricket. The 36th over of the game is where things went a little bit bad for us. Obviously very, very disappointed and I can speak on behalf of everybody in the squad," Lara said.

Heath Streak seriously ill with cancer

New Delhi: Heath Streak, a former Zimbabwe captain and arguably one of the greatest cricketers from the African nation, is seriously ill and is on his deathbed. Calls have been issued from Zimbabwe cricket and the sporting community to pray for his health.



Streak (49), who played 65 Tests and 189 ODIs, is believed to be convalescing in a hospital in Johannesburg and his family reportedly is rushing there from London.

Country's Sports Minister took to Twitter and wrote: "Heath Streak is on his last legs. Family en route to South Africa from the UK.. Seems only a miracle will save

him now. Prayers up (sic)." David Coltart, a former Zimbabwean Minister of Education, Sport, Arts & Culture, and a human rights lawyer, wrote: "This is a call to prayer warriors in #Zimbabwe and beyond. Heath Streak, one of the greatest cricketers our nation has ever produced, is

extremely ill and needs our prayers. Please could we all be in prayer for him and his family (sic)." Sean Williams, a current Zimbabwe cricketer and a close friend, threw light on his health. "Heath has colon and liver cancer (Stage 4). All I know at this stage is Heath's immediate family was

called to go to him in South Africa and I am not sure on any details thereof. I did message Heath and he did respond but I'm sure at this stage the family will want privacy. It sounds like the cancer is spreading pretty quick cause last week he was fishing," Williams told Cricbuzz on Saturday night. "Heath is my mentor and did a lot of good things for a lot of people and basically saved my life and career. We just pray he will be ok."

Streak was first to reach 100 wickets among Zimbabwean cricketers. However, after retirement, he ran into trouble with anti-

corruption authorities and was banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for eight years in 2021.

The family sought privacy through a statement. "Heath has cancer and is undergoing treatment under one of the most respected Oncologists in South Africa. He remains in good spirits and will continue to fight this disease in a similar vein to that which his opponents faced during his revered days on the cricket field.

"The family hopes that you understand and respect their wish for this to remain a private family matter, and thank you for your prayers and good wishes.amily, said.



Shikhar Dhawan leads punjab of the field, Delhi Capitals vs punjab kings

'We capitalized on England being short of batters' - Shakib

Dhaka: Bangladesh T20I skipper Shakib Al Hasan said on Tuesday (March 14) that they never dreamt of cleanly sweeping the current T20 World Cup Champions. Bangladesh defeated England by 16 runs to end the series on a high having already clinched it by winning the previous game.

"We didn't dream of it, but we also didn't put ourselves pressure before the series. We didn't talk about winning games but just wanted to play good cricket," Shakib told reporters after the game. "We tried to contribute with the bat in all three games. I think we fielded unbelievably well too, especially in T20s where two or four runs make a big difference.

"Everyone noticed our fielding in these three matches. We out-fielded England, who

are themselves a good fielding side. It is a big tick mark. Our biggest improvement is in our fielding when I consider every aspect. We should always field well, but we have targeted to become the best fielding side in Asia. After this performance, I don't think we are too far behind."

England coach Matthew Mott echoed Shakib's sentiments on the fielding and admitted Bangladesh were the better side. "I thought our first 15 overs in the field were nowhere near the level we'd expect," Mott said. "We really wanted to finish well here. It's been a fantastic tour in terms of what we've been up against, a very strong home team. I thought we were on today. The lead-in was good, everyone was up and about. But for

whatever reason, we just couldn't get clean hands with the ball, either in the air or on the ground. Bangladesh definitely out-fielded us in most of the games, but particularly today, and that's something we're going to focus a lot on as a group, but definitely in the debrief tonight it'll get a lot of focus."

Shakib also pointed out the fact that England didn't have a long batting lineup in the series, something they took advantage of. "We had more confidence before this series, since we were playing at home," he said. "We capitalized on England being short of batters. It was our advantage that they didn't have many batters after losing three or four wickets."

England had a thin squad for the series especially after not



naming a replacement for the injured Will Jacks, which forced them to fill their middle order with allrounders. "We've discussed that at length," Mott said on not picking an extra batter. "If you look at how many players we've exposed this year alone, we've gone a fair way down the depth charts. The realisation that we're

probably better off investing in some batters there that were put under pressure in these games. You only learn from your mistakes. The opportunities that they've been given here will give them time to reflect and when we get into pressure situations in World Cups, I'm confident it was the

right decision."

Shakib also lauded his bowlers for stepping up throughout the series. "Our bowling unit was quite good," he noted. "We never had the luxury to play with six proper bowlers. We often played with eight batters, which also meant that we were a bowler short. In T20s, you need that

(bowling) cushion. Bowlers win you T20 matches, so having that extra bowler always helps. We have a few more areas for tuning ahead of the next World Cup, but we have made a good start," he added.

Shakib said that he is not interested to compare this series win with their win against New Zealand and Australia but added that he is hopeful they will be a good side in the coming days.

While brushing aside comparisons between this series victory with the ones Bangladesh picked up over Australia and New Zealand a couple of years ago, Shakib stated that his side has been growing in confidence in the shortest format ever

since the T20 World Cup last year. "I don't like to compare between series," he said. "Winning every match is important but the way we won this series, we haven't played like this before. Winning with this approach has satisfied the full team. We started playing this way from the Asia Cup, so it took a bit of time to have the right results. But it has started.

"I have been leading the team since the Asia Cup last year. We didn't win a match there, but I thought we played good cricket. We were unfortunate not to reach the semifinals of the T20 World Cup. We were one win away from that achievement. We had a lot of doubt before the tournament, but the belief that we can compete with bigger teams started from the World Cup."