

from them. Chhattisgarh's corrupt government has broken your trust with one scam after the other," he said. Elections to the 90-member Chhattisgarh Assembly will be held in two phases, with the first phase of polling for 20 seats scheduled on November 7 and the remaining 70 seats to go for polling on November 17. Madhya Pradesh will go to the polls on November 17, Mizoram on November 7, Rajasthan on November 25 and Telangana on November 30. The counting of votes will be done on December 3.

# Narcolepsy : sleep disorder



Narcolepsy is a long-term neurological condition that causes fragmented sleep, daytime sleepiness, brain fog, and other symptoms. It likely stems from the lack of hypocretin, a neurotransmitter. Lifestyle tips and some drugs may help manage it. Narcolepsy

is a sleep disorder that features excessive daytime sleepiness.

In a typical sleep cycle, a person will first enter the early stage of sleep, then the deeper sleep stages. This is when REM sleep occurs. It takes around 60–90 minutes to reach the stage of REM sleep. For people with narcolepsy, however, REM sleep occurs within 15 minutes in the sleep cycle and intermittently during the waking hours. It is during REM sleep that vivid dreams and muscle paralysis occur.

Narcolepsy is often caused by a lack of the brain chemical hypocretin, which regulates wakefulness. The lack of hypocretin is thought to be caused by the immune system mistakenly attacking the cells that produce it or the receptors that allow it to work.

Narcolepsy can greatly affect your daily life and may be dangerous, as it can make you fall asleep without warning during routine activities, such as eating, working, or driving. There is no cure for narcolepsy, but medicines and healthy

lifestyle changes can help you manage the condition

There are two main types of narcolepsy: type 1 and type 2. Type 1 involves sleepiness and cataplexy. Tests will show that the person is almost entirely missing a neurotransmitter known as hypocretin. This may occur after an infection triggers an autoimmune condition. Type 2 mainly involves excessive daytime sleepiness, but there is usually no sudden weakness. Secondary

## Dr. Samrat Kar

narcolepsy can result when trauma or a tumor results in damage to the hypothalamus. This is a part of the brain involved in sleep.

Narcolepsy is a chronic neurological disorder caused by the brain's inability to regulate sleep-wake cycles normally. At various times throughout the day, people with narcolepsy experience fleeting urges to sleep. The primary symptom of narcolepsy is excessive daytime

sleepiness, but it may also involve cataplexy, hypnagogic hallucinations, and sleep paralysis. It can also disrupt nighttime sleep patterns. Overall, however, a person with narcolepsy usually spends the same amount of time asleep as a person without the condition.

There is currently no cure for narcolepsy, but medical treatment and lifestyle tips may help. The following sections will look at these in more detail.

For sleepiness : One way to manage narcolepsy is through

behavior modification. A person may need naps of 15–20 minutes throughout the day. A doctor may also prescribe a central nervous system stimulant to prevent sleepiness, though no drugs are likely to be completely effective. Options include: modafinil, armodafinil, dexamphetamine, methylphenidate. Modafinil and armodafinil are usually the first choices. The other drugs are older and more likely to be habit-forming. They can also lead to irritability, anxiety,

changes in heart rhythm, and other side effects.

There's no specific cure for narcolepsy, but you can manage the symptoms and minimise their impact on your daily life. Making some simple changes to your sleeping habits can sometimes help. If your symptoms are more severe, you'll usually need to take medicine.

**Psychiatrist, The Brain Foundation, Purighat Road, Cuttack, Mob. : 9132433333**

## Three Accidents in the last 7 months. Has Ashwini Vaishnaw lost the plot ?

Anil Dhir



The nation has lost nearly 400 passengers in train accidents in the last six months. Accidents have been rising exponentially, trains are derailing too often. Only the serious mishaps get reported and highlighted in the media, the minor accidents and near misses are covered up. The railway minister is busy giving power point presentations in five star hotels in the presence of paid crowds and pet media. His primary job is to explain how under Prime Minister Modi, Indian Railways is on a modernisation spree with plaza stations having modern passenger amenities and plush trains. The PM flags off new trains like a kid playing with his toy train set. These “big-ticket railway projects” have led to a marked increase in rail travel and there is a bigger and immediate need to improve track maintenance and better signalling systems. This pseudo development will

spell the doom for Indian Railways. Considering that the 170 year old Indian Railway system is the lifeline of the world's most populous nation, its modernisation is essential to boost infrastructure and connectivity in the fast-growing economy. While the railways' targets for passengers and freight carriage is phenomenally

railway personnel responsible for safety are chronically overstretched, underqualified and disillusioned. The misplaced priorities are evident from the CAG report of 2021 which stated that “The money spent on non-priority areas rose from 2.76% (\$56 million in 2017-18) to 6.35% (\$121.5 million in 2019-

officials and regular inspections should be the norm. Express, Super-fast express and goods trains are being delayed because of Vande Bharat trains.

There are specific issues that successive railway accident inquiries have failed to capture. These probes have clearly failed to identify the underlying causes of accidents and what measures should be taken how to prevent recurrences. Human error or poor track maintenance are generally given as the causes.



The east coast route on which the recent crash

going up each year, it is juxtaposing the vital aspect of safety vis-à-vis higher passenger and freight loads. In recent years the focus has been more on new trains and modern stations and not as much on tracks, signalling systems and asset management. Workers are not trained adequately or their workload is too high. One of the biggest concerns is that many

20), which was against the guiding principles of RRSK deployment framework. The colossal expenditure on Tejas, Vande Bharat, Namo Bharat and Bullet trains could have been better used to upgrade tracks, coaches and rakes, signalling systems and on laying additional tracks. Replacement of over-aged assets and eliminating unmanned level crossings should be the priority. Training of

occurred, is one of the oldest and busiest, as it also carries much of India's coal, iron ore and oil freight. The tracks are very old and the load on them is very high. Did we learn anything from the B a h a n a g a b a z a r accident? No, both that and the present accident are similar in nature, two trains at the same track. That too in the same eastern corridor.

**The Author is an Archeological Activist & Columnist**

## NTPC Kaniha Conducted CSR Stakeholders Meet- 2023

**Kaniha, (KCN):**NTPC Talcher Kaniha has conducted CSR Stakeholders meeting on 03.11.23 at Regional Learning Institute (RLI), NTPC Kaniha. The meet saw huge participation of stakeholders, the Sarpanch of Bijigol, Derang, Gadasila, Hariharpur and Kamarei. Village presidents of nearby project affected villages were also present during the event. The focus of this meet was to discuss developmental needs in the nearby areas, evaluate the value addition of CSR activities and understand the basic needs of people village wise and address the needs and aspiration of nearby villages by taking appropriate action.

The program started with a presentation on different CSR works undertaken, key areas of CSR were explained and active co-operation of Stakeholder was sought. Also, developmental initiatives taken up by NTPC CSR in fields of Education, Health, Drinking Water, Rural Infrastructure were discussed. CSR Stakeholders also gave their valuable feedback and opinions on various CSR activities. Distinguished Chief Guest of the program, Shri N S Rao, Executive Director of NTPC Kaniha engaged attentively with the perspectives, opinions and views shared by various stakeholders, sharing NTPC's unwavering commitment

to enhancing the well-being of neighbouring communities. During the inaugural session Shri Rafiqul Islam, AGM CSR NTPC Talcher Kaniha addressed the participants emphasizing the significance of the meet and the pivotal role played by the stakeholders' in supporting NTPC CSR endeavours. He also elaborated on the community development initiatives in the vicinity and reiterated NTPC's dedication to enhancing the quality of life for local residents. And that CSR activity will be designed as per the needs of local community in consultation with key stakeholder. Shri A K Sehgal, GM O&M extended his

heartfelt appreciation to the attendees for their ongoing collaboration in the operation of the power plant and highlighted NTPC CSR's resolute commitment to the holistic development of the surrounding villages, continually dedicated to the region's growth. Shri B K Pandey, Head of HR warmly welcomed all participants to the event, shedding light on NTPC Kaniha's multifaceted developmental initiatives for the local area and how NTPC has positively transformed the lives of residents in the nearby vicinity. At last, Shri N S Rao, conveyed his profound gratitude to the stakeholders for their active participant and making the program a success.



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## Dunki Director Rajkumar Hirani, Writer Abhijat Joshi Grace Shah Rukh Khan's Birthday Fan-Event, Teshar Performs

It's just today, that the world witnessed the endearing world of Rajkumar Hirani's Dunki with Dunki Drop 1 the first video unit! Released on the special occasion of Shah Rukh Khan's birthday, Dunki Drop 1 indeed came as the best treat for the fans, and the madness of the same was well witnessed at the fan event held in Mumbai today where SRK saw the first video unit #DunkiDrop1 with the fans.

The fan event on the occasion of Shah Rukh Khan's birthday was held



in Mumbai and witnessed the presence of Dunki Director Rajkumar Hirani and writer Abhijat Joshi. The fans' love for SRK was seen on an exceptionally grand level, the event witnessed an amazing performance by

Canadian rapper and singer-songwriter, Teshar where SRK was also seen shaking his legs on the stage. The excitement among the fans for SRK's next Dunki was well witnessed, while fans made huge posters of

## Vikrant Massey's '12th Fail' Continues To Woo; Will The Actor Sweep Away Many Awards?

A story that has been carved so beautifully, Vidhu Vinod Chopra has done it again! Vikrant Massey is currently reveling in the well-deserved acclaim and accolades for his role in Vidhu Vinod Chopra's latest directorial masterpiece, '12th Fail'. For those who have had the privilege of witnessing '12th Fail,' it's not just Vikrant's portrayal that they can't stop praising; it's also his



unwavering belief in the importance of telling this story. Vikrant's earnest and compelling performance showcases his dedication to his craft, leaving audiences, industry insiders, and

critics in awe. What makes Vikrant's performance stand out is its honesty and relatability. He effortlessly embodies the lead protagonist, and in doing so, captures the essence of the character in a way that resonates deeply with viewers. The sincerity and

authenticity he brings to his role are nothing short of remarkable, and it's this very quality that has earned him praise from all corners of the film industry. The film has struck a chord with viewers on multiple levels, and Vikrant's portrayal of the lead character has been nothing short of outstanding. It's a performance that deserves recognition and accolades.

## Talvaar Turns 8: Revisiting Exceptional Performance Of Sohum Shah, Who Played Investigative Officer

As 'Talvaar' marks its 8th anniversary today, we can't help but recall on the exceptional performance of Sohum Shah, who portrayed the role of an investigative officer in this gripping crime drama. Despite his limited screen time, Shah managed to leave an indelible mark on the audience and industry alike, establishing himself as a true bonafide performer. Sohum Shah has always been an actor who seamlessly embodies his director's vision of the character on screen. With Meghna Gulzar's direction in 'Talvaar', he

had the opportunity to delve deep into the psyche of his character. In doing so, he not only met but exceeded all expectations, delivering a performance that was widely praised by critics and audiences alike. One of the key aspects of Shah's portrayal in 'Talvaar' was his ability to bring authenticity and depth to his character. As an investigative officer tasked with unraveling a complex murder case, he displayed a remarkable range of emotions and nuances, making the character feel real and relatable. His dedication to his craft was evident



in every scene, from his meticulous attention to detail to his flawless execution of even the most challenging sequences, he didn't just

play the character but became the character. The collaboration between Sohum Shah and Meghna Gulzar in 'Talvaar' also serves as a

prime example of the powerful synergy that can be achieved when a talented actor joins forces with a visionary director. The film's

success can be attributed, in large part, to Shah's outstanding performance, which breathed life into the character and added depth to the narrative. It's a testament to his dedication to his craft and his ability to elevate any project he's a part of. Up next for Sohum Shah is his production venture 'CrazXy' and as he continues to take on new challenges and work with acclaimed directors, audiences can look forward to witnessing more exceptional performances from this talented artist.

## Vijay Deverakonda Expresses Gratitude For 'Kushi' Success, Says 'Love Knows No Language'



Actor Vijay Deverakonda's latest release 'Kushi' with Samantha Ruth Prabhu successfully managed to strike a chord with people. The film, which performed well at the box office, is now streaming on OTT platform Netflix. On receiving audiences' love

for his role in 'Kushi', Vijay said, "We made 'Kushi' with the belief that love knows no language and emotions have no boundaries. Seeing the overwhelming love pour in again with its OTT release is incredibly gratifying. Whether you're

watching it in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, or Hindi, I hope the film brings as much 'Kushi' to your hearts as it has to ours." Written and directed by Shiva Nirvana and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, 'Kushi' hit the theatres on September 1 in Telugu,

Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam. The film marked Vijay and Samantha's second collaboration after 'Mahanati'. Earlier talking about working in the film, Vijay told ANI, "The whole experience of shooting it will be a very fond memory for life. The relationships I've formed with Samantha and Shiva, are the two people I spent the most time with, and shared a lot of memories and highs and lows with. I will always enjoy thinking about the making of this film..." Meanwhile, in the coming months, Vijay will be seen in 'VD 12'. The film is being directed by 'Jersey' fame Gowtam Tinnanuri.

## Khushalii Kumar Flaunts Her New Tattoo Ahead Of 'Starfish' Release



The stunning and versatile Khushalii Kumar has always been the kind of actor who's never shied away from experimentation. The actress has now left everyone intrigued with an interesting lower back tattoo that she was seen sporting at the airport today. This unexpected addition to her look at the airport has left fans and media speculating on whether this bold step is a mere aesthetic choice for the film or if it holds a deeper, hidden meaning. "Starfish," directed by the talented Akhilesh Jaiswal, is generating considerable buzz for its promise to take moviegoers on an unparalleled underwater adventure. Khushalii Kumar, who has always embraced diverse roles, will be seen in a never-before-seen avatar in the film, and it seems her commitment to the character goes beyond the screen. To prepare for her role in this unique cinematic journey, she embarked on an immersive experience in the world of scuba diving. While fans and the media ponder the mystery behind the tattoo, one thing is certain - Khushalii Kumar's transformation for "Starfish" is as profound as the ocean's depths she ventured into.

## Jee Le Zarea: Real reason behind Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt starrer's delay revealed and it's not date issues

Jee Le Zarea is one of the most talked about movies starring Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. The movie was announced a couple of years ago and there has been much excitement around the same as it is. Farhan Akhtar along with Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti are making this all-female road trip movie happen but there have been a lot of hiccups already. Whether Jee Le Zarea is being shelved or not, has Priyanka Chopra said no



to the script, etc. have grabbed headlines in the last couple of days. But fresh reports revealing the real reason for the delay have surfaced. A lot of fans have questioned Farhan Akhtar about the delay of Jee Le Zarea which is supposed to star Priyanka Chopra, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt in the lead. There have been numerous reasons that have surfaced for the delay in making of the new movie. Recently, reports surfaced talking about Priyanka Chopra opting out of Jee Le Zarea because she did not like the script. She was supposed to come down to India during Parineeti Chopra's wedding and sign the contract which did not happen. But that's not the case, as per a report in Koimoi.com, Priyanka is very much a part of the movie. She has not opted out of the project nor has she said 'no' to the script

# Beauty Tips For The Perfect Diwali Look



Diwali is just around the corner! What better time than now to make sure you shine your brightest. The run-up to Diwali is just a few days away and our preparations in terms of gifts,diyas and sweets are already rolling. The days running up to Diwali are more hectic than wedding season in terms of cleaning, shopping, house decoration etc which generally dampens your mood leaving you looking exhausted, tired and dull at the end of the day. Diwali involves joy, celebrations, family dinner and a whole lot of great excitement.As we immerse ourselves in the festivities, women and men set to Sparkle brighter than the fireworks and

shine more than the diyas to look perfect this Diwali.. Most of us seek quick solutions to fix our beauty woes and tend to laden up the skin with numerous varieties of chemical laden costly cosmetics to look natural ,youthful and evergreen As you indulge in family gatherings and step out to celebrate, It's time to get a radiant glow with organic homemade ingredients for Diwali which is an absolute favourite with most Indians. Here are simple things to shine brighter than the festive lights from the comforts of your home. Start taking care of the skin and hair a weeks before. Nighttime cleansing is an absolute must, especially for city dwellers. Chemical air pollutants, dirt and grime hang in the air. They are potent skin irritants. Make up should also be removed at night. All these can cause dryness of the skin, or disrupt the normal

acid-alkaline balance of the skin, leading to rashes and other eruptive conditions, like pimples and acne. As Diwali approaches, the weather also changes. Seasonal changes also influence the skin. The humidity becomes less and the skin loses moisture to the atmosphere. So, one needs to keep the skin moisturised and also protect it from sun exposure. For normal to dry skin, cleanse twice a day, with a cleansing gel, containing ingredients like aloe vera. Massage the cleanser lightly into the skin and remove it with moist cotton wool. Then apply rose water or skin tonic, using cotton wool. During the day, use a sunscreen, before going out in the sun. Or, use moisturizer, if you are indoors. Moisturisers are available in cream and liquid form. For dry skin, at night, after cleansing, apply a nourishing cream and massage it on the face. Wipe off with moist cotton wool. You can

### Shahnaz Husain

apply a serum afterwards. Oily skins also need moisture. But, if they apply creams, they can get pimples. To moisturise oily skin, mix one teaspoon pure glycerin with 100 ml rose water. Keep it in an airtight jar in the fridge. Use a little of this lotion after cleansing. This moisturizes the skin, without making it oily. Use cleansing milk or face wash to cleanse the skin. The use of facial scrubs helps to brighten the skin and add a glow. Use a facial scrub twice a week. Mix ground almonds (badaam) or rice powder with curd and a pinch of Haldi. You can also add dried and powdered orange and lemon peels. Apply on the face and rub gently on the skin with small circular movements. Then wash off with water. Apply a sunscreen before going out in the sun. So, you can look for a sunscreen lotion or cream, depending on your skin type. You

should also look for day creams, nourishing or night creams and serums. As Diwali and winter approach, try some home remedies to relieve dryness. Apply honey on the face daily for 10 minutes and wash off with water. If you have an aloe vera plant at home, the gel, found in the inner portion of the leaves, can be applied on the face to moisturize it. Grate carrots and apply on the face for 15 to 20 minutes. Carrot is rich in Vitamin A and good for nourishing the skin in winter. It suits all skin types. Mix half a teaspoon honey, one teaspoon rose water and one teaspoon dried milk powder. Mix into a paste and apply on the face. Remove after 20 minutes with water. Suits normal to dry skin. Applying mayonnaise or egg yolk on the skin also helps to relieve dryness. Suits dry skin. Nourish the hair with

oil treatments once or twice a week. Heat olive oil and apply on the scalp and hair. Then dip a towel in hot water, squeeze out the water and wrap the hot towel around the head, like a turban. Keep it on for 5 minutes. Repeat the hot towel wrap 3 or 4 times. This helps the hair and scalp absorb the oil better. Egg white is a wonderful natural cleanser for oily hair and its protein content helps to add body. Apply egg white on the hair about half-an-hour before your shampoo. To nourish dry hair, massage egg yolk or mayonnaise into the scalp. Leave it on for half an hour and then wash the hair. It helps to soften the hair and is very useful for hair that has suffered damage through c o l o u r i n g , straightening or perming. If you have been working hard just before Diwali, a few “pick me up” tips will help. Give yourself a manicure and pedicure the day before. In fact, after soaking the hands

and feet in warm water, massage with a rich cream, so that the skin is smooth and soft. A good pick-me-up treatment for the hands is to rub them with sugar and lemon juice. Pay attention to details like waxing and threading too, at least a day in advance. A “pick-me-up” face mask can leave your skin clean and glowing. Cleanse the skin. Mix honey with egg white and apply it on the face. Wash off with water after 20 minutes. For those with very dry skin, mix half a teaspoon honey, egg yolk or pure almond oil and one teaspoon dried milk powder. Mix into a paste and apply on the face. Leave it on for half an hour and rinse off with water. After washing off the pack, give the skin a compress with cotton wool pads soaked in rose water. For hands and nails, mix almond oil and honey in equal parts and massage into the nails and cuticles. Leave on for 15 minutes and wipe off with a moist towel.

Mix together 3 tablespoons of rose water with one tablespoon each glycerin and lemon juice. Apply on hands and feet and leave for half an hour. Wash off with plain water. If your hair is looking dull give it a quick c o n d i t i o n i n g treatment before your shampoo. Mix one teaspoon each of vinegar and honey with one egg. Beat them together well. Massage the mixture into the scalp. Then wrap the hair in a hot towel for twenty minutes, before washing the hair. Your hair will have more body and look shiny and manageable. Give your hair a tea-water and lemon rinse after shampoo, to add shine. Boil used tea leaves again in enough water. After boiling, you should have about 4 cups of tea-water. Cool and strain it. Then add the juice of a lemon and use it as a last rinse after shampoo.

**Author is international fame beauty expert and is popular as herbal queen of India**

# A Professor’s Soliloquy



I have retired from my job in the government, but my journey as a Professor/Media Educator is on... After teaching in various central universities like DU, B H U , N E H U , IGNOU,IIMC, MZU and several state as well as deemed Universities for almost four decades as a visiting faculty, I was appointed by CMR University, Bangalore as a Professor of Practice six years ago, and my friends and students therefore call me Professor. In fact, Sherry,my colleague in North Eastern Council began calling me Professor for the first time. But, I have always refused to be called a Doctor nor have allowed any university to confer that honour on me without working full time for it in view of my official position. Authorities, those are offering honorary Ph.D. (doctorate degree) to so called distinguished persons, and people those are acquiring or arranging such degrees by influence or money, like an ornament from some universities, should learn the lesson from Rahul Dravid, who has refused it, realising the hardship of genuine scholars in his family to get it on merit. It's not easy to stick to a principle throughout life. My friends published their books from NBT or given assignments to their spouses, which I didn't. My successor in NBT went to the extent of not only giving a translation assignment,

but to arrange Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize for his wife ! Now, my friends say that I have done a mistake. What can I do, for I went by a principle ! Never stop doing good things for others. Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest place in their hearts. But, for God's shake, don't do for undeserving people as I did in my life. Odisha has the largest number of Literature Dacoits in the country. The list is so big that a single page is insufficient for it.The recent story of Sarala Award is just an example.Dr Mayadhar Mansingh could not get a Sahitya Akademi award due to literary politics of Odisha which still continues. Once upon a time I was a school headmaster at Umerkote, then in Koraput district of Odisha. I also taught in various centres of higher learning throughout the country as a visiting faculty in the last four decades. I feel nostalgic every year when Teachers' Day comes on 5 September. Many of my friends may have forgotten that once upon a time I was a visiting faculty in the Delhi University's College of Vocational Studies in their PG Course in Book Publishing for about 5 years.I used to teach Editing.My friends Dr G S Jolly was also teaching Editing and Kalyan Banerjee and Sumit Bhattacharjee on Book Production . My assignment as a faculty came as a surprise .Sumit and I were good friends and were commuting to office together.His assignment from the University came first,he was an alumni too of the College of Vocational Studies.I used to accompany him as we were to go back home together.Prof Jolly did not

know that I am a visiting faculty in IIMC and a few centres of excellence.Urvashi Butalia was once sharing with him the job of teaching editing.One day he surprised me by offering to teach editing. So,I started teaching Book Editing .We used to reach the college everyday by 6 pm.It was an evening course in Self Financing Mode.There were two 50 minutes periods.Our students were mostly professionals or those preparing for competitive examinations.One of them,Sakul Kundra had already completed his M Phil and was doing Ph.D in History at JNU.He was our best student and got Gold Medal in his batch.He used to send me Teachers' Day gift for many years even after the college stopped the course.Now he is a Professor. Besides Sakul I fondly remember two girls.One was working with Sage Publications and the other with Macmilan.If I correctly recollect ,Swati was with Sage.She used to come everyday at 7.30 pm and was with at least two questions which was to be instantly replied by me.And,the other girl working with Macmilan wanted notes from me for her preparation for the examination. 'But I have never prepared notes in my entire career.'I told the girl.She was upbeat.she thought that I am probably hiding.One day she reached my office with her parents with a packet of sweet. 'If you have come on a courtesy call,I accept this sweet packet and will gladly share with Sumit and other colleagues here as it is from my student.And if you want any favour ,I am afraid,I may have to regret accepting your gift.Please don't misunderstand me..I

## Manas Ranjan Mahapatra

said. Then he divulged his intention.His doubt was,since I have two post graduate degrees with two decades of experience in the field,I must have prepared notes and may not be willing to share.'Believe me ,my daughter will use it only for her examination..,'he assured 'I am a teacher,I never disbelieve my students',I said. Then I asked,'You want your daughter to be an editor or a clerk.If you want her to be an editor,I will do that labour.And,if you want her to be a clerk,I can recommend her some help series books for preparation.' 'And examination..be sure she will get over 90 percent marks.I know her standard,'I concluded. We had a nice time in gossip.He never came back to me.His daughter got 97 percent in her examination. And, two years ago I met the CEO of Sage Publications in a Panel Discussion. He informed me that my other student Swati now heads the Editorial Division of a noted Publishing House at Singapore. Editing is not everybody's cup of tea. I find more compilers posing as magazine editors these days. Teachers' Day is not a day for students to remember their teachers,it can be the other way round.I feel honoured that Sakul Kundra is now is a Professor in Fiji University and Swati heads the Editorial Division of an international publishing house .This is a great honour for me as a teacher. I dedicate my success as a teacher to them who taught me in school, college or post graduate classes. They have indeed opened the sky for me to fly. Where are my friends these days ? Are they, like me, lost in transit ??

I have been thinking for the last three years after my retirement to write on my living friends. Today I have an urge to write on my friend Mrinal Chatterjee who has just got D. Litt from Brahmapur University. It will take me a day to write this memoir. Incidentally, my second anthology of short stories is due in a month. Mrinal and I befriended after publication of my story in Galpajhar, which was published from Bhadrak half a century ago and was edited by Balaram Sahu. Bhadrak College was a major college in 1970s when I was a student in S?C.S College, Puri. Mrinal was a student in that college. He was my batchmate. The other noted friend in that college was Bijoy Nayak. We were young fiction writers those days and our stories were regularly published in Galpajhar. In 1981 I left my college studies and joined J. Mohapatra and Co as a subeditor in their English daily News of the World and monthly digest Alok as its Editor. I was staying with a friend at New PG Hostel as a paying guest. Suddenly I met Mrinal there as a boarder. He was the student editor of the English department's mouthpiece. My days at Cuttack were not pleasant. Nabakishore Mohapatra, proprietor of J. Mohapatra and Co was a nice person. But, his Manager Rahman was not a Goodman. I was invited by a Press Owner of Puri to join the press as its Manager. Chittaranjan Mishra was planning to bring his newspaper Kurukshetra from Cuttack to Puri. The press owner Balakrushna Pratihari was his classmate. Since it was running on loss, Balakrushna Pratihari rented it out to Chittaranjan Mishra for publication of Kurukshetra. One fine morning, I was

offered the job of Managing Editor of Kurukshetra with the work of Manager of the press Kalinga Industries. I was comfortable in the new assignment, but my happiness didn't last long. A full page advertisement was to be published in Kurukshetra. Raghunath Mishra, a friend of Chittaranjan Mishra was looking after the accounting job of the newspaper. He was interested to bring his brother on my post. Our newspaper was printed in letterpress those days. The advertisement text could not be adjusted in half a page. I slightly reduced the size. Ragnathan Mishra reported this lapse in such a manner that Chittaranjan Mishra got angry. In the evening Raghunath Mishra came and paid me a month's salary with the notice of my dismissal from the job. I was on the road. My family was struggling with poverty. My elder sister was in a private college and her salary was just hand to mouth. My beloved Sailabala was in a private school. We were not in a position to marry. I took loan from a bank to support my family and went on applying for jobs, both private and government. I also took some odd assignments. An organisation Management Advisory Services then advertised for some editorial posts and conducted an examination. I saw Mrinal there in the examination as a candidate like me. He was by that time working in a private college at Bhubaneswar as a lecturer. But, my interest to return to my original passion Journalism in a newspaper had to wait for some time. I had to marry my beloved as her father was worried. I could not take a risk of joining private sector. I had appeared in several competitive exams and got

three offers out of which I accepted one and join School Education Department as a Headmaster. From there I switched over to NCERT as an Educational Media Researcher. A job of Language Editor in Odia was advertised in newspapers in 1990. I applied for it and got a call for appearing in an interview. There I met Mrinal Chatterjee again as a candidate. The interview board led by famous author and translator Jeevan Pani appreciated my earlier experience in a publishing house. The result was to be declared after a day. The candidates included Gaurahari Das, Satyapriya Mahalik,Chitrasen Pasayat and Soudamini Bhuyan apart from Mrinal. I jokingly said while we were served tea, 'One of us will get the job, but s/he has to offer works to others.' All of us laughed. The result was out after a day. I was selected. Mrinal was only waitlisted . I offered translation works to the rest as I proposed. Mrinal and Gaurahari got the major assignments. Those days, NBT was offering the best translation fee. Mrinal's wife also became a distributor for NBT books on my initiative and guarantee. Time is very powerful. A bigger opportunity was waiting for Mrinal. He got the job of Associate Professor in Indian Institute of Mass C o m m u n i c a t i o n , Dhenkanal. He offered me guest teaching assignments, annually once at his institute. Prior to it I was teaching as a visiting faculty in DU, STI for Prasar Bharti, BHU and a few others, but IIMC assignment was special. Inspired by it I did another MA in Journalism and Mass Communication. I

registered for Ph D in the same university from which Mrinal did his D. Litt now, but sadly my guide died in an accident. I was Director, Information and PR of North Eastern Region for three years at Shillong. In one of our meetings, I met the then VC,Guwahati University and he was happy to know about my credential as a Media Educator. The next day I was invited to teach in their Journalism and Mass Communication Department as a visiting faculty. Much before the term Professor of Practice was introduced by UGC, CMR University, Bangalore invited me to teach D e v e l o p m e n t Communication there as a Professor of Practice. Covid has suddenly brought an abrupt halt to my teaching assignments. I have now retired from my government job of an Editor and relocated to Odisha , have not met Mrinal for almost four years, don't know when we will meet again and where. But, my friends get unhappy when I use the term Professor with my name though they pamper private college teachers and politicians as Professor ! One should never look back. It's always gloomy and painful ! Mrinal is Regional Director now at Dhenkanal and IIMC has almost forgotten me.

**Visiting Professor of Development Communication Former Director, I & PR and Culture, North Eastern Council Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India Former Director, Book Publishing Courses & Editor, NCCL National Book Trust, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India**

## West Bengal Government launch drive to register number of migrant workers

**Kolkata, (Ambar Mukherjee):** The West Bengal Government has decided to launch a largescale outreach drive in states like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka to get more migrant workers from Bengal registered on the state's Karmasathi portal, which was launched as part of an effort to offer better opportunity to people leaving the state in search of jobs and livelihood. The initiative was taken after it was noticed that only about 34 per cent of the estimated migrant labourers had registered their names on the portal through the recently organised drive, titled Duare Sarkar (government at doorstep), said sources at Nabanna, the state secretariat. "We have a record of around 41 lakh migrant labourers who had returned to Bengal during nationwide lockdown in the wake of

Covid 19 outbreak in 2020. Majority of them were brought back by the state government and rests returned on their own. But the portal through Duare Sarkar camps held between September 1 and 30, registered names of only 13.60 lakh migrant workers," said an official at Nabanna. Citing an example, the officer said the number of migrant labourers who returned from Gujarat during lockdown was 4,69,069 but only 59,218 of them registered themselves on the portal. "The details of the outreach drive in other states will soon be finalised. We may set up help desks in other states with migrant workers to help them get registered with the portal," the official said, adding, "The success of such a drive depends on the registration of the migrant labourers on the portal." According to the state

secretariat, the total figure of current migrant workers might increase or decrease now since the state government initiated some measures to give jobs in Bengal and at the same time, some more people left the state in search of livelihood. "The government's target is reducing the number of migrant workers heading for other states. For this, we need to know the present number of such workers to prepare a database so that the government can think of offering them better deals in the state," said another official of the state government. Sources in the Trinamool Congress said the aim of the outreach drive and offer migrant workers better deal in Bengal are to blunt the opposition parties' political tool on the issue of joblessness in the state citing the figure of migrant labourers working in other states.

## New assignment for Afzal



**Bokaro (KCN):** Social activist Afzal Khan has been appointed co-ordinator of human rights and child protection by the helping corps

foundation of Bokaro district, whose first meeting was held in Giridih district. Afzal has expressed gratitude to State

President Vishal Gambhir, Vice President Manoj Chawla and Rajesh Rana for the responsibility given to him to serve the people

## "Congress Leaders, Their Dialogues, Announcements Are Filmy": PM Modi

**Ratlam (MP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the Congress leaders, their "dialogues" and their announcements are all "filmy" as he took a jibe at 'tear clothes' remark of Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath. Speaking at a rally at Ratlam in BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh ahead of November 17 assembly elections, he also announced that the free ration scheme for "80 crore poor persons" in the country would be extended for another five years. "The Congress leaders are filmy, their dialogues are filmy, their announcements are filmy, their characters too are filmy, and when a character is filmy, then obviously the scene too will be filmy," he said. "A competition of tearing



clothes is going on between two Congress leaders," PM Modi said, in an apparent jibe at Nath's statement referring to veteran Congress leader Digvijaya Singh. This was only a "trailer," the prime minister said. "After the victory of the BJP on December 3 (when votes will be counted), the real picture

of Congress will be seen here, the real conflict within the Congress will unfold," he said. If Congress leaders get an opportunity, they tear the clothes of the public, the prime minister added. "This is not a fight for the CM's chair.. This is a fight for the future of their sons who will get hold of Congress in the state....Congress is doing

dynastic politics," PM Modi said. The prime minister also promised to extend the free ration (foodgrains under public distribution system) scheme for "80 crore poor people of the country" for five years beyond this December, and said that "fulfilling the people's dreams is Modi's resolve." The Madhya Pradesh

government's flagship Ladli Behna and Ladli Laxmi schemes for women are being praised in the entire country, he said.

Accusing the Congress of being anti-tribal, PM Modi said it opposed the candidature of the first tribal woman president Droupadi Murmu by fielding a former BJP leader (Yashwant Sinha) against her.

The BJP would win the assembly elections in both Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, he said.

"Be it the country or Madhya Pradesh, Congress is left with only the trumpet of false announcements... Congress does not even have a concrete roadmap for the development of Madhya Pradesh. Congress cannot even think that far," PM Modi said.

## Air quality 'Severe' In Some Places In Haryana, 'Poor' In Parts Of Punjab

**Chandigarh:** Many parts of Haryana on Saturday reported air quality indices in the 'severe' and 'very poor' categories while it was 'poor' in parts of neighbouring Punjab. Punjab reported 1,360 fresh stubble-burning incidents as farmers continued to burn crop residue. According to the Central Pollution Control Board data on Saturday evening, Fatehabad recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 464, followed by Faridabad at 439, Jind at 428, Kaithal 426, Hisar 425, Sonapat 414, Sirsa 414, Gurugram 410, Bahadurgarh 369,

Kurukshetra 325, Rohtak 319 and Bhiwani 307. In Punjab, Bathinda reported an AQI of 385, followed by Ludhiana 301, Jalandhar 291, Mandi Gobindgarh 277, Amritsar 264, Khanna 265 and Patiala 247. Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, saw an AQI of 179. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. Meanwhile, with 1,360 new farm fires, the total number of



stubble-burning incidents rose to 14,173 till Saturday, according to Ludhiana-based Punjab Remote Sensing Centre data. The number of total stubble-burning incidents of 14,173 registered from September 15 till November 4 was 47 per cent less than 26,853 such cases in

the corresponding period last year, as per the data. The state had reported 23,465 farm fires during the same period in 2021. Out of 1,360 stubble-burning incidents reported on Saturday, Sangrur reported a maximum of 240 such cases, followed by 140 in Ferozepur, 120 in

Mansa, 116 in Tarn Taran and 112 in Bathinda.

On the same day in 2021 and 2022, the state had seen 3,032 and 2,437 farm fires, respectively. Paddy straw burning in Punjab and Haryana is considered one of the major reasons behind the alarming spike in air pollution levels in the national capital in October and November. As the window for wheat -- a key Rabi crop -- is very short after paddy harvest, some farmers set their fields on fire to quickly clear off the crop residue for sowing of the next crop.

## Jamshedpur's Autistic Boy Asutosh Creates National Record



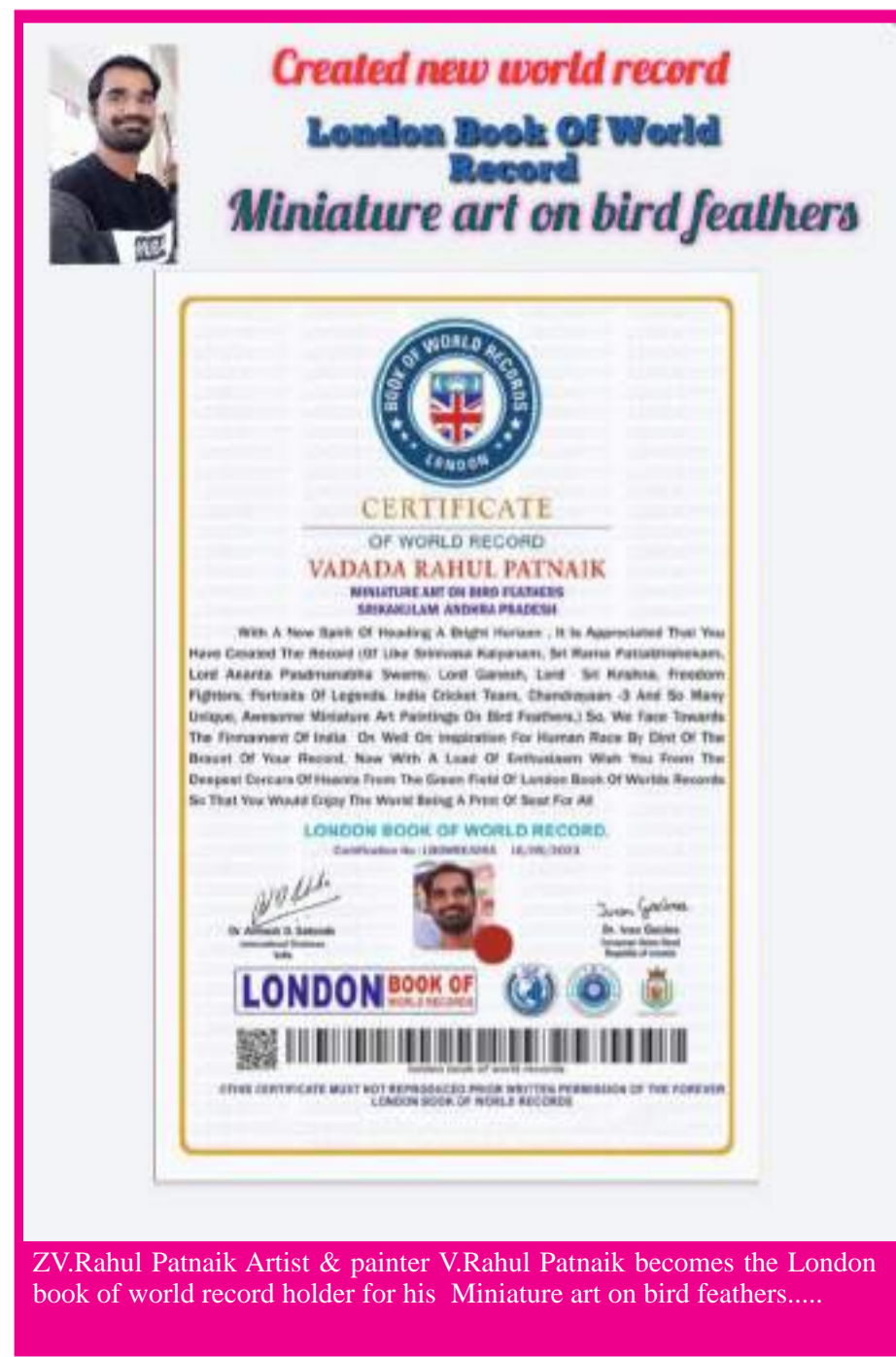
**Jamshedpur, (KCN):** Jamshedpur's Autistic Teen Asutosh Panigrahi created National Record in Abacus competition recently. 17 years old Shri Panigrahi achieved this awesome winning feat by solving 101 additions and subtractions in 10 minutes and 107 multiplications in just 5 minutes. His name has been registered in the India Book of Records. Organised by Indian Abacus (I.A) at Karandih, the Abacus competitions aroused unusual interest and unprecedented

excitements among the local mind game enthusiasts. The Test was completed with the presence and guidance of IBR's adjudicator Arindam Sengupta, Chief of I.A.'s Jharkhand unit Sanjib Singh and senior educator Kanchan Singh. The entire competition was conducted as per the detailed guidelines and prescribed criterias fixed up by International Protocol of Records. Hundreds of representatives of Government bodies, Voluntary

Organisations, Corporates and Social Sectors such as District Commissioner's Office, East Singhbhum District Hospital, ASPIRE, Nayi Disha, Tata Power, Tata SABAL, Special Olympic Bharat, Young India and Tatanagar Railway Station have gathered at the venue of the Mega Event to cheer up Asutosh. Congratulatory messages have now been pouring in to Asutosh for accomplishing this spectacular success inspite of Autistic related handicap. Particularly his fans, followers, friends,

family members, relatives and well wishers are appreciating his astounding will power and amazing ability to turn the challenges into opportunities and problems into possibilities. It may be worth mentioned here that no medicine has yet been invented to cure this Autism Spectrum Disorder disease. The proud parents of Asutosh Dr Nibedita Kar and Biswajit Panigrahi, expressed their gratitude to the authorities of IBR and Indian Abacus for providing proper

platform to Asutosh for showcasing his exemplary talent and extraordinary Brilliance. Asutosh has now been learning coding after passing out 12th standard. Being a passionate music lover, he has passed examination of Visharad in Hindustani classical vocal with First Class distinction. Asutosh has also been earning accolades for his several scintillating musical performances on behalf of Jamshedpur music circle. The Success story of Asutosh Panigrahi can set an ideal example to be emulated by other Autistic children, whose number in India is one among hundred. Asutosh has amply proven that if sufficient help, co-operation, support, mentoring, encouragement and timely Patronisation and Inspiration are available, then impossible things can jolly well be made absolutely possible and practicable.



ZV.Rahul Patnaik Artist & painter V.Rahul Patnaik becomes the London book of world record holder for his Miniature art on bird feathers.....

# CS Lauds Better Fiscal Show

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena has appreciated the financial performance of various departments during last October, which was better than corresponding period of last year.

All Secretaries Meet here on 3 November, Shri Jena reviewed financial performance of all the departments, which was satisfactory, officials say. Development Commissioner, Anu Garg, ACS Revenue & Disaster Management, Satyabrata Sahu, ACS General Administration and Public Grievances, Surendra Kumar, ACS Home Deo Ranjan Kumar Singh and other Principal Secretaries and Secretaries were

present. Chief Secretary harped on spending of allocated amount during this fiscal and advised to chalk out advance planning in this regard.

National Level Chief Secretaries Meet agenda was discussed and accordingly the presentations are to be made and views of the State will be presented in the National Forum, for which Chief Secretary advised the Secretaries to get ready for it.

Principal Secretary Food, Supply and Consumer Welfare, Vir Vikram Yadav briefed the Conference about the food procurement during Kharif Season. Secretaries were advised to look into the arrangements made in



Market Yards during their District Visit Program. Farmers are to be given hassle free

facility for selling their paddy. International Millet Conference will be

held on 9-10 November and Principal Secretary Aravind Padhee presented the details in

the meeting. Secretary Health & Family Welfare, Shalini Pandit briefed

about the MoU signed for five super specialty hospitals in the State and other healthcare facilities extended in the State.

LAccMI Bus launching was discussed at length and Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha Program launch was deliberated in the All Secretaries Meet. Everybody was happy over Central Firest Clearance of Chheligada Irrigation Project and new irrigation facilities are opened in the districts was discussed in the meet.

Fisheries and ARD Sector performance was appreciated and Principal Secretary S K Vashishth said that the sector has performed more than 145 Percent than last year.

Principal Secretary

Rural Development & GST Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Singh briefed about success of GST Collection in the State, while ACS Steel & Mines, Shri Singh said State Government has earned more revenue from Minor Minerals.

Principal Secretary Urban Development G Mathivathanan gave out details on Drink From The Tap Program organized in 24 Cities.

This program was launched three years ago from Puri and now it is a success, said he.

Mission Shakti Secretary, Sujata R Karthikeyan was happy to announce that Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana scripting success and till date 15,000 scooters have been provided to Women SHG Members.

## Drunk man kills wife for dancing at wedding party in Odisha

**BALASORE(KCN):** In a shocking incident, a man reportedly killed his wife for dancing in a wedding procession without taking his permission at Paikapada village within Oupada police limits in Balasore district on Saturday night. The accused is 43-year-old Ram Singh of Paikapada. The deceased was identified as Sharmila Singh (35). Ram is a driver by profession.

Sources said a wedding ceremony was organised by Ram's neighbour on Saturday night. During the marriage procession,

some women requested Sharmila to dance with them. Though she refused, the women forcibly dragged her to the middle of the procession and made her dance.

Ram, who was also present at the spot, saw Sharmila shaking a leg and became angry. However, he did not express his displeasure and waited for the function to get over. In the meantime, he consumed alcohol with his friends and became completely drunk.

After attending the wedding feast, the couple

went home. At around 11 pm, a fight broke out between them as Ram yelled at Sharmila for dancing in the procession without his permission. When the woman protested, Ram became furious and in a fit of rage, assaulted her with a digging bar.

The couple's two minor kids snatched away the iron bar from Ram's hands but the latter grabbed the handle of an axe and continued to assault Sharmila. The woman bled to death. On hearing the commotion, neighbours rushed to the spot and

found Sharmila lying in a pool of blood. They immediately informed the police about the incident.

The next morning, a team of Oupada police rushed to the village for investigation. Sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) of Soro Ritesh Kumar Mahapatra said the woman's body was sent for postmortem. Basing on the complaint of the deceased's parents, police registered a case under section 302 of the IPC and arrested the accused. Further investigation is underway.

## Bitumen plant of Gopalpur MLA's aide sealed in Kukudakhundi



**BERHAMPUR(KCN):** An illegal bitumen mix plant at Baulajholi village in Kukudakhundi tehsil of Ganjam district was sealed by the administration on Saturday. Sources said the plant belonging to one Balyaram Dalai was being run by violating the pollution norms since the past many years. Dalai is reportedly a close associate of


Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahi. Locals alleged the illegal plant polluted the area, causing diseases. They had also written to the Ganjam collector and Berhampur SP urging action against the plant several times in the past.

Accordingly, basing on collector Dibyajyoti Parida's direction, an enforcement team led

by Kukudakhundi tehsildar Kalyani Sanghamitra Devi along with officials from the pollution control board conducted a raid on the area.

According to the sale deed, Balyaram's wife Priyanka had 2021 purchased around 750 decimal land in the village along with a stone crusher. The documents, however, reportedly

had no mention of the bitumen plant being set up on the said piece of land. Since Dalai failed to produce requisite official permission for running the plant, it was sealed on the charge of being run in violation of environmental laws. However, the fact that the plant continued to operate and stayed out notice of the administration for so long has surprised many.



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# HCG Panda Cancer Hospital Cuttack organises bikeathon to create awareness on Breast Cancer

**Cuttack (KCN)** :Marking the breast cancer awareness month in October HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, Cuttack, organized a Bikeathon to raise awareness on breast cancer. The bikeathon was flagged off by Prof Dr. Krupasindhu Panda (Medical Director, HCG Panda Cancer Hospital) & Mr. Santanu Das (COO, HCG Panda Cancer Hospital). The bike rally displayed solidarity as participants pedalled from Telengapentha to Nandankanan Chak and back to Telengapentha, covering a distance of 45kilometres. The bikeathon commenced at 7 a.m. in the morning and witnessed an enthusiastic participation from over 100 bikers. This remarkable event showcased the spirit of community engagement and made significant strides in promoting early breast cancer detection, thus empowering individuals with knowledge about the importance of breast health. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Prateek Jain, Regional Business Head - East



& AP, Healthcare Global Enterprises Ltd. said, “The Bikeathon was driven by the mission to highlight the importance of early detection in the battle against breast cancer, a disease that can be

effectively treated when detected early. The turnout at the bikeathon was remarkable, as the participants radiated enthusiasm and unwavering spirit throughout the event. We are thankful to Ms. Amita for leading this event and inspiring both the participants and the community at large. Mr. Santanu Das,

Chief Operating Officer at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, stated, “At HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, our passion is to make a positive impact, extending beyond treatment. The bikeathon initiative is a significant milestone in the fight against breast cancer. We believe that by uniting, raising awareness, and taking decisive action, we can truly transform the lives of those affected by this disease. We encourage everyone to join us in this meaningful journey, as every effort

brings us one step closer to a world without breast cancer.” Speaking about the initiative, Dr. Krupasindhu Panda, Medical Director at HCG Panda Cancer Hospital, said, “Breast cancer is a global challenge, impacting millions. Regular self-checks and screenings are vital for early detection and saving lives. Our mission is to support, educate, and empower women dealing with breast cancer. We are immensely proud to organize events like these that aligns with our

healthcare goals and encourages our commitment to fostering a healthier society.” HCG Panda Cancer Hospital's strives to drive breast cancer awareness, early detection, and comprehensive care. Following the mantra 'early detection is a cure,' the event served as a platform to engage people at large, creating awareness on breast cancer by organizing a 'Bikeathon' in the city. This has also catalysed ongoing initiatives to create a healthier and more informed community.

## RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

**Mumbai:** RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India.

Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing Indian market.

“Keeping with our

honourable Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar India, this collaboration with Plastic Legno's deep experience in world-class toy manufacturing coupled with our strong footing in the global toy retail industry would be an accelerator in building a robust toy manufacturing ecosystem in India not only for domestic consumption but also for global markets.” said the spokesperson of Reliance Brands Limited.

RBL has a strong play in the Toy industry with its portfolio of Hamleys, the British toy retailer and homegrown toy brand – Rowan, making RBL one of the leading

toy distributors. Hamleys currently has a global footprint across 15 countries with 213 doors and is India's largest chain of toy stores.

“We are very privileged to have RBL as a partner in this Joint Venture. We are confident that Plastic Legno's experience in Toys production and Hamley's commercial outreach, will complement one another to enable the JV Company to achieve greater heights and successes. We have important development plans to implement, always in the spirit of creating a cultural background in this specific sector in India. We are ready for the challenges of the future, but when there is a group like RBL alongside, we are sure that together we can do a great development.” said Paolo Sunino, Co-owner, Sunino Group.

## Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India registers 3, 53,188 unit sales

**Gurugram:** Noting a positive upward movement during the month, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for May 2022.

The company's total sales for the month stood at 3,53,188 with 3,20,844 domestic sales and 32,344 exports compared to the subdued market performance for same period last year amidst multiple lockdowns owing to impact from second wave of pandemic.

Commenting on the sales performance in May'22, Mr. Atsushi Ogata, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India said, “The market is gaining back strength as disturbances in terms of supply side are subsiding coupled with rise in physical presence at office and educational institutions. The sales figures this month remain incomparable from May'21 as frequent lockdowns in wake of second wave marred the performance during this period last year. Growth in domestic as well as international trade continues to complement each other as we approach an early monsoon.”

## TVS Motor Company registers sales of 302,982 units

**Hosur:** TVS Motor Company sales was at 302,982 units in May 2022. The year-on-year growth is not comparable due to the low base of sales in May 2021 because of the localised lockdown imposed by the Government of India during that period.

Two-Wheeler Total two-wheelers sales grew from 154,416 units in May 2021 to 287,058 units in May 2022. Domestic two-wheeler sales grew from 52,084 units in May 2021 to 191,482 units in May 2022.

Motorcycle sales grew from 125,188 units in May 2021 to 148,560 units in May 2022. Scooter sales of the Company grew from 19,627 units in May 2021 to 100,665 units in May 2022.

The shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of

premium two-wheelers. We are working aggressively with alternate sources and taking every effort to improve supplies at the earliest. Some improvement has been seen this month. We are optimistic that volumes will revive to normal levels once the semiconductor supplies improve.

The Company's total exports registered sales of 110,245 units in May 2022 as against 114,674 units in May 2021. Two-wheeler exports recorded sales of 95,576 units in May 2022 as against 102,332 units in May 2021.

Three-wheeler of the Company grew by 28% from 12,473 units in May 2021 to 15,924 units in May 2022.

The domestic two-wheeler sales include TVS iQube Electric sales of 2,637 units in May 2022.

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

**Mumbai:** Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/ Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/ Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the

Banks to increase their customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said “MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to GDP, Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the

Bank and at Union Bank of India, we aim to become Bank of 1st choice for MSMEs. This tie-up with SIDBI aids in realizing the Bank's vision to have increased credit flow to the MSME sector and extend operational convenience to the MSME clientele. Under partnership, Union Bank of India through its Pan India branch network can provide general Banking products like Current Accounts, Savings Accounts, Working Capital facilities and other related services to the MSME Customers of SIDBI.”

Also, speaking on the tie-up arrangement, Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, CGM, SIDBI reiterated SIDBI's commitment towards timely financing for MSMEs across all sectors.

## Spice Money to enable farmers to withdraw PM-KISAN subsidy through its 1 million Adhikari Network

**New Delhi:** The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each. Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pincodes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through AePS at their doorstep Adhikari outlet.

The PM Kisan Scheme, a central sector scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India, became operational on December 1, 2018. Under this scheme, income support of ₹ 6000

per year, divided into three installments, is directly transferred to the bank accounts of landholding farmer families, consisting of the husband, wife, and minor children. Speaking on this, Sanjeev Kumar, Co-Founder & CEO, Spice Money, said, “At Spice Money, we have been striving to solve the problem of access to banking & financial services in rural India. As the 11th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is rolled out, our 1 million Adhikaris operating across 18,500 pin codes, will be an enabler in ensuring easy access and withdrawal of this subsidy to the rightful 10 crore beneficiaries of this scheme. Farmers and farmer

families will no longer have to travel large distances to bank branches or just let the money lie idle in their accounts in times of need. Our Adhikaris, trusted banking partners in their communities, will be there at the villages to help farmers withdraw their money, with the help of AePS, thereby providing much-needed safe and secure access to the subsidy amount.”

Spice Money has been spearheading the efforts towards bridging the financial services gap in rural India by providing banking and financial services to the remotest corners of the country, across 700 districts and 5,000 blocks, thereby revolutionising the way Bharat banks.

## Aditya Birla Group formally launches TMRW – a Digital First ‘House of Brands’ venture in the Fashion & Lifestyle space

**Mumbai:** Aditya Birla Group today announced the formal launch of its new ‘House of Brands’ entity – TMRW. This move is in line with the group's strategy to launch and back new-age digital ventures. TMRW, an Aditya Birla Group venture, will create India's largest portfolio of disruptor brands in the fashion & lifestyle space and enable the next phase of direct to consumer (D2C) growth in India, which is poised to be a \$100bn market by 2025. Over the next 3 years, TMRW will acquire as well as incubate 30+ innovative, customer-obsessed brands. The venture will also enable multiple founders to operate within a synergistic ‘house of brands’ platform that share a common vision and shared capabilities.

Aditya Birla Group has appointed ex Facebook & Bain executive, Prashanth Aluru, as the CEO & Co-Founder to lead the build out of this new venture. Prashanth

will set-up a nimble and agile founding team with the right skill sets and capabilities. Prashanth comes with extensive experience in Digital & Technology across strategy, growth and investing. He also brings to the fore rich entrepreneurial experience in helping build and scale new age ventures in Digital & E-Commerce. Ashish Dikshit, MD of ABFRL said, “The formal launch of our D2C business, TMRW, is a key milestone for the company. This venture has the potential to become a significant growth engine by tapping into the new wave of entrepreneurial energy in India. Our aspiration is to build a portfolio of 30+ brands in the next 3 years. With the launch of this venture, we intend to double down on our ongoing program of strategically attracting new pools of capital that are seeking investment in high-growth businesses. We are confident that this

foray will successfully meet the aspirations of digitally native consumers and also create long-term value for investors and other stakeholders.” Prashanth Aluru, CEO and Co-Founder, TMRW said, “I am excited to embark on this journey to build TMRW - a long-term enduring platform that will be home to the leading disruptor brands that provide the new age digitally savvy consumer what she is looking for across Fashion & Lifestyle. With the backing of the Aditya Birla Group and the right profile of long-term investors we will bring in, we are confident of powering the growth of several brands that shape the next phase of digital commerce growth till 2030 and beyond. With a new age Digital first DNA, at TMRW, we will jointly create an ecosystem of the most-loved disruptor brands partnering closely with highly competent founders.”

## Largest Fleet of Electric Lithium-Ion Forklifts

**New Delhi:** Vedanta Aluminium, India's largest producer of aluminium, has commissioned India's largest electric fleet of 27 forklifts, powered by lithium-ion batteries. Done in partnership with GEAR (Gemini Equipment and Rentals Private Limited) India, this sets the ball rolling on Vedanta

Aluminium's plans to decarbonize its industrial vehicle fleet. All 27 forklifts arrived last month and are being operationalised at the company's aluminium smelter at Jharsuguda, in Odisha, which is the world's largest single-location aluminium smelter, ex-China. Further, as testimony to its

endeavours towards increasing gender diversity in core manufacturing operations, Vedanta Aluminium is recruiting and training women to operate the top-of-the-line forklifts. The company has previously hired transgender employees as forklift operators in its aluminium operations at BALCO in

Chhattisgarh. These electric forklifts make use of the cutting-edge ‘Smart Fleet Management’ system to help ensure the highest levels of safety at site. The Smart Fleet Management system uses IOT (Internet of Things) technology to integrate the data collected by intelligent

terminals and provide Vedanta Aluminium insights on a real-time basis with respect to forklift speed, access to operate, collision avoidance, optimization analysis for operational efficiency and equipment maintenance, among others.

# Bangladesh cancel training session due to pollution in Delhi

**New Delhi:** Bangladesh team director Khaled Mahmud said on Friday that they have cancelled their scheduled practice session in Delhi due to polluted air. Bangladesh will take on Sri Lanka at the Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium on November 6 but now there are concerns around the game given the air quality has reached a 'severe' level. Bangladesh, who have been knocked out of the tournament following their six losses on a trot after their only win against Afghanistan, were scheduled to have a practice session at AJCS ahead of their game that is very crucial for them as their participation at Champions Trophy is at stake. But the team management opted to cancel it as several cricketers complained of coughing after going out on November 2 when the team decided to give the cricketers a break. According to media reports on Friday morning the air quality in Delhi reached 'severe'

levels, with Mundka recording the highest Air Quality Index (498). Health experts have reported a rise in the number of individuals experiencing respiratory and other health issues in the national capital, and they have advised residents to take precautions. A significant number of the capital's 20 million residents have complained of eye irritation, itchy throats, breathing difficulties, and other problems. Due to polluted weather people where seen using mask. "Today we had training session but the condition got bad from yesterday so we didn't take the chance because we still have two more days for training," Mahmud told reporters at the team hotel in Delhi on Friday. "Many (cricketers) went out yesterday and now they are having some kind of coughing so there is a risk factor involved and so we cancelled the training so that they don't get unwell," he said. "We don't know what



will the decision be and whether the weather will get better or not and if it gets better certainly it is good for us and if that is not the case we still have to adapt to it and have to train tomorrow. Because we have a game on October 6th and still have two more days in our hand so we want the boys to be fully fit because these two games are very important for us." Speaking on Bangladesh's dismal campaign, Mahmud pointed out that playing New Zealand in

Chattogram or Sylhet instead of in Dhaka just before the World Cup would have helped the team prepare better. The wicket in SBNS is typically suited for spinners while the wickets in Chattogram and Sylhet are traditionally known for helping the pacers and considered to be sporting. The players were found struggling in the sporting wickets in India and according to Mahmud it would have been better if they had opted to prepare the team

in wickets similar to the ones they encountered in India. "I was not in favour of playing against New Zealand in Mirpur before the World Cup. Why did we have to play in those spinning wickets? Why did we want to win that series? We should have played in Chattogram and Sylhet. We lost the series despite New Zealand not bringing their main players. We should have been more serious, well before time, about the World Cup squad," Mahmud told reporters

while adding that he is not enjoying his role as team director and wouldn't have taken that had he known this would be his responsibility. "I am performing the role assigned to me by the BCB. I don't have the decision-making role as I have had in previous tours as a selector. I have been given my limitations in this role. Previously, I tried to keep myself involved with the team. This time I don't have the cricketing role. I don't want to be in this role like this. I have cricket in my blood. Coaching is my profession. But I am not

involved with coaching with the Bangladesh team. I had a technical role even in the last World Cup when I could speak to players. But this time I am keeping myself away. I want to perform the role assigned to me. I am definitely not enjoying this role as the head of the delegation. I am just roaming around, playing the role as a guardian. I am taking care of discipline, but this not really my work," he said. Mahmud also revealed that it is too early to say anything regarding head coach Chandika Hathurusingha but admitted that he is expecting a 'post-

mortem' following the World Cup. Hathurusingha's tactics came under severe criticism after the batting order was changed in almost every game. "It is too early to say (whether Hathurusingha will be there or not). The World Cup is still ongoing and Hathu is still our head coach so it won't send the right message to the team," said Mahmud. "We have to trust him till the World Cup. BCB takes the decision after the tournament. There should be a post-mortem of our failure. We came here with the hopes of playing in the semifinals but we are lingering in ninth or tenth position in the points table."

## Hardik Pandya ruled out of World Cup 2023



**New Delhi:** Hardik Pandya, the Indian all-rounder, has been ruled out of the World Cup, the ICC announced on Saturday (November 4). Pacer Prasidh Krishna replaces him in the Indian squad. Pandya had suffered an injury to his left ankle while bowling in the match against Bangladesh in Pune last month. He was undergoing rehab at the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore before it was confirmed that he won't be able to take any further part in the ongoing tournament. Krishna, who has played 17 ODIs, has been approved as his replacement by the ICC Technical Committee. He has picked 29 ODI wickets at an average of 25.58. He will be the fifth pace bowling option in the squad which already includes Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur. The Pandya saga has been kept confidential

by the Indian team management and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Those with inside information attempted to downplay the injury, suggesting that it was only a minor issue, and that he would make a swift return. The BCCI, for its part, had announced that he would rejoin the squad in Lucknow for the match against England, following his absence from the game against New Zealand in Dharamsala. Rohit Sharma's comments before the Mumbai game deepened the curiosity when the skipper said, "That is all I can say for now." In fact, Rohit said Pandya was progressing well. "His procedure after the injury is very positive. Whatever procedure he had to undergo after the injury... there were a lot of positive things. Right now, he is not available for tomorrow's (vs Sri Lanka on November 2) match. But it is an injury that we have to see every

day how much percent he has improved, how much recovery has been made, how much bowling has been done, how much batting has been done. So, on a day-to-day basis, we would like to take a call. The matches are taking place every 3 - 4 days. We are watching the situation daily. So, it's possible, as he is progressing, it's possible, hopefully, we'll get a chance to see him as soon as possible," Rohit had said on the eve of the match against Sri Lanka. There was talk that Pandya had left the NCA before the Sri Lanka game and had returned to Mumbai. However, he did not join the squad. It was expected that he would fly to Kolkata with the squad on Friday, and he did not. It was being maintained that since India have already qualified for the semifinals, the team management was not in a hurry to rush him back. But on Saturday morning his replacement was surprisingly and suddenly announced.

## Nepal, Oman qualify for Men's T20 World Cup 2024

**New Delhi:** Nepal and Oman have qualified for the men's T20 World Cup 2024, to be played in West Indies and USA. The two teams made it through the Asia Qualifiers being held in Nepal. In the semifinal of that tournament, Nepal beat UAE by eight wickets and Oman downed Bahrain by 10 to achieve the qualification. The two teams will now square off against each other in the final of the qualifier tournament. With Friday's win,

Nepal made a comeback to the men's T20 World Cup after a gap of nine years, having last played in the 2014 edition in Sri Lanka. Oman meanwhile, will be playing in their third T20 World Cup next year, after featuring in 2016 and 2021 - when they were the joint hosts. The 2024 edition will have 20 teams, split into four groups of five each. From the first round of matches, two teams from each group will qualify to the Super Eights, where they will be split

into two groups of four. The next stage of progression will be to the semis and final. As hosts, West Indies and USA have got direct qualification to the tournament. The likes of Australia, India, England, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka made it through by finishing in the top eight in the last edition of the tournament in Australia while Afghanistan and Bangladesh made the cut based on their T20 team ranking.

# Dravid unfazed by lack of sixth-bowler insurance

**New Delhi:** Rahul Dravid, India's head coach, indicated that the team has made peace with the absence of all-rounder Hardik Pandya, and all the changes it has brought along. Primary amongst them is having to play with just five bowlers (three seamers + two seamers), which they did successfully in their previous two fixtures. "We have our wrong-footed, inswinging menace to call upon," joked Dravid in the press conference in Kolkata on the eve of their game against South Africa, referring to Virat Kohli. While Kohli remains the best sixth bowling option in the team, India haven't really had the need to turn to him regularly, considering the damage the rest of the attack has done. In fact, the only time Kohli bowled in this World Cup was to complete a Pandya over when the latter hobbled off injured in the game against Bangladesh. Yet, this is one area where oppositions would look to target as Temba Bavuma hinted. "They obviously only have five bowlers, so they can, I guess, be put under pressure if one of their bowlers is not on their day," he said. Dravid's jest faded out to seriousness, quickly. "I mean, obviously, the sixth option is something that Hardik gave us. But you're right as well that we have been playing the last four games without the sixth bowling option. We also played a couple of games in the Australia series before the World



Cup without the sixth option. We won two of our games, both in Mohali and in Indore, when we played only with five bowling options in those games as well. "So, we have responded really well to that challenge. Yes, of course, we probably won't have that sixth bowling option in these games. But the response of the team and the players has been really good when we have not had it. So, I think we have played enough games without having it. And we seem to have done pretty well," he explained. The danger of an off-colour bowler in a five-man attack - a possibility that seems unlikely with what India have done recently - aside, the lack of dependable batting credentials lower down the order is one of the effects of losing Pandya. Dravid chose to throw his weight behind the tail, in response to a

question on how India's batting approach could change. "I don't think we are going to think about it too much. I think there's only been one game where we've probably felt the need for the number eight and nine which was a game against England in Lucknow and actually our number eight and nine - after the seventh wicket the next couple of wickets gave us 46 critical runs on a tricky wicket. "So, I think we've got to have confidence in our 8, 9, 10, 11. The ones that we have now, I think they are working very hard and they are doing the best that they can. And I don't think the batters really, to be honest, need to think about it or worry about it. I think if you play good cricket through the 50 overs and play according to the situation and what the demands of the game are, I think there's

enough quality in that top seven to look after itself," he suggested. The numbers though indicate that India have tapered off with the bat on a couple of occasions after getting a solid foundation, although they've had a couple of useful contributions from the likes of Suryakumar Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja to offset some of that impact. "It's nice to have that experience of people like him [Suryakumar Yadav] and Jadeja at the back end just to be able to read that situation and play according to the situation. And that's really important in one-day cricket. T20 cricket sometimes, you know, you just have to play in one way. One day, sometimes lower down the order you can actually... you need to be able to be smart enough of how to read a game and the situation," Dravid

mentioned. Picking out Jadeja for special praise for his all-round contributions, he said, "Not easy for someone like him because he bats at 7, doesn't play for three or four games, and then has to come in and again play quite an important innings every time. "So that's the tough thing for guys who bat at 6 and 7. When you're batting in the top three, you know that every single game you're going to get an opportunity to play. Sometimes at six and seven, you're not really sure when you're going to get a chance. Or even sometimes you won't even get a game. Or you won't even get a hit like they haven't for the first two or three games. He's just come in and played critical knocks. Even the last one, he was able to really give us that little bit of a flip, a nice little 30 there. Got a 40 in the two games before that, I think. And so that's really good."