

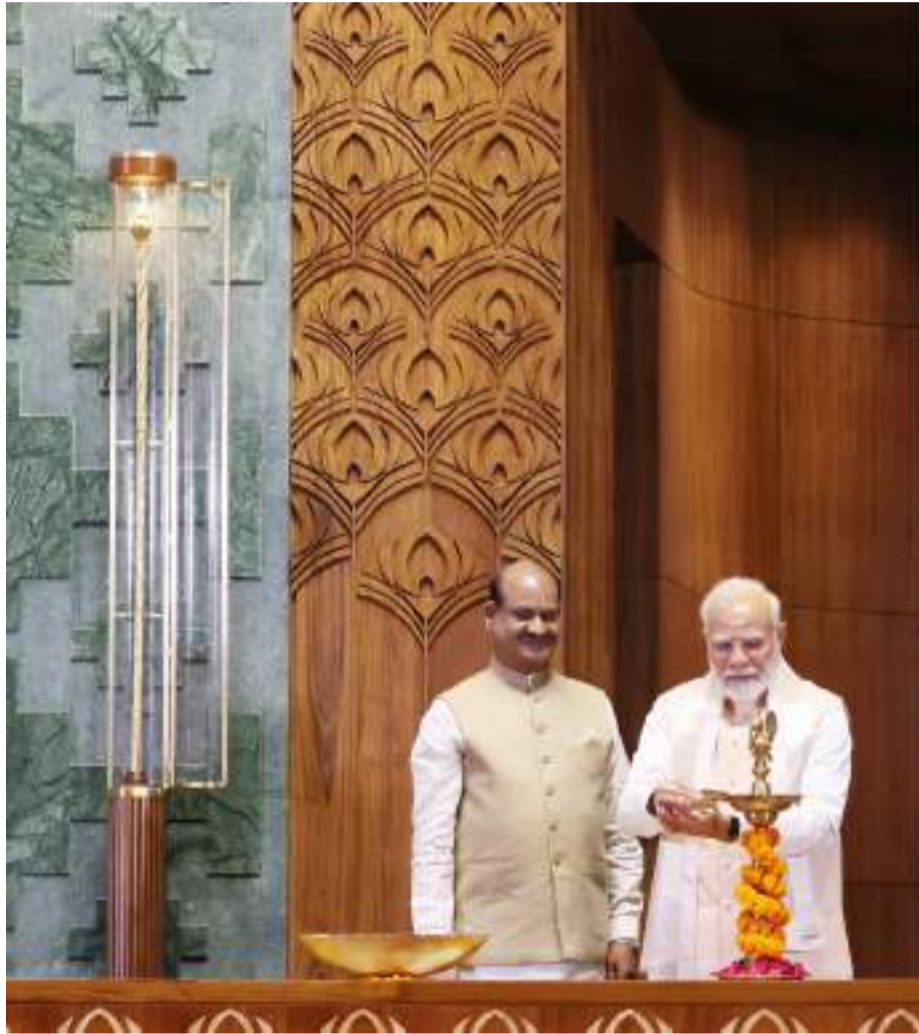
New Parliament Building Unveiled, PM Says "Will Bear Witness To New Dawn"

New Delhi: This is not just a complex but a symbol of the aspirations of 140 crore Indians, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said about the new parliament building, which he inaugurated this morning in a grand ceremony that saw attendance from 25 parties. 20 opposition parties are boycotting the event, accusing the PM of completely sidelining President Droupadi Murmu.

PM Modi said as India surges ahead, the new parliament building will also contribute to the world's progress.

"The new Parliament building will be a testament to the dawn of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). It will be a witness to our journey towards a Viksit Bharat (developed India)," he said.

"Some moments in the developmental journey of a nation get immortalised, today is one such day...The new Parliament complex will witness the realisation of our 'developed India' resolution," the PM said. On the historic sceptre 'sengol' that he installed



in the new Lok Sabha chamber today, the PM said it was seen as a symbol of service and nationalism in the Chola empire.

"This sengol is a symbol of the transfer of power. Adeenam saints blessed us in Parliament. I thank them. It's our good

fortune that we could restore the glory of this holy 'sengol'. This 'sengol' will keep inspiring us," he said.

"Our democracy is our inspiration, our constitution is our resolve. The best representative of this inspiration, this resolution, is our

parliament," the PM said.

The PM said the construction of the new Parliament building gave employment to 60,000 workers, and a digital gallery dedicated to them has also been built.

He said the new parliament building is a perfect example of the

co-existence of the old and new.

"In future, when the number of MPs increases, where would they sit? Therefore, the new Parliament building was the need of the hour," PM Modi said.

After dedicating the new Parliament building to the country earlier this morning after a ceremony that saw a multi-faith prayer, Prime Minister Narendra Modi this afternoon walked into the new building amid chants of "Modi" and a standing ovation for the second phase of the inauguration ceremony.

The new Parliament building is designed to enable 888 members to sit in the Lok Sabha. In the present building of the Parliament, there is a provision for the sitting of 543 Members in the Lok Sabha and 250 in the Rajya Sabha.

Keeping in view the future requirements, arrangements have been made for a meeting of 888 members in the Lok Sabha and 384 members in the Rajya Sabha in the newly constructed building of the Parliament. The joint session of both Houses will be held in the Lok Sabha Chamber.

Bhubaneswar: The state government has planned to set up onion godowns in five districts in Odisha.

The new godowns will come up at Kalahandi, Bargarh, Nuapada, Angul and Boudh districts. Around 6,000 tonne onions can be stored in these godowns, said Odisha State Agricultural Marketing Board (OSAMB) General Manager Dharitri Mishra. The state government will spend Rs 7.51 crore for construction of these new onion godowns, Mishra added.

The state government has planned to construct onion godowns at Koksara, Junagarh, Borguda, Barada, M.



Rampur, Bhawanipatna and Kesinga in Kalahandi. Besides, new godowns for onions will come up at Bhatli and Padampur in Bargarh district, Komana in Nuapada district and Luhamunda in Angul district, sources said. "Two new onion godowns will be

constructed in Boudh district," said the OSAMB General Manager. These new godowns will be instrumental in tackling rise in onion price in the state, said an official. At present, the OSAMB has only two onion godowns in Angul and Bolangir districts of Odisha.

Remains Of Ancient Temple Found During Removal Of Silt From Pond In Odisha's Kalahandi

Bhawanipatna : Remains of an ancient temple were found during the removal of silt from Patalbandha pond in Dadpur village under Bhawanipatna Sadar block of Kalahandi. Following this, the district Collector has ordered to stop the digging work and seal the area, an official source said today. A team of police has

been deployed to guard the pond. The district administration has approached state Archaeology department to carry out research on the finding to ascertain their historicity. According to the official, Rs 4 lakh was earlier sanctioned to Dadpur panchayat from SFC funds for silt removal work and the work was started five days ago with

the help of a digging machine. When the work was underway, the digging machine got stuck in the middle of the pond and did not move further. Subsequently, labourers were engaged to manually dig the pond leading to the unearthing. After several remains were found here, the matter was intimated to the district Administration.

Special Stamp, Rs 75 Coin Released By PM Modi To Mark New Parliament Building's Opening



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday released a special commemorative postage stamp and a ₹ 75 coin to mark the inauguration of the new Parliament building. He released the coin and the stamp at the inauguration event held at the Lok Sabha chamber of the new Parliament building.

According to a gazette notification by the Department of Economic Affairs under the Union Ministry of the Finance, the weight of the coin would be 34.65-35.35 grams. One side of the coin will bear the image of the Lion Capital of the Ashoka Pillar in the centre, flanked by the word "Bharat" in Devanagari script and

"INDIA" in English, it said. The rupee symbol "₹" and denominational value "75" in international numerals will also be inscribed below the Lion Capital. The other side of the coin will bear the image of the Parliament Complex and the year "2023" in international numerals below the image.

Thunderstorm Likely In These Odisha Dists Today; Heat Wave To Continue

Bhubaneswar: Several districts of Odisha are likely to experience thunderstorm with lightning by the morning of tomorrow, the Regional Meteorological Centre here forecasted. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty surface wind speed reaching 40-50 kmph very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Gajapati,

Ganjam, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal and thunderstorm with lightning very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Keonjhar and Angul, the Meteorological Centre predicted. On the

other hand, the heat wave condition is likely to prevail across Odisha. "No large change in maximum temperature (day temperature) at many places over the districts of Odisha and it is likely to be around 42 degree Celsius at one or two places over the districts of interior Odisha during the next 5 days," the Meteorological Centre added.

5T Secretary Visits Maa Samalei Temple Development Project

Bhubaneswar: Directed by Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, Secretary to CM (5T) Shri VK Pandian visited Mas Samaleswari Temple project popularly known as SAMALEI-. Maa Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economic Initiative.

The project is being developed in an area of about 30 acres and about 25 acres has already been acquired for the project and work is in progress. Shri Pandian today started his visit by offering prayers at the temple of Maa Samleswari.

He interacted with the large gathering of pilgrims and then visited the entire site where construction of the heritage pond complex, podium, Queue Management System, Cloak Room and other associated components. He directed the engineers to speed up the work so that it should be completed in time. After viewing the



plaza area with the heritage welcome gates under construction on three sides, he examined the heritage corridor under construction. 5T secy asked the officers to project local heritage in an attractive manner. He also inspected the vending zone, information counter, Pilgrim facility and

Temple facility center and an iconic watch tower which are under fast progress.

SRI Pandian stressed on adequate shade by plantations. He also asked to expedite procurement of all finishing items. Moving on to the river front area, Sri Pandian instructed finalisation of design for an iconic foot over

bridge and to expedite progress of pitching and the river front column foundation works.

5T secy also visited the crematorium construction site and instructed to design the colours with lighter themes and to celebrate human spirit. Sri Pandian also interacted with local

people and took feedback from them on various developmental issues. Samalei project is being executed under 5T initiative. Principal secy works, Sambalpur Collector, MD OBCC and other senior officers, president of the temple trust board were present during the visit.

Cover released at Kotia

Kotia : The Eastern India Philatelic Association along with INTACH, Odisha Chapter, today released a postal cover at the Kotia Branch Post Office today. The Cover, bearing the Slogan that "Kotia Belongs to Odisha" was stamped and cancelled at the Branch Post Office of Kotia which falls under the Pottangi Sub Post Office both of which are under the Koraput Postal Division of the Odisha Postal Circle. The Cover was released Anil Dhir and Dr. Biswajit Mohanty, philatelists in the presence of the former State Election

Commissioner Sanjib Hota, who has also been the Collector of undivided Koraput earlier. Other officials of the Government of Odisha too were present on the occasion. Speaking to the Press, Sanjib Hota said that Kotia has been and will remain as an integral part of Odisha and the territorial dispute should be solved as soon as possible. He said that while all administrative and revenue offices of Odisha have been in place at Kotia since the formation of the State, the presence of the Post Office, which has been functioning for

decades is another proof of Odisha's claim. Biswajit Mohanty said that Andhra Pradesh and ulterior motives for claiming the region as there are rich bauxite deposits in all the hills of the Kotia Panchayat. He said that the government of Odisha, has in the recent years, developed infrastructure to a great extent in the Panchayat. According to Mohanty, Kotia today is among the best and well maintained Panchayats of the State. Anil Dhir said that the effort of releasing the cover in this remote



Post Office was to support Odisha's claim. He said that nearly 300 covers were posted to stakeholders and persons who are involved in the dispute. Individual covers were dispatched to the

Chief Ministers of both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and the Prime Minister and President. Covers were also sent to the lawyers who are fighting the case in the Supreme Court. Each and every MP and MLA of both the states

have been mailed the covers from the Post office at Kotiya, with the cancellation and postmark of the Kotiya Branch Post office with the Pin Code. Dhir said that the sheer natural beauty of the Kotia region makes it one of

the most beautiful and pristine destination of the State. While hordes of tourists come to the place from Andhra Pradesh, it has still not become a popular place for Odias. There is excellent infrastructure in the region by way of Eco-tourism and the Govt. of Odisha is developing the Deomali region by constructing cottages. The Kotiya Post Office offers all postal services like delivery of mails and parcels, money transfer, banking, insurance and retail services. Interestingly, there are

three other Post Offices in the country one each in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, which are named Kotia, hence the Odisha Branch Office is spelled as Kotiya with the assigned Pin Code being 764039. The team went to the different villages of Ganjaipada, Katraguda, Nandaparti, Neredivalasa, Soliamari, Tadivalsa, Talasembi and Uppesembi. They interacted with the villagers and returned via the Heritage Road from Neredivalasa to Pottangi.

BHADRAK-NERGUNDI 3RD LINE PROJECT 50% of Construction Work completed

Bhubaneswar: The construction work for Bhadrak-Nergundi third line project in Howrah-Chennai Main line between Bhadrak and Cuttack Railway Stations under Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway is going on in full swing. More than 50% of construction works of this project have been completed.



A patch of 16.80Kms between Haridaspur and Byree which was supposed to be completed by last week of June 2023 has been completed before 1st week of May'2023. This has been possible due to consistent review of project works by Hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnav. General Manager Shri Manoj Kumar Sharma advised officials to focus for the speedy completion of various project works for the critical projects. Shri

Sharma also advised officials to coordinate with stake holders including State Government officials for early completion of the projects. Hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnav is giving priority for the Development of Railway infrastructure of the region along with various project works going on in Odisha and also is monitoring the developmental works regularly. Bhadrak-Nergundi 3rd line work

will boost the economy of the region and will provide a hassle free train operations in Howrah-Chennai Main Line. Bhadrak-Nergundi 3rd Line (92.19 Km) project was included in 2012-13 and the final Sanction was given in Oct'2015. Works between Jakhapura & Haridaspur, a stretch of 23.53Kms was completed in April 2016, from Kapilas Road to Salegaon, a stretch of 4.30 Kms was commissioned on May 2019 and from Kapilas

Road to Nergundi, a distance of 4.20 Kms was commissioned on October 2022 in phased manner. The target for completion of Bhadrak-Nergundi 3rd Line work has been decided to be by 2023-24, for rest 83.69 Kms work. The latest anticipated Cost of the Project is 1284.39 Crore, where Rupees 648.68 Crore has already been spent. The physical Progress for construction of full Project is about 54% and expenditure made about 50.5%.

Pankaj Mohanty In BCCI SGM



Bhubaneswar: Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) Vice President Pankaj Lochan Mohanty has made successful and effective participation in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Special General Meeting (SGM) at Ahmedabad on 27 May. Shri Mohanty attended the SGM on

behalf of Odisha Cricket Association and presented the issues before the August Body. Roger Binny, President of BCCI chaired the meeting, Jay Shah, Secretary BCCI presented all details on various issues. Shri Shah conducted the SGM deliberations in a highly professional

manner, said sources. Among other issues SGM discussed on forthcoming ODI World Cup 2023, said sources. In fact BCCI is ready to make a Committee for deciding the venues for the ODI World Cup 2023. Jay Shah, the BCCI Secretary, has been given the responsibility of forming a Committee

for the same. OCA Vice President met top functionaries of the BCCI on the sidelines of SGM and discussed various issues on Cricket and its development. Shri Mohanty has been on the forefront of Odisha Cricket for his positive contribution and sincere approach in promoting the Sports.

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IIFA 2023: Alia Bhatt Wins Top Acting Award, Skips Ceremony Due To 'Family Emergency'

And, true to her exploits and status in the film industry, Alia Bhatt won the Best Actor Award for 'Performance In A Leading Role- Female' at IIFA 2023. However, the 30-year-old star was not in attendance to accept her award for her performance in 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' in person. If reports are to be believed, Alia skipped the event due to a family emergency.

Alia's maternal grandfather, Narendra Razdan, is reportedly not well. Producer Jayantilal Gada received the award on behalf of Alia. Earlier this month, Alia was announced as the first Indian global ambassador of the luxury fashion brand, Gucci. Taking to Instagram, the fashion brand shared the news and captioned it, "Alia Bhatt is the House's



newest Global Brand Ambassador. To mark the occasion, the actress, producer, and entrepreneur were captured with the Gucci Bamboo 1947 bag. "Alia also attended the Gucci Cruise 2024 show in Seoul. She

also made her Met Gala debut in the month of May. The 'Raazi' star hit the iconic red carpet in a dreamy white gown designed by fashion designer Prabal Gurung. This year's theme was 'Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty', based on the new Costume Institute exhibition exploring the work of the iconic designer. Lagerfeld, who died in 2019 at the age of 85, spent decades

creating clothes for Balmain, Patou, Chloe, Fendi and Chanel in addition to his own namesake label, Page Six reported. She teamed the gown with embellished gloves, matching diamond earrings and rings. For the glam, she opted for a centre-parted half-tied ponytail, high heels, subtle smoky eye shadow, kohl-lined eyes, nude lip shade, and a dewy base.

'Gully Boy' to 'Darlings'- Vijay Varma has come a long way

Gully Boy, India's official entry to the Oscars celebrates 4 years today, and while the film was highly celebrated for its impactful performances, it was dark horse Vijay Varma who stood for the sheer potential he showed and for holding his own despite the strong and established cast.



The actor was praised for his performance as Moeen Arif, and his portrayal instantly caught the attention of audiences and critics alike. From thereon, Vijay continued to impress with web series like A Suitable Boy, She and Mirzapur 2 and Ok Computer, all of which he won rave reviews for. But it was finally with Darlings, that Vijay

Varma cemented his position as the 'King of Grey' as his character 'Hamza' was yet another example of Vijay's incredible prowess as a performer who constantly raises the bar with every project he takes on. Critics spoke about how Vijay 'nailed

the character', 'was like a chameleon', 'terrific and absolutely scintillating' making audiences feel the dread that Badru (Alia Bhatt) felt everytime his character Hamza came home. From being a supporting cast

alongside Alia Bhatt in Gully Boy to being a parallel lead opposite her in her production Darlings, the actor has come a long way in the last 4 years and his journey has been nothing short of inspiring.

It's no surprise then that after his phenomenal performance in the film, he is now part of some of the most exciting theatrical and OTT content including Sujoy Ghosh's untitled next alongside Kareena Kapoor Khan, Reema Kanti's Fallen and Sumit Saxena's untitled project that took almost 100 days of immersive, relentless work. Each of these are versatile and challenging but nothing that the actor can't pull off!

Success of Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan is the victory of the age-old, exploitative, nepotistic top-heavy system, says Vivek Agnihotri



The Kashmir Files director Vivek Agnihotri, who had previously criticised Pathaan amid the controversy over the Besharam Rang song, recently credited Shah Rukh Khan for the success of the Siddharth Anand directorial. However, he said in the podcast, "They will go back to their fundamental beliefs that audience is an idiot and you just need star power and lot of marketing hype to make a film successful."

"After Pathaan, I have a feeling that everybody will fall back to the same old system because Pathaan's success is the success or in today's environment I would choose the word victory. It's the victory of the age-old, exploitative, nepotistic top-heavy system," he added.

The filmmaker further said that Pathaan's success should also be credited to those who threatened to boycott the film and made 'stupid statements' against it. He said that the film's promotions had turned into a political campaign, adding that Pathaan worked purely because of SRK's charisma and his fan following.

"The way he marketed it, the way he took it on his shoulders 'that, okay it's my film and I am responsible for it' which is pretty good. I also think that some credit should also go to people who were making stupid statements against the film and asking for boycott and these are different people from regular 'Boycott Bollywood' gang," he said.

Pathaan has now become the highest grossing film in the history of Hindi cinema. The movie has grossed Rs 901 crore worldwide. While it has grossed Rs 558 crore in India, it has raked in Rs 343 crore in the overseas market.

The movie also features Deepika Padukone, John Abraham in the lead, followed by Dimple Kapadia, Ashutosh Rana and others in pivotal roles.

Speaking about the immense success of 'Pathaan', Shah Rukh Khan had shared "The four years that I had... Covid had good and bad parts. I didn't work. I was with my children. I saw them grow up. My last film had not worked and people had said my movies now won't work. So, I thought of an alternate career: cooking Italian. In these four days, I've forgotten my last four years."

Samantha Ruth Prabhu Climbs 600 Steps Barefoot, Prays to Palani Murugan



Samantha Ruth Prabhu climbed 600 steps of the Palani Murugan temple in Tamil Nadu on February 13 draped in an all-white churidar-kurta and offered prayers at the temple.

She also lit a camphor diya and tweeted on the same. She was

accompanied by her 'Jaanu' movie director C. Premkumar and other friends. The actor, who suffers from Myositis, an autoimmune disease condition that causes acute muscular pain, has started shooting for the web series 'Citadel' in which she shares screen space with Bollywood

actor Varun Dhawan.

'Citadel' is the Indian version of the international sci-fi action web series of the same name created by the Russo Brothers. In the international series, Priyanka Chopra plays the lead.

The Indian web series is directed by the

director duo Raj and DK, who had helmed the popular web series, 'The Family Man', in which Samantha played the role of Raji, a Sri Lankan Tamil militant.

She had recently tweeted: "I am thrilled to be part of this brilliant universe conceptualised by the Russo Brothers AGBO. I am also looking forward to working with Varun for the first time. He is someone who is full of life and cheer when you are around him." Samantha is awaiting the release of her Telugu mythological movie 'Shakunthalam' in which she shares the screen with Prakash Raj and Dev Mohan. The movie is to be released on April 14.

Karan Johar reviews 'The Romantics', asks Aditya Chopra if he can share their personal pictures clicked over the decades

The 'Romantics', which released on OTT on the occasion of Valentine's Day, has received an emotional review from Karan Johar. He confessed to binge-watching the four episode long docu series, which got him thinking about old school filmmaking.

"I realised the purity, the innocence and the conviction we all collectively had...is so lost today for most of us," shared Karan

just a legend of romance... a connoisseur of chiffon, music and beauty... a maestro of musicals... he was also a pillar of belief and conviction... is there any conviction left today? We are burdened by media commentary... box office opening analytics, research engines (all probably relevant to the technology and times) but where did good old fashioned conviction vanish," shared Karan



He went on to state how the series made him reflect on his own journey and added, "The rom doc reminds us of the past that seemed so organic and

heartfelt.... Makes me want to go back to that zone of filmmaking.... I am so deeply inspired by the YRF story... it's

origin and it's journey.... Having learnt everything I know from the corridors of the studio I stand blessed and watching The Romantics made me so self aware... of my strengths and my failings... Thank you @smritimundhra for weaving a narrative out of the archives and actually making an audience go through the many emotional beats through the 4 episodes...just brilliant!"

Chopra scions, Aditya and Uday, KJo added, "And finally my Best friend has a face and how beautifully articulate was he!!! Adi does that mean I can post all the images we have shared over decades that you have threatened to never speak to me if I put out ??? #justasking #LoveyouAdi congratulations to my dearest friend @uday for being such a force behind this!"

New Parliament gets the timely message of all faith meet

Vivek Shukla



As India got brand new and majestic Parliament Building on last Sunday, the all religion prayer before the Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated it proves a point that India will remain an inclusive country. A country where everyone will get freedom to practise his/her religion. Gandhi may not be with us but the practice of all-faith prayer meetings have stood the test of time. There are some who have attended these meets for decades. Take the instance of Katsu Saan. The diminutive 85-year-old, Japanese by birth, is an integral part of all-faith meetings. She was first invited to

one way back in 1969. She recites Buddhist prayers on all faith prayers, Gandhi Jayanti (October 2) and Martyr's Day (January 30) at Rajghat and Tees January Road.

Katsu Saan came to India in 1959 to study Buddhism. In the process, she learnt both Hindi and Gandhian thought as well. "While exploring Buddhism here I started loving India deeply. That forced me to stay here for the rest of my life. I learnt Hindi and the life and times of Gandhiji from Kaka Kalalker [a social reformer and Gandhian] in Delhi," she says.

Father George Solomon, a priest, has also participated in all-faith prayers umpteen number of times in various places. He recites from the Bible during the prayer meetings. "Very honestly, it gives great joy and happiness when you take part in



all-faith prayers. It gives out a strong message that we all have to live together to make India a truly secular country. Gandhiji came to know about Christianity while he was in South Africa. There he met Christian missionary Joseph Doke, who wrote his first biography. He also learnt about the religion from CF Andrews, a teacher in Delhi's St Stephen's College," he says. Originally hailing from Tamil Nadu, Father George Solomon has been living here in Delhi since 1989, says, "I am part of the Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ society, which is also known as Delhi

Brotherhood Society (DBS). It was started in 1877 under the title of the Cambridge Mission. We had established St. Stephen's college and hospital in capital." Rabbi Ezekiel Isaac Malekar is head of the Jewish community in New Delhi, he is the secretary of the Judah Hyam Synagogue at Humayun Road. "I have been reciting the Jewish prayers since 1985. I don't think any other country in the world has anything similar to our all-religion prayers. Surely, only Gandhiji could think of such a gathering. When I reach the venue for the prayer, I feel very happy and there is a sense of fulfilment that



I am sitting with scholars of other religions." Sanskrit scholar and newsreader in both AIR and Doordarshan, Baldev Anand Sagar is a senior member of the all-religion prayer group. Sagar recites shlokas from the Bhagavad Gita and Panchdev mantra, which is dedicated to five gods in Hinduism - Ganesha, Shiva, Vishnu, Devi (Durga) and Surya. Panchdev mantra is a collection of five mantras and it should be chanted beginning with Ganesha and ending with Surya. Songs of peace With the passage of time, prayers of Jain, Baha'i, Parsi and Buddhist faiths were



also included in the all-religion prayer meetings. The Baha'i prayer was introduced thanks to the efforts of noted Gandhian Nirmala Deshpande in 1985. AK Merchant, who recites the Baha'i prayers, says: "The purpose of prayer in the Baha'i faith is to grow closer to God and to help better one's own conduct and to request divine assistance." Merchant is also associated with the Lotus Temple in the capital. He has also prayed with others when Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pranab Mukherjee passed away. A science teacher, Maqsood Ahmad, has been reading from the



Quran from time to time at all-faith prayers. "The serene mood during all religion prayer cannot be described in words. One feels so good and connected to the Almighty while praying," says Ahmad. He has also prayed when Vajpayee passed away. Indu Jain, a teacher and motivational speaker and who has been reciting from the Jain scriptures, says, "I am really honoured that I have been part of the group of people who are invited to pray. Gandhiji was not a Jain. But he could be called one if one considers his actions and beliefs." According to her, the

central tenet of Jainism is ahimsa (non-violence) and Gandhi's philosophy rested upon it. He developed a method of political activism called satyagraha which was wholly based upon truth and non-violence. It has been translated as non-cooperation and passive resistance. D Bagli, a priest from Parsi Anjuman in Delhi and Jaspal Singh, a music teacher from west Delhi were also there during the all-religion prayer held on the occasion of inauguration of new Parliament.

The Author is a Delhi based columnist and former Editor

Combating Hunger and Poverty: Modinomics & the New Indian Experience

Pratap Kishore Mohanty



According to the "Global Hunger Index 2022", which was published on October 13, India's position in the globe has further deteriorated, falling from 101 to 107 this year in terms of this crucial indicator of hunger and malnutrition conditions. India's ranking is far lower than that of its neighbours, and several nations with much lower levels of economic development than India have much lower rates of hunger and malnutrition. The only nation in South Asia below India in terms of GHI rating is the war-torn Afghanistan. The majority of the world's hungry and food insecure people reside in India. According to predictions from the FAO, in India, 62 crore people will experience moderate to severe food insecurity and over 22 crore people will experience chronic hunger by 2020. India alone is home to approximately a third of the world's chronically hungry people and a quarter of those who experience food insecurity. The disastrous policies of the

BJP-led Modi administration are to blame for the recent surge in the prevalence of hunger and food insecurity in India. The persistent attacks on people's livelihoods by the Modi government, which began with demonetisation in 2016 and continued through the Covid lockdown in 2020, will live on in infamy. Every time a report highlights the suffering of the populace, this government goes into overdrive, alleging that the report is untrue and was purposely written to harm India's reputation. The government's response to the most recent GHI figures is similar. The Modi government has refused to acknowledge the GHI and asserted that it is a "erroneous measure of hunger" rather than acknowledging the rising food insecurity in India and pledging to take action to address it. The Modi-led BJP government wants the outside world to think that there is no such thing as poverty or famine in India. Since the Modi administration took office, it has stopped defining an official poverty line and estimating poverty. Data on people's material circumstances are either not gathered or are not permitted to be made public. The Modi administration has modified official data collection methods so

that they no longer accurately depict the situation. The Indian government criticised the methodology used by WHO when it determined that 4.7 million deaths in India were attributable to COVID-19. Instead, the government insisted that much lower estimates of excess mortality recorded in the well-known for being inaccurate and unreliable measure of births and deaths official civil registration system, should be used. Recently, the government has made data from the Sample Registration System available to support its claim that the Covid pandemic caused almost no additional deaths in India. The Covid lockout and economic crisis were intended to appear to have no impact on unemployment, according to the official Periodic Labour Force Surveys. In order to prove that poverty has dropped to minuscule levels in India, a new indicator called the Multidimensional Poverty indicator has been developed. This index has nothing to do with poverty and is fed numerous different items of fudged data. To put it another way, the nation's statistical system has been transformed into a tool of government propaganda, and only information that confirms the arrival of

Achhe Din and AmritKaal is permitted to be made public. The nationwide Sample Survey Office's nationwide consumption expenditure surveys in India provide the most crucial information for estimating poverty and hunger. The Modi administration suppressed the results of the 2017-18 survey in an unprecedented step. Since then, no poll on consumer spending has been done. It is vital to keep in mind that the Modi government has not seen the need to broaden the reach of the public distribution system despite the significant worsening of unemployment in recent years and an economic crisis that has plunged millions into poverty and food insecurity. According to the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the government is required by the constitution to provide food grain at a subsidised rate to at least 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population as of the most recent population count. The NFSA's coverage is currently around 12 crore people below the amount required by the constitution, despite the fact that the previous population census was performed more than a decade ago and the 2021 census has not yet begun. In other words, because the official population

census was not completed on time, roughly 12 crore people were excluded from the NFSA. Aadhaar seeding and digitalization has resulted in the cancellation of around 4.4 crore ration cards since 2014. This has been carried out most vehemently in states with BJP rule. It is important to keep in mind that the beneficiaries of the NFSA were chosen in accordance with a set of predetermined standards and data gathered from the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census conducted across the country. But the widespread cancellation of the cards of low-income households and the selection of new NFSA recipients in their place have been done solely for political reasons, without any set of guidelines or survey. Even during the Covid crisis, when the government had supplies of more than 10 crore tonnes of foodgrain, it merely boosted the distribution of foodgrain to NFSA beneficiaries who were already receiving it. Millions of additional people who lost their jobs due to the economic crisis and were plunged into poverty were not even offered any subsidies for food grains. The public distribution system must be made universal, according to CPI(M). This proved especially important during the

Covid crisis, when millions of foreign workers' sources of income were abruptly taken away. The administration kept proposing erroneous and convoluted solutions like the One Nation One Card programme, which have not been implemented, rather than just opening the doors of the government's overflowing granaries and making the public distribution system universal. In recent years, a high rate of inflation in food costs has also made food insecurity and hunger worse. Most of 2022's months had food prices that were 7-9% higher than those in the corresponding months of 2021. The Modi government has relied heavily on fuel taxes to pay for government spending for a large portion of its time in office. It is clear that high fuel prices, which are essentially the result of high taxes, have a cascading effect on the prices of other goods, including food. Additionally, the central government has used the new GST regime to impose a high tax burden on common citizens and small producers, and has been keeping the lion's share of the GST collections for itself rather than passing them on to the states. Statistics that have been manipulated cannot deceive the working people of this nation.

They will never forget the suffering they endured as a result of this government's disastrous economic policies. The three most pressing challenges of the day are poverty, unemployment, and food insecurity. There is a dire need to organise people around these livelihood-related

problems in the nation to make sure that this government is held responsible for the hardships that the populace is experiencing.

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Letter To Editor

Dear sir,

Outlaw Energy drinks

Energy drink consumption has increased dramatically over the past two decades, especially among adolescents and young adults in the country. Energy drinks are aggressively marketed with claims that these products boost energy and improve physical and cognitive performance. However, studies supporting these claims are limited. In fact, energy drinks have been associated with several adverse health effects. This raises the question of whether these drinks are safe. Most brands on the market contain high amounts of glucose, but some offer versions with added artificial sweeteners. Other commonly used ingredients include taurine, methylxanthine, guarana, yerba mate, acai, maltodextrin, inositol, carnitine, creatine, glucuronolactone. Serious concerns have now been raised about the safety of these products. There are several reports showing adverse health effects from energy drinks. Beverages that typically contain large amounts of caffeine, sugar, other additives, and legal stimulants such as guarana, taurine, and carnitine. These legal stimulants not only increase blood pressure, heart rate and breathing rate, they may increase chances of cardiac arrest as per experts. The stimulants in these drinks can have harmful effects on the nervous systems too. Until independent research confirms safety, especially in adolescents, the sales of energy drinks should be restricted or banned in the country.

Dr. Vijaykumar H K Raichur, Karnataka



PM meets with former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla and other dignitaries at the inauguration ceremony of the new Parliament House, in New Delhi



Former Lok Sabha speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and other dignitaries standing for the National Anthem during inauguration ceremony at new Parliament House, in New Delhi

PM Modi To Flag Off Assam's First Vande Bharat Express Train Today

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off Assam's first Vande Bharat Express at 12 noon on Monday via video-conferencing, according to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The state-of-the-art train will provide the people of the region with the means to travel with speed and comfort. It will also boost tourism in the region, the statement said. Connecting Guwahati with New Jalpaiguri, the train will help save about an hour of journey time, compared to the current fastest train connecting



the two places. Vande Bharat will cover the journey in five-and-a-half hours, while the current fastest train takes about six-and-a-half hours to cover the distance. Prime Minister Modi will also dedicate 182 route kilometres of newly-electrified sections. This will help provide pollution-free transportation with trains

running at a higher speed and reduced running time. It will also open the doors for trains running on electric traction to enter Meghalaya. The prime minister will inaugurate a newly-constructed DEMU/MEMU shed at Assam's Lumding. This new facility will be helpful for maintaining the DEMU rakes operating in the region, leading to better operational feasibility. The Indian Railways is currently running 34 services of the train, covering 21 states. It has set a target of running at least one service in seven more states by June.

Sardar Taranjit Singh is New Chairman of ASSOCHAM Eastern Region Council

Kolkata (Partha Roy): Sardar Taranjit Singh noted industrialist and pioneer business scape innovator was appointed as Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Eastern Regional Council.



The Executive Board Members of ASSOCHAM appointed Sardar Taranjit Singh, Managing Director, JIS Group, as the Chairman of ASSOCHAM Eastern Region Council (ERC). Sardar Taranjit Singh has played a key role in nurturing and developing JIS Group. The group is one of the largest educational groups in India and a renowned conglomerate of West Bengal. JIS Group is committed to focusing on a policy of consistent quality enrichment of the services provided to promote the growth and economic prosperity of the nation. JIS group is

also playing important role in developing modern dairy and dairy products industries in West Bengal. While commenting on his new role, Sardar Taranjit Singh believes in leading by example and making structured contributions towards industrial development, said, "I am honoured to be appointed as Chairman for ASSOCHAM Eastern Region Council. ASSOCHAM as one of the oldest and apex knowledge Chambers of India has such a rich heritage and lineage of leadership. India has a

critical role in the post-pandemic global development and ASSOCHAM national leadership is committed towards nation building. I look forward to taking up the agenda of growth and prosperity of industry and the mission of ASSOCHAM in the Eastern part of India." Perminder Jeet Kaur, Regional Director, ASSOCHAM - East and North East added, "ASSOCHAM Eastern Region Council would explore the untapped industry potential under the gifted leadership of New Chairman."

Siddaramaiah Gives Target To Karnataka Ministers For 2024 Lok Sabha Polls

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who has formed a full-fledged government, has fixed targets for all his Cabinet colleagues, saying they should all strive to win at least 20 of the total 28 seats in the Lok Sabha elections. The Chief Minister on Saturday filled all 34 seats in his Cabinet by inducting 24 new ministers. Noting that the Lok Sabha elections are coming in a year, Siddaramaiah said, "We should win at least 20 Lok Sabha constituencies as a gift to party national president Mallikarjun Kharge and seniors Sonia Gandhi,



Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi." The Chief Minister has instructed the ministers to carry out their responsibilities by keeping this goal in mind and with commitment, honesty and agility, a statement from the chief minister's office said. "We should strive sincerely to ensure that the guarantees assured

by us reach the people. The mistakes of the past should not be repeated this time," he was quoted as saying in the statement. Siddaramaiah assured the ministers that portfolio allocation will be completed shortly, and told them, "All of you must work actively. As a result of our struggle in the opposition, people have rejected the misrule of the

BJP and held our hands." Telling the ministers to "listen to the people's problems and respond to them", he reminded them that "the people of the state have given us an unprecedented majority and also a great responsibility. It is our responsibility to provide a pro-people administration according to their expectations." He added, "Take steps to solve problems locally and prevent them from running pillar to post even for small works. People should not be made to come to Vidhana Soudha (the seat of the state legislature and secretariat) to get their work done." "Through our pro-people work, we have to register

an unprecedented victory in the Lok Sabha elections again," he instructed the ministers. The situation is just right to end the misrule of the Centre through Karnataka, he said. "We must not forget this. Therefore, the ministers should travel to their districts extensively. The problems should be solved at the district and taluk level," Siddaramaiah said. The Chief Minister has given targets to all the ministers and wished them good luck, the statement said, adding that he also asked them to keep a strict vigil on officers and to fight against corruption.

"Very Wrong, Condemnable": Arvind Kejriwal Slams Police Action On Wrestlers

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal condemned the police detention of wrestlers protesting at Jantar Mantar here on Sunday and called their act "very wrong." Delhi Police on Sunday detained Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik, and Bajrang Punia after they breached the security cordon moving towards the new Parliament building for a women's 'Mahapanchayat.' Kejriwal retweeted a video shared by Malik that showed wrestlers

being dragged by police to a detention van after a lengthy scuffle. "Such treatment to the sportsperson who brought laurels to the country is very wrong and condemnable," he wrote. Jantar Mantar turned into a scene of chaos when Vinesh Phogat and her cousin Sangeeta Phogat tried to breach the barricades and as police tried to contain the breach with a lot of shoving and pushing. Immediately after the wrestlers were pushed



into buses and taken to an unknown location, police began clearing the protest site by removing cots, mattresses, cooler fans, the tarpaulin ceiling, and other belongings of the wrestlers. The agitating wrestlers, who include Olympic medallists Punia and Malik and Asian Games gold winner Phogat, have

been demanding the arrest of outgoing Wrestling Federation of India President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh accusing him of sexually harassing several women grapplers. The Delhi Police has filed two FIRs against Singh, one of which relates to allegations by the minor wrestler and has been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, while the other is related to outraging modesty of adult women wrestlers.

Heritage Institute of Technology bagged the ASSOCHAM Award 2023



Kolkata: Proud to state that Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata, bagged the Institute of the Year Award (East) at the 16th International Education Leadership and Skill Development Summit 2023 organized by Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) on 26th May. The award ceremony was organized at New Delhi. Mr. P. K. Agarwal, CEO,

Heritage Group of Institutions and Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology received the prestigious A S S O C H A M Education Excellence Award from the members of the ASSOCHAM National Council. On the same day, Heritage Business School, Kolkata, received the award for Excellence in enabling

Preferred Environment for Placements (East) in the same award ceremony. "We feel proud to receive such a prestigious award from Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM). A proud moment for the entire Heritage Family to receive both the National Awards," said Mr. P. K. Agarwal, CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions, Kolkata.

Buzz Over Early Poll

Bhubaneswar: Amid a buzz of an early election in Odisha, the question is going round as to who will benefit from this exercise? Is it the Governing BJD or the Opposition BJP? If Odisha goes to polls in December this year along with five other states, then the state has to encounter another general election for the Lok Sabha after five months. Therefore, the state and its people will be sandwiched between two polls in a gap of five months. The back to back elections will certainly affect the

developmental works in the ground and people have no other business than raising flags of political parties. Recently, the rumor machine was accelerated when BJD's Senior Vice President Debi Prasad Mishra said that his party, like others, was also preparing for the elections. He, however, did not rule out the possibility of an early poll thus giving scope to others to talk about the early polls. Shri Mishra said a Union Minister had hinted at it. Even Odisha BJP President Manmohan Samal also mentioned it

in the past. So it is a possibility, provided the Election Commission of India allows, Odisha to go to elections with five other states scheduled next after Karnataka, said Shri Mishra. The tenure of the current assembly would end on June 24, 2024. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in December last year had claimed that Odisha might go for early polls. Odisha had been witnessing simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly polls since 2004. The state's BJD Government then

had pre-poned the Assembly elections and later, the twin elections were held in Odisha. Thanks to the late Pyarimohan Mohapatra, the then Political Advisor of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, that the two elections were held in the state at one time thus saving money and time of state. The Governing BJD has also gained from the twin elections. However, the BJD Top Leadership nowadays thinks otherwise and may prefer separate elections for which the state may recommend to

dissolve the Assembly and go to polls along with five other states. Assembly elections will be held in five states — Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram — later this year, setting the stage the crucial general elections. This kind of thinking comes as the BJD is assured that its victory is ensured in the next Assembly elections, thanks to weak Opposition. They lack strategy to win Assembly polls in Odisha, observed a senior Political Observer. However, it was not sure whether the BJD could also perform

better in the Lok Sabha elections, thanks to 'Modi Factor'. The previous 2019 election has set a trend in Odisha that the people vote for BJD in the Assembly elections and prefer BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. Therefore, the BJP could win eight LS seats in 2019 while its tally was just one in 2014. The BJD leadership is worried over the trend and bifurcating the twin polls, may change the prevailing trend. All due to Narendra Modi Wave. Naveen Patnaik's party knows better that the Opposition BJP is not going to repeat its

performance in 2024. The BJP in all possibility may not perform well as indicated from the Karnataka Assembly elections. As the BJP now rules over several states, it has developed anti-incumbency factor. Though the people have voted the Lotus party in Lok Sabha elections in majority, they may not repeat in the ensuing Vidhan Sabha polls. In that situation, BJD is eyeing for 130 seats this time. It is often seen that Naveen Patnaik starts touring districts six months before each election the BJD has so far faced. This time,

Naveen is yet to start his district tour. However, his Secretary V K Pandian has been visiting different districts and drawing crowds in all places. Political analysts consider that Naveen may not undertake district tour himself and therefore his Top Mandarin has been doing the duty. The visit of Shri Patnaik's blue eyed officer cannot be ignored. Ace Mandarin, V K Pandian, Secretary to Chief Minister, who is making whirlwind tours across the State and proved to be a successful crowd puller.

World's First Ever MissCall-Based Payment System Launched For Citizens Of Odisha

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Government today launched the world's first MissCall-based payment system 'MissCallPay' at the State's first-ever Fintech Festival — an initiative to enhance the adoption of digital payments and promote Bhubaneswar as a fintech hub of East India.



'MissCallPay' solution is aimed at serving 90 million Indian mobile subscribers, who are still not on UPI. Users who find it challenging to use UPI apps on smartphones do so primarily due to digital illiteracy. MissCallPay enables any kind of payment by just giving a missed call, be it for an electricity bill, a gas bill, a merchant transaction at a store, a mobile recharge, or even a person-to-person payment. MissCallPay runs on newly launched UPI 123pay rails of NPCI and was unveiled by the RBI Governor to increase penetration of UPI-based digital payments into the hinterlands of India and is in line with the government's objective of accelerated, inclusive and resilient growth by enabling digital payments for all, so as to uplift the economy as well as the weaker sections by means of financial inclusion.

MissCallPay is tied up with the following entities to provide fintech services in Odisha: On its launch, MissCallPay started providing services to three establishments in the State; the first being TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited

(TPWODL) — an initiative to provide convenient bill payment service to electricity subscribers in western Odisha. The TPWODL is a joint venture between Tata Power Company Limited (Tata Power) and the Government of Odisha and is headquartered in Sambalpur. Apart from the partnership with TPWODL, MissCallPay is also a service provider to Mission Shakti — a project of the Odisha government that gives livelihood to around 70 lakh women in the State in a self-help group (SHG) setting that provides sensitive support structures to take the rural poor households out of poverty through capacity building, financial assistance and self-reliant institutions. Moreover, MissCallPay has enabled simple MissCall-based payment by farmers to SFAC and NAFED and supported farmer-producer organisations for the procurement of seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and the farming equipment required during an ongoing crop season in Odisha. The State is a frontrunner in the country when it comes to launching initiatives for farmers. The government was one of the pioneers

in forming the Odisha Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Policy, 2018. Currently, there are more than 500 FPOs being promoted and supported under government policies and schemes, in line with the Central government-laid scheme for the formation and promotion of 10,000 FPOs. Now, with MissCall, rural Odisha would be a pioneer of digital payment growth in the hinterlands of our country. Speaking on the occasion, Founder and CEO of MissCallPay Mitesh Thakker said, "At MissCallPay, we are focused on leveraging the technology to simplify UPI digital payments, particularly for our elders and digitally challenged users, and everyone, in general, can do digital payments by just giving a MissCall." "Launching of this digital solution at Odisha Fintech Festival with the State's esteemed organisations like TPWODL, Mission Shakti and 27 FPOs is very welcoming and encouraging, as the State government is very proactive in doing innovative things for the benefit of its people," Thakker added. This method of payment is very easy to use; one

can use it with either a feature phone or a smartphone and transactions are carried out in Odia language and 11 other Indian languages. Payment can be made remotely; the person does not have to be in the store as well. All the person needs to do is to give a miss call; he gets a callback, and on the callback, he confirms the TPWODL Bill amount or, in the case of merchant payment, enters the amount followed by a UPI PIN. The payment gets done directly within seconds from the user's bank account, like in any UPI App payment. In terms of security, the payment method is quite secure, as payment only gets done when the user receives a call-back from 080-6907-9999; such a call-back comes within 2 to 10 seconds, which is a smaller window period than that of OTP, which makes it secure. Almost everyone in India knows how to speak and listen, unlike using smartphone apps; this ensures that people don't get cheated as people are doing payments using their basic skills, unlike using some mobile app that may be in English that they may have to learn. The first transaction takes place in about 2 minutes, and later transactions happen in a few seconds. This payment system is built using NPCI's UPI 123 pay rails and BBPS. Hence, the next billion people are able to make the payment in an easy and secure manner.


Odisha Imposes ESMA To Prohibit Strike By Nurses, Pharmacists, Paramedics

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Government today imposed Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) to prohibit strike by nurses, pharmacists, paramedics, technicians, and other Class-III and Class-IV employees for six months. The step has been taken to keep the healthcare delivery system in the state unaffected. "It is necessary to prohibit strikes in the form of


cessation of work by the Nurses, Pharmacists, Paramedics, Technicians, other Class-III and Class-IV employees etc. including contractual employees in services/engagements connected with maintenance of medical services in the Government Hospitals and Dispensaries in the State like District Head Quarters Hospitals, Sub-Divisional Hospitals, Area Hospitals, Community Health

Center, Primary Health Centers, Municipality Hospitals, ESI Hospitals etc. including Medical Colleges and Hospitals run by Government and other autonomous Health Institutions receiving Grant-in-aid from State Government, specifically AHRCC, Regional Spinal Injury Centre including Jail Hospitals, Police Hospitals etc. so that health care delivery system in the State is not affected/ disrupted," the

notification read. "In exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (1) of Section-3 read with Section-2 of the Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Act 1988 (Odisha Act 9 of 1992), the State Government do hereby prohibit strikes in the aforesaid services. The order shall remain in force for a period of six months with effect from the date of issue," the notification added.



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

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

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

highest quality.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FURO Sports Shoes welcomes Shahid Kapoor as its Brand Ambassador

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

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

BOB Financial crosses the 1 Million Credit Cards mark

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

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

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

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

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

Vedanta Aluminium deploys IIoT technology in power plant to improve emissions control

Bhubaneswar: Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has augmented its 2400 MW Thermal Power Plant with Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) devices in fabric filters to improve emissions control. Fabric filters are special bag filters placed after electrostatic precipitators in chimneys to collect or particulate matter from the hot gas emanating from the power plant boiler system, stopping them from escaping into the atmosphere. The differential pressure between the bags plays a pivotal role in improving the efficiency of the filters. This is the 3rd line of defense in capturing particulate matter and gases, which significantly improves the air quality. The company has moved from the traditional way of measuring differential pressure through transmitters to using IIoT

devices for precise monitoring and immediate action.

Customised applications of leading-edge technologies across the value-chain are helping Vedanta Aluminium exercise stringent control on operational parameters to bolster ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) performance. This includes a laser focus on environmental parameters such as energy conservation, carbon reduction, air quality, water sustainability, circular waste management, and biodiversity.

Vedanta's Smelter-I in Jharsuguda (Odisha) was the national benchmark in water efficiency amongst aluminium producers, with the lowest amount of water consumer per tonne of metal produced in FY22. All of Vedanta Aluminium's business units have robust Environment Management Systems (EMS) adhering to ISO

14001:2015

Speaking about Vedanta Aluminium's endeavours to bolster ESG excellence, Mr. Rahul Sharma, CEO, Vedanta Limited - Aluminium Business, said, "We are committed to further improving our environmental sustainability performance through a structured approach that includes adoption of best-in-industry practices, leading-edge digital technologies, consistent improvements in efficiency of resource-intensive processes, circular initiatives and incorporation of 'Design for Sustainability' principles into our operations. In our journey as India's largest aluminium producer and the world's second most sustainable aluminium company, we are striving to emerge as the industry benchmark in operational excellence and environmental performance, as we add value to our customers, communities and country."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

opportunities for lakhs of sellers and brand partners."

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

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

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

IIT Delhi Student Wins Coveted TCS CodeVita Season 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chepauk mixed-bag has CSK better prepared for final, feels Fleming

New Delhi: For the 10th time with Chennai Super Kings - in the 14 seasons they have featured in the IPL - Stephen Fleming finds himself preparing for a final. For all the talks of calm that surrounds CSK's lead-up to an IPL final, Fleming opened up about the nervousness that has crept in even for the four-time champions.

But it's not the worst thing to happen, according to the head coach. "It's a big occasion," reminds Fleming ahead of the summit clash against Gujarat Titans. "The game doesn't change but the outcome does. It's really hard not to look too far ahead and dream of winning it again. To be a part of it (the title win) is what we sit out to do, that's our purpose."

"So try and contain that excitement and stay in the present is what is one of the great challenges as you get to the end of the tournament. You got to stay very present about what you're going to do. Gujarat is an excellent side, the most consistent side in the competition so far. We can't afford to dream too much, but this is why we are here."

"The excitement levels, the nerves of the big stage, they just simmer

away. It's a good thing to have. It's just how you work with your system. We have some good people around us and we look forward to this challenge. You need to have a certain sense of anxiety to be at your best, I believe. It's on how you manage that and how quickly you're able to sink into the game. That's what we'll be doing tomorrow."

The Titans have the opportunity of becoming only the third team, after Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings, to defend their IPL title. Both MI and CSK, despite all their success, have managed to defend the title only once. "It's going to be so hard for them. Impossible," Fleming joked before praising the Hardik Pandya-led side for being able to make good use of their smart squad selection.

Despite being the most regular side to turn up in the finals, CSK's record hasn't particularly been the best in the summit clash, winning only 4 out of 9 times. That much of their strategy and squad selection all along was based to suit the slow and low tracks of Chennai possibly had a big part to play in their inability to adjust as well to neutral conditions. For a change,



that could be one of their strengths going into the Sunday's clash, believes Fleming.

"We geared ourselves up so well in Chennai that we did struggle a bit with different conditions at times in away games," he admitted. "This year, we are a bit more rounded. We had to be," he said. "In the last qualifying game I wanted to bowl. And batting proved to be the right call. We were well off the mark in getting the conditions right. But the team is rounded enough to put performances together. Come the final, now we

don't have to worry about what conditions we get. We're not worried. We're mentally at a lot better place than where we were in the past."

One of the hallmarks of CSK has been their ability to bounce back. One of the hallmarks of CSK has been their ability to bounce back. © Having finished ninth last season, CSK managed to script a turnaround without much personnel change, finishing second in the tightly-contested league phase in IPL 2023 before beating the table toppers Gujarat Titans in the

Qualifier 1. While Fleming opened up about the mindset that went behind in making the changes, he stressed on the fine margins that often don't reflect adequately on the points table.

"The margin between success and failures in this competition has just got closer and closer each year. We may have been ninth, but when you look back, there are a number of games that could've gone different ways. Maybe the last ball finishes or a great performance. Such fine margins determine where

you finish on the logs.

"It's getting closer and closer as teams are getting smarter and smarter about the players they pick, the conditions they play in. This year is no different. This has been the hardest competition. Each team you come up against, it feels incredibly difficult."

"When we've had a bad season, we've been able to bounce back. A part of it is to do with how we finish a bad season. We're always looking for the positives or giving players the opportunities to work in

the following year. So we don't just write it off. "There are a lot of things to learn when a season goes well, but there are even more things to learn when the season doesn't. We're always looking to get better and we're realistic about how difficult it is to get to this stage. That's why we're proud about our record of being consistent over a period of time. We've been able to put in performances when we're in form, when we're out of form. "The greatest challenge of this tournament is that when you're trying to create a team that's going really well, you have to disband and keep only four players. The fact that we've been able to be consistent with that, with those rules in places, is something we look back very proudly on."

The story of CSK success lies greatly on the consistency they have managed to have - both in terms of player retention as well as those in the coaching and support staff, with MS Dhoni and Fleming forging an extremely long captain-coach partnership that's rarely witnessed in cricket.

"It's pretty easy when you have a superstar that does the job very well,"

he said speaking about the success of the partnership. "What it has allowed us to do is work below the surface and just be a foil for him when he needs some advice or support."

"Some of the secrets are the continuity in people, the belief in players, calmness under pressure. Those are all traits that come from him and we're able to add to that. When we turn up, there's a sense of familiarity of what we're doing and with whom we are doing it with."

"In a fast-paced turnaround, it gives you an advantage. You can get back to things a lot quicker, if you don't have to learn about the coaching staff every year. That's the part of the reason we stay as consistent as possible. We can add layers rather than starting each year. "It's been an absolute pleasure to be a part of CSK. I couldn't ask for more than getting to work with one of the greatest captains and players of the game. We're very lucky to have him at the top. But we add to him as well, the strength below to what he does. The players respond very well to what he asks. It's a good-feel successful franchise."

World Cup 2023 schedule set to be out on sidelines of WTC final



New Delhi: The Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), held in Ahmedabad on Saturday (May 27), took cognizance of the criticism of facilities at various stadiums across the country and decided to form a committee on ways to sanction grants for various stadiums. In particular, the BCCI members discussed the criticism, mainly in social media, of amenities at some grounds, and wanted an up-gradation of the grounds for the public turning up at the grounds.

The item -- Formation of Infrastructure development and subsidy committee -- was the first point on the five-point agenda for the meeting. The SGM authorized the office-bearers to form the committee. The upgradation of the grounds is expected to be complete before the World Cup in October-November.

In a similar point relating to the formation of a working group for the World Cup, the SGM, again, authorized the office-bearers to take a call. The formation of the committee is expected to be announced in a few days, after the final

of the IPL on Sunday. Meanwhile, BCCI has revealed that the venues for the World Cup will be made public during the World Test Championship final in London. The schedule will also be disclosed then, at a media event, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said. The WTC final will be held at The Oval from June 7 to 12. In further planning for the World Cup, the BCCI said it will make each office-bearer will be given charge of a venue and they will be responsible for it. "We are looking at all the metros as venues for the tournament," Shah disclosed.

About the much contentious Asia Cup, Shah said the venue(s) will be decided after a meeting of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). Hosts Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has proposed a hybrid model for the continental championship with Pakistan and UAE as venues but it has still not found acceptance from the members. "The future of the Asia Cup 2023 will be decided once we have a meeting with the ACC members," Shah observed. The Asia Cup is tentatively scheduled for September. As for the series against Afghanistan, Shah said

it will be held before the World Cup but did not confirm the dates. Initially, it was proposed to be staged in

June-end, sandwiching the three ODIs between the WTC final and the West Indies series (in July-August), but those dates are unlikely to be considered, as recently reported by Cricbuzz. "We will go ahead with the series this year, before the World Cup," Shah said, leaving the matter in tenterhooks.

The BCCI had previously stated that it was looking for a Diwali window for the WPL and Shah hinted that the second edition of the league will be next year, not during the 2023 Diwali, because of the World Cup in India. "We will have a discussion with the broadcaster and decide on a window. We will be looking at a window for organizing the next edition of the WPL before March 2024," he said.

He also revealed that the shortlist of applicants for the women's head coach has already been done. "The CAC will meet and decide accordingly. We may have a new women's team head coach before the Bangladesh series," the BCCI secretary asserted.

Lionel Messi Breaks Cristiano Ronaldo Record As PSG Clinch 11th Ligue 1 Title

New Delhi: Lionel Messi helped Paris Saint-Germain clinch a record 11th French league title on Saturday, and broke another scoring record in the process. Messi scored the opening goal as PSG drew 1-1 at Strasbourg to move four points clear of second-place Lens with one game left. Messi put PSG ahead from Kylian Mbappe's pass in the 59th minute. Former PSG striker Kevin Gameiro equalized for Strasbourg in the 79th. It was Messi's 496th career league goal in Europe, breaking Cristiano Ronaldo's scoring record for Europe's top five leagues. It could also be his last, as the Argentina star is widely expected to leave PSG at the end of the season and has been linked with a possible move to Saudi Arabia or MLS. Lens secured second place and automatic entry into next season's Champions League by beating relegated Ajaccio 3-0 at home, with Belgium forward Loïs Openda reaching 20 league goals in his first season at the club. Defending champion PSG overtook former French powerhouse Saint-Etienne, which won its 10th title in 1981 but was relegated



to the second division last season. PSG has won nine of its 11 titles since Qatari backers QSI took charge 12 years ago, with the first of those in 2013. PSG's other titles were in 1986 and '94. "This is of course an historic moment for Paris Saint-Germain. This 11th French league title is the reward for all the hard work we have put in over the last 12 years," said PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi, who has been in control since 2011. "To make Ligue 1 history and overtake Saint-Etienne is a real source of pride." The title will be celebrated next Saturday at Parc

des Princes when PSG hosts Clermont in what could be Messi's last game for PSG. He has not taken up the option for an extra year on the contract he signed two years ago.

Messi has felt the ire of PSG fans at times this season after his form dipped following his return from Argentina's victory at the World Cup, and he was suspended by the club this month after an unauthorized trip to Saudi Arabia. But in the end it was his goal that allowed the fans to celebrate — and gave Messi a 43rd career major trophy for club and country.