

Cabinet Clears Metro Rail

Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today approved construction of Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Project Phase-1 from Bhubaneswar Airport to Trisulia Square.

The cabinet has given its approval for engaging Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (DMRC) as turn-key consultant for execution of Phase-I of the Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Project, said Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena.

In order to facilitate comfortable, safer and convenient transportation for the public in Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Cuttack and Puri region, there is a need for a Metro Rail System, he said.

The Chief Minister has sanctioned augmenting infrastructure with a metro rail project for Bhubaneswar Capital Region under 5T initiative covering the



route from Bhubaneswar Airport to Trisulia Square in the first phase on April 1, 2023.

The estimated cost of the first phase of the project is Rs 5929.38 crore and it is targeted for completion in 4 years.

The total length of the project from Bhubaneswar Airport to Trisulia Square is 26 km and there will be 20 metro stations including at Capital Hospital, Rajmahal Square, Vani vihar Square, Jaydev Vihar Square & Patia

Square, he said. The metro rail tracks and stations will be on elevated viaducts. Ultra-modern coaches will be deployed and advanced ticketing systems and signaling systems will be adopted, Jena informed.

The Cabinet has also approved the proposal for extension of State Capital Region Improvement in Power System (SCRIPS) with an additional financial requirement of Rs 469.39 crore. Odisha Power Transmission

Corporation Ltd (OPTCL) will execute SCRIPS under the umbrella scheme Chief Minister's Power Development Programme (CMPDP) by the financial year 2024-25 for expansion of existing transmission & distribution infrastructure of the capital region of the State.

The recently announced scheme 'Ama Hospital' got Cabinet nod for improvement of infrastructure and patient care in public healthcare facilities in the State.

The scheme will be implemented in all 1858 government healthcare facilities in a phased manner during a period of five years (2023-24 to 2027-28) with an outlay of Rs 3388.73 crore, the Chief Secretary said. Tender of Rs 307.87 crore for execution of two mega piped water supply projects in Bolangir district out of Jal Jeevan Mission

(JJM) also approved by the panel.

Another tender of Rs 86.54 crore for construction of barrage across river Rushikulya near village Janivili of Dharakote block in Ganjam district was also approved by the government during the meeting.

Further, the Cabinet has approved construction of Berhampur Ring Road in Ganjam district with a cost of Rs 156.51 crore. This road project is expected to boost development in Berhampur, Chhatrapur and Gopalpur town and to ease out traffic in Berhampur town. It is targeted to be completed in two years.

The Cabinet has also decided to provide 9.400 acres of Government land in Gothapatna Mouza in Bhubaneswar in favour of Xavier Institute of Management (XIM) society for setting up of a new Loyola School free of premium.

CHILDREN FROM VARIOUS SCHOOLS/ORGANISATIONS MEET THE PRESIDENT ON CHILDREN'S DAY

New Delhi(KCN): Children from various schools/ organisations met the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan

lot of information and knowledge. They are showing their talent in the country and abroad. She said that it is the responsibility of all of

childhood to help others and have a feeling of love and respect for the environment. It is also very important to make children aware about the health and cleanliness of the environment.

The President told children that if they recognize their potential and keep moving towards their aim with full dedication and hard work, they can definitely achieve their

goal. She advised them to adopt the habit of reading. She said that there is a saying - books are best friends. She stated that good books bring positive changes in one's personality. She also advised children to read biographies of great personalities which will inspire them and also help them face challenges.



Cultural Centre (RBCC) today (November 14, 2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that we often say that children are the future of the country. It is the duty of all of us to safeguard this future and ensure its proper upbringing. She stated that today's children have technology and a

us to give the right direction to the talent of our children. The President said that children have more sensitivity towards others. They become sad after seeing the sadness of others and they become happy after seeing others happy. Due to this quality of children, we can inspire them from

OPHWC Eyes 1K CR Turnover



Bhubaneswar(KCN): Odisha Police Housing and Welfare Corporation (OPHWC) signed MOU with the Department of Home for Rs.1000 crore turnover in 2023-24.

In a simple ceremony held in the conference hall of Home Department in Lokseva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, OPHWC signed MOU with Home Department on 14 November.

Deoranjan Kumar Singh, ACS Home and Sanjeeb Panda, CMD OPHWC signed the MOU.

Special Secretary Home, Santosh Bala and other senior officers of Department of Home and OPHWC were present in the MOU signing ceremony.

As per the MOU, OPHWC will achieve the turnover of 1000 crore in the current financial year 2023-24. The OPHWC had an turnover of Rs.370 Crore in 2021-22 and 532 Crore in 2022-23 with 42 Percent growth.

The Corporation has set up an ambitious target of almost doubling its turnover in the current financial year.

The OPHWC is a profit making Silver rated Company of Government of Odisha and it's giving dividend to the Government every year.

The Corporation undertakes various building projects of Police, Fire, Prisons, Judiciary.

It is the sole executing agency of all the Universities under Higher Education Department.

It had recently undertaken 43 District and Block level bus stands for Transport Department under Ama Bus Stand scheme.

The Corporation has taken up the construction of Trainees Hostel at Gopabandhu Academy for 120 Crore and this building will be the first IGBC Platinum rated building in the state. The OPHWC is also constructing the Modern

Train Parked At Coaching Depot Of Puri Railway Station Catches Fire

Puri(KCN): A fire broke out in the coaching depot of Puri railway station on Tuesday. One coach of the train was reportedly gutted in this mishap.

According to sources, the train was present in the depot for cleaning purposes when people noticed smoke billowing out of the coach. Within few minutes, the whole area was covered with smoke. On being informed, fire department reached the spot and launch an operation to douse the inferno. Due to this fire mishap, the entire coach was reportedly damaged. However nobody was injured.

While the exact reason of this unfortunate incident is unclear, it is being suspected that electrical short circuit might have caused the fire break out.



Bhubaneswar(KCN): In a historic decision for the larger interest of Scheduled Tribes (STs), the State Cabinet chaired by Naveen Patnaik today decided to amend the Odisha Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by STs) Regulation, 1956 to allow the STs to sell their land to other category people.

In view of the larger interest of Scheduled Tribes (STs), Regulation-2, 1956 is being enforced in the Scheduled Areas of the State. In 2002, after some amendments were made in this Act, a person belonging to the ST category can transfer his immovable property

only to the person belonging to ST only, said Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena.

As per the Regulation, a person belonging to a Scheduled Tribe in a scheduled area can mortgage his land to any public financial institution for agricultural purposes only.

Realizing this problem, he said, basing on the recommendations of the Scheduled Tribes Advisory Council, some amendments to this Regulation have been approved by the

Sub-Collector, for agricultural purposes only. Due to such provisions, the educated youth belonging to STs were facing many difficulties, Shri Jena said.

Realizing this problem, he said, basing on the recommendations of the Scheduled Tribes Advisory Council, some amendments to this Regulation have been approved by the

November 17. Under its impact, heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Puri and heavy rainfall (7 to 11cm) very likely to occur at isolated places in the districts of Ganjam, Khordha, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Jajpur, Nayagarh, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Dhenkanal on Friday. Heavy Rainfall is also very likely to occur at isolated places in the districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, and Kendrapada on November 18.

Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Khurda, Puri and Dhenkanal on Saturday and a yellow warning for these districts have been issued by Met.

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at a few places in some districts, it said.

Bhadrapada, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, and Kendrapada on November 18.

The organization will have to pay one time payment of incidental charges of 10% of the market value of the land and annual ground rent of 0.25% of the market value of the land and cess 75% of the annual ground rent.

Aye For Tribal Land Sale



scale industries or transfer the same favour of a person not belonging to ST for the above purpose. However, after such transfer, he should not be landless or homestead less, said the Chief Secretary. If the Sub-Collector does not grant permission, then the person can appeal to the Collector within six months, whose decision shall be final, he added.

The State Cabinet has also approved another proposal of Revenue and Disaster Management Department to sanction lease of Government land measuring 9.400 acres in Gothapatna Mouza under Bhubaneswar Tahasil in favour of Xavier Institute of Management (XIM) Society for setting up of a new Loyola School on free of premium.

The organization will have to pay one time payment of incidental charges of 10% of the market value of the land and annual ground rent of 0.25% of the market value of the land and cess 75% of the annual ground rent.



CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATED AT D.A.V PUBLIC SCHOOL, KALINGA NAGAR. ON THIS OCCASION CHORUS, DANCE AND A SKIT WERE PERFORMED BY THE TEACHERS.

Transformation In Our Daily Lives

Alekh Chandra Samal, OFS-I (S.B.)



A mother was hurt and shocked to hear her son telling lies. So, she took the boy aside and told him about the perils of telling lies. "When you tell a lie, a demon with red eyes and a horn on his head will drag you from your bed in the middle of the night and punish you badly. Then, I am sure you will never lie," she continued. "No Mother, from now on, I will never lie," assured the son and then he added, "More than me, you are a bigger liar." Mistake on the part of one in lying cannot be corrected by another by committing the same

mistake. Why do people lie? What do they achieve by telling lies? Can't you see that the effort needed to protect one from being caught as a liar causes more tension and that lying causes unnecessary strain of remembering one's lies? You land up filling the mind with unnecessary thoughts, worries, hurts, and lies. This restricts the space available for any creative act.

People tend to work on increasing their knowledge. In the East, there is a distinction between knowledge and Being. The emphasis is on increasing one's Being. Both knowledge and Being are required. But with the transformation of knowledge into Being, knowledge will not be limited to information. So, both knowledge and Being should be firmly

on the transformation track.

Anyone can understand that there are different levels of knowledge, but only few can understand that there are different levels of Being. Being is your presence – a good, pure, inspiring, and transparent essence. One should not confuse existence with Being. The stone exists, the plant exists, a man exists, but they exist quite differently. It is here the idea of Being comes in. For example, the Being of a plant, stone, animal, man, or the divine are all at different levels.

Being is an evolving essence, an evolving presence. If a person gets hurt because someone makes an unpleasant statement, it only shows the level of one's Being. But if one can forgive the person who has caused the hurt,

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'Ye Naham Namritasyam Kimaham Tena Kuryam'

Dr. Prafulla Kumar Das



The tendency of the entire system of modern education has become materialistic. As a result, human life throughout the world faces an utter restlessness. Peace and tranquillity cannot be achieved in small and perishable things. Man is the child of Eternity and he can taste the innate bliss by attaining the grace of that Immortality. The line: 'Ye naham namritasyam kimaham tena kuryam' – what shall I do with the things that cannot make me immortal – from Upanishad is like a pole star.

What is the aim

of education? The aim of education is to develop self-enquiry – Who am I? Why did I take this body? Which path should I follow and what is my duty? We get so attached to our temporary, worldly pleasures that we often deviate from the fundamental goal of our life. This attachment is the result of age-old superstition. Real education frees man from the bondage of superstition.

Our life has both good and evil in its course, but there is a thing above and beyond these, which alone rests in truth and beauty. It is universal and transcends the limitations of time and space. The search for the Self is the crying need of this age. This should be the aim of all educational institutions. The object of education is to spread the sense of cooperation, love and brotherhood by harmonising all dissensions prevalent in our present society.

True education enables a man to expand himself among others. And

for the faith in the existence of God, let men have this faith. Faith in God has endowed the human mind with such an invaluable gift, from which you have no right to deprive them of. God, in every religion, embodies truth. We hanker for the food of the body while keeping the spirit hungry. No educational institution inspires students to develop the spiritual urge, rather it encourages material gains. Due to this loss of harmony between the two, the world is facing confusion and restlessness.

The search for the Self is the crying need of this age. This should be the aim of all educational institutions.

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20 Mines On Auction Mode

New Delhi (KCN): Mines Secretary V L Kantha Rao said that the Ministry of Mines is in the process of auctioning 20 blocks of critical minerals including lithium and graphite in next two weeks. Interacting with the Media, after inaugurating the mining pavilion "Connecting

Beyond Mining" at the India International Trade Fair 2023 (IITF), here today, the secretary said that for mining and processing of critical minerals indigenous technology will be explored.

Recently the Government

has identified a list of critical minerals including new age minerals like Lithium, Cobalt and Titanium, important for meeting the modern needs of exploration. Today, there are many accredited private exploration agencies empanelled to step up the pace of exploration in the country. To create awareness



among the general public about the path breaking reforms underway in the mining and mineral sector, the Ministry of Mines is showcasing a state-of-the-art mining pavilion at IITF, Pragati Maidan from 14-27 November 2023.

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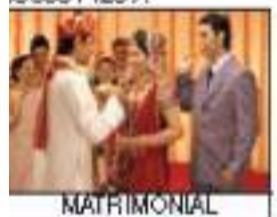
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Tiger 3 Box Office Collection: Salman Khan's Spy-Thriller Creates New Record, Earns Rs 54 Crore On Day 2

Superstar Salman Khan has all the reasons to be on cloud nine as his latest release 'Tiger 3' has witnessed a bumper opening at the Box Office. The spy-thriller film, also starring Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi, opened at Rs 44 crore on Sunday.

Now, as per early estimates in a report from Sacnilk.com, Tiger 3 has now minted around Rs 54.67 cr India nett on its second day for all languages. This takes its net collection to Rs 98 crore after two days of its release. The report mentioned that the Hindi version of the film collected Rs 43 crore where the Telugu and Tamil versions contributed Rs 1.03 crore and Rs 0.2 crore,



respectively.

The cumulative collection of Tiger 3 has now soared to Rs 102 crore. As per reports, the film has been made at an approximate budget of Rs 300 crore. The action-thriller film also stars Revathi, Riddhi Dogra, Vishal Jethwa, Ranvir Shorey, Aamir Bashir and others. Hrithik Roshan as Kabir from YRF's 'War' and

Shah Rukh Khan as RAW agent 'Pathaan' make special appearances in the film. Amidst the craze surrounding 'Tiger 3', several unpleasant videos from theatres at Maharashtra's Nashik district surfaced on the internet leaving viewers shocked. The videos showed a few excited fans bursting firecrackers inside a

packed movie theatre during the screening of the film, thus disrupting the peaceful atmosphere and causing a stampede-like situation in the hall. Whistles and loud cheers are heard in the video as the firecrackers ignite near the big screen. Within moments, people who had come to watch the movie in the theatre, were seen running for safety.

Reacting to the incident, Salman Khan took to X and shared a note reading, "I'm hearing about fireworks inside theaters during Tiger 3. This is dangerous. Let's enjoy the film without putting ourselves and others at risk. Stay safe."

Jaane Jaan New Poster Out: Kareena Kapoor, Vijay Varma, Jaideep Ahlawat Raise Curiosity



Makers of the upcoming thriller film 'Jaane Jaan' on Sunday unveiled a new poster. Taking to Instagram, the OTT platform Netflix shared the poster which they captioned, "Every story has 2 sides, but this one has 3. Unravel the mystery of #JaaneJaan on 21 September, only on Netflix!"

The new poster features the lead cast of the film Kareena Kapoor Khan, Vijay Varma and Jaideep Ahlawat. Helmed by Sujoy Ghosh 'Jaane Jaan' is all set to stream on the OTT platform Netflix from September 21. Recently the makers unveiled the film's official trailer which received massive responses from the fans. Jaane Jaan's trailer gives a glimpse into all the mysterious happenings in the chilly and pine-tree-covered Kalimpong, as it

delves into the complex intertwined relationships and secrets. Maya (Kareena Kapoor Khan), Naren (Jaideep Ahlawat) and Karan (Vijay Varma) navigate through a web of emotions and unforeseen circumstances as they cover up and uncover clues in a bid to outwit each other. Brace yourself for a journey that will evoke both love and thrill and keep you on the edge of your seat as you witness powerhouse performances, all through the lens of Sujoy Ghosh. Talking about the trailer launch of the film,

Director and Writer, Sujoy Ghosh earlier said, "I am so excited that the audiences finally get to see a glimpse of Jaane Jaan, a film extremely close to my heart. Set in Kalimpong the film sees a love story, a criminal investigation, a budding attraction, mastermind plotting and the will to do anything for love. Essayed by my dream cast of Kareena, Jaideep and Vijay, all in roles so different from what they have been seen in before. On 21st September, this film will be yours, across the world you'll get to see

this thriller come to life and I cannot wait to see what you think!" Kareena Kapoor earlier said, "I am so excited the trailer is finally yours to see! This is the first time audiences will see me in a thriller, playing something gritty like this. Jaane Jaan was a script that I had to say YES to the first time I heard of it. I have always told Sujoy the USP of this film is its cast and I had a superb time working with Jaideep and Vijay. I can't wait for Netflix audiences to enjoy Jaane Jaan."

Gulshan Devaiah Begins Shooting For Patriotic-Thriller Ulajh

Actor Gulshan Devaiah on Saturday said he has started filming for his upcoming movie 'Ulajh'. Directed by National Award winner Sudhanshu Saria, the film is billed as a patriotic thriller and stars Janhvi Kapoor in the lead. "#ulajh #firstdayoffilming Wish me luck," Devaiah, 45, tweeted.

Set in the prestigious and intriguing world of Indian Foreign Services (IFS), 'Ulajh' follows the journey of a young IFS officer (Kapoor), belonging to a prominent family of patriots, who gets embroiled in a dangerous personal conspiracy while far from her home turf, at a career-defining post. Produced by Junglee



Tara Sutaria Shines Bright As Apurva In Debut Title Role, Says Trade Analyst In First Review



One of the top actresses in the newer wave of Indian cinema, Tara Sutaria is adored for her beauty and range of skills. However, as early reactions to her upcoming thriller 'Apurva' begin to surface, the actress appears to have broken the mould to a whole new level with her portrayal of the lead role, bearing the entire weight of the picture on her own shoulders. Since the opening scene of the movie, when viewers were taken aback to see the most exquisite and beautiful actress suddenly transform into a very raw and tough character, the actress has left quite an impression.

While moviegoers wait to see the movie on November 15th, the early reviews are only making them more excited to see Tara in a role that is heavily focused on performance and in a totally new avatar. Recently the screening of the film was held for the press and media persons where many senior and credible journalists to trade analysts all saw the movie and one among them was the veteran trade analyst Komal Nahta. Having watched the film recently, he has shared his review of it on his social media handle and it's a complete treat for Tara fans as he wrote - "Watched 'Apurva' today. Loved the film because it keeps you on the edge of your seat throughout! #TaraSutaria is brilliant in the first movie in which she plays the title role and such a powerful one at that! This girl has immense potential which is still to be tapped."

Ranbir Kapoor Unleashes The Roar Of 'Animal' In Pre-Teaser, Makers Shares Fierce Glimpse

The pre-teaser of the upcoming Ranbir Kapoor-starrer film 'Animal' was unveiled on Sunday. It gives a glimpse into the film's captivating world and intense narrative. It starts off with what seem to be two rival gangs - one whose members wear a golden skull headgear and the other is a group of sardars.

The first gang calls Ranbir for a bloody face-off. Although the actor's face hasn't been fully revealed, he unleashes his wrath with the axe in his hand as he single-handedly hacks the other gang members and overpowers them before they're seen running away from him. The film has been directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, who is known for directing 'Kabir Singh' and 'Arjun Reddy'. It also stars Anil Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, Bobby Deol, and Tripti Dimri. Produced by Bhushan Kumar & Krishan Kumar's T-Series, Murad Khetani's Cine1 Studios, and Pranay Reddy Vanga's Bhadrakali Pictures, 'Animal' will debut in theatres on August 11, 2023 in 5 languages - Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam where it will clash with two other big films, 'Gadar 2' and 'OMG 2'

Director Aanand L Rai Expresses Gratitude As Kangana Ranaut-R Madhavan's 'Taru Weds Manu' Clocks 12 Years

12 years ago as we transitioned into spring, Aanand L Rai & Colour Yellow Productions' most iconic film 'Taru Weds Manu' starring R Madhavan and Kangana Ranaut witnessed a theatrical release that roared loud with its box office success. Kangana delivered yet another impactful performance and was applauded by the audience. R Madhavan once again won hearts with his stunning performance. The lead duo's on-screen chemistry was loved by the audience. The film received praise from critics & viewers alike. Aanand L Rai & Colour Yellow Productions' 'Taru Weds Manu' created a buzz like no other making it one of the most successful films of the year and the most iconic ones in Indian cinema. Speaking about the film, Aanand L Rai says, "The response this beautiful story received is unmatched. The film is still relatable to a wide audience even today & that's what a beautiful story does. It leaves an impact every time. I can't believe the film has completed twelve years today. Gratitude only for all the love & support." The film has what it took to be a successful entertainer. It was a balance of comedy, romance, and drama which ran at perfect pace with the storyline written by Himanshu Sharma with interesting twists and turns. His latest venture into the regional cinema with Aatma pamphlet traveled across the globe & was screened at the Berlin Film Festival where a global audience appreciated the brilliant storyline. Rai is pinning India on the global map with back-to-back creatively strong stories. Some of Aanand L Rai & Colour Yellow Productions' successful films include 'Ranjhanaa', 'Tumbbad', 'Happy Bhag Jayegi', 'Taru Weds Manu', 'Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan', 'Newton', and 'Manmarziyaan' to name a few. Following the success in the regional cinema is the recently announced second installment of one of the highest grossers of 2022, 'Jhimm'. Taapsee Pannu starrer 'Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba' is also in the making.

Insect apocalypse



What do we mean by 'insect apocalypse'? The term "insect apocalypse" is often used to describe the declining populations of insects, which has been a growing concern. Insects play crucial roles in ecosystems, such as pollinating plants and serving as a food source for other animals. Factors like habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change have contributed to this decline. Conservation efforts are being made to address the issue and protect insect populations, as their decline can have significant ecological and agricultural impacts. Why are we seeing an alarming global decline of different insect populations?

The decline in insect populations can be attributed to several factors, including:

Habitat Loss: The destruction and alteration of natural habitats through urbanization, agriculture,

and deforestation can reduce the available space and resources for insects.

Pesticides: The use of pesticides, including neonicotinoids and other chemicals, can be harmful to insect populations. These chemicals can kill not only target pests but also beneficial insects like pollinators.

Climate Change: Shifts in temperature and weather patterns due to climate change can disrupt the life cycles and habitats of many insects, affecting their survival and reproduction.

Pollution: Pollution from various sources, including air and water pollution, can harm insect populations by degrading the quality of their environment.

Invasive Species: The introduction of non-native species can outcompete or prey on native insects, leading to population declines.

Disease: Insect populations can be vulnerable to diseases, which can spread more easily due to factors like climate change and habitat disruption.

Light Pollution: Artificial light can disrupt the behavior of nocturnal insects,

affecting their reproductive patterns and survival.

Conservation efforts are crucial to address these issues and protect insect populations, as they play vital roles in ecosystems and are essential for pollination and other ecological functions.

What will happen if the insect populations around the globe show

disappear:

Impact on Food Supply: Insects are essential pollinators for many crops, including fruits, vegetables, and nuts. A decline in insect populations would reduce crop yields, leading to food shortages and increased food prices.

Ecosystem Disruption:

Their decline could lead to imbalances in ecosystems and a reduction in overall biodiversity.

Economic Consequences:

Agriculture and industries that rely on insect-pollinated crops would suffer economic losses. Additionally, the loss of insects could lead

health.

Medicinal and Cultural Uses: Insects have been used for medicinal and cultural purposes in various societies. The loss of specific insect species could impact these practices.

Human Health: Insects also play a role in controlling disease vectors. Some insects, like mosquitoes, are vectors for diseases like malaria. Changes in insect populations could affect disease transmission patterns.

In summary, a decline in insect populations would have cascading effects throughout ecosystems, agriculture, and society. It underscores the importance of taking action to protect and conserve these vital insects.

Preserve natural habitats: Advocate for the protection and conservation of natural areas and the restoration of degraded ecosystems to provide habitats for insects.

Educate and raise awareness: Promote awareness about the importance of insects and the threats they face through educational programs and outreach.

Implement effective regulations: Support and advocate for policies and regulations that address

the use of pesticides, habitat preservation, and other factors affecting insect populations.

Research and monitoring: Invest in scientific research and monitoring to better understand insect populations and their declines, enabling targeted conservation efforts.

Citizen science: Participate in citizen science projects that collect data on insect populations, contributing to a better understanding of their status.

Support conservation organizations: Contribute to or volunteer with organizations that focus on insect conservation and broader environmental issues.

By taking collective action and making individual choices that prioritize insect conservation, we can help slow down and ultimately reverse the decline of these vital creatures.

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alarming declines?

A significant decline in insect populations would have far-reaching and detrimental consequences for ecosystems, agriculture, and human society. Here are some of the potential outcomes if all insects were to decline significantly or

Insects play crucial roles in food chains and ecosystems. Their decline could disrupt these ecosystems, affecting the plants and animals that depend on them.

Decreased Biodiversity: Insects make up a substantial portion of Earth's biodiversity.

to increased pest problems, necessitating more chemical pesticide use.

Nutrient Recycling: Insects like decomposers play a vital role in breaking down organic matter and recycling nutrients.

Reduce pesticide use: Minimize the use of harmful pesticides and

The role of Gender in determining science education in India



Studying science at the higher secondary level is essential to pursue further STEM education in India. However, based on recent research, this article documents the prevalence of gender- and caste-based disparities in the choice to study science. It highlights the role of households' socioeconomic status, lack of access to schooling, and false beliefs and biases in explaining these disparities, and suggests that the social identity of teachers could have an impact on the uptake of science by disadvantaged groups. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education is crucial for technological progress, and students with a knack for these subjects should have the opportunity to pursue them. However, there are socio-economic, gender, and racial disparities in pursuing STEM majors and careers. Despite the progress made by the Indian

education system and successive government initiatives (including the District Primary Education Program in 1994, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 2001, and the Right to Education Act in 2009) in reducing disparities based on gender and social category at different schooling levels, significant inequalities persist. These disparities become particularly evident when specialisation begins in higher-secondary education, especially among socio-economically disadvantaged groups (SEDGs) that have historically lacked representation in education. Even the National Education Policy (NEP) has acknowledged these disparities getting wider at higher levels of education, and to remedy this, calls for research-based policy measures specifically targeting each of the SEDGs. In two of our recent studies we examine disparities based on caste and gender, two markers qualifying as SEDGs, in the choice of streams at the higher-secondary level over the recent decade (2008-2017). Following ten years of comprehensive schooling, for grades 11-12, students typically choose between science,

commerce, and humanities streams. Currently, studying in the science stream at the higher secondary level is a prerequisite to pursuing any STEM course

for undergraduate and master's degrees in most educational institutions in India. Although the NEP envisions moving towards a more holistic and multidisciplinary higher education with greater flexibility in curriculum and course options, so far, choosing science at higher secondary has been necessary for students who want to choose any of STEM courses at higher levels. Therefore, stream choice at this level determines the subsequent education trajectory and significantly impacts future labour market outcomes.

Gender gaps in choosing science
In India, to redress the gender imbalances in STEM education within prestigious technical colleges, a recent policy reserves 20% of seats for female candidates. While policies like these focus on higher education, the decisions regarding academic paths are often made in earlier schooling years. From our studies, we find that female students are nearly 10 percentage points less

Vijay GarG

likely to choose the science stream compared to boys. Considering that the overall proportion of students choosing science is around 40%, the magnitude of gender gap over the mean science participation rate is about 25%. Using the National Sample Survey (NSS) data across three rounds between 2007 and 2018, we find that this gender gap has remained persistent, with no significant change over the years.

A potential reason why some students may not be able to choose science is that their performance in the grade 10 board exam may not be up to the mark. Students who do not have an aptitude for mathematics may also be discouraged from studying science. However, using the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) data, we find that the gender gap in science choice persists among boys and girls who performed equally well in the grade 10 board exam and had similar knowledge of mathematics. This indicates that differences in mathematics and science-related ability do not sufficiently explain the lower likelihood of girls choosing the science stream. Moreover, we

find that even among boys and girls belonging to the same household, the gender gap is prevalent.

Caste gaps in stream choice

Our study also provides evidence of persistent caste gaps in choosing science. We find that socially disadvantaged groups – Scheduled Tribes (ST), Scheduled Castes (SC), and Other Backward Classes (OBC) – have lower participation rates in science by 18, 12, and 8%, respectively, than the general caste on average.

These estimates control for various household-level socio-economic indicators, including monthly per capita consumption expenditure. Thus, they suggest that caste identities affect educational outcomes even after controlling for wealth or class-based disparities. We further find that female students from OBC and SC groups face a "double jeopardy" – that is to say, their gender and caste identities additively contribute to their challenges. The role of household socioeconomic factors caste gaps reduce with increasing levels of education of the head of the household. However, neither higher household consumption nor

higher education level lowers the gender gap. Thus, while a substantial increase in household affluence may potentially mitigate caste disparities, it is unlikely to affect the gender gap. Adding credence to this finding, our analysis further shows that while substantial parts of caste-based gaps can be explained by the differences in household's socioeconomic status, the gender gaps cannot be explained by these differences.

The role of teachers and school access

We further find that the availability of schools offering science stream at the higher-secondary level in the locality plays an important role in determining the stream choice for girls. When girls are taught by such biased teachers, they may be discouraged from taking up science-related subjects. Such biases could also adversely affect the students of disadvantaged caste groups.

Thus, the social identity of teachers who teach subjects such as mathematics and science in earlier grades could influence the stream choice of students in later years. We find that if students are taught mathematics or science subjects at the secondary level (grades 9 and 10) by teachers of matching social identity (that is, the same gender or caste), then the gender and caste-based disparities in science choice at the higher secondary level are lower. This could be due to teachers of the same

social identity being less biased or serving as 'role models' for the students.

Conclusion
India contributes to a large proportion of STEM graduates in the world. However, entry into STEM is not straightforward – various socio-economic factors may influence individuals' decision to choose to study science. Our research provides quantitative evidence on gender- and caste-based gaps in stream choice at the higher secondary level in India.

From a policy perspective, our findings suggest that improving access to STEM education through the establishment of more schools offering science would particularly benefit girls and encourage them to pursue science. Increasing representation of teachers from SEDGs would also reduce social identity-based disparities in science take-up rates. Thus, taking social identity into account while formulating policies could help advance equal opportunities in STEM education.

**Retired Principal
Educational
columnist
Malout, Punjab**

VHP calls upon Hindus around the world to participate in Ram Janmabhumi Inaguration Celebration in Jan'2024

Kolkata (PARTHA ROY): Vishwa Hindu Parishad's Central working President Shri Alok Kumar called upon Hindus around the world to participate in inauguration celebration of consecration program of Ram Lala, to be held in

Ayodhya in January 2024. About 4000 prominent sanyasis & representatives of all Hindu traditions, prominent officials, cultural and political leadership of the country will attend inauguration celebration in Ayodhya.

"Diwali marks the celebration of Bhagwan Shri Ram's return to Ayodhya after 14 years, but on 22nd January 2024, the world will be celebrating the second



Diwali when Sri Ram will return to his birthplace after 500 years, at the time of 'Amrit kaal' of Bharat's independence....the entire Hindu society from around the world should directly participate in this 'Pran

Pratistha' ceremony.... Hindus all over the world should consider the temple in their locality or village as Ayodhya and gather there, perform puja, worship and rituals as per the tradition there, chant the 'vijay maha mantra' "Shri Ram Jai

Ram Jai Jai Ram" offer prayers and Aarti and share prasad and enjoy this historic event ...", said Alok Kumar. VHP Working President said that the pious 'Akshat' (yellow rice) kalash sanctified in the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi

Temple on 5th November 2023 has been sent to different parts of the country , the workers of VHP, along with other Hindu organizations, will visit Hindu families in the cities and villages of the country between 1st to 15th January'24. A similar program has also been organized for Hindus living abroad.

VHP called upon every Hindu family to light at least 5 lamps on the auspicious night of 22nd January'24 and visit Ayodhya with family and friends on any day thereafter. Temple of Sri Ram will spread harmony, unity and self-respect among the Hindus across the world and will facilitate to take Bharat to new heights of the glory.

AAP Gets Poll Panel Notice Over Alleged "Mischievous Remarks" Against PM Modi



New Delhi (KCN): The Election Commission today issued show-cause notice to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for alleged disparaging remarks made against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on its social media handle and asked it to respond to the charge of model code violation by Thursday.

The notice has been issued to AAP chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

the final decision lies with the Congress president and the top leadership, whatever they have decided, we have to work and make sure those people win the elections," he said.

Asked about the rebellion he led against the government led by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot in 2020 and the events of September last year when Gehlot

loyalist did not allow a legislature party meeting to take place, Pilot said the issues that he raised in 2020 were important for the party and people.

"There was a time when the Rajasthan government did not have a Dalit minister, today we have four Dalit ministers, workers who struggled against five years of Vasundhara Raje government, went to jail, faced lathi charges, those people should be rewarded, not by giving power and positions but by appreciating them, involving them in decision making, they becoming stakeholders in the government of the day. So that has happened now," he told PTI.

Asked specifically about Shanti Dhariwal's ticket from Kota North. Pilot said, "I don't want to go into the allocation of (tickets to) individuals. Whoever the party felt was a winnable candidate whether X, Y or Z, that person was given the mandate after much consideration."

"Ultimately, like I said, is very fair," he said. "I have always wanted more younger people to get opportunities to fight elections and a lot of younger people have been given a chance this time. Overall there are a lot more pulls and pressures and infighting after the announcement of the BJP lists," Pilot said.

Asked specifically about Shanti Dhariwal's ticket from Kota North. Pilot said, "I don't want to go into the allocation of (tickets to) individuals. Whoever the party felt was a winnable candidate whether X, Y or Z, that person was given the mandate after much consideration."

"Ultimately, like I said,

Puri, party national media in-charge and Rajya Sabha MP Anil Baluni and party leader Om Pathak, approached the poll panel on the issue. "From its official handle, the AAP has posted a video and two tweets (posts on X) in which it has said very unacceptable, reprehensible, mischievous and unethical things about the democratically elected head of the government," Mr Puri told reporters after raising the issue with the EC.

In its notice to the AAP, the EC stated, "The national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party is hereby called upon to explain the statements/allegations/averments, made in the alleged social media posts under

Army Dismisses Captain For Killing 3 Men In Fake Encounter In Jammu And Kashmir

New Delhi (KCN): The Army has confirmed the dismissal of Captain Bhoopendra Singh for killing three civilians in a staged encounter in south Kashmir's Amshipora in July 2020 and dubbing them terrorists, officials said on Tuesday.

In the meantime, Singh secured a stay on his sentence of life imprisonment and a bail from the Armed Forces Tribunal.

According to officials in the know of the development, the findings of a Court of Inquiry and his conviction and

sentencing were confirmed by the higher Army authorities on November 11 as required under the law. Singh was brought to a civil jail in Jammu and later released on bail as per the directions of the tribunal on November 11 itself, they said.

According to the confirmation of the sentence of life imprisonment and a bail from the Armed Forces Tribunal.

According to officials in the know of the development, the findings of a Court of Inquiry and his conviction and

region -- Imtiyaz Ahmed, Abrar Ahmed and Mohammed Ibrar -- were killed in a remote hilly village in Shopian district on July 18, 2020 and labelled as "terrorists".

In its 25-page order delivered on November 9 suspending his sentence, the tribunal said Singh could not have any motive for the action and conducted such an operation without the knowledge of his senior officer.

The tribunal, however, refused to stay his conviction and other punishments such as cashiering.

"Absolutely Okay": Sachin Pilot On Ticket To Ashok Gehlot Loyalist

Indore (KCN): Days after the Congress fielded Ashok Gehlot loyalist Shanti Dhariwal from the Kota North assembly seat in Rajasthan, senior leader Sachin Pilot on Tuesday said he was "absolutely okay" with whatever decision the party has taken as dwelling on the past is not productive. The ticket distribution was by and large "very fair" with the winnability factor adhered to, he said, adding the priority now was to work for ensuring the victory of all candidates selected by the party.

In an interview with PTI on board a flight from Delhi to Indore in Madhya Pradesh where he will be on a campaign trail for two days, Pilot said he was working in Rajasthan with the mantra of "forgive, forget and move on" as advised by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former AICC president Rahul Gandhi.

Asked about Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's past barbs such as 'nikamma' directed at him, Mr Pilot said, "Leave it! Who said



what...I can be responsible for what I have said or not said. We should maintain dignity in political discussions."

"Whoever said all those words you mentioned, I did not respond in kind because it is not the way I am built and we now have to move on, let bygones be bygones, whatever was said, we need to forget and move forward. It is not about individuals or positions or someone's statements now. It is about the country and the party," Mr Pilot said.

He also said who gets what position is "not decided by an individual" and the longstanding tradition in the Congress was that

newly-elected MLAs and the leadership in Delhi take a call after getting a majority.

Asked about ticket distribution and voices of dissent following the announcement of the Congress candidates' lists, the former deputy chief minister said it is a good thing when a political party has a problem of plenty i.e. more people wanting a ticket for the same seat.

"Ultimately, the party can give a ticket only to one individual. So after a lot of feedback, surveys, opinion of leaders, we gave tickets on winnability. It is not possible to satisfy everybody. By and large the distribution of ticket

is very fair," he said. "I have always wanted more younger people to get opportunities to fight elections and a lot of younger people have been given a chance this time. Overall there are a lot more pulls and pressures and infighting after the announcement of the BJP lists," Pilot said.

Asked specifically about Shanti Dhariwal's ticket from Kota North. Pilot said, "I don't want to go into the allocation of (tickets to) individuals. Whoever the party felt was a winnable candidate whether X, Y or Z, that person was given the mandate after much consideration."

"Ultimately, like I said,

"Lotus Is Going To Bloom, Congress Not In Game": PM Modi In Madhya Pradesh

Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh (KCN): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the Congress was not in contention in Madhya Pradesh and heading for a "shameful defeat" in polls and slammed his rival party for treating tribals just as a vote-bank as he wrapped up his campaign rallies in the state.

Capping his whirlwind election tour of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled state, PM Modi addressed a rally in tribal-dominated Jhabua district, his third of the day, and reached out to adivasis whose support is crucial for the saffron party in its bid to retain power.

In the last few weeks, PM Modi has addressed a series of election rallies, sometimes three meetings in a day, in support of BJP candidates.

"The atmosphere which I have seen in entire Madhya Pradesh clearly shows the lotus (the BJP symbol) is going to boom. I do not see the Congress in the game. It is heading for a shameful defeat. People will choose development and elect the BJP when they vote on November 17. The Congress will face a crushing defeat," he said, speaking at the rally on the penultimate day of campaigning. He said the BJP government was starting schools in tribal-dominated districts and

had promised to open a medical college in each of these areas.

"When in power, the Congress looked at the tribal community merely as a vote-bank, while the BJP's double-engine

had promised to open a medical college in each of these areas.

"When in power, the Congress looked at the tribal community merely as a vote-bank, while the BJP's double-engine

tribal community and the poor. They kept these persons away from development because of this mindset," he said. The BJP's star campaigner said when the Congress was in power in Madhya Pradesh, only news of starvation and hunger came out of tribal areas.

Congress leaders used to visit the huts of adivasis to get photographed with them and show their poverty only to forget them later, he maintained. Hitting out at the Congress, he said, the party is suffering from a "mental disease" of not seeing the country's



achievements in different fields. Referring to the BJP manifesto, PM Modi said it has promised to provide free education to girls from KG to PG levels.

PM Modi said Congress leaders are only concerned about securing political interests of their sons, apparently referring to former CMs Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh, and took a jibe at their "tear clothes" remarks made in context of discontent in the opposition party over ticket distribution. Polling for the 230 assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh will take place in single phase and votes will be counted on December 3.

Power plants face coal shortage as 33 fall sick after Dasaha feast truckers' stir enters 4th day in Odisha

ANGUL(KCN): Even as the powerhouses surrounding the Talcher coal belt face imminent coal shortage due to the truckers' strike called by the Truck Owners Association of Talcher's on November 9, the administration has reportedly not initiated any measure yet to sort out the impasse.

Due to the stoppage of road sales, Jindal India Thermal Power Plant, Jindal Steel and Power, TATA Steel Meramandali, and GMR Power Plant are among the most affected powerhouses, with the probability of shutdown of units looming large. Approximately 8,000 truckers engaged in coal transportation from



Talcher have stopped plying their vehicles demanding a fare hike. Their strike, in effect since midnight on November 9, stems from the lack of fare revisions

since 2019, causing financial losses for truckers amid rising input costs.

A meeting chaired by the Talcher sub-collector, attended by local MLA

Braja Pradhan, industrial representatives, and truckers association office-bearers last month, failed to yield a solution, leading to the

current strike. Powerhouse sources fear that prolonged discontinuation of road sales could force the shutdown of power plants in the region. The association president Arabinda Bhutia said that power plants have alternative means, such as rail transport, for coal delivery. The strike is set to persist until the demands for a fare hike are met. "I would urge the state government and district administration to intervene and resolve the deadlock before it is too late," he said. Attempts to speak to the district collector for his comments failed as he didn't receive the call.

DEOGARH(KCN): At least 33 people were taken ill after consuming food at a Dasaha (10th-day death ritual) feast in Luhura Sahi of Kandal village under Barkote block here on Sunday night. Sources said residents of Luhura Sahi and nearby areas were invited to the Dasaha feast organized by the family of a villager in the evening. During the feast, several people fell sick and started vomiting. Some of them were rushed to the nearest private hospital. Subsequently, a team led by district public health officer (DPHO) Dr Purna Chandra Pradhan and additional DPHO Dr Bansidhar Patra reached the village to take stock of the situation. The health team found that 33 villagers had mild fever and were vomiting. All of

them were taken to the hospital for treatment. When the condition of some of the sick villagers did not improve till Monday morning, they were admitted to the district headquarters hospital (DHH), Deogarh. Currently, nine persons are undergoing treatment at the DHH. Besides, a few other villagers have been admitted to a private facility in Barkote.

Luhura Sahi has 40 families with a population of 210. The village has a pipe water supply and two tube wells. A health official said approximately 200-250 people had attended the feast. DPHO Pradhan said the condition of all the patients is stable. The health team has collected food samples from the feast and water from the village to ascertain the cause of food poisoning.

Villagers protest at Vedanta gate over job demands



JHARSUGUDA(KCN): Residents from Banjari and nearby areas, on Monday, rallied at Vedanta Aluminium Ltd (VAL) Gate-2 for over three hours as they demanded local employment opportunities and the restoration of infrastructure adversely

impacted by Vedanta's vehicular operations and plant-related pollution. Amit Oram, representing municipal ward number 15, talked about the issue of Vedanta's unmet commitments over a period of two decades, including assurances of water, roads, electricity, and pollution control.

The villagers submitted an appeal to the district collector, seeking immediate intervention. After seven days of a sit-in strike, they are insistent on a written assurance from Vedanta's management within a week. District officials promised to look into the

issues soon with a commitment to address the concerns within 15 days. Head of PR and communications Ashwin Chand assured to conduct a grievance meeting before November 25 to address issues and explore development opportunities for Banjari village.

Sambalpur lad to represent India in global karting event

SAMBALPUR(KCN): A 19-year-old native of Sambalpur, Aditya Patnaik, has been selected to represent India in the prestigious Rotax Max Challenge Grand Finals (RMCGF) 2023 to be held in Bahrain. The global karting competition which is scheduled to be held between December 2 and December 9 will witness participation of more than 80 countries.

The event is being organized by the Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) which is also the venue of the event. Prior to this, Aditya, a native of the Dhamra area, had represented India in the senior Max category of the Asia Pacific Motorsport Championship, held in Malaysia. Recently, on October 28, Aditya bagged the



first position and emerged as champion in the senior Max category in the National Karting Championship 2023 with 408 points, which was held at the Meco Kartopia Circuit in Bangalore.

Patnaik, and his mother, Dr. Alka Patnaik settled in Mumbai and has trained in Karting at Rayo Racing Charter School in Mumbai. Currently, pursuing his graduation, Aditya has been participating in several karting competitions for the last four years.

He is also working as a driver coach for team Rayo Racing and an eSports driver for team IRESports at present. Aditya aspires to become a motorcar racer in the future. "I am happy that I will get the opportunity to participate in such a huge global event. I have been trying to reach here for the last few years finally I have succeeded. I will try to give my best performance," said Aditya.



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TPSODL Joins hands with Odisha Millet Mission to Promote Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition

Berhampur, (KCN): TPSODL, a dedicated advocate for women and communities in Southern Odisha, is championing Income Generation Activities (IGAs) through its livelihood enhancement program. Collaborating with Mission Shakti, Odisha Livelihood Mission, and NGO partner, TPSODL is identifying and supporting potential Women Self-Help Groups (WSHG) and farmers through various initiatives.

One of the noteworthy



endeavours of TPSODL is its commitment to the promotion of millet cultivation. To this end, the organization has mobilized approximately 500 WSHGs and farmers, providing them

with essential resources. TPSODL offers capacity-building programs, training sessions, and input support including seeds and on-ground guidance. The goal is not only to empower these individuals but also to promote the numerous nutritional and health benefits of millet. Millet, known for its resilience in challenging environmental conditions with minimal water and fertilizer requirements, also aids in mitigating the effects of climate change due to its low carbon footprint. During the kharif season, more than 500 acres of land have been cultivated across 8 districts of TPSODL

operational areas. In total, 70 Gram panchayats were involved impacting a total of 500 farmers and WSHGs. Which includes 24 GPs of Ganjam, 8 GPs of Gajapati, 8 GPs of Koraput, 8 GPs of Nabarangpur, 8 GPs of Malkangiri, 9 GPs of Boudh, and 5 GPs of Kandhamal. Looking ahead to the upcoming Rabi season, coinciding with the International Year of Millets, TPSODL aims to extend its support to 1000 acres of land and farmers.

Inaugural of 9th Conference on Transportation Systems Engineering and Management – Oct 12-14th 2023



conference is to bring together postgraduate students and researcher scholars to present their ongoing research works. Experts in the field of Transportation Engineering from academic institutions,

industries, and research organizations were also invited to share their knowledge, expertise, and experience with the young participants and to provide an overview on the latest trends and potential research

areas in Pavement Engineering, Traffic Engineering, and Transportation Planning. The keynote speeches will be delivered by the eminent personalities at national and international level. On day one, Prof. J. Murali Krishnan from IIT Madras and Prof. K. Sudhakar Reddy from IIT Kharagpur shared their experiences and the major research works that are being executed by them in Pavement Engineering. The programme is sponsored by LEA Associates South Asia

Business icons confer with Utkal Tycoons Awards

Bhubaneswar: Noted business icons of Odisha conferred with Utkal Tycoons Award in an exotic platform organizes by Utkal Updates and Addiction Fashion Management today at WelcomHotel by ITC Hotels, Bhubaneswar. As part of Epari Sadashiv Jewelry presents Odisha's unique award show and fashion fest 'Utkal Tycoons Awards' with Bhubaneswar Runway Week Season-6, numbers of well known and successful face of Odisha business fraternity got thumping applause for their wonderful contribution to the economy of Odisha.

Their contributions were recognized and awarded. Program starts with lighting of lamp by organizer Sushree Sangeeta Sahu, John Ajay, Gaurav, Sridhar Epari and Sunil Murarka. Surya Narayan Patra, Speaker, Odisha Assembly attended as chief guest and Sulochana Das, Mayor, Bhubaneswar as guest of honour. Today, Utkal Tycoons Awards conferred to Rashmi Sahoo, Director, Frozit; Nirupama Biswal, Director, Gayatrivedi Group; Kabir Taneja, Director, Espirit Toyota; Ratnamala Swain, real estate player; Sukirti Pattnaik, MD, Indulge

the Saloon; Sreej Patnaik, MD, Mother's Public School; Harshavardhan Didwania, Co-founder and MD, EeVe Scooters; Pradeep Pansari, Director, Rajhans, Rajiv Swain, MD, Odisha Hotel; Punya Prakash Parida, MD, Embassy and Biraja Prasad Rout, founder, Biggies Burger.

To uplift the fashion statement of Odisha to higher level Bhubaneswar Runway season-6 also organized where eminent fashion designers showcase their creativity and woo the audiences with their authentic design statements. 30 models participated in the event

Bandhan Bank registers strong business growth in Q4FY



During the fourth quarter of the current financial year, the Bank's deposit book grew 24% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total deposits now stand at Rs. 96,331 crore. In this period, the Bank's retail deposit book showed a substantial

growth and grew 21% year-on-year to Rs. 74,441 crore. The current account and savings account (CASA) book grew by 18% year-on-year, and the CASA ratio now stands at 41.6% of the overall deposit book. With respect to advances, the bank saw 16% growth over the

corresponding quarter of the previous year. The total advances are now at Rs. 99,338 crore.

Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR), an indication of the stability of the Bank, is at 20.1, much higher than the regulatory requirement. To cater to its

Another Special Train between Odisha and Bihar for Chhath Puja

Bhubaneswar, (KCN):

Train and will leave from Puri at 2330hrs (11.30p.m.) on Thursday (16th Nov'2023). In the return direction, this train from Jayanagar will leave as 08420 Jayanagar-Puri Special. This will leave from Jayanagar at 2330hrs (11.30p.m.) on Friday (17th Nov'2023).

This Chhath Special between Puri and Jayanagar will provide

stoppage at Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Bhadrak, Balasore, Hijli, Midnapur, Bishnupur, Bankura, Adra, Asansol, Madhupur, Jashidih, Jhajha, Kiul, Barauni, Samastipur, Laheria Sarai, Darbhanga, Sakri and Madhubani between Puri & Jayanagar from both the directions.

Indian Railways has undertaken a series of initiative in festive season to ensure maximum comfort for the travellers

Bhubaneswar, (KCN):

Indian Railways has undertaken a series of initiative this festive season to ensure maximum comfort for the travellers without compromising on quality of service delivery.

Recently, two pairs of Special Trains one from Puri to Patna and another from Puri to Jayanagar having six trips have been announced by East Coast Railway for Chhath Festival. These apart, Special Trains were also running from and through ECoR jurisdiction towards different major cities during Dushera and Kali Puja times. These

includes Puri-Howrah, Bhubaneswar-Bangalore, Cuttack-Secunderabad, Visakhapatnam-Secunderabad, Puri-Bhanjupur (Baripada), Puri-Patna, etc. Some of the initiatives

include:

- Around 1700 special trains are being run across India. 26 Lakhs berths are made available this festive season which is a record number.

- Queue system for entering into general coaches are adopted at the originating stations.

- Proper announcement regarding trains/coaches is ensured well in time so that passengers are made aware of the location of General Coaches and the platform from where the trains will depart.

- Mixed escort are deployed in important trains for rendering real time assistance especially to lady passengers travelling in long distance trains. Additional booking windows have been opened for the convenience of passengers.

ICICI Lombard launches Professional Indemnity Insurance for Doctors

Mumbai: ICICI

Lombard, one of the leading private general insurance companies has launched Professional Indemnity Insurance for doctors. This new offering covers all specializations, provides instant policy issuance, and comes equipped with transparent and competitive pricing, a hassle-free claim process, and legal counsel services support in case of claims.

As professionals, doctors are vulnerable to human errors where they can be held liable by the kin of the patients. As a solution to situations of such nature, this policy has been curated to provide support to medical practitioners against the scope of various human errors that can happen while rendering professional services to patients.

Speaking on the same, Mr. Sanjeev Mantri, Executive Director, ICICI Lombard said "Doctors and healthcare professionals are prone to uncertainties and risks while they are in the forefront to save lives. Error, omission, or

at times unintentional negligence are a part and parcel of their professional life. Any aggrieved person possesses the right to claim damages for medical negligence against them. In such cases, our Professional Indemnity insurance safeguards doctors against all professional risks such as legal defense costs, compensation claims, injury among others, as well as against invalid claims. It will also provide coverage against invalid claims where there is no fault of the practitioner by covering the legal fees and settlement compensation to be paid against the claims awarded by the court, or in cases of medical malpractices allegations and legal suit due to breach of confidentiality allegations.

ICICI Lombard, among other companies, delivers end-to-end wellness solutions to its valued consumers through its insurance products. Doctors are focused on giving their best when it comes to saving lives. However there are uncertainties which can put their job at stake. The professional indemnity insurance for doctors under the SME category is an innovative offering from this leading general insurance company and goes on to show their focus on delivering a stellar experience to their customers. The product is available with our traditional distribution partners as well as on our website www.icicilombard.com

Henry a big miss, but Southee brings lot of experience - Ferguson

New Delhi: The last semifinal between India and New Zealand in a World Cup was in Manchester in 2019, and Lockie Ferguson still vividly recalls the event. It was an incredible game, not only because the Kiwis emerged victorious, but also due to the unique circumstance that led to it being played over two days. The Kiwi pacer still finds it hard to get over the significance of this memorable match. "Over two days," remembered Ferguson rather fondly. "I've never played a one-day game over two days, it was literally not even in the title. So, I think playing that game was pretty

incredible and obviously very pleasing for us at the time."

India, perhaps, had a very good chance of chasing down New Zealand's modest total of 239 if the match had been completed on the same day. However, once it spilled into Day Two, the conditions favored the New Zealand pacers due to the wet weather and early morning moisture. The match took place on July 9 and 10 at Old Trafford, and India lost the game by 18 runs.

Four years on, there is a talk of revenge and it is being said that India will look to avenge that heart-breaking defeat. "Four years have gone past

we've played a lot of cricket in between and both teams I'm sure are raring to go come Wednesday," Ferguson said. "I guess (it's) your job to write stories like that (about revenge). But from our point of view, I'm not sure I can comment on that. But at the same time, look, four years ago was a pretty spectacular game."

Matt Henry was a significant factor in the 2019 semifinal. The pacer made vital

breakthroughs when India began their chase on Day Two, claiming the wickets of Rohit Sharma and his opening partner KL Rahul in back-to-back overs. This time around, Henry won't be present, because of an injury, but Ferguson says Tim Southee has filled the void left by Henry's absence.

"Matt Henry is obviously a big hole in our side and we're still a handsome bunch without Matt Henry," Ferguson felt. "Obviously pretty disheartened with how Matt Henry exited the World Cup, which was such a shame. But now from a cricket point of view Tim Southee brings a lot of experience

long period of time, so we sort of stick to our processes and I know it sounds cliché, but I think it keeps us sort of level-headed and naturally as Kiwis we tend to stay where our feet are, which I think is a positive."

"It's obviously a big pleasure to be part of the semifinals. I know the team is very excited to get underway in a couple of days and obviously to play at this ground - I've had a few games here and it's a pretty spectacular crowd. So, from our point of view, we've been playing some great cricket. I'm looking forward to getting underway in a couple of days," the pacer said.



Sehwag, Aravinda de Silva, Diana Edulji inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

New Delhi: Sehwag, a generational opening batter with two triple Test hundreds and an ODI double hundred, was one of the architects of India's World Cup win in 2011. Sehwag, a generational opening batter with two triple Test hundreds and an ODI double hundred, was one of the architects of India's World Cup win in 2011. © Getty Aravinda de Silva, Diana Edulji and Virender Sehwag are the latest cricketers to be inducted in ICC's Hall of Fame. They will be honoured during the World Cup semi-final between India and New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium, the ICC said. Edulji, the third highest wicket-taker in Women's Tests, is the first Indian female



cricketer inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. She played international cricket for 17 years, featuring in 20 Tests and 34 ODIs, and captained India at the 1978 and 1993 World Cups. "It's not only a proud moment for me, my family and friends but also for BCCI and

scoring an unbeaten 107. "My family, my parents, my sister, my wife and children are my anchor, and deserve the deepest thanks for their unwavering support and sacrifice, which have propelled me towards success. My friends, steadfast compatriots throughout my highs and lows, have been my pillars of strength," de Silva said.

"To my coaches, teachers, fans and supporters, your relentless belief in me has fuelled my drive to succeed. My mentors and captains have guided and inspired me, and my teammates have been my extended family on this incredible journey. To the ones I

have played against, thank you for enriching my game."

Sehwag, a generational opening batter with two triple Test hundreds and an ODI double hundred, was one of the architects of India's World Cup win in 2011, and played 104 Tests, 251 ODIs and 104 T20Is.

"I feel extremely grateful for having spent a great part of my life doing what I loved most, 'hitting the cricket ball,'" said Sehwag.

There are now 112 cricketers in the ICC's Hall of Fame, all picked through a voting process conducted among existing Hall of Famers, media representatives and senior executives from FICA and the ICC.

their perfect unbeaten record in the ongoing tournament intact. New Zealand finished fourth, knocking Pakistan and Afghanistan out of contention. The semi-final encounter will be a huge test for the Indians, who have struggled in big competitions over the last decade.

The Indian cricket team have won nine consecutive matches at this year's World Cup, putting them in position to add a third trophy to their collection after previous triumphs in 1983 and 2011.

Hesson tips Wankhede factor to aid New Zealand in semis

New Delhi: Mike Hesson surely possesses some knowledge about India and Indian cricket and, naturally, is also an expert on the New Zealand team, with a deep understanding of both sides. And he believes the India-New Zealand semifinal in the World Cup on Wednesday will be a contest between David and Goliath, but the Kiwis would not have preferred to face their mighty opposition anywhere other than at the Wankhede in Mumbai.

"I guess it's a little bit of the David and Goliath scenario. Isn't it? India have been through the tournament unbeaten and are in fine form -- so many match-winners against a team, who just keeps fronting up," Hesson, who has experience of coaching IPL teams for five years, thinks.

"The Wankhede is actually a good ground for New Zealand. If you're going to play India at any ground, Mumbai is not a bad one. I think our bowling attack will get some bounce there. So therefore if we get bounce, we've got to take early wickets.

"New Zealand's had some success there (at the Wankhede). I remember an ODI not so long ago chasing after being in trouble there (in 2017, they beat India by six wickets chasing 281). I think Tom Latham got 100 (103 not out), so he'll have fond memories of the venue and he's probably one of that top order who probably hasn't been in vintage touch. The rest of the top four have been flying. Glenn Phillips has done pretty well and I think Latham can tackle the spin at the Wankhede, which he's done in the past, that'll be hugely

influential." Hesson also thinks Mumbai is one of the few centres where toss will not have a huge influence and that could, probably, help the New Zealanders. "I don't think the toss is as important as potentially some other grounds, which is great. Heading into a semifinal, you don't want the toss to have such a big say in the outcome. I don't think New Zealand will have any issues batting first if they had to, whereas in some other grounds where it just gets so wet and the dew comes in, it can be too challenging. New Zealand will also swing the ball under lights if they bowl second, you know. I think it's an even battle regardless of the toss, which is a good thing." Hesson admits the Kiwis are underdogs but won't be pushovers. "To make five semifinals in a row for a country of his size

of New Zealand in some foreign countries is a phenomenon achievement. So they are no doubt the underdogs, but they have enough talent in that squad to certainly challenge India, that's for sure."

Hesson handled many Indian players while helming the IPL teams - Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore - and thinks India's new ball attack will be the key to the outcome of the match. "The new ball or the seam attack of India has been exceptional in this World Cup. I mean, obviously Mohammed Shami has been added to that and he's provided that extra dimension in the power play. But Jasprit Bumrah is back to his best. "Mohammed Siraj has had an amazing 18 months. So I think the new ball attack against New Zealand's top order will set the tone. And if New Zealand are able to blunt that and score, they're probably our best players to spin as well. "You add Latham to that. I think the way New Zealand can tackle India's spin through the middle, it's a lot easier if they can do that. That is if they can blunt that new ball attack.

