

## PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES AN INTERFAITH MEET AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN



**New Delhi (KCN):** The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced and addressed an interfaith meet at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (October 25, 2023).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that religion holds an important place in our lives. Religious beliefs

and practices provide us with relief, hope and strength in adverse circumstances. Prayer and meditation help humans experience inner peace and emotional stability. But fundamental spiritual values like peace, love, purity and truth are what make our lives meaningful. Religious

practices devoid of these values cannot benefit us. To promote peace and harmony in the society, it is necessary to understand the importance of tolerance, respect for each other and harmony. The President said that every human soul deserves affection and respect. Recognizing self, living a life in accordance

with core spiritual qualities, and having a spiritual relationship with God is the natural means to communal harmony and emotional integration. The President said that humanity cannot survive without love and compassion. When people of different religions live together in harmony, the social fabric of the society and country becomes stronger. This strength further strengthens the unity of the country and takes it on the path of progress. She stated that as we aim to establish India as a developed country by 2047, everyone's cooperation would be necessary in achieving this goal.

## 4 Killed, 2 Critical As Two Motorcycles Collide In Nuapada

**Nuapada (KCN):** A head-on collision between two motorcycles killed at least four persons and left two others critically injured in Nuapada district, late last night. The accident took place at Jhirnikhol under Boden police limits in the district while the six persons were returning home

on the motorcycles after visiting Durga Puja pandals on the occasion of Dussehra. As many as four people died on the spot. Three seriously injured people were admitted to Boden Community Health Center. Boden police station arrived at the scene and are investigating into the matter. Unfortunately, doctors

declared four of them dead at the healthcare facility. The deceased were identified as Demanta Majhi (18), Pinku Majhi (17), Hemananda Majhi (15) and Rohit Majhi (24). The injured ones were later shifted to the Nuapada District Headquarters Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

## Elephant Dies After Being Hit By Freight Train



**Keonjhar (KCN):** A female elephant was killed after being hit by a train near Uthabali in the Champua Range of the Bambari Section in Keonjhar district. According to reports, a freight train hit the elephant while it was crossing the railway track killing the animal on the spot. On being informed, Forest Department personnel reached the spot and started an investigation.

## VK Pandian Appointed Chairman 5T (Transformational Initiatives) With Rank Of Cabinet Minister



**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** A day after the Central Government approved the voluntary retirement of former IAS Officer VK Pandian, the Odisha Government today appointed him as Chairman, 5T (Transformational Initiatives) and Nabin Odisha in the rank of Cabinet Minister.

"VK Pandian is hereby appointed as Chairman 5T (Transformational Initiatives) and Nabin Odisha in the rank of Cabinet Minister," an order issued by the State Government said.

"Pandian shall work directly under the Chief Minister," the order added.

Pandian was earlier working as the Private Secretary (5T) to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

## Durga Puja set to conclude in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar as grand immersion ceremony gets underway

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** The Durga puja festivities will come to a close in Odisha with the stage set for a grand immersion ceremony on Wednesday. Elaborate arrangements have been made for the immersion ceremony in the Twin Cities of Cuttack and

kinds of vehicles during the immersion procession of Saheeda Nagar puja committee. Similarly, traffic from CRP square will be diverted through Ekamra park towards Jayadev Vihar. In Cuttack, the immersion processions

already decided to make the immersion ceremony this year as DJ and booze free," he added. It is pertinent to mention here that the peace committee had earlier proposed to ban alcohol and DJ music in the immersion ceremony this year. Moreover, the



Bhubaneswar.

While the idol immersion process in Cuttack started last night, the same has begun this morning in Bhubaneswar.

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has set up makeshift ponds for the immersion purpose. Two of them have been dug up at Daya river and Bankual river ghats. The other two ponds have come up at Kuakhai river bank on the outskirts of the smart city. Traffic restrictions have been put in place to ward off any untoward incident during the immersion ceremony in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar.

"All the puja committees and the Cuttack Durga Puja Shanti Committee have been restricted for all

committee demanded relaxation in helmet-checking rules and permission to conduct melody and use loudspeakers till 12 am during the Durga puja this year.

"The awful impacts of DJ and alcohol are well known to everyone. This could be a new beginning and everyone should follow the same. Everybody doesn't consume alcohol. There are some people with such habits and with repeated requests, the graph has come down now," said Debendra Sahu, president of Cuttack Mahanagar Shanti Committee.

## Cabinet Approves MoC Between India, Japan For Semiconductor Development

**New Delhi (KCN):** The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was apprised of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) signed in July, 2023 between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan on Japan-India Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership.

The MoC intends to strengthen cooperation between India and Japan towards enhancement of semiconductor supply chain, recognizing the importance of semiconductor for the advancement of industries and digital technologies.

The MoC shall come into effect from the date of signature of the Parties and shall be remain in force for a period of five years. Both G2G and B2B bilateral Cooperation on opportunities to advance resilient semiconductor supply chain and leverage complementary strengths.

MoC envisages improved collaboration leading to employment opportunities in the field of IT.

MeitY has been actively working to create a conducive environment for electronics manufacturing. Programme for Development of Semiconductor and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India was introduced with a view

to ensure the development of a robust and sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem in India. The said program aims to extend fiscal support for establishment of Semiconductor Fabs, Display Fabs, Fabs for Compound Semiconductors/Silicon Photonics/Sensors/ Discrete Semiconductors and Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking, and Packaging (ATMP)/Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facilities. Further,

Semiconductor Mission (ISM) has been established under Digital India Corporation (DIC) to drive India's strategies for development of semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in the country. MeitY has also been

mandated to promote international cooperation in the emerging and frontier areas of Information Technology under bilateral and regional frameworks. With this objective, MeitY has entered into MoUs / MoCs / Agreements with counterpart

organizations/agencies of various countries to promote bilateral cooperation and exchange of information and also to ensure supply chain resilience enabling India emerge as trusted partner. Enhancing mutual collaboration between Japan and Indian companies through this MoU is a another such step towards mutually beneficial semiconductor related business opportunities and partnerships between India & Japan. In view of synergies and complementarities between the two nations, "India-Japan Digital Partnership" (IJDP) was launched during the visit of PM Modi to Japan in October 2018 furthering existing areas of cooperation as well as new initiatives within the scope of cooperation in S&T/ICT, focusing more on "Digital ICT Technologies". Based on the ongoing IJDP and India-Japan Industrial Competitiveness Partnership (IJCP), this MoC on Japan-India Semiconductor Supply Chain Partnership would further broaden and deepen the cooperation in the field of electronics ecosystem. Recognizing the importance of semiconductor for the advancement of industries and digital technologies, this MoC would provide for the enhancement of semiconductor supply chain resilience.



## Black Shirt

(Shibangi Dhara) Bandana Sahoo

The outfit was yours  
But the color was mine  
Your body was decorated  
And my eyes kept smiling.

Evening was falling amidst darkness  
The moon was blooming among the stars  
I was going crazy with your love  
In the chest of the black shirt.

You came and brought along  
Adorn my lips with a smile  
light has dissolved by your love  
Whoever can be with you.



Your face is like the moon  
Admire black colors  
With a slow smile  
Your lips are full of pink colors.

He was decorating me  
With the love of those black colors  
Every part of me  
With shy eyes  
The black shirt of yours was making me crazy.

Jajpur  
7205550713

## You're My Everything

RK Biswal

You'll always be in my heart.  
Can't bear the pain when we are apart.



Nobody is as special as you are to me.  
I hope you are beginning to see

Just how much I care for you,  
And all my feelings will always be true.

It makes me happy just being by your side.  
All these feelings I just can't hide.

I can't describe how much I care,  
But when you need me, I'll be there

To wipe those tears when you are sad

To make you happy when you are mad.

All these things I can really do.  
Just remember I'm thinking of you!

Qtr. No-MI-23, Kalinga Vihar,  
Chhend,  
Rourkela. 769015.  
9437490338

## Don't tell your sorrow to anybody

Sailabala Mahapatra

Don't tell your sorrow  
to anybody

With whom you share  
your pain of heart  
plight of body  
conflict of conviction



He, who searches for the  
roots of your pain  
be his friend  
exchange your thoughts  
burst into laugh in your  
dialogues  
you will feel as if  
you have sold yourself to  
mysterious smile of somebody

It's better to remain  
in sorrow  
better your sorrow  
remain inside and build up  
castles of poetry.

7008586501

sailabala.mahapatra@gmail.com

Translated from original Odia by Manas Ranjan Mahapatra

## Quotation of the Day

You never know where life  
is going to take you. So  
everything I do, I just take  
it one day at a time, and it  
always leads you to the  
right place.

Kyle Massey

Brainy Quotes

## My Teacher Speaker

Prof. Manas Ranjan Mahapatra



teacher.  
This morning I was  
thinking of Adhyapak  
Biswaranjan. One of  
our most favorite  
teachers, we learnt the  
art of how to compere  
or say, anchor a poetry  
reading or poets' meet  
in our college  
days....over four  
decades ago. He was  
those days an eloquent  
versatile public  
speaker, a poet, coordinator  
of events and, obviously  
a learned person.  
Both my wife Sailabala  
and I in our college  
days were his

readership in Odisha is  
tremendous. I am  
informed that English  
translation of his book  
is forthcoming.  
Why this morning I  
remembered him after  
seeing the Government  
sponsored newspaper  
Sakala....he was  
editor of the newspaper  
once owned by Pyarimohan  
Mahapatra, then  
advisor of the CM and  
kingmaker of Odisha. Possibly,  
the newspaper faced the  
same fate as Pyaribabu  
had.

Why Adhyapak  
Biswaranjan did not  
join any other  
newspaper, I am yet to  
find an answer.

**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**

## Temples Of Khajuraho



temples of Khajuraho  
have been built with this  
in mind. Moreover, the  
carvings reflect the four  
goals of life in Hinduism,  
viz, dharma, kama, artha,  
moksha.

The monuments built by  
the Chandelas were  
famous for their  
architectural and  
sculptural glory.

The Chandelas were also  
deeply interested in  
performance arts and the  
various forms of music  
and dance.

This is evident from the  
sculptural representation  
of various scenes of  
music and dance  
depicted on the walls of  
these temples.

The carvings at the  
temples seem to be  
predominantly about  
Hindu deities and  
mythology. The  
architectural style also  
follows Hindu traditions.  
This can be validated by  
various factors. A  
predominant feature of  
the construction of a  
Hindu temple is that the  
face of the temple should  
be towards the direction  
of sunrise. All the

idea of female beauty  
and fertility. Other  
scenes depicted on the  
walls of the temples are  
a part of the Narathara  
(the human life cycle)  
signifying how sexual  
procreation and kama are  
an essential aspect of  
human life.

The major focus of the  
study of the Temples of  
Khajuraho have been on  
the sculptures. The walls  
of these temples have  
some of the best  
sculptures of the time,  
making Khajuraho a  
representation of  
excellent artistic  
features.

It is believed that the  
temples constitute five  
different sets of sculptures:  
secular sculptures of  
miscellaneous themes  
(dancers, musicians,  
disciples and domestic  
scenes)

mythical creatures  
(vyalas, sardula and  
other animals).  
These sets of sculptures  
and erotic images

represent scenes from  
day to day life.

Quite a few stories  
revolve around the  
history of these temples.

One theory posits their  
construction can be  
understood as a part of  
the proliferation of the  
Siva-Sakti cult. The  
other theory is that the  
temples are a  
representation of the  
devadasis who were once  
a major part of the  
temple activities.

The most beautiful women  
were brought from  
Magadha, Malwa and  
Rajputana to be trained  
as devadasis in the  
Temples of Khajuraho.  
People say that the  
Surasundaris, who cover  
the interior and the  
exterior walls of the  
temples, were taken from  
real life and juxtaposed  
with the sculptures of  
Gods and Goddesses.

Another theory says that  
the sculptures represent  
the life-cycle of a normal  
human being. It is

difficult to state with  
certainty which of these  
theories is correct, as no  
written texts describing  
the construction exist  
today. Regardless of the  
reason behind the  
sculptures, what we do  
know is that we have  
been gifted with a set of  
the most ornate, intricate  
and beautiful sculptures  
extant anywhere in the  
world.

The Temples of  
Khajuraho are divided  
into three groups, the  
Western Group and the  
Eastern Group and the  
Southern Group.

The architecture of the  
Temples of Khajuraho is  
very complex. The main  
components of these  
temples are:

The Garbhagriha  
(sanctum sanctorum)  
with antarala, a narrow  
ante-chamber

The Maha Mandapa, a  
large hall

The Ardha Mandapa and  
a mandapa, which are  
smaller additional halls

The Prakshina Path, a  
circumambulation path.

A few temples at  
Khajuraho are of the  
Panchayatana type, with  
four shrines dedicated to  
the divinities and often  
another shrine in front of  
the portico dedicated to  
the vahana (vehicle) of  
the principal deity.

The Temples of  
Khajuraho are believed  
to have been built of  
light-coloured sandstone  
imported from the  
quarries of Panna, from  
the east bank of the Kaveri

River. Iron clamps are  
also freely employed in  
the construction of the  
temples. A few other  
smaller temples are built  
partly of sandstone and  
partly of granite.

Western Group of  
Temples -

The Western Group of  
Temples are situated on  
the west of the Bamitha-  
Rajnagar road on the  
banks of Sib-Sagar.

They comprise six major  
edifices and are  
dedicated to the Shaivite  
and Vaishnavite cults.

1) Chausath Jogini  
Temple -

This temple stands on the  
low rocky eminence to  
the south west of the  
Sib-Sagar Lake. This is  
the only temple in  
Khajuraho which is built  
entirely of granite and is  
oriented north-east and  
south-west.

The temple stands upon a massive  
plinth and comprises a  
courtyard which is 104  
feet in length and 60 feet  
in breadth. The temple  
premises consisted of 65  
small cells, out of which  
one cell was dedicated to  
Goddess Kali and the  
remaining 64 were  
dedicated to the Yoginis,  
or the female attendants  
of Goddess Kali, after  
whom the temple is  
named.

Out of the 65 cells  
only 35 have survived.  
No images remain on any of  
the cells. The cells are roofed  
with small spires or  
sikharas, the lower part of  
which are adorned with  
triangular ornaments in

imitation of the chaitya  
windows. There is no  
dated inscription to show  
the precise age of the  
temple.

2) Kandariya Mahadeva  
Temple -

Largest of all the temples  
in Khajuraho, it dates  
back to the 10th century  
CE. It is 109 feet high and  
60 feet wide. The interior  
arrangement of the  
temple differs from the  
usual construction of a  
Hindu temple as it has an  
open passage around the  
sanctum, thus forming a  
high altar at the inner  
portion of the temple. The  
walls of the Kandariya  
temple carry nearly nine  
hundred images. The  
height of the figures  
varies from 2.5 feet to 3  
feet. The entrance of the  
temple is in the shape of  
an arch and is decorated  
with figures of deities and  
musicians. Also, the  
entrance of the sanctum  
has elaborate floral  
carvings interspersed  
with figures of ascetics  
engaged in penance. The  
female figures at the base  
of the jambs are  
identified to be Goddess  
Ganga (River Ganga)  
and Goddess Jumna  
(River Yamuna). The  
Goddesses are  
accompanied by their  
respective vehicles, the  
crocodile and the  
tortoise. Inside the  
sanctum stands a marble  
linga, the symbol of Lord  
Shiva. There are also  
numerous figures of  
apsaras or nymphs in all  
sorts of delicate postures.

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## Ranbir Kapoor Drops Update on Brahmastra 2; Opens Up On Shiva-Isha's 'Missing Chemistry' In Part 1

Actor Ranbir Kapoor recently at a fan's event shared a major update about the upcoming sci-fi action film 'Brahmastra 2'. A clip from the fans event was shared on Reddit in which he stated that 'Brahmastra 2' is "heavy into writing." Ranbir said, "Brahmastra Part 2 is heavy into writing. We are working on it all the time. It's just last week that Ayan narrated the film to me and he has gone 10 times bigger than Part 1 - his idea, his thought, the character. He is working on War 2 right now. So the plan is to finish War 2 by mid-next year and we start shooting hopefully by the end of next year or the beginning of 2025."

The 'Barfi' actor also addressed the criticism the makers faced for the "missing chemistry" between Shiva and Isha (Ranbir - Alia's characters) in the first film.

He added, "But



definitely a lot of work has already been happening on the film. We understood the kind of criticism for the film, what worked for it and what didn't. So we have put everything into consideration, the dialogue and comments on Shiva and Isha's missing chemistry. A lot of criticism was constructive and we have taken that into our stride and we are trying to understand that and go beyond that."

'Brahmastra Part One: Shiva' is the first part of the planned trilogy in the Astraverse by Ayan

Mukerji. The film also stars Amitabh Bachchan, Mouni Roy and Nagarjuna Akkineni. The storyline of Brahmastra follows Shiva, a DJ, who learns about his strange connection with the element of fire. He also holds the power to awaken the Brahmastra, a supernatural weapon that is said to be able to destroy the universe, capable of destroying creation and vanquishing all beings.

On the other hand, Junoon, the queen of dark forces, is also on a quest to get hold of the

Brahmastra. Shah Rukh Khan had a cameo in the first part. If reports are to be believed, the second part will feature Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh. It will be interesting to see how the Astraverse develops in the sequel to 'Brahmastra' and beyond. Earlier, Ayan Mukerji announced the release dates of his upcoming sci-fi films 'Brahmastra: Part 2' and 'Brahmastra: Part 3'.

'Brahmastra: Part Two - Dev' will hit the theatres in December 2026, whereas 'Part Three' will be released in the theatres exactly a year after the second part, in December 2027.

Meanwhile, Ranbir will be next seen in the upcoming action thriller film 'Animal' which is all set to hit the theatres on December 1.

Helmed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, the film also stars Bobby Deol, Anil Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna in the lead roles.

## Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah Controversy: Ex-Cast Member Priya Ahuja Rajda Aka Rita Reporter Alleges 'Mental Harassment'

After Jennifer Mistry, who played Roshan Sodhi on the popular sitcom Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah levelled sexual misconduct allegations against the makers, former cast actresses who have been a part of the show have opened up too. Recently, Monika Badoriya, who played Bawri on the show talked about the misbehaviour she faced during her stint and now another actress Priya Ahuja Rajda who was seen in Rita Reporter's character has alleged 'mental harassment'.

In an interview with ETimes, Priya Ahuja Rajda talked about her

experience while on the show, "Yes the artists have to go through mental harassment when they work on Taarak Mehta. Kaafi hota hai... mentally I've also gone through difficulties while working there but it didn't affect me much maybe because Malav, my husband who was the director of the show for 14 years, he was earning. One benefit I had of working there was since I didn't have a contract I was never stopped from working outside. Asit Kumarr Modi bhai, Sohil Ramani or Jatin Bajaj (he's like my younger brother) they never misbehaved with me. But as far work is

concerned I've been subjected to unfair treatment. After I got married to Malav they reduced my track. It was no longer how it used to be. I've been clueless about my track in the show after pregnancy and when Malav left the show. I messaged Asit bhai so many times asking him about my track in the show but there has been no response. Sometimes he would comment 'Arre tuje kaam karne ki kya zarurat hai Malav is working Na'. I'm an individual and I did not get this show because I was Malav's wife. I was a part

of this show before I got married to Malav. I never got a proper response. Malav was shooting and I was also working on some or the other thing it wasn't affecting me financially, so I never bothered to speak," she said.

She also shared how she didn't even know whether her track was on the show or not. "I am feeling bad that ever since Malav has left the show they haven't called or responded to my message. It has been six months since he left the show and they haven't called me to shoot. That I feel as an artist is unfair. I called up Sohil and requested him to ask Asit ji about my track in the show,

## 15 Years of Jodhaa Akbar: Makers Celebrate the Journey of an Eternal Love Story

Regarded as one of the most spectacular visual experiences on the Indian screen, Ashutosh Gowariker's Jodhaa Akbar clocks 15 years today. Celebrating the epitome of love, respect and royalty, AGPPL offered a recap of the essence of Jodhaa Akbar with a special video.

Taking to their social media, AGPPL posted the video saying, "Jodhaa and Akbar's love continues to shine brightly through the ages as a symbol of mutual respect, tolerance and open-mindedness between a man and woman, husband and wife. Today we are



Sharing the same trailer Emraan wrote, "Superstar ke saath #Selfiee nahi, panga le 1 i y a . W a t c h #SelfieeTrailer2 Now. Aage ki story - only in cinemas, Feb 24."

There's another treat for the fans. In a new teaser of the movie, 'Boycott Bollywood' gets featured. 'Boycott Bollywood' is trending for quite some time on social media, as Bollywood is repeatedly attacked for diverse

reasons. Taking a hilarious stand on the burning subject, the teaser shows, when 'Boycott Bollywood' is mentioned by a producer, Akshay points fingers at himself suggesting if he were the reason or not.

The producer in the teaser promptly replies to Akshay's gesture, 'No, Sir.'

'Selfiee' is the official Hindi remake of the Malayalam film 'Driving License', which starred Prithviraj and

Suraj Venjaramoodu in lead roles. Akshay and Emraan will reprise their roles in the remake.

The film will also

collaborated for the first

time in 'Selfiee'.

Helmed by Raj Mehta, Akshay and Emraan

have

cherished.

#15yearsOfJodhaaAkbar".

'Kangana Ensured My Character Gets The Weightage It Deserved' Says Anshul Chauhan Ahead Of Tejas Release



Anshul Chauhan, who portrays the role of fighter pilot "Aafia" in the upcoming war drama 'Tejas,' releasing on 27th October, shares how working with Kangana has been a remarkable experience. "She's not just a phenomenal actor but an amazing human being," Anshul exclaims. "Kangana was a lovely co-star. She often helped us understand our scenes better, and was a true team player."

Anshul goes on to share a particular incident that reflects Kangana's generosity. "In one specific scene, she suggested to the director to increase the number of dialogues that I had, highlighting her dedication to making every character shine in the film. She is very professional and ensured that my character in the film got equal weightage and treatment."

The audiences are in for a fiery treat with Anshul's portrayal of Aafia, a dedicated fighter pilot who can do anything for her nation. Her performance, combined with Kangana Ranaut's stellar acting, promises an unforgettable cinematic experience in 'Tejas.'

## Akshay Kumar, Emraan Hashmi-Starrer 'Selfiee' Second Trailer is Out, Makers Tease Boycott Bollywood Trend

"I even dropped a message to Asit bhai asking if I am still a part of the show but I haven't heard from both of them and I think it is a little unfair. Even if I am not a part of the show tell me I'm not dying to comeback but it is wrong that Malav has left the show, so now you don't want to call me. Joh attitude raha hai in the last 6-8 years I was very sure they will not call me. I'd told Malav also about it when he was leaving the show that now they won't call me, neither they will announce that I'm still part of the show, not they will call me. They will keep me hanging."

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Taking to their social media, AGPPL posted the video saying, "Jodhaa and Akbar's love continues to shine brightly through the ages as a symbol of mutual respect, tolerance and open-mindedness between a man and woman, husband and wife. Today we are



proud to celebrate the 15th year since our journey that brought their eternal romance to the silver screen."

Incidentally, today also marks the birthday of the director and producer of Jodhaa Akbar, Ashutosh Gowariker. The leading man of the film Hrithik Roshan took to his social media to wish the filmmaker along with a few glimpses of the film. He wrote, "Happy Birthday @AshGowariker. Thank you for trusting me with the monumental responsibility of being a part of Jodhaa Akbar. Your direction & my incredible co-stars will forever be cherished. #15yearsOfJodhaaAkbar".

## Women are on the ground zero and extremely prone to intensifying indemnities from climate change



United Nations Day, on 24 October, marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. This year's UN Day Concert, on the theme of The Frontlines of Climate Action, is sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations with support from PUBLIC Foundation's Family Offices for Sustainable Development (FOSD). Women are often in the frontline in respect to the impacts of a changing climate. Globally the world is seeing increasingly frequent droughts and floods which are having economic but also profound social consequences. The women and people of Asia are currently at greatest risk with over 100 million people affected in this region annually. Patterns of development and settlements put the poor and the vulnerable at increased risk with many forced to settle on the only land available at the time – land that all too

often is prone to flooding and mud slides. This article underlines that women are disproportionately likely to lose their lives in such events. During disasters, such as drought or floods, women are also more vulnerable to organised criminal traffickers as a result of communities being scattered, and protective patterns in families and society become disrupted: a point underlined by INTERPOL and nongovernmental organisations and a pattern of exploitation known from armed conflicts and other disasters. More than 1.3 billion people live in the watersheds of Asia's mountain ranges. With more than half of South Asia's cereal production taking place downstream from the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, the impacts on food security will become ever more important with increasing climate change. Here, adaptation will become crucial. Women represent a primary resource for adaptation through their experience, responsibilities, and strength. Statistics reveal that women play a much stronger role than men in the management of ecosystem services and food security. Hence,

### Soura Chandra Mohapatra

women, arguing that "predatory" men, under the auspices of trans-friendly bathroom policies, will enter women's bathrooms and harm girls and women. However, transpeople and supporters deny there is increased harm to other women from transwomen and note that there is instead a high level of violence against transmen and transwomen, even compared to the high level of violence against other members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. While rates of homicide generally have dropped across the US over the last decade, the same is not true of homicide rates for transwomen, and in particular for transwomen of color, who account for a percentage of homicides far out of proportion to their numbers in the transgender population.

The need to uphold transgender rights has never been more pressing or more important than today. Although laws regarding choice in bathroom facilities are symbolically important in establishing that transpeople deserve respect, transpeople suffer active discrimination in arguably more important domains, including employment, housing, and access to general and specialized health care.

Compelling arguments and concerted action to support

transgender rights are crucial. But which arguments offer the strongest and most broadly applicable support for transgender people in the current political climate?

#### Arguments for Recognition and Expanded Protection of Transpersons' Rights

Many in the LGBT community rely on arguments that we refer to collectively as "born that way" arguments, namely, arguments for LGBT rights based on the idea that sexual orientation and gender identity are innate, immutable, or unassociated with choice. Two of the authors have previously addressed the difficulties of using "born that way" arguments in relation to sexual orientation. We now extend that critique to arguments for transgender rights. We argue that "born that way" arguments rely on both shaky science and imperfect logic, and thus fail to provide a solid basis for transgender rights. We find more solid ground in arguments based on human rights.

We find several problems with the claim that gender identity is innate. First, the claim is essentially unprovable. Gender identity, as with any aspect of human identity, develops over time. An infant cannot be said to experience a fully formed identity of any

kind—that sort of self-awareness requires advanced cognitive development, including a nuanced concept of gender that develops over years. Similarly, we are skeptical of the claim that gender identity—one's perceived sense of belonging to a particular gender, independent of gender assigned at birth—is genetically determined. There is limited biological research supporting such a claim and no semblance of a scientific consensus on it. Gender identity and expression are complex, incorporating ideas of the self along with a vast array of behaviors, thoughts, and feelings. Contemporary biological evidence does not support the notion that gender identity results solely from a single gene or even from the presence of a specific number of X and Y chromosomes. Rather, gender identity emerges from multiple interactions among genes, the environment, and other factors, including personal feelings of authentic gender expression.

However, there are additional compelling reasons to avoid relying on immutability as a foundation for transgender rights. Although the scientific study of gender identity has yet to answer many important questions, it does suggest that gender

identity is not immutable in everyone. Specifically, gender identity can change in prepubescent children. Indeed, the majority of younger children who experience gender dysphoria do not go on to become transgender adults. Given the evidence of the fluidity of gender identity over time in many children with gender uncertainty, arguments that assume immutability seem particularly unconvincing. True, transgender adults generally do persist in their gender identity. Nonetheless, gender as a concept is understood as more fluid and less rigid today than in the past. Research indicates that various aspects of sexuality, including both gender identity and sexual orientation, are more fluid than previously understood, especially in youth.

We argue, in contrast, that transgender rights stem from human rights, i.e., those fundamental rights belonging to every person. Persons with either cisgender or transgender identities deserve to live and flourish in their communities—with freedom to learn, work, love, and play—and build lives connected with others at home, in the work place, and in public settings without fear for their safety and survival.

These deeply personal

### Prof. Sunil Goyal

adaptation options due to their knowledge, multiple and simultaneous responsibilities and as well as roles in productive areas. These include all sectors from agriculture, rangelands, biodiversity and forests, to households, income-generation, livelihoods and other socio-cultural and political-economic institutions and relations. Worldwide, women are an estimated 43% of the work force in agriculture. In Asia and Africa, this proportion is higher, often above 50%, especially in mountain regions. Hence, women play a key role in adaptation efforts, environmental sustainability and food security as the climate changes. However, several dynamics make adaptation more difficult for some women due to a lack of access to formal education, economic poverty, discrimination in food distribution, food insecurity, limited access to resources, exclusion from policy and decision-making institutions and processes and other forms of social marginalisation. These dynamics put women at a distinct disadvantage, and few

programmes include or focus on them for adaptation. Women generally have far less access to and control over the resources they depend upon. Nor do they have opportunities for direct governance and effective influence in politics from the household to community, national, regional and international levels. In some contexts, women are often subject to gender-based violence, harassment and psychological violence within the household. Some studies suggest that 95% of women and girls surveyed reported first-hand knowledge of violence with 77% by family members. Such situations affect women in negative ways, and further impede women's ability to adapt to extreme events and changes in their environment. During extreme events such as drought, floods and other climate-related disasters, women face additional risks, due in large part to gender inequities that result in women bearing the disproportional brunt of disaster impacts. Moreover, women are often discouraged from learning coping strategies and lifesaving skills, such

as how to climb trees or swim. Both factors put them at a disadvantage when floods hit. Often women are not permitted to evacuate their homes without consent from their husbands or elder men in their families or communities. Gendered cultural codes of dress may inhibit their mobility during crises, resulting in higher disproportionate mortality during many disasters. During such events, women and girls are frequently subjected to intimidation, gender-based violence, sexual harassment and rape. Women and girls also face an even more serious risk with the onslaught of climate-induced disasters: organised trafficking. Organised trafficking of women is emerging as a potentially serious risk associated with environmental problems. Climate-related disasters such as flood, drought or famine may disrupt local security safety nets, leaving women and children unaccompanied, separated or orphaned due to the erosion and breakdown of normal social controls and protections. This makes them especially vulnerable to the exploitation of human trafficking.

After a natural disaster, cultural, political-economic and environmental challenges may lead women who are in charge of households and livelihoods to seek temporary relief, shelter and amenable living conditions in acutely insecure contexts, making them potential targets for exploitation and human trafficking. Disasters that lead to increased physical, social and economic insecurity, and affect women and children, are among some of the push factors that give rise to trafficking. Therefore, insecure disaster regions must be considered as potential areas for such harmful activities. Women experience acute and differential impacts given the accelerated pace of climate change. These impacts exacerbate existing inequities in socially constructed gender roles, responsibilities, perceptions and skewed power relations that tend to disadvantage women. However, women also provide vital hope for successful adaptation through their critical knowledge, experience, agency and unique role in agriculture, food security, livelihoods, income generation, management of households and natural resources in diverse eco-systems, and participation in a variety of socio-

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## Transgender Rights as Human Rights



Arguments to support transgender rights often rely on "born that way" arguments, which assert that gender identity is innate, immutable, and unassociated with choice. These arguments are vulnerable to attack on several grounds, including on the basis of emerging scientific data. Stronger support for transgender rights arises from human rights arguments.

In March 2016, North Carolina enacted legislation requiring public school students to use the school bathroom consistent with their birth gender. The state law aimed to supersede a Charlotte, North Carolina, ordinance permitting students to use gender-segregated facilities aligned with their expressed gender, irrespective of the gender assigned them at birth. These dueling laws garnered considerable controversy, yet they form only one small chapter in the story of rights for transgender people today.

Proponents of the North Carolina "bathroom bill" claim that such laws prevent violence against

### Letter To Editor

**Sir**

The fantastic idea of planting one plant and getting multiple vegetables is soon going to become a reality and will turn out to be a boon to everyone.

The Scientists at ICAR-Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR), Varanasi have come out with a single plant that can yield three vegetables at the same time - brinjal, tomato and chilli. Using the grafting technique, the scientists at ICAR-IIVR, first developed 'Pomato' that yields potatoes and tomatoes on a single plant and 'Brimato' that yields brinjal and tomatoes together. The scientists at ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi is now working on developing and come out soon into the vegetable field with this unique single plant yielding three veggies at the same time. Studies to analyse feasibility of its cultivation will also be done and scientists are very hopeful that this research will be successful and redefine today's vegetable cultivation. Not only will vegetable farmers benefit a lot from this even common man will be able to plant and cultivate these on their terraces and in gardens. As these plants saves space and time these are sure to be a trend when they come to the market.

**M PRADYU  
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Glimpses of Vijaya Dashami (Dussehra) celebrations, in New Delhi on October 24, 2023. The Union Minister for Women & Child Development and Minority Affairs, Smt. Smriti Irani witnesses on the occasion.

## ISRO Chairman Pens Autobiography, Wants To Inspire People To Chase Dreams

**Thiruvananthapuram (KCN)**

: He may have helped the country conquer the moon, is making a similar attempt for the Sun and is busy preparing sending Indians to the space--all multi-crore rupee ventures, but ISRO chairman S Somanath's humble beginnings included an old bicycle and a modest lodging to cut transport and hostel expenses while in college.

These little details, among many others, find a mention in his upcoming Malayalam autobiography, which he calls an attempt to inspire the talented, yet not so confident.

The autobiography in Malayalam titled "Nilavu Kudicha Simhangal," - loosely translated as - Lions that drank the moonlight - promises to be a tale of motivation. The book focuses on the power of hard work and perseverance in the face of difficulties. It was inspired by the massive success of Chandrayaan-3, ISRO's moon mission headed by Mr Somanath,

that catapulted India to an elite league of nations.

After the lunar mission success and amidst the back-to-back launches of Aditya-L1 solar mission and the Gaganyaan test vehicle, Mr Somanath has managed to find time to chronicle his life story. Being published by Kerala-based Lipi Publications, the book is slated to hit the shelves in November.

Though it is the story of his eventful saga from an impoverished village youth, growth through the ISRO, elevation to the current coveted post and his journey till the Chandrayaan-3 launch, Mr Somanath said he would like to call it as an inspirational story rather than an autobiography. "It is actually the story of an ordinary village youth who doesn't even know whether to join engineering or BSc...about his dilemmas, right decisions he made in life, and the opportunities he received in a country like India," he told news

agency PTI. "The book is not intended to teach my life story. Its only intention is to inspire people to chase their dreams while battling adversities in life," the ISRO Chairman added.

The veteran recalled his humble rural background, but said the country opened immense opportunities before him, and the autobiography is an attempt to highlight this.

It was the historic success of the Chandrayaan-3 that persuaded him to come out with a book soon. "The lunar mission has made such a great impact in the society. When we looked around, we could see how many people, especially children, were inspired by its success. They understood that India and Indians could do such great things," he explained.

Lack of confidence is one of the major issues faced by many talented people, and the aim of his book is to showcase them that, he said.

Pointing out his life as an

example, Mr Somanath said that despite conflicts and dilemmas, it is very important to make use of the right opportunities in life and choose the best career options.

He commuted to the college by riding an old bicycle as he could not afford the bus fare and was forced to skip the study tour due to poverty in the family.

Fifty nine year-old S Somanath said there was no one to guide him in the initial years of his studies, and if a person had not bought him admission form for the engineering course, his first boss, Ramakrishnan, former ISRO Chairman K Radhakrishnan, and so on.

The autobiography would evolve through such phases of his personal life and develop through his journey in ISRO till the launch of Chandrayaan-3.

The stories of rocket manufacturing, PSLV, GSLV Mark III and Chandrayaan-3 are also mentioned in the book in parallel.

When asked why he chose to write the book in Malayalam, Mr Somanath had a quick reply.

"Because I am a Malayali and I am more comfortable writing in my mother tongue," he said with a smile.

should be able to realise their role in our lives," Mr Somanath said.

That would help in our career growth, he added. In his life, there were several such people who came with a purpose, including his father, the person who bought him admission form for the engineering course, his first boss, Ramakrishnan, former ISRO Chairman K Radhakrishnan, and so on.

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## CAPACITY BUILDING VISIT FOR STUDENTS OF KASHMIR UNIVERSITY



**Srinagar, (Aasif Malik):**

The India Army holds a large number of educational, awareness and capacity building visits for various strata of society in Jammu and Kashmir. In one such event on 25 October 2023, Head Quarter 31 Sub Area of Chinari Corps organised a visit of 60 Students and faculty members of Kashmir University to Badami Bagh Cantonment.

The visit was planned keeping in mind the outreach program of the Indian Army where the students got a chance to interact with the senior officers of the Armed Forces, get an insight into the way of life in the Army and various prospects for joining Indian Army. The students were exposed to rich ethos of Indian Army during the visit. The event was also attended by Ms Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, Kashmir University. She was welcomed by Maj Gen PBS Lamba, General Officer Commanding, HQ 31 Sub Area.

The students were elated by the visit to BB Cantt and appreciated the Army's efforts & requested the authorities to plan for more such activities in future.

## Department of Telecommunications to Conduct Cell Broadcast Alert System Testing with NDMA in West Bengal

**Kolkata, (KCN):**

The Department of Telecommunications in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority, will be conducting a Cell Broadcast Alert System testing to enhance emergency communication during disasters and ensure the safety and well-being of our valued citizens. On October 27, 2023, the tests would be conducted in the State of West Bengal depending upon the system's readiness, there may be changes in Test Schedule at the last moment without further information.

In continuous commitment to the safety of citizens of India and the communities, tests of Cell Broadcast Alert System are being conducted on each Telecom Service

Provider. These tests will be performed from time to time in various regions across the country to gauge the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency alert broadcasting capabilities of the systems in place of various Mobile Operators and Cell Broadcast Systems. The Cell Broadcast Alert System is a state-of-the-art technology that allows us to send critical and time-sensitive messages for disaster management to all mobile devices within a designated geographical area, irrespective of whether the recipients are residents or visitors. This ensures that important emergency information reaches as many people as possible in a timely manner. It is used by government agencies and emergency services to inform the public about potential threats and keep them informed during critical situations. Cell Broadcast is commonly used to deliver emergency alerts, such as severe weather warnings (e.g., Tsunami, flash flood, earthquake etc., public safety messages, evacuation notices, and other critical information. During the testing period, people may receive simulated emergency alerts on their mobile devices. The Department of Telecommunications has assured that such alerts are part of the planned testing process and do not indicate an actual emergency. Each test alert will clearly indicate that it is a Test Message to avoid confusion.

## BJP Releases 4th List With 4 Candidates For Chhattisgarh Elections

**Raipur (KCN):** The BJP on Wednesday released its fourth list of candidates for the remaining four seats for the upcoming Chhattisgarh assembly elections, denying ticket to a sitting MLA.

With this, the main opposition party has announced its candidates for all the 90 assembly constituencies in the state, which will see voting in two phases on November 7 and 17. Votes will be counted on December 3.

Sitting MLA from Beltar seat Rajnish Singh has been denied a ticket, with the party going for 40-year-old Sushant Shukla, from there. Shukla, a former member of the state youth commission, is co-incharge of the state Bharatiya Janata Yuva

Morcha, the BJP's youth wing.

In the high-profile Ambikapur seat, the party has fielded Rajesh Agrawal, a member of its Surguja district executive

are also fresh faces.

Of the 90 candidates from BJP, 33 are from OBC (Other Backward Class), 30 from Scheduled Tribe (ST), 10 from Scheduled Caste (SC), state BJP

media joint in-charge Anurag Agrawal said.

The party has denied tickets to two of the 13 incumbent MLAs this time. The ruling Congress has also announced candidates for all 90 seats. The Congress registered a landslide victory in the 2018 polls winning 68 seats, and comfortably formed the government. The BJP was reduced to 15 seats, while the JCC (J) and the BSP bagged 5 and 2 seats, respectively. The current strength of the Congress is 71.

committee. Deputy Chief Minister and incumbent MLA TS Singh Deo is the Congress nominee from Ambikapur.

Agrawal, a businessman, had joined the BJP after quitting Congress ahead of the 2018 assembly elections.

The two other candidates, Dhaniram Dhiwar (Kasdol seat) and Dipesh Sahu (Bemetara),

raised by various media organisations, across the country.

Till now, the rule with the provision of submission of printed copies of the newspaper, weekly, biweekly etc in certain period of time was very well received and implemented by the newspaper management. But then, one fine morning the government decided to include new amendments in the rule. For example, now media organisations will have to submit their printed material to RNI or PBI offices within a period of couple of days of its publication. Periodicals in this country are being published from rural and remote places too. This new amendment is definitely going to trouble them. Other provisions of punishments, imprisonment, fine for

non implementation of different clauses of the rule are nothing but the injustices with them. It is claimed that, through this Jan Vishwas Act 2023, government is going to cleanup the unlawful activities and incidences in business community of this country. But this is quite difficult to get the point, that, how these laws will help government to

curate bad things in media. Today, taking into consideration the inflation, rising cost of news print, changing technology, tough competition, lack of advertisements in the market, running a periodical printing, and its business has already become a difficult task. In this situation, it seems like, instead of helping them, the Ministry is

## VOM Demands for withdrawal Jan Vishwas Act

**National President Sandeep kale wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of India**



planning to make sure that all small and medium newspaper organisations will not survive at all. This will really be a big mistake, kale says.

Voice of Media has put forth the demand to withdraw the implementation of this act. He has also suggested the PMO to call upon the representatives from the concerning sector, media and journalists organisations etc. to study the provisions in Jan Vishwas act, their republications, impacts etc. Considering their point of views, demands, problems, suggestions, the Ministry of law and justice may reconstruct this act, if found suitable and necessary. Till then, Jan Vishwas act should be revoked, Sandeep kale says.

# Kishore Jena : Odisha's Olympic Win Aspirant

**Bhubaneswar (KCN):** Odia athlete Kishore Jena who has recently scripted history by clinching a silver medal in the Men's Javelin throw at the 19th Asian Games visited the Sports Emporium Showroom at Bapujinagar today. Jena was accompanied by his father Keshav Jena and Bramhagiri MLA Lalitendu Bidyadhar Mahapatra. Jena has qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics. He was welcomed to the Showroom by the Team Sports Emporium and he went around and interacted with sportsmen and public. The Asiad medal winner went around the showroom and appreciated the vast array of equipment and sports accessories. Born in a farmer's family in Kothasahi village near Puri,



Kishore played football and volleyball during his college days. Initially a volleyball player, he switched to javelin throwing because of his short height. According to him, his journey to qualifying for the Olympics was an uphill task, and attributes his family support for his success. Kishore recollects that his father had taken a loan of Rs 28,000 to purchase a javelin for him. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik had announced a cash award of Rs 1.5 crore for Kishore and lauded him for bringing laurels for Odisha the nation. "The award is in recognition of his stellar performance, his perseverance and determination. Kishore's triumph not only reflects personal excellence but also serves as an inspiration for budding athletes across the country," Patnaik had said.

## IREDA Profit On Rise



**New Delhi (KCN):** Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, announced its audited financial results for the second quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24 today, October 23, 2023. The company reported a 54% increase in profits,

reaching a Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹ 285 crores for the quarter. This has been driven by consistent growth in the Loan Book and a significant reduction in Net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from 2.72% to 1.65% year-on-year. The Audited Financial Results for the second quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24 were approved by the Board of Directors at a meeting at IREDA's registered office today.

The Board applauded the company's outstanding performance and its continued growth trajectory. Expressing happiness at the results, Chairman & Managing Director of IREDA, Pradip Kumar Das said: "IREDA remains committed to its commitment of accelerating the adoption of renewable energy solutions in the country. These positive financial results are a testament to

IREDA's steady dedication to facilitating the growth of the renewable energy sector in India, which contributes to the nation's energy transition and environmental sustainability."

CMD, IREDA Shri Das attributed the growth of the company to the trust and support of stakeholders. He expressed his gratitude towards Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri R. K. Singh; Union Minister of State for New & Renewable Energy Shri Bhagawant Khuba; Secretary, New & Renewable Energy and to the Board of Directors for their constant support and guidance, which he says has been instrumental in achieving the performance of IREDA. He applauded Team IREDA for their commitment and relentless efforts that have led to these financial results.

## MCL On Green Drive



**Talcher (KCN):** Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) is on green drive. The beautiful garden at Jagannath Area Regional Store under Jagannath Area of MCL has been developed from scrap material.

Cleanliness drive undertaken at various spots was a huge success with spontaneous participation by one and all. During second and third week of Implementation Phase of Special Campaign

3.0, the Ministry of Coal along with its PSUs have carried out various activities, identified during the preparatory phase of the Campaign. The Ministry has freed approx. 50,59,012 Sq. Ft. of area by disposing of scrap,

and generated revenue of Rs.28.79 crore. So far a total 1,08,469 physical files were reviewed, and 8,088 old files were weeded out. Besides, 29,993 E-Files have been closed online, after review of 80,305 E-files.



**2023-2024**

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## Modicare Limited launches Blue Light Shield range under its color cosmetics brand, Urban Color London

**New Delhi:** Modicare Limited, one of India's leading direct selling companies, recently launched Blue Light Shield, a gender-neutral and efficacious skincare range to combat the harmful effects of Blue Light rays. Owing to the pandemic and the work-from-home culture, the average screen-time has significantly increased, raising concern over Blue Light's adverse effects on the skin. Since it has the ability to penetrate deeper into the skin, excess exposure to Blue Light rays can lead to a number of skin concerns, including premature ageing and hyper-pigmentation. Urban Color London's Blue Light Shield range leverages innovation and technology to offer the

consumers a 'Screeenguard' against the high energy Blue Light emitted from digital devices and provides modern day solution to the new-age skin concerns. The range comprises of a meticulously designed five-step regime—Gentle Face Wash, Resurfacing Gel Scrub, Deep Clean Coffee Masque, Reset Serum Oil and Moisturising Crème. The products have been formulated using Urban Color London's proprietary technology that neutralises effects of Blue Light rays. The hero ingredient in the range is Carotolino\* Active, a combination of Beta-Carotene, Carrot Root Extract and Carrot Seed Oil that unite in a perfect base to provide complete protection

from Blue Light rays and promoting overall skin health. The range is 100% vegan, paraben & cruelty free and dermatologically tested. Announcing the launch, Mr. Samir Modi, Founder and Managing Director, Modicare Limited said, "Our skin is constantly exposed to invisible Blue Light rays emitted from the several digital devices we use like smartphones, laptops, televisions, tablets etc. Most of us do not even know the implications of this. Blue Light tends to affect our skin's natural barrier function and accelerate signs of ageing. Keeping this in mind, we are launching Urban Color London's Blue Light Shield range. This is one of the world's best formulations.

## SpiceJet and Axis Bank launch co-branded credit card

**GURUGRAM:** SpiceJet, the country's favourite airline and Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, have partnered to launch the most rewarding co-branded credit card, powered by Visa that will offer a host of privileges and benefits to customers. The card comes in two variants – SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black, and is aimed at facilitating a superlative travel experience for flyers through SpiceClub, the first frequent flyer program by a low cost carrier in India.

Through this

collaboration, the two brands hope to capitalize on the resurgent demand for travel following two years of stagnation caused by the pandemic. Further, with the shared goal of expanding their reach to Tier 2 & 3 cities and other synergies, the brands are committed to serving a much larger populace.

SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage & Voyage Black credit cards were officially launched at Indira Gandhi International airport in the presence of Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD, SpiceJet and Amitabh Chaudhary, MD & CEO, Axis Bank,

where they unveiled a special SpiceJet-Axis Bank credit card livery on a SpiceJet Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.

The products are designed to enable customers use the rewards earned on their daily spends for booking flights and add-ons, thus encouraging both travel and digital payments embedded with benefits of SpiceJet's frequent flyer program, SpiceClub.

Customers can earn benefits up to 7% on the Voyage Black credit card which is a Top-tier offering in the travel credit card segment. In addition, the redemption

of earned points does not have any limitations on blackout dates, festival demand, and are on first-come basis. Cardholders would get exclusive SpiceClub membership with direct entry in either Silver or Gold tiers, and special benefits like complimentary or discounted travel add-ons, priority check-in, SpiceMax upgrade, preferred seat selection, complimentary meal etc.

Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I am delighted to announce the launch of the SpiceJet-Axis Bank co-branded Credit Card. This card will make

## Sony announces the Next-Gen Smart BRAVIA 32W830K Google TV

**Bhubaneswar :** Sony India today announced the launch of BRAVIA 32W830K television with attractive picture quality and life-like sound. The all-new 80 cm (32) HD ready Google TV lets you enjoy movies, games and shows from apps or broadcast in an instant with advanced voice controls and built-in Chromecast.

Now seamlessly integrate Google TV and bring together more than 700,000 movies, shows, live TV and more from apps and subscriptions and organize seamlessly. With BRAVIA 32W830K, browse content from across your apps, intelligently organized just for you. Customers can easily find something to watch with personalized recommendations and bookmark shows and movies by adding a watchlist from phone and watch it on TV to keep track of what to watch. Users can even add to their Watchlist from their phone or laptop with Google Search and find everything in one place. BRAVIA 32W830K supports Apple Home Kit and AirPlay that seamlessly integrates Apple devices like iPads and iPhones with the TV for effortless content streaming. Easily control your TV with hands-free voice capabilities. The hands-free voice control is built into the TV, no need to reach for the remote every time to search for entertainment, get answers, or control the TV and smart home devices. Simply say, "OK Google" to issue a voice command.

**RELIANCE NIPPON LIFE INSURANCE RECORDS STRONG GROWTH IN FY22**

**Mumbai :** Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited, a JV between Reliance Capital and Nippon Life of Japan, announced its financial results for the year ended March 31, 2022. The key performance highlights as on March 31, 2022 include:

Commenting on the company's strong performance in FY22, Mr. Ashish Vohra, ED &

CEO, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance said, "FY22 continued to pose its own set of challenges with the outbreak of the second, and then the third wave of the pandemic. We are grateful for the support we have received from our customers, employees, distributors, service providers and their families, that powered our journey of providing maximum

value to each one of our stakeholders."

Mr. Vohra further highlighted that in a volatile economic environment of today, there is a heightened appreciation of Life Insurance for ensuring certainty of life coverage as well as financial investment. These guarantees are designed to drive durable long-term returns and to help customers fulfill their

life goals and form the bedrock of our business model.

The company paid death claims, maturity and survival benefit payouts of over Rs. 1,877 Cr in FY22 and achieved an impressive claims settlement ratio of 98.7% for FY22, up from 98.5% in FY21. The company expeditiously settled 3,517 Covid related claims worth Rs. 117 Cr. within an average period



55 farmers within the proximity of the plant were encouraged to adopt the Sprinkler Irrigation System. Each farmer was given 41 pipes (20 feet/pipe) and 9 sprinklers. It enabled the farmers to draw water from the ponds and wells close by. Among its other major advantages is a rise in crop productivity and reduction in water wastage, besides of course the monetary advantages".

"The ease of use has

Gagan Bihari Patra, a farmer from Sambalpur district who was finding it tough to look after his family of five due to insufficient income from farming, expresses his gratitude to Aditya Aluminium for introducing him to sprinkler irrigation system through 'Project Sichai' leading to multiple crop farming, and income enhancement. Patra owns six acres of agricultural land in

which he was cultivating paddy and vegetables during the kharif season. Being rain-fed, it resulted in low productivity. He could not produce anything during the rabi season due to lack of irrigation facilities. Not satisfied with his income from agriculture, he was desperate to explore ways to increase productivity. Project Sichai provided the perfect answer. Many farmers in the locality who faced similar issues, given poor irrigation facilities, lack of modern agricultural equipment and resorting to traditional agricultural practices. Then came the Aditya Aluminium CSR team extending a helping hand to farmers like Patra through Project Sichai and Samridhi.



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# 'Pakistan Need A Complete Overhaul', Ramiz Raja Attacks Babar Azam's Captaincy After World Cup Loss To Afghanistan

**Karachi:** Former Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman and the winner of the 1992 World Cup Ramiz Raja has shown no mercy to the current skipper Babar Azam after the Green Shirts displayed one of the poorest performances from the team in the recent years across format. In the Cricket World Cup 2023 clash, Afghanistan thrashed Pakistan by 8 wickets to register their second win of the tournament. Babar had disappointment written all over his face after the end of the match as he admitted that the team is not clicking in

all the three departments. Speaking over his YouTube channel, Ramiz said that Babar needs to improve tactically and that there is a lot of problems currently for Pakistan to solve. "Pakistan have a lot of problems to deal with. Babar Azam needs to improve a lot tactically. Hasan Ali was getting the ball to reverse towards the back end of the innings. The equation was run-a-ball at that stage. Pakistan needed wickets, and Hasan Ali looked very close to getting a dismissal. What was the need to

bowl a spinner from the other end?" Ramiz said.

Ramiz said that losing



to Afghanistan is 'a massive disaster' for the Pakistani team, adding that they have

never dealt with something like this. "Losing to Afghanistan will hurt badly. The

disappointment was writ large on Babar Azam's face when I interviewed him..."

Pakistan have never dealt with a surprising defeat like this one before," Ramiz added. The former World Cup champion feels that time has come to take big decisions at the conclusion of the World Cup. Ramiz advises PCB to 'alter the DNA of the team'. "After this World Cup, there has to be a serious discussion about altering the DNA of this team. They need a complete overhaul in terms of mindset, approach, new talent, and new ideas. We need to improve on each and every aspect. Pakistan have hit rock bottom.

Babar Azam needs to step up and prove himself as a leader amid all this," Ramiz concluded. After three back-to-back losses to India, Australia and Afghanistan, Pakistan can still qualify for the semifinals but the road is tough. They now meet South Africa and next matches are against New Zealand, England and Bangladesh. With their confidence down, it will be a huge challenge for Babar Azam and Co to beat these four teams to ensure they are in hunt for a spot in the last four.

## I was rested too much: Mahmudullah



national team management to bring back Mahmudullah but he was batting below No.6 until the South African game. Mahmudullah made it count by scoring his fourth ODI hundred at the Wankhede Stadium to make a statement. "I can't say anything regarding that time (when I was out of the national team). I do want to talk about a lot of things but this is not the

right time to talk about," Mahmudullah said after the game. "I don't know. Probably Allah has given me the strength to keep going. I tried to keep my fitness in shape. I kept working hard. That's all I can do. All I can say is that, I wanted to contribute to the team. I would have liked to contribute more so that we win the game.

"I think there was a little too much rest for me. It was not in my control. It

was the decision of the team management. If I can do my job honestly, it is good enough for me and the team," he said. Mahmudullah added that he doesn't have any hard feeling batting down the order as the team management opted to send him at number eight instead of his favoured role. "I have seen a lot of ups and downs throughout my career. (Batting down the order) is fine," he

pointed out. "Yesterday, coach told me that I was batting at No.6. I went out there and played my game. I didn't target my hundred. I was just batting. You just bat. I told Mustafiz to hold on. Let us stay for 50 overs as there's an issue for run-rate. I just wanted to go deep, and try to score some runs for the team," he said, adding that he wanted to dedicate this century to his family while thanking everyone who supported and opposed him during this critical juncture of his career.

"I would like to dedicate it to my family and those people who supported and prayed for me in the last three months. I want to thank those among you who supported me, and those who didn't support me."

**New Delhi:** Veteran Angelo Mathews has been drafted into Sri Lanka's squad for World Cup 2023 as a replacement for Mathesha Pathirana. "Mathews, who has played 221 ODIs, was named as a replacement after Pathirana failed to recover from a shoulder injury sustained during a warm-up match and was subsequently ruled out of the tournament,"

confirmed the ICC in a media release. The news comes as a boost of sorts for Sri Lanka who have so far lost three out of their four games and are currently placed 9th on the points table. Mathews had earlier been drafted into the squad as a travelling reserve and has been present in the practice sessions in Bengaluru, where Sri Lanka are set to take on England on Thursday, October 26. The side had earlier suffered a setback when skipper Dasun Shanaka, who is still doing rehab with the team, was ruled out of the tournament due to a thigh injury. Subsequently, Chamika Karunaratne had been drafted into the squad. Mathews is the second injury replacement in the squad so far.

## It was the best night of our lives - Zadran



**New Delhi:** It was a long night for the residents of Khost province in Afghanistan. They were in a celebratory mood. The sky was illuminated with fireworks and gunshots as Afghans indulged in revelry. "I have never seen such celebrations in my lifetime," says Noor Ali Zadran (35). "That was the mood in Kabul and the entire country, not just in Khost."

The gunshots and fireworks continued for more than 40 minutes, and Noor thought that the revelry would never end. "It was the best night of our lives," Zadran exclaims while conversing with Cricbuzz on Tuesday afternoon. For a country that has been perennially at war such moments are rare and far in between. The Afghans were having

their moments under the sun, well under the moon.

Noor Ali was on a long drive when Cricbuzz reached out to him. "I cannot speak for five hours, I am on a drive," he protests, but then relents to get on with the conversation. The World Cup, victory over Pakistan, and the celebrations are too sweet of topics to miss. More than the victory, he had a few extra reasons to be proud of the team's achievement: the presence of a few players who learned their trade from Noor, a former Afghan batsman who represented his country in 51 ODIs and 23 T20Is between 2009 and 2019.

Ibrahim Zadran, the opener who won the Man of the Match award against Pakistan, is his nephew, just like regular spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman. Even

it makes their job easier. So those two batsmen I think are outstanding," said Jonathan Trott, the coach of Afghanistan, who knocked off 283 run target, losing just two wickets.

Ibrahim played an outstanding knock that had all the hallmarks of discipline and responsibility. He played mostly through off-side and did not attempt any fancy innovations and rightly declared the MoM. Ibrahim dedicated the honour to the Afghan refugees who were sent back from Pakistan, conforming with the prevailing narrative that an Afghanistan-Pakistan match transcends the cricket ground.

Afghanistan have accrued four points from five games, with two wins and three losses. They may require a bit of luck and some extraordinary wins against teams like Australia, South Africa, and Sri Lanka. It is easier hoped for than realized, but the game of cricket has witnessed stranger things.