

# President of India Presents 69th National Film Awards

## Films are the Most Effective Medium to spread Awareness and Sensitivity : President Murmu

**New Delhi, (KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the 69th National Film Awards in various categories in New Delhi today (October 17, 2023). She also conferred Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2021 on Ms Waheeda Rehman.

Speaking on the occasion, the President congratulated Ms Waheeda Rehman for receiving Dadasaheb Phalke Award and said that she has reached the pinnacle of the film industry with her talent and personality. She has lived her personal life also with dignity, self-confidence and originality. She chose many such films in

which her role broke the barriers associated with women. She has set an example that women themselves should take initiative for women empowerment.

The President noted that Pallavi Joshi, Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon, who have received awards for best acting, have played roles of empowered female characters in their films. She was happy to note that director Srishti Lakhra has depicted the fighting spirit of an 80 year old woman in her award winning film titled 'Ek Tha Gaon'. She said that sympathetic and artistic portrayal of female characters would increase sensitivity and respect for women in the society.

The President was happy to note that the films



which received awards this year have depicted issues like climate change, girls' trafficking, oppression of women, corruption and social

exploitation. She also noted that good films have been made on various subjects like tribal communities' love for nature and art,

establishment of the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, fighting with indomitable spirit amidst adversities, transformative power of

education and special achievements in the field of art and culture. The President said that film is not just an industry. It is not limited

to merely business and entertainment. Films are the most effective medium to spread awareness and sensitivity. Meaningful films depict the achievements as well as the problems of the society and the country.

The President said that the film fraternity gives us a vivid introduction to the diverse reality of Indian society through their films. Cinema is both a document of our society and a medium to improve it. She said that the cinema artists are change agents. She added that they provide information about the country and connect citizens.

The President said that Indian films should be the carrier of the country's social diversity

and rich cultural heritage. Such films would not only be beneficial for the country and society, but would also be commercially successful. She urged the film fraternity to do this experiment with greater resolve.

The President appreciated all the people associated with the award winning films of the 69th National Film Awards for making impressive contributions to society and cinema. She expressed confidence that the film fraternity would continue to set new standards of global level excellence and Indian films would play an important role in building a developed India.

## CM Naveen Felicitates Odisha's Javelin Star Kishore Kumar Jena With Rs 1.5 Cr Cash Award



**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik felicitated Odisha's Javelin star, Kishore Kumar Jena with a cash award of Rs. 1.5 cr for his stellar performance in the recently concluded Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China.

Kishore Kumar Jena bagged a Silver medal bringing laurels to the state and nation and sealed his berth in the upcoming Paris Olympics 2024, thus creating a historic moment. He attained a personal best of 87.54m to secure the silver

medal.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reiterated that Kishore Kumar Jena was a source of pride for the state of Odisha and went on to commend him for the landmark achievement. He further expressed his confidence that Kishore Kumar Jena would bring more laurels to the state and wished him the best of luck for the Paris Olympics. Secretary (5T) V K Pandian was also present during the felicitation and congratulated Kishore for his exemplary journey and wished him for his upcoming events.

Kishore thanked the Chief Minister for recognising his effort and achievement and expressed his gratitude to the Odisha Government for leading by example and supporting sportspersons that help them stay focussed on their game.

The Javelin star who hails from Puri, has become a shining example in the world of athletics. He has had an immensely successful year. In the build-up to the Asian Games, he impressed with a 5th-place finish at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest for which he was recognised with a cash award of Rs. 50 Lakh by Chief Minister Patnaik. He has consistently beaten his personal best throughout the season and will be eager to replicate this trend at the upcoming Paris Olympics 2024.

Having activity-based support material such as quiz, puzzles, etc for school students on Mission Chandrayaan-3 developed by NCERT under the aegis of the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education, in New Delhi

today. He also released 10 special modules on Chandrayaan-3, offering a comprehensive overview of its various facets – including scientific, technological, and social aspects, as well as the emotional

journey and team spirit of the scientists involved. Chairman, ISRO, and Secretary, Department of Space, Dr. Sreedhar Panicker Somanath graced the event as the Guest of Honour. Secretary, DoSEL, Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari; Chairman, AICTE, Prof. T. G. Sitharam; Secretary, Chairman, UGC, Prof.

M. Jagadesh Kumar; Director, NCERT, Dr. Dinesh Prasad Saklani; official of the Ministry of Education, dignitaries, and students were also present at the event. A short film on journey of Chandrayaan-3 was shown in the event. Creative expressions by students in the forms of photo frames were presented to the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour and poems were read out by students on Chandrayaan-3.

## CM Naveen Launches 'Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha' In Mayurbhanj, Bargarh & Deogarh

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday, the third day of the programme, launched the 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' in Mayurbhanj, Bargarh and Deogarh districts in a virtual mode from Bhubaneswar.

The state government

launched the campaign to build a new Odisha, strengthen its infrastructure and take it to new heights. The focus of this programme is ensuring the development of every panchayat and village. The government today allocated Rs 50 lakh for each panchayat under this programme. For this, five constituencies of Mayurbhanj district have

received Rs 111.50 crore. These constituencies are – Badsahi, Bangiriposhi, Baripada, Morada and Udala. A total of 3,081 projects will be undertaken in 223 gram panchayats of these constituencies. In addition, a sum of Rs 35 crore has been approved for one constituency in Deogarh district and 991 projects will be sanctioned for five constituencies of Bargarh

district. They include Atabira, Bijepur, Bargarh, Padampur and Bhatli. A total of 3,335 projects will be undertaken in 253 gram panchayats in these constituencies. In addition, a sum of Rs 35 crore has been approved for one constituency in Deogarh district and 991 projects will be implemented in 70 village

panchayats in the district. This programme aims to spread Jagannathan culture in every village, develop every place of worship to strengthen the basic foundation of Odisha's culture and develop digital infrastructure across the state. This will be the basic foundation for building an ambitious Odisha.

# KiiT-IS Signs MoU with Action for Autism for SEN Globe

**Bhubaneswar, (KCN):** KiiT International School (KiiT-IS) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with New-Delhi-based Action for Autism (AFA) to develop the Department of Special Educational Needs (SEN) on the school campus into a Centre of Excellence.

The MoU was signed between KiiT-IS and AFA in the presence of Principal Secretary SSEPD Department, Government of Odisha Bishnupada Sethi, KII-T-KISS Founder Dr Achyuta Samanta, while AFA Founder Merry Barua and Chairperson of KiiT-IS Mona Lisa Bal signed the

document. Speaking on the occasion SSEPD Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi said "I am overwhelmed with the way the Department of SEN is being operated inside KiiT-IS and it really surprised me that such an institution is here in Odisha to take care the needs of the special children."

Declaring that the State Government will do every possible help in order to develop the SEN Globe at KiiT-IS into a Centre of Excellence of Global repute, Sethi also added that empathy and compassion have always remained the hallmark

of KII-T-KISS Founder Dr. Samanta. He later took a tour of the facilities under the SEN Globe initiative inside KiiT-IS.

Founder KII-T-KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta in his speech said "KII-T Group of Institutions have really made a global mark for its compassionate and holistic development of the society. We will take the responsibilities of five to six special kids from poor economic background so that along with the kids of affluent families, they would also be taken care of at SEN Globe facilities of KiiT-IS."

In her speech founder of AFA Barua, who herself

had an experience of raising an Autistic child and later grew like an institution in helping out special kids and parents, congratulated KiiT-IS for its dedication and

sincerity in making the SEN Globe a unique platform to transform the lives of special kids. Chairperson of KiiT-IS Mona Lisa Bal also congratulated the

teachers, special educators, parents and especially the support staff, who take care of the kids for the overall management of the SEN Globe initiative.

key pillars of Screening, Mapping, and Programme assignment. It is also called IQ 3, i.e. Identification, Intervention, and Inclusion. While the entry age is 4-12 years, exit age (completion of 12th Grade) is 17 years.

President of KII-T-KISS Saswati Bal and Principal-cum-Director of KiiT-IS Sanjay Suar were present. A documentary showing the day-to-day activities and grooming of the kids under SEN Globe was also screened on the occasion. A beautiful cultural show by the special kids was also staged.



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## Millet Seed Display Unit Inaugurated at Odisha State Tribal Museum to Promote Nutrient-rich Grains

**Bhubaneswar,(KCN):** The Millet Seed Display Unit at Odisha State Tribal Museum was inaugurated by Shri Ranendra Pratap Swain Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development and Shri Jagannath Saraka, Hon'ble Minister of ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare. Shri Indramani Tripathy, Director ST and SCSTRTI, ST & SC Development,



Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department presided over the inaugural ceremony. As part of the global celebration of the "International Year of Millets" in 2023, the SCSTRTI and the Odisha Millet Mission have collaborated to establish the "Millet Seed Display Unit" at the Odisha State Tribal Museum. This initiative aims to create public awareness about the diverse millet landraces cultivated across the state. Currently, the unit is showcasing fifty (50) different varieties of

millets that are cultivated in various regions of Odisha. There are fifty (50) millet landraces cultivated in different districts of Odisha are displayed in the "Millet Seed Display Unit". The "Millet

Seed Display Unit" at the Odisha State Tribal Museum stands as a testament to the efforts made to elevate the status of millets and their vital role in the overall well-being of the people and the culture

of Odisha's tribal communities. This initiative will not only create awareness among the visitors to the Museum on the different facets of this nutrient-rich grain. In a remarkable effort to promote the significance of millets and their deep-rooted connection to the tribal communities, the SCSTRTI (Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Research and Training Institute), in collaboration with the Odisha Millet Mission, has unveiled a "Millet Seed Display Unit" at the Odisha State Tribal

Museum (OSTM) in Bhubaneswar.

The "Millet Seed Display Unit" is intended to educate visitors about the diversity of millet landraces in Odisha and their numerous health and nutritional benefits. Some of the varieties featured in the exhibit include Finger Millet (Ragi), Little Millet, Foxtail Millet, Kodo Millet, Sorghum or Jowar, and Pearl Millet or Bajra. Each of these grains has unique attributes, making them an essential component of a balanced and nutritious diet.

## WODC Chairman's Review of The Development Work of Subarnapur and Boudh Districts



**SUBARNAPUR,(KCN):** Yesterday, the Chairman of Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) Mr. Asit Kumar Tripathy (IAS) visited Boudh and Subarnapur districts and reviewed the status and progress of various developmental works under the grant of Western Odisha Development Council.

In the review meeting held in the conference hall of Collectorate Subarnapur. Subarnapur Collector Bimalendu Ray and Boudh Collector Nrusingha Charan Swain informed him about the various schemes being implemented by the Council in both the districts. Chairman

suggested the construction of handloom mall to be completed soon. This mall will be fully air-conditioned and the surroundings will be made attractive. This will help the weavers and their economic development along with bulk sale of handloom garments. 6 Crore 45 lakh WODC grant at Jhinki near Sonepur town has suggested early completion of construction of WODC handloom mall under construction. For the development of health infrastructure in the district, the Chairman promised that two new dialysis machines will be

provided at Subarnapur district head hospital along with one C-arm machine for orthopedic surgery for both the districts. Emphasizing how their income can be doubled by using 50 lakhs will be provided by the Western Odisha Development Council for the development of the infrastructure of the district library of Subarnapur, where hundreds of students are preparing for various competitive exams. Informed to provide grants. Tarva NAC has informed to provide a grant of Rs.1 crore for the Mini Stadium. To speed up the construction of Ecopark under

## District BJP held a meeting and district level workshop in Boudh

**SUBARNAPUR,(KCN):** Organized by Bharatiya Janata Party on behalf of Boudh District On behalf of BJP Krushak Morcha. A district level workshop was held at Boudh Town Hall to celebrate Bhet Ghat of Nuankhai under the chairmanship of District BJP Krushak Morcha President Mr. Ravi Kumar Deo.

In today's event, State BJP Farmer Morcha President Mr. Maheshwar Sahu joined as the chief guest. Due to the strong leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi ji, during the last 9 years of government, he has been doing a lot of public welfare work with solving the problems of agriculture and farmers. In addition to winning more than 400 Lok Sabha seats in the Lok Sabha, BJP will form the government in Odisha and gave a speech in the presence of prominent workers.



Now Odisha government gave a speech as an example of a crippled, Aquarius-eared government. In today's program, district BJP president Mr. Bipra Charan . Charan Mohanty joined in his speech and said that the Modi government has always been good for agriculture and farmers for the past 9 years of service, good governance, gave a speech giving the example of poor welfare year. In the last days, the government at the center said in its speech that it is doing nothing for the farmers.

He made a speech appealing to the government to take immediate necessary steps for a new irrigation project in Salunki river. In today's program, along with thousands of farmers of the district, Party Members Tapas

Kumar Patnaik, Manoranjan Das, Ramesh Mohanty, Sushant Pradhan, Sukant Panigrahi, Sushant Kumar Bagh, Rakesh Kumar Tripathy, Kishore Samal, Baikunth Pradhan, Dasarathi Barik, Premanand Mishra, Shyam Sundar Purohit, Purnacharan Gaigaria, Shambhu Pradhan, Baman Barik, Tapan Kumar Dang, Naveen Hota, Tripurari Mahakud, Shidedeb Chhand, Bishikeshan Pradhan, Meenarani Mishra, Namitarani Das, Nirjanan Dani, Maguni Gaigaria, etc. were present.



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# Bigg Boss 17 Grand Premiere Written Updates: Isha Malviya Alleges Abhishek Kumar Of Physical Violence On Stage With Salman Khan



contestants take on this interesting challenge of teaming up with the Boss himself.

Bigg Boss, the entertainment extravaganza of the television world, has made its way back to the screens and hearts of many. With its rising popularity, the show has gripped the millions of viewers of the nation. No wonder, Bigg Boss has become a household name. With the introduction of all the contestants from the showbiz, this season promises to take us all on a ride like no other.

'Bigg Boss' will telecast every Monday to Friday at 10.00 pm and Saturday and Sunday at 9.00 pm only on COLORS, with a 24-hour LIVE channel on JioCinema.

## Drama Unleashed: Top 5 Iconic Moments In The 'Bigg Boss' House



'Physical' Fight: Season 14 In a shocking turn of events, the verbal spat between Archana Gautam and Shiv Thakare reached its boiling point, transcending into a physical altercation. The explosive clash left viewers on the edge of their seats and became one of the most unforgettable moments in Bigg Boss history.

Experience the thrill of staying connected with the essence of Bigg Boss 17 by watching it live 24/7 on JioCinema. Ensure you don't miss the excitement—tune in to be part of the action! Additionally, catch the show on Colors every day!

Tejasswi Catfight: Bigg Boss 15 was one such season that had catfights very often, especially between the two ladies, Tejasswi Prakash and Shamita Shetty. During an activity Shamita questioned Tejasswi and Karan Kundra for making annoyed faces at Shamita, which later turned into a catfight between the ladies.

4. A love-hate relationship: Bigg Boss 13 house is increasingly becoming a hub for relationships turning ugly and fights getting violent. One of the most prominent schisms is between Siddharth Shukla and Rashami Desai.

4. A love-hate relationship: Bigg Boss 13 house is increasingly becoming a hub for relationships turning ugly and fights getting violent. One of the most prominent schisms is between Siddharth Shukla and Rashami Desai.

5. Archana Gautam and Shiv Thakare's

## Sa Re Ga Ma Pa: Kartik Krishnamurthy's Performance On 'Maa Meri Maa' Makes Judge Neeti Mohan Teary-Eyed



the way he is." She added, "We firmly believed Kartik was a special gift from God and committed to standing by him always. As long as he's with us, we'll be there for him. Since his appearance on Sa Re Ga Ma Pa, people have reached out, offering support. Now, many approach us, eager to befriend and take selfies with him. His dedication today meant more than 27 years of togetherness. He made me incredibly proud, and I pray to have Kartik as my child in every life."

While Kartik's performance was indeed remarkable in the episode, brace yourself for the mesmerizing talent of the other contestants who also delivered outstanding performances during the grand premiere episode! Witness the Sa Re Ga Ma Pa contestants' magical performances every Saturday and Sunday at 9 PM, only on Zee TV!

a way to express his love and emotions to her through his first original song, 'Maa Meri Maa.' It's a moment that will leave you with tears in your eyes and a song in your heart! This touching composition is a tribute to his unwavering source of strength—his mother. Crafted by the talented composer Rathijit Bhattacharjee and beautifully penned by Ravikesh Vatsa, 'Maa Meri Maa' transcends mere music; it's a profound message from Kartik to his mother, conveyed through the power of song. This mesmerizing composition is all set to be released by Zee Music Co. Kartik's performance deeply moved not only the audience but also Judge Neeti Mohan, who was touched by the sheer beauty of his soulful rendition, leaving her speechless with emotion! Teary-eyed, Neeti Mohan said, "Main bas yeh kehna chahungi, humne bhagwan dekhe nahi hain, par aaj mehsoos kar liye hain." Kartik's mother expressed her sincere gratitude, stating, "Thank you all. Kartik is and will always be special to us, regardless of his condition. Despite numerous diagnoses at a young age, we faced skepticism and financial challenges due to his Autism. Some even suggested abandoning him. But Kartik is our child, and we never blamed him. He's unique, and we cherish him just

After the raging success of its previous season, Zee TV's iconic singing reality show, Sa Re Ga Ma Pa has returned with a bang, featuring Himesh Reshammiya, Neeti Mohan, and Anu Malik as judges, and Aditya Narayan as the host. In the upcoming 'Family Special' episode, the audience will get to watch the talented Mohan sisters- Shakti and Mukti Mohan gracing the show as guests! In this memorable episode, Kartik Kumar Krishnamurthy, an exceptionally talented contestant hailing from Chennai who lives with autism, struggles with communication and understanding people. Simple everyday tasks can be daunting for him. However, on the stage of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa, something truly magical happened. Kartik who hadn't spoken to his mother in 27 years due to his inability to speak, found

# DEGREE OF INCARCERATION



life of a human being. If the killing of a man may lead to an offence in the eyes of a statute, the same is illegal killing. If the killing of a man in the eyes of a statute is offensive that may be or culpable homicide. As per Section 299 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 the homicide may be culpable if it is committed against the provision of the statute. As per Section 299 of the Code, culpable homicide contemplates that whoever causes death by doing an act with the intention of causing death or with the intention of causing such bodily injury as is likely to cause death or with the knowledge that he is likely by such act to cause death commits the offence and the same is culpable or condemnable under law. As per the Code, homicide may be categorized as culpable i.e. criminal, justifiable or excusable. Homicide is not

necessarily a crime. It is an indispensable ingredient of the crimes of murder and manslaughter but there are certain cases in which homicide may be committed without mens rea and without criminal consequences. A person may be blamed of criminal homicide if he deliberately, knowingly or carelessly or negligently causes the death of another person or human being. Criminal homicide is murder, manslaughter or negligent homicide. Justifiable homicide if committed with intention but without even a design and under such circumstance of necessity or responsibility as render the act proper and relieve the party from any umbra of condemnation as where a sheriff lawfully executes a sentence of death upon a malefactor or where the killing takes place in the endeavor to prevent a commission

Mr. RadhaShyam Jena

of felony which should not be otherwise avoided or as a matter of right such as self defence or other causes provided by law. The homicide may be excusable if the killing is committed either by misadventure or self defence. This type of homicide depends upon the manner of acting which the law does not prohibit. Homicide per infortunium is where a man doing a lawful act without any pre-meditation of harm unfortunately kills another but if death ensues from any unlawful act, the offence is manslaughter and not misadventure. Homicide se defendo is where a man kills another man upon a sudden affray, merely in his own defence or in defence of his wife, child, parent or servant and not from any vindictive killing. In

the above paragraphs the difference between homicide and culpable homicide has been narrated to dispel the confusion between the homicide and culpable homicide or between the murder or culpable homicide. All murder is culpable homicide but all culpable homicide is not a murder. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of State of Andhra Pradesh Versus Rayavarapu Punnayya and Another (1976) 4 SCC 382 has held that in the scheme of the penal code, "culpable homicide" is genus and "murder" is species. All murder is culpable homicide but not vice-versa. Speaking generally, "culpable homicide" sans special characteristics of murder, is culpable homicide not amounting to murder. For the purpose of fixing the punishment

proportionate to the gravity of this generic offence, the court practically recognizes three degrees of culpable homicide. The first is what may be called culpable homicide of the first degree. This is the gravest form of culpable homicide which is defined in Section 300 as murder. The second may be termed as culpable homicide of the second degree, which is punishable under the first part of Section 304. Then there is culpable homicide of the third degree that is the lowest type of culpable homicide and the punishment provided for it is also lowest among the punishments provided for the three grades. Culpable homicide of this degree is punishable under the second part of Section 304. In the said judgment the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that bodily injury includes plural so that even if

none of the injuries individually were fatal but cumulatively so the case falls under this clause. On facts bodily injuries found on the deceased were intentionally caused and were cumulative sufficient in the ordinary course of nature to cause death. In the case of Mohd. Rafiq alias Kallu Versus State of Madhya Pradesh (2021) 10 SCC 706 the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held considerations that should weigh with the court in discerning whether an act is punishable as murder or culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Use of the word "likely" in several places in respect of culpable homicide but absence thereof in definition of murder. In the case of Ajmal Versus State of Kerala (2022) 9 SCC 766 the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the use of word "likely" in several places in Section 299

of IPC and absence thereof in Section 300 of IPC has significantly explained for entertaining the appeal. The degree of incarceration depends upon the gravity of offence whether it is covered under culpable homicide or homicide i.e. murder and if the offence proved beyond any iota of doubt is covered under the definition of Section 300 of IPC, the accused would be punished under Section 302 of the IPC. If there is a culpable homicide but not amounting to murder, the accused may be punished under Section 304 of the IPC dealing with the punishment of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

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## Service Delivery Standards of Panchayat



The 73rd Amendment of the Constitution of India has institutionalized the Panchayats to function as units of local self-government enabling inclusiveness both in participation and decision making process at all the levels. The act recognizes panchayat as the most accessible and approachable forms of governments for people living in rural India, and the delivery of basic services required by them.

The 73rd amendment to the Constitution, in the Eleventh Schedule, also lists 29 subjects which need involvement of panchayat. More than 27 years have lapsed after the Constitutional amendment, but wide variations exist across states in the level of powers and functions devolved to Panchayats.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) award has created an enormous opportunity for responsive local governance at the cutting edge institutional level of the panchayats by assuring fiscal transfers to panchayat (Rs.2,36,805

crore) during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The grant is intended to be used to improve delivery of basic civic services including drinking water supply, sanitation including sewerage and solid waste management, storm water drainage, maintenance of community assets, maintenance of roads, footpaths, street-lights, burial and cremation grounds and other basic functions assigned to them under their respective statutes.

It is imperative that panchayats must provide quality services to the citizens at an affordable price, and ensure equal access for all while remaining accountable to the panchayats. The issue of setting service delivery standards becomes paramount.

Service delivery standards can be described as the minimum level of expected services the service provider commits to deliver to the community in terms of quality, process, time and cost. These service delivery standards may vary based on the preparedness of the State and local circumstances.

Setting up of such service benchmarks will help the States and panchayats to set their performance requirements and targets related to service delivery and design institutional strengthening and other capacity building initiatives to attain those benchmarks.

Madhya Pradesh,

Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat along with a few other States have already enacted Public Services Delivery Acts or Right to Public Services Acts and notified list of public services to ensure delivery of time bound public services to citizens. However, prominence of panchayats and their respective roles in delivery of specific services featured in those Acts may vary across States.

Problems faced by the panchayats in delivery of public services are irregularity and inadequacy of funds flow, lack of autonomy for revenue generation, tax compliance, inadequate staff and vacancies, sanitation, irregular power supply and fluctuation, capacity building of staff and elected representatives, no separate funds for maintenance of common assets, inadequate planning at panchayat level, huge gap between powers given and used, and procedural delays for many services like certificates are issued involving more than one department.

There are large variations in terms of cost and time for delivery of services

across India. These variations may be due to the local conditions for sourcing and providing services like drinking water. There are some services which are free in some States and charged in other States.

Researchers and policy makers have observed that free services are not valued, and hence suggested providing such services recovering at least the operational cost. There are still some services that need to be provided free of cost, and few other services that need to be provided with minimum possible charges being sought by the vulnerable sections of the society. All the charges need to be revised from time to time using cost of living index. The standards suggested are to be considered as desirable standards, which may be included in the Citizens Charter. There are some states which exceed these standards, and many which are far below from these standards.

All the states may, over a time frame of 3 to 5 years, move towards these standards, and if technology is properly adopted, these standards perhaps can easily be exceeded providing many of these services online on real-time basis.

**Economist,  
Bhubaneswar**

## Letter To Editor

Sir

While addressing the inaugural ceremony of ninth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit -P20, PM Modi rightly said that this is a time for peace and brotherhood, a time to move together, a time to move forward together and denounced all forms of terrorism and said that it is "against humanity".

Just a few days ago after the brutal attack of Hamas on innocent Israelites the Prime Minister expressed the nation's solidarity with Israel, saying India stands with the nation in its hour of grief. The statement was misconstrued by many that includes the opposition, the left and some fanatical organisations which taking this as an opportunity for religious appeasement and casting eyes on the vote bank stormed onto the streets posing themselves as 'saviours'. Infact, are not they tarnishing their own image as they are supporting terrorism and violence to achieve goals. India does support the Palestinian cause but not through radicalism and extremism. India has always rejected terrorism and advocated for peaceful negotiations to settle all sorts of crisis.

These so called "saviours and sympathisers" have forgotten how much our nation suffered due to cross-border terrorism for many years and now reduced to minimum as the Government started giving instant retaliation without any hesitation.

Let us not forget there is no good or bad terrorism and before it spreads like a pandemic the whole world should come together and put an end to this menace which is against humanity.

**M PRADYU  
KANNUR  
Geeth Thalikavu Kannur  
670001.**

# West Bengal Unveils Game-Changing Food Processing Incentives at Bengal Global Business Summit

**Kolkata (ABHIJIT SETH):** In a remarkable event held recently, the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) served as the stage for unveiling a pioneering incentive policy in the food processing sector, further enhancing West Bengal's agricultural and allied industries. This exciting development was the culmination of discussions during the 7th Food Processing Conclave organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The event was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Shri Sobhan Deb Chattopadhyay, the Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge of the Department of Agriculture for the Government of West Bengal, who set the tone for the conclave. In a noteworthy revelation, he informed the audience that the income of West Bengal's farmers had tripled, marking the

highest growth rate in the nation. This remarkable achievement is particularly significant since 96 percent of the state's farmers are small-scale farmers. He attributed this success to various government schemes, such as the Krisak Bandhu Scheme, Bangla Shasya Bima Yojana, and the Farmer's Old Age Pension Scheme, which have provided financial support and security to the farming community. Shri Arup Roy, the Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge of the Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture for the Government of West Bengal, spotlighted the untapped potential of the state's food processing and horticulture sectors for export. He particularly highlighted the substantial growth in maize and potato production within the state, indicating a promising trend for the



future.

The conclave also featured Mr. Vivek Kumar, IAS, serving as the Additional Chief Secretary (Additional Charge) of the Department of Animal Resource Department for the Government of West Bengal. Kumar discussed the robust economic performance of West Bengal, revealing that the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2022-23 had reached an impressive 8.4%. This growth rate exceeded the national

average of 6.95% during the same period, underscoring the state's economic stability. Kumar further highlighted that the agriculture and allied sectors contributed a substantial 20% to the GSDP and supported 57% of the state's workforce. He also mentioned the remarkable 21% growth in exports from these sectors. He discussed the successful implementation of the Krishak Bandhu scheme, offering financial

assistance to farmers, and the issuance of 6.9 million Kisan Credit Cards, facilitating access to credit for agricultural activities. West Bengal's animal resource sector was another success story, with the state being the fourth-largest egg producer in the country and boasting the largest cattle population, making it the leader in the dairy market nationally. The state's cold storage infrastructure, with low rental tariffs, provided a robust backbone for the

agricultural and allied sectors. Mr. Kumar highlighted West Bengal's leading position in goat meat production in the country and its ranking as the third-largest producer of total meat. The highlight of the conclave was the announcement of an upcoming incentive scheme in the food processing sector, set to be revealed during the forthcoming Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS). This initiative is expected to further invigorate the food

processing sector and attract investments, potentially opening up new avenues for economic growth and job creation. Mr. Onkar Singh Meena, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal, added to the enthusiasm by sharing that West Bengal managed to provide sustenance to 8% of the entire population with just 2.7% of India's agricultural land. This remarkable feat was a testament to the state's efficient agricultural practices and policies. Meena highlighted the approval of 1600 projects totalling Rs 2000 crore under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), aiming to enhance agricultural infrastructure and productivity. He emphasized the importance of promoting demand-driven agricultural

production through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), which played a pivotal role in achieving this goal. The Food Processing Conclave witnessed the participation of key figures in the government, including ministers and government officials, along with CEOs and top executives from prominent food and related sectoral companies. Think Tanks and Academia also played a vital role in this discussion, setting the stage for West Bengal's remarkable journey in the food processing sector and its upcoming leap into the future through the BGBS incentive policy. West Bengal's promising agricultural landscape held the potential to not only benefit the state's farmers but also contribute significantly to the country's agricultural and economic growth.

## Amit Shah, JP Nadda Hold Marathon Meeting With Rajasthan BJP Leaders



**New Delhi (KCN):** Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda held a marathon meeting on Tuesday with party leaders from Rajasthan, including former chief minister Vasundhara Raje, as part of an exercise to finalise the names of its remaining candidates for the November 25 state Assembly polls. Besides Ms Raje, Union

ministers Pralhad Joshi, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Arjun Ram Meghwal and Rajasthan BJP president C P Joshi were among those who attended the meeting that went on for nearly six hours. Mr Joshi is the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) election in-charge for Rajasthan. The meeting was followed by Mr Nadda and Mr Shah holding

another round of deliberations with party leaders from Madhya Pradesh, including Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar. The saffron party has so far named 41 candidates, including seven MPs, for the election to the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly and 136 nominees, including three Union ministers

and four other MPs, for the November 17 polls to the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly. There is a view that the BJP may also field some Union ministers, including Mr Shekhawat and Mr Meghwal, in Rajasthan. Amid a show of discontent by a section of its workers and those ignored for poll tickets in Rajasthan, the party leadership has taken measures to soothe frayed nerves, with Mr Nadda meeting a large number of BJP functionaries in the state during his visit on Monday.

That some of the contenders not fielded by the party are seen to be close to Ms Raje has given rise to the speculation that she may be miffed but "maharani", as she is called by many supporters due to her royal lineage, has not

The BJP has sought to reassure Rajputs after Narpat Singh Rajvi, a five-time MLA and the son-in-law of party stalwart Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, hit out at the leadership following a denial of ticket this time. The BJP is looking to defeat the incumbent Congress in Rajasthan and retain power in Madhya Pradesh, where it is locked in a keen contest with the Congress

**Srinagar, (KCN):** As part of its ongoing collaboration and engagement with young minds, Indian Army in collaboration with Kashmir Central magazine, conducted a Youth Seminar on October 17th at the North Campus of Kashmir University. This transformative event witnessed active participation from the youth, academia, intellectuals, professionals and creative thinkers across schools and colleges making up an audience of 520 across all age groups, fostering an environment of vibrant discussion on educational reforms, innovation and cultural inclusiveness.

Mr Bashir Assad, a renowned author and senior journalist set the tone for immersive discussion with his welcome address. The audience were then treated to an exhilarating glimpse of Kashmir's cultural diversity by a troupe of Ms Shagufta Rehman.

The inaugural session of the seminar focused on discussing 'Innovative Pedagogies and New Education Policy'. Mr. Bashir Assad, Ms Mehjabeen Nabi, Social Activist and Mr Ajaz Bashir shared their views to an enraptured audience. The concluding session of the seminar on the topic 'Preserving Our Cultural Heritage' explored ways to safeguard and celebrate the rich cultural historical heritage and syncretic identity of

## "Justice Wins, Injustice Loses": Raghav Chadha On Court Relief Over Bungalow

**New Delhi (KCN):** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Raghav Chadha today thanked the Delhi High Court for giving an order in favour of "truth and justice" by setting aside a trial court order on vacating his government bungalow.

Mr Chadha had appealed the trial court order that lifted an interim order preventing the Rajya Sabha Secretariat from removing him from the government bungalow allotted to him.

In a video statement, Mr Chadha said his "fight isn't about a house or a shop, it's about saving the Constitution".

"I would like to thank the

parliamentarian. The decision to revoke my official accommodation was arbitrary, unreasonable, and unjust, representing a new low in political vendetta," Mr Chadha said in the video statement, which he also posted on X, formerly Twitter

"... Not only was this cancellation driven by malicious intent, but it also contained flaring irregularities that clearly violated established rules and regulations," he said. "Opposition voices, those who represent the concerns of millions of Indians, are being deliberately targeted." He said he has given two speeches in parliament

criticising the BJP-led centre, and his official accommodation was cancelled after his first speech. "After my second speech, my membership as a parliamentarian was suspended. No parliamentarian can function if he is made to worry about what his forthright and honest speech will cost him next," Mr Chadha said. "All I want to say is that they can remove me from my official accommodation, they can remove me from parliament, but they can't remove me from the hearts of millions of Indians, where I hope I really reside," Mr

Chadha said. Yesterday, the Supreme Court agreed to hear Mr Chadha's case, challenging his suspension from the Rajya Sabha. Mr Chadha was suspended for allegedly forging signatures of other MPs and proposing their names for a committee without their consent.

The Supreme Court has instructed the Rajya Sabha Secretariat to address the accusations and has also sought the help of the Attorney General of India R Venkataramani. The case will be resumed on October 30.

**Kolkata (KCN):** Senior Economic Advisor, Shri R K Jena inspected several field offices under the Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in the city in connection with the Special Campaign 3.0 for two days. Shri Jena reached Kolkata on

October 16, 2023 (Monday). On Monday, he visited the Central Bureau of Communication, Doordarshan Kendra and SRFTI. Today, he visited the Press Information Bureau, NFDC and All India Radio. Shri Jena will be leaving for Bhubaneswar tomorrow for inspection on the same there. On October 19 and 20, 2023 he will be inspecting a host of offices under the Information & Broadcasting Ministry there as well as in Cuttack. On the evening of October 20, 2023, he will leave for Delhi.

# Tudu Slams State Govt.

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Bishweswar Tudu today slammed the State Government for creating hurdles in the revival of Amarda airstrip at Rashgovindpur in Mayurbhanj district. Speaking to media persons here, Shri Tudu said the Ministry of Defence organised a function to hand over record of rights (ROR) of the land required for the airstrip's revival, to the State Government. However, neither the Mayurbhanj Collector nor any district official turned up at the event to take the land documents. "When I asked the Collector why he did not show up, he revealed that the state government had asked him not to go to the

Airstrip," Tudu said. Coming down heavily on the Naveen Patnaik government, he alleged that it is encouraging corruption by providing Rs 50 lakh to every panchayat. However, the State Government was reluctant to pay Rs 26 crore for handover of defence land for the revival of Amarda airstrip. "Though the Centre is actively backing the revival of the Amarda airstrip, the State Government has been creating hurdles for the development of it. The State administration is neglecting Mayurbhanj," alleged the BJP leader. He further said that the BJD dispensation has been misleading the people of Mayurbhanj

and is not interested in the development of the tribal-dominated district. The Union Minister also said he had put a lot of effort into convincing authorities of the defence and civil aviation ministries for the upgradation of the Amarda airstrip. "Initially, the state Government did not deposit Rs 26 crore to get possession of land. However, after a lot of debate, the government paid the



# State Honors Asian Star



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Sports & Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera today felicitated Javelin star Kishore Kumar Jena here at the Kalinga Sports Complex for his stellar efforts at the recently concluded Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. At the Asian Games, Kishore Kumar Jena clinched the silver medal with a personal best of 87.54m, also securing his place in the upcoming Paris Olympics 2024.

The only athlete to outperform him in the event was his Indian teammate Neeraj Chopra, who bagged the coveted gold. Shri Behera lauded Shri Jena as an inspiration for his hard work and bringing international recognition to the State. "Kishore Kumar Jena's hard work and dedication have truly shone a spotlight on sports in Odisha, making us all incredibly proud. He has made exceptional growth

as an athlete in the last few years and stands as a shining example for our youth, showing them that with determination, anything is possible. I am certain he will bring many more accolades to India and Odisha including the upcoming Paris Olympics in 2024," he said. The Minister also took up the occasion to assure comprehensive support for Jena in aid of his preparations for the upcoming Paris

# New Clause For Mine Bidders

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** As per the direction of the Supreme Court, the State Government has added a new clause for bidders to participate in the auction of mineral blocks.

As per an order of Steel and Mines (S&M) Department (DoSM), the clause... "No tender shall be entertained at the behest of an entity which out-standings are due or companies in which the same promoters are interested," will be added in the tender document for auction of mineral blocks in future.

All the interested bidders will have to meet the above condition to participate in the future mining auctions in the State.

"The Government has been pleased to....include the above text in the tender document as one of the conditions for eligibility of participation in the future auction of mineral blocks in the State," DoS&M Additional Secretary Soudamini Sethi said in a recent letter to the Director of Mines and Geology. The Directorate of Mines and Geology has circulated the decision of the Department to all field-level functionaries for necessary action.

In its order on August 14 this year, the Supreme Court had directed the State Government to ensure that the terms and conditions of the tender clarify that no tender would be entertained at the behest of an entity against which out-standings are due or companies in which the same promoters are interested. The SC has also directed the State that expeditious measures should be taken to pursue the recovery proceedings in accordance with law and necessary steps be taken



# Amrit Dhara@Palliative Care

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Amrit Dhara Palliative Care Trust, which operates from Patia, Bhubaneswar and provides Holistic Palliative Care in different parts of Odisha, in collaboration with different NGOs, organised a Rally to celebrate the World Hospice & Palliative Care Day, 2023, on 14 October 2023.

More than 250 volunteers of different age and social background, including police personnel came forward to create the logo of WHPCD 2023 at Patia Gate, Bhubaneswar. The program was flagged off by Chief Guest, Commissioner of Police, Soumendra Kumar Priyadarshi, in the presence of Dr. Sumita Mohanty, Senior Trustee and Prof. & HoD of AHPGIC, Cuttack, Prof. Dr. Bidhu Kalyan Mohanti, Director, Bagchi Sankara Cancer hospital, Dr. Kanhu Charan Nayak CDMO in charge Sundargarh and other members of the trust.

On this occasion, the Chief Guest launched the Community Care Vehicle.

We are thankful to the donors for their generosity. Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest, Soumendra Kumar Priyadarshi, mentioned the importance of the Community in the Palliative Care ecosystem and lauded the role played by Amrit Dhara in this regard. A street play was performed by staffs of Amrit Dhara depicting the importance of community involvement in palliative care. A beautiful bhajan was sang by a renowned artist of the state Sri Bibu Das, which made the morning atmosphere absolutely serene.

Later in the day, a scientific session was



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# Sensex, Nifty Tank Over 1% Ahead Of Fed Interest Rate Decision; HDFC Bank, RIL Drag

**New Delhi:** Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled more than 1 percent on Wednesday due to heavy selling in banking and oil stocks in tandem with weak global trends ahead of the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision. Falling for the second day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 796 points or 1.18 percent to settle at 66,800.84. During the day, it tacked 868.7 points or 1.28 percent to 66,728.14.

The NSE Nifty declined 231.90 points or 1.15 percent to end below the 20,000 mark at 19,901.40. US bond yields surging to 16-year

high levels and fears of high crude oil prices fueling commodity inflation also hit the investor sentiment, according to analysts. Fresh foreign fund outflows and caution ahead of a host of interest rate decisions from global central banks also added to the overall bearish trend. Besides the US Fed meeting, the BoE (Bank of England) and the BoJ (Bank of Japan) are also scheduled to meet this week.

Among the Sensex firms, HDFC Bank emerged as the biggest loser, falling 4 percent. JSW Steel, Reliance Industries, UltraTech



## Tata Steel reports highest ever consolidated EBITDA at Rs 63,830 crores

Mumbai, : Tata Steel today announced its Financial Results for the quarter and financial year ended March 31, 2022. The Company's consolidated reported profit after tax (PAT) for the March 2022 quarter rose to Rs 9,835 cr as compared to Rs 7,162 cr of the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal. For the full year ended March 31, 2022, the Company's PAT rose to Rs 41,749 cr, significantly higher than Rs 8,190 cr reported in the last financial year.

The consolidated Turnover for FY22 stood at Rs 243,959 cr as compared to Rs 156,477 cr of the previous fiscal. The Board of Directors recommends a dividend of Rs. 51 per fully paid equity share and Rs 12.75 per partly paid equity shares. A 10:1 stock split is also recommended.

T. V. Narendran, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, said: "Tata Steel has again demonstrated its ability to deliver stellar results despite heightened complexity in the face of COVID as well as

geopolitical tensions. Our Indian business showed broad based growth across our chosen segments due to our sustained focus on customer relationships, our distribution network and our portfolio of brands supported by our agile business model. Our European operations delivered robust performance as the transformation programme undertaken helped to leverage the strong business environment. We have pursued several initiatives to de-risk the business particularly across procurement and supply chain and continue to invest in

technology and digitisation to drive productivity and improve our resilience."

"Kalinganagar expansion is progressing well and will drive cost savings as well as product mix enrichment. The acquisition of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited will be closed in 1QFY23 and we will scale it up rapidly to drive expansion of our high value retail business. I am happy to share that Tata Steel has been recognised as Steel sustainability champion for the fifth year in a row by the WorldSteel," he added.

The 6 MnTPA Pellet plant at Kalinganagar

will be commissioned in 3QFY23 followed by the Cold Roll Mill complex and the 5 MnTPA expansion. Tata Steel India achieved highest ever annual crude steel production of 19.06 million tons, with a growth of 13% YoY. Highest ever deliveries of 18.27 mn tons despite COVID 2nd wave related disruption early in financial year. Broad based improvement in sales volume was witnessed across segments. Automotive was up 27% YoY, Branded Products and Retail was up 11% YoY while Industrial products & projects was up 11% YoY.

## WardWizard plans to set up Li-ion advance cells manufacturing unit at its electric vehicle ancillary cluster in Vadodara

Singapore-based renewable energy management consulting firm SunKonnect. The association is aimed at facilitating a feasibility study and identification of potential partner for the manufacturing of Li-ion advance cells in India.

Under the MoU, SunKonnect will set up a committee of experienced scientists, engineers and analysts to evaluate and identify the professional partner, as well as to develop the roadmap to set up the

1GWh cell production plant at WardWizard's electric vehicle ancillary cluster in Vadodara. Commenting on the MoU with SunKonnect, Mr. Yatin Gupte, Chairman & Managing Director, WardWizard Innovations & Mobility Ltd., said, "We are excited to work with SunKonnect, one of the leading global renewable energy management consulting firms. Their expertise will help us identify the right partner and establish a roadmap to

set up the manufacturing unit of Li-ion advance cells at our EV ancillary cluster between 15-18 months. As the safety and security of our customers are paramount for us, we are integrating cutting-edge technologies to enhance the quality and promote the adoption of green mobility in the entire country." Further elaborating, Dr. Avishek Kumar, Founder, SunKonnect, said, "We are grateful to WardWizard for giving us the opportunity to

become the part of this EV transition and support the brand in development of battery infrastructure in India. Electric Vehicles are the future, and their success depends on the high grade material and advanced battery management system. Under the MoU, we will work with WardWizard to identify the partner equipped with the latest technology and high standards to manufacture Li-ion advanced cells. Our team will be developing a feasible

## Narayana Nethralaya and Acer India Team up to build India's first PC & tablet-based software therapy for children

Bengaluru Narayana Nethralaya in collaboration with Acer India today launched the PC + tablet based software, "VisioNova" designed for children suffering from Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). This initiative by Narayana Nethralaya and Acer India aims at breaking down barriers and providing the patients with better access to treatment.

Acer VisioNova, a path-breaking innovation was conceptualized as a mobile alternative to on-site therapy for CVI children that will offer them the standard of care. Narayana Nethralaya as a part of its 'Buds to Blossoms'

initiative provides dedicated therapy programs to help children develop and improve motor, cognitive and visual abilities that significantly improve their quality of life.

Cortical Visual Impairment is a condition of bilateral visual loss caused due to injury of visual areas in the brain without significant eye or anterior visual pathway impairment. CVI is currently an emerging cause amongst children across India. With 161 children in every 100,000 born with CVI, India has declared it to be a high priority issue and classified it as one of 30 conditions that all babies

must receive mandatory screenings. These children with CVI have great difficulty in performing visually guided activities and these therapies rely on machines that are bulky, expensive and require the child to be in the hospital for the entire duration of six-to-nine-month therapeutic process.

In order to address this, Acer provided PC and 100+ tablets under CSR to kick-off this noble cause. Acer has also further intent to supply around 2000 tablets for patients where patients can pay the hospital a small, refundable deposit and receive the tablet for use from the comforts of

their home and still continue treatments even with COVID disruptions. The tablet will offer CVI patients exercises that can benefit and help them develop and improve their deficient skills and visual abilities that significantly improve the quality of life. Also, since a number of specialised therapies that are deployed require expensive equipments that need the child to be present at the center for the entire duration of the treatment, this tablet will allow remote therapy under the mentorship of Narayana Nethralaya' CVI experts, making this treatment accessible to the outreach.

On the occasion of this

Cement, Maruti, Tata Steel, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, and Larsen & Toubro were the other major laggards.

Power Grid, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma, Axis Bank, NTPC, ITC, and Infosys were among the gainers. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai, and Hong Kong ended lower while Seoul settled with gains.

European markets were trading in positive territory. The US markets ended in negative territory on Tuesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude fell 1.23 percent to USD

93.18 a barrel even as supply concerns remain due to production cuts announced by Saudi Arabia and Russia.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,236.51 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. Equity markets were closed on Tuesday on account of Ganesh Chaturthi.

Snapping its 11-day rally, the BSE benchmark fell 241.79 points or 0.36 percent to settle at 67,596.84 on Monday. The broader Nifty declined 59.05 points or 0.29 percent to end at 20,133.30.

## MADAME TUSSAUDS IS BACK IN A NEW LOCATION

**Noida:** Madame Tussauds – the greatest wax attraction in the world – is back to serve its fans in an all-new avatar at an exciting new venue at DLF Mall of India, Noida. The attraction at its new location will be known as Madame Tussauds India and is set to provide the opportunity for fans to get up close to their favourite celebrities and experience their most iconic moments of fame through 360 sets and cutting-edge technology.

The new location at DLF Mall of India, Noida will exhibit close to 50 figures of leading Indian and International personalities from the fields of sports, entertainment, history, and music.

Madame Tussauds first opened its doors in 1835 in London and has over 200 years of heritage and legacy. Each figure at Madame Tussauds is created using the expertise of sculptors who use the same techniques as the famous Marie Tussaud.

To create

a single life-like figure it takes an artist minimum of 12 weeks, and during that time they document 500 precise body measurements, insert real hair strand by strand, apply countless layers of paints to build up the skin tones, and more. This entire process helps to achieve the incredible likeness that has made Madame Tussauds world renowned for over two centuries.

The world-famous wax attraction first opened in Delhi at Connaught Place in 2017. The earlier edition of Madame Tussauds in Delhi successfully celebrated several years of curating a spectacular fame experience through its star-studded gallery. At its new location at DLF Mall of India, Noida, Madame Tussauds India will offer a safe, star-studded experience for guests, with extensive covid protocols in place.

Rob Smith, Divisional Director, Midway Asia Pacific, Merlin Entertainments Group

## EKA partners with NuPort Robotics to introduce smart Electric Buses

**Mumbai:** EKA, an electric vehicles & technology company, and a subsidiary of Pinnacle Industries Limited, is once again

leading the way as they enter a partnership with NuPort Robotics to introduce Level 2 autonomy, advanced driver assistance systems, to their electric bus models.

This is a first-of-its-kind-in-the-country initiative towards the utilization and incorporation of progressive Level 2 autonomy and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Electric buses on Indian roads.

efficiency. Following a period of rigorous testing, the technology will be deployed with over 5000 buses, representing a minimum investment of nearly INR 150 Crores in innovation and contributing to the future

of transportation and sustainability. More importantly, when such technologies are deployed in commercial vehicles, they have been associated with reducing crash rates by nearly 50%.

NuPort Robotics, a Canadian company announced its plans earlier this month to set up operations in India and fully develop and deploy its technology in India for commercial vehicle manufacturers, beginning with electric vehicle manufacturers. NuPort will be following a "Made in India" approach

# Cricket officially confirmed for LA Olympics 2028

**New Delhi:** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has officially approved the inclusion of cricket in the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. This widely anticipated decision was made during the IOC session in Mumbai on Monday. Cricket will be played in Twenty20 format and both men and women's teams will be included in Los Angeles. Initially ICC will field only six teams from each category LA28.

In addition to cricket, baseball/softball, flag football, lacrosse, and squash have also been formally included in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 2028. The decision was confirmed by Nita Ambani, a member of the IOC. "The inclusion of cricket in the sports programme for the Los

Angeles 2028 Olympics Games was a welcome addition that had the potential to attract a lot of new interest and opportunities for the Olympic movement across newer geographies in the world," Ambani added.

"The hope of an Olympic dream just became an active pursuit for countless athletes around the world. This remarkable journey over the next five years will undoubtedly change lives, inspiring athletes with the opportunity to represent their sport and country on the world's biggest stage," said Janet Evans, LA28 Chief Athlete Officer. "Participating in the Games is an experience unlike any other, and any athlete who pursues it will become an invaluable thread within the shared story of the LA28 Games."

Greg Barclay, the Chair of the International

Cricket Council (ICC), added, "Cricket's inclusion in the Olympic Games has been a priority for our organization, and we're thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase our great sport and athletes at the LA28 Games and hopefully



many Olympic Games to come.

"I'd like to thank LA28 and the International Olympic Committee for their support and for their trust in our organization's ability to deliver a world class event and countless new Olympic fans from all over the world. The

fact that the IOC confirmation of our selection occurred here in Mumbai, during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, is truly icing on the cake."

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) played an important role in the process. Its

Secretary Jay Shah was instrumental in promoting the case for cricket's inclusion in the Olympics. This initiative aligns with the idea of India hosting the 2036 Olympics, as envisioned by our Hon'ble Prime Minister," Shah said. The inclusion of cricket in the Olympics is set to open new frontiers for the sport, providing unparalleled exposure in untapped global markets. "We anticipate that this decision will yield significant financial dividends and

"The BCCI has been a staunch supporter of the ICC's efforts to include cricket as an Olympic sport. It will fuel infrastructural development, intensify competition, foster youth development, and create opportunities for officials, volunteers, and skilled professionals," Shah added.

## Krunal, bowlers give Baroda a winning start

**New Delhi:** Jitesh Sharma's brazen half-century - 18-ball unbeaten 51 - was ably supported by Shubham Dubey's 47\* in 24 as Vidarbha chased down Uttarakhand's strong 141/3 in just 11.2 overs. Down to 56/3 at the end of the powerplay, the two batters got together for a berserk unbroken partnership of 89 runs where Jitesh hit five sixes and Dubey added four more in a game reduced to 13 overs per side due to rain in Chandigarh.

Sourav Chauhan hit a 61 in just 18 balls, leading Gujarat's modest chase against Arunachal Pradesh in Ranchi. Chauhan hit five fours and half a dozen sixes in his stunning assault as Gujarat overhauled Arunachal's 126/8 in just 7.4 overs.

Skipper Manan Vohra's 81 and an equally

stunning 79 not out by his opening partner Arjun Azad helped Chandigarh thump Bihar by nine wickets, chasing down their 171/6 in just 17 overs. Vohra hit nine fours and two sixes at the BKC in Mumbai. While Azad struck nine fours too and four sixes to go with it in his 43-ball knock. Bihar's strong total, meanwhile, was powered by their keeper-opener Bipin Saurabh's 46-ball 76 that set the base.

Krunal Pandya's captain's knock and a 111-run stand with Shivalik Sharma helped Baroda recover from a precarious 26/3 after five overs to post a comprehensive nine-wicket win to begin their season. The Railways opener hit the fence 11 times, and went over it twice, in his unbeaten 37-ball 67.

Goa captain Darshan Misal's berserk 27-ball knock worth 61 - inclusive of five sixes and as many fours - helped Goa hit the cruise mode early in their season opener against Chhattisgarh. Tunish

against Mizoram in Jaipur. Despite losing a couple of partners inside the powerplay, Chandrakar posted a 89-run stand with Shashank Singh, hitting three sixes and five fours en route his match-winning knock.

Pratham Singh rained fours at the JSCA Stadium in Ranchi, helping Railways overhaul Manipur's humble 112/5 in just over 10 overs for a comprehensive nine-wicket win to begin their season. The Railways opener hit the fence 11 times, and went over it twice, in his unbeaten 37-ball 67.

Goa captain Darshan Misal's berserk 27-ball knock worth 61 - inclusive of five sixes and as many fours - helped Goa hit the cruise mode early in their season opener against Chhattisgarh. Tunish

Ruturaj Gaikwad's

match-winning 82 off just 40 balls helped Maharashtra get their season off to a flying start, overhauling Bengal's 158 with more than three overs to spare. The Maharashtra opener took the attack to the opposition from the word go, hitting nine fours and five sixes, as he posted a 56-run stand with Arshin Kulkarni and another worth 63 with his captain Kedar Jadhav, who stayed unbeaten on 40 off 26 himself.

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane played a match-winning hand of 76 not out, guiding Mumbai to a comfortable 8-wicket win in their rain-curtailed display of sportsmanship. The centurion slammed eight sixes and another 10 boundaries in his unbeaten knock, putting on a 199-run second-wicket stand with Patnaik, who was equally brutal on the Assam attack at DY Patil in Navi Mumbai. Assam's spirited chase included three knocks of 40s but weren't enough to put them over the line.

Ruturaj Gaikwad's

contibuted 26 each.

Australia's innings

started with Sri Lanka posting a formidable 178/4 after 32 overs, thanks to a strong start by the Sri Lankan openers. As the rain shower caught everyone by surprise, players from both sides had to leave the field.

However, David Warner chose not to let the rain delay dampen his spirits. Instead, he decided to assist the ground staff in protecting the playing surface, displaying a remarkable act of

sportsmanship.

Warner was seen

wearing a wide grin as he worked side by side with the diligent groundsmen to swiftly cover the pitch, preventing it from getting wet and ensuring minimal disruption to the game.

His selfless assistance amidst adverse conditions exemplified the values of cricket, transcending the boundaries of competition and turning ordinary moments into extraordinary displays of camaraderie.

## Clinical Australia down sloppy Sri Lanka

**New Delhi:** Five-time World Cup winners Australia finally got off the mark with a comfortable five-wicket win against Sri Lanka in Lucknow on Monday (October 16). Chasing a below-par target of 210, Australia got there with 88 balls to spare, thereby registering a useful boost to their net run rate as well. Mitchell Marsh and Josh Inglis were the main stars with flamboyant fifties while Marnus Labuschagne also weighed in with a crucial knock before Glenn Maxwell did his thing to hasten the finish.

The chase wasn't entirely flawless for Australia who lost David Warner and Steve Smith in the same over to be 24/2 after four overs. The former was on the wrong side of a very marginal LBW call against Dilshan Madushanka who then produced another sharp inswinger

to get Smith trapped in front. All this after Australia had started with a bang by smashing 15 off the first over of the innings. A straight-smash from Marsh set the tone off the first ball while the over ended with an imperious pick-up shot for six over fine leg by Warner.

However, Madushanka's twin strikes put Australia in a bit of bother but Marsh was unfazed as he kept playing his shots. Sri Lanka were also guilty of feeding him to his strengths and Marsh was severe on anything remotely wayward. His aggressive knock allowed Labuschagne to bide his time and the partnership put Australia back on track before a run out ended Marsh's stay at the crease. It was as much a bad judgment of the second run as it was a brilliant throw from Chamika Karunaratne



with. Inglis, though, quickly got into his act and reprised Marsh's role of an aggressor, albeit

from Sri Lanka who simply didn't have enough runs to play with. As Australia surged towards the target, they also upped their gears to ensure that they finished the game as quickly as they could. Given the ongoing trend of the tournament, net run rate could be a massive factor and Australia did a fair job of boosting it after the two disappointing losses earlier on. Apart from Madushanka who had a great game, the other Lankan bowlers lacked the consistency to trouble the batters.

Sri Lanka would hugely regret their batting collapse earlier in the day after having been 125/0 at one stage. Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Perera had set the perfect platform for the Lankans with fluid fifties to put Australia under the pump. Till they were together at the

crease, the game had a very similar pattern to Australia's previous game at the venue against South Africa. However, skipper Pat Cummins bowled an inspired second spell in which he got rid of both the openers. A smart short ball ploy accounted for Nissanka while Perera played on to a big slog across the line. These dismissals allowed Australia to sneak their way back into the game and they did with aplomb.

Since the South Africa series, Adam Zampa had been enduring a tough time, lacking the fizz that he's been often associated with. It didn't start well again today with Perera putting him under pressure. But once the opening stand was broken, the presence of two right-handers allowed Zampa to settle in and he steadily

found his groove to slice through the Lankan middle order. Mitchell Starc complimented him at the other end as the Sri Lankan innings went into a freefall. The last nine wickets well for just 52 and the last six for just 30 with a rain break in between. The stunning collapse meant that the result was virtually settled at the halfway mark itself. The total was at least 50-60 runs short of a par score and despite a few minor hiccups, Australia got the job done with minimal fuss.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 209 in 43.3 overs (Kusal Perera 78, Pathum Nissanka 61; Adam Zampa 4-47, Pat Cummins 2-32, Mitchell Starc 2-43) lost to Australia 215/5 in 35.2 overs (Josh Inglis 58, Mitchell Marsh 52; Dilshan Madushanka 3-38) by